

3  
4  
5 **A RESOLUTION**

6  
7 advancing racial equity by honoring Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and  
8 condemning racially motivated violence and hatred  
9

10  
11 WHEREAS, in 1992, the United States federal government declared May as  
12 annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Island refers to all of the Asian continent and the  
15 Pacific islands composing Melanesia and Polynesia; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the United States Census  
18 Bureau, approximately 23 million Asian Pacific Americans live in the United States,  
19 composing more than seven percent of the total population; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, in Milwaukee County, Asian Americans Pacific Islanders make up  
22 more than six percent of the population and 25.6 percent of Wisconsin's total Asian  
23 population resides in Milwaukee County; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, in April 2019, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 19-397 and was  
26 one of the first municipalities in the United States to declare racism a public health  
27 crisis; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to the ongoing pursuit of becoming  
30 the healthiest county in Wisconsin through the achievement of racial equity, which was  
31 codified through the adoption of File No. 20-174 in April 2020; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, anti-Asian discrimination and violence is not new, but has been  
34 heightened since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, an Asian woman in New York City was attacked on the sidewalk as  
37 she made her way to church, while her assailant made anti-Asian statements and  
38 bystanders refused to intervene to help; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, in a similar event, an elderly Asian woman in San Francisco was  
41 attacked in her neighborhood on March 17, 2021, suffering physical injuries and post-  
42 traumatic stress disorder; and

43 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, eight individuals, six of whom were Asian  
44 women, in Atlanta and the surrounding suburbs were murdered at their workplaces and  
45 thought to be targeted because of their race, especially in the context of increased hate  
46 crimes against Asians; and

47  
48 WHEREAS, these anti-Asian hate crimes are not isolated incidents: the New  
49 York Times, in an April 3, 2021 article, outlines the rise of anti-Asian racism in the  
50 United States by identifying more than 110 episodes of clear, race-based crimes against  
51 Asian Pacific Americans since March 2020, although even more crimes against of Asian  
52 Pacific Americans were reported that cannot be clearly and directly linked to race; and

53  
54 WHEREAS, nearly half of the 110 assaults included language explicitly  
55 referencing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

56  
57 WHEREAS, a March 19, 2021 report from Milwaukee’s CBS affiliate, Executive  
58 Director Jessica Boling of the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of Wisconsin  
59 described the fear that she and others in the Asian and Pacific Islander community in  
60 Wisconsin are feeling following this rise in anti-Asian violence and explains that “Asian  
61 American racism isn’t always seen”; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has not  
64 always been taken seriously or seen as legitimate, especially in light of the myth of the  
65 “model minority” or the belief that Asian Americans are supposedly accepted by  
66 American society because of certain traits or socioeconomic successes that are  
67 perceived to be unique to that racial group, and not others; and

68  
69 WHEREAS, as local governments, community groups, and leaders condemn  
70 anti-Asian discrimination and hate, some are reluctant to directly address this problem;  
71 and

72  
73 WHEREAS, West Allis Alderman Angelito Tenorio introduced a resolution  
74 condemning hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the intent of which  
75 was diminished by the introduction and adoption of an amendment that condemned  
76 hate against all people; and

77  
78 WHEREAS, the full text of the resolution introduced by Alderman Tenorio is  
79 included as an attachment to this File, labeled ATTACHMENT I, which the Milwaukee  
80 County Board of Supervisors does uphold and affirm; and

81  
82 WHEREAS, at its meeting on April 20, 2021, the West Allis Common Council  
83 adopted a resolution condemning violence against the Asian American and Pacific  
84 Islander communities; and

85           WHEREAS, the City of Wauwatosa unanimously passed a resolution  
86 condemning hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, with the support of the  
87 mayor of Wauwatosa; and  
88

89           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has a responsibility to support and protect its  
90 Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens by condemning discrimination, violence,  
91 and hatred against them; and  
92

93           WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs and Strategic  
94 Planning, at its meeting of May 12, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-437  
95 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,  
96

97           BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors condemns  
98 anti-Asian and Pacific American discrimination, violence, and hatred; and  
99

100           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
101 honors Asian and Pacific Americans and continues to support the elimination of racism  
102 throughout Milwaukee County.  
103

104  
105  
106  
107  
108

05/12/21  
S:\Committees\2021\May\HEHNSP\Resolutions\21-437 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Racial equity  
resolution no edits.docx