



April 15, 2021

[Delivered Electronically]

Dear Members of the West Allis Common Council,

I am writing to you to encourage you to support the Resolution “Condemning Violence Against the Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities.” No one in our community should live in fear because of how they look or who they are. As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to speak out against this violence and take action to ensure our communities are safe for everyone.

Over the course of this pandemic, Asian Americans have been increasingly harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated during the COVID-19 crisis. Hate crimes against Asian Americans increased by nearly 150 percent in major US cities in 2020, even as hate crimes overall dropped by roughly 7 percent. The danger is especially acute for Asian American women, with 68 percent of the 3,800 hate incidents reported to the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center between February 2020 and March 2021 coming from women. The evidence is clear: the ugliest chapters of our history are repeating themselves.

Supporting this resolution to condemn all acts of violence, hatred, and bigotry against the AAPI community is just the first of many steps we must undertake as leaders to make Wisconsin a safer, more inclusive place for all people.

Sincerely,

Sara Rodriguez  
Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District