

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(32)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 4, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning anti-Asian bigotry and violence; denouncing hate speech and other bigoted behaviors and actions; and mourning the deaths of individuals recently killed or injured in bias or hate motivated violence

Resolution No. R-477-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(32)
5-4-21

RESOLUTION NO. R-477-21

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN BIGOTRY AND
VIOLENCE; DENOUNCING HATE SPEECH AND OTHER
BIGOTED BEHAVIORS AND ACTIONS; AND MOURNING
THE DEATHS OF INDIVIDUALS RECENTLY KILLED OR
INJURED IN BIAS OR HATE MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County (“County”) is a diverse community home to residents and a top vacation destination for visitors from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, according to demographic data collected by the Health Council of South Florida and reported on miamidadematters.org, there are over 670,000 people of Asian, Hawaiian, and Pacific Island descent residing in the State of Florida, and of those, more than 43,000 reside in the County; and

WHEREAS, as the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic persists, extremists continue to use the virus to fuel and spread their hateful xenophobic ideologies; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the magnitude of COVID-19 is not limited to the death toll but also includes increased anti-Asian rhetoric, the use of disparaging terms to describe the virus, and bias-motivated violence targeted against members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to combat hate crimes and the spread of misinformation about the virus and to avoid fueling ethnic and racial discrimination, the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless, increased numbers of hate crimes, incidents of discrimination, and aggression against the Asian and Pacific Islander community have been observed across the country because these groups are being blamed, by some, for the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, reports of despicable acts of hate and violence against members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community have further exposed Anti-Asian sentiments across the nation; and

WHEREAS, specifically, Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks different forms of hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, reports that between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021, it received nearly 3,800 reports of Anti-Asian hate-driven incidents, including verbal assaults and physical attacks; and

WHEREAS, additionally, in 2020, while other hate crimes decreased by 7 percent, crimes targeting people of Asian descent increased by nearly 150 percent, according to a study released by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino; and

WHEREAS, one of the most recent and abhorrent attacks occurred on March 16, 2021, at three locations in the Atlanta Georgia metropolitan area and resulted in the murders of eight people, including six Asian American women; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, that tragedy was one of several acts of violence against Asian Americans or members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community that occurred within the first quarter of 2021; and

WHEREAS, further, data indicates that the number of hate crimes committed in the United States has increased almost every year since 2014; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s most recent annual Hate Crime Statistics Act report, hate-motivated murders rose to a record high in 2019, with 51 deaths — more than double the 2018 total; and

WHEREAS, this Board has a longstanding history of decrying prejudice and urging Congress or the Florida Legislature to enact legislation to combat same; and

WHEREAS, for instance, legislation adopted by this Board includes, but is not limited to:

1. Resolution No. R-587-20, which, among other things, condemned and denounced anti-Asian bigotry, anti-Semitism, and all hate speech, violent action, and the spread of misinformation related to the coronavirus disease 2019;
2. Resolution No. R-415-20, which established County policy that anti-Semitism is a form of religious prejudice;
3. Resolution No. R-421-19, which urged the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would prohibit discrimination against students and employees in the Florida K-20 public education system based on religion; and
4. Resolution No. R-131-08, which urged the United States Congress and Florida Legislature to strengthen hate crime laws; and

WHEREAS, this Board:

1. condemns bigotry, racist rhetoric, and all acts of racially motivated violence;
2. is committed to combating and addressing racial prejudice and hate crimes;
3. stands against racism, including anti-Asian bigotry, and in solidarity with members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community; and

4. urges members of the public to reject misinformation and combat discrimination that puts the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as well as other minorities in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the value that a diverse population brings to the County, takes pride in its inclusive and diverse community, and condemns all manifestations of xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-Asian sentiments and intolerance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Approves and incorporates the foregoing recitals in this resolution.

Section 2. Condemns anti-Asian bigotry and violence.

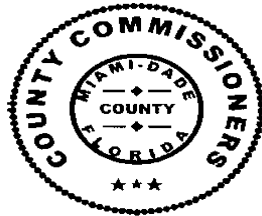
Section 3. Denounces hate speech and other bigoted behaviors and actions.

Section 4. Mourns the deaths of individuals recently killed or injured in bias or hate motivated violence.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Jean Monestime** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	aye	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye	
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of May, 2021. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Melissa Adames
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SG", followed by a horizontal line.

Shanika A. Graves