

1 [Condemning the Hateful Usage of the Term “Chinese Virus” and “Wuhan Virus” and
2 Condemning Hate and Xenophobic Attacks]

3 **Resolution urging City employees and others not to use the terms “Chinese virus” and**
4 **“Wuhan virus,” and to condemn President Trump’s use of such terms and the**
5 **xenophobic attacks on the Asian American community.**

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7 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control
8 (CDC) guidelines on naming infectious diseases recommends against using location-based
9 names for infectious diseases to avoid the stigmatization of locations and ethnicities; and

10 WHEREAS, The SARS-CoV-2 virus commonly goes by the name of the illness it
11 causes, COVID-19, but is also more colloquially called the “coronavirus”, all of which are
12 commonly used names by the WHO, the CDC and other medical organizations and
13 practitioners; and

14 WHEREAS, Regardless of its origin, there is no racial, ethnic or cultural basis for the
15 spreading of the coronavirus; and

16 WHEREAS, President Trump has time and time again used the term “Chinese virus”
17 when referring to the coronavirus, and members of his administration have used similar
18 discriminatory terms such as “Wuhan virus” and “Kung Flu” when referring to the coronavirus,
19 contrary to public health guidelines, and President Trump and other political leaders continue
20 to defend the use of these terms; and

21 WHEREAS, The WHO, the CDC, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the
22 Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the California Asian Pacific Islander
23 Legislative Caucus, and many others have all condemned the use of such terms; and

24 WHEREAS, The use of the term “Chinese virus” and other such stigmatizing terms can
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1 normalize and even incite violence and xenophobic attacks against the Asian American
2 population; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council's online incident
4 reporting tool, as of March 23, 2020, there have been over 450 reports of xenophobic and
5 racist behavior and many physically violent attacks against the Asian American community
6 attributed to reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long history of medical scapegoating the Chinese
8 American community dating back to the 1800s, racializing disease and conflating other-ism
9 with the health crises of the time; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1877, J.L. Meares, the health officer of San Francisco, in the midst of a
11 severe smallpox outbreak that the City was not able to account for, blamed the Chinese in
12 San Francisco as the cause of the disease, stating: "I unhesitatingly declare my belief that the
13 cause is the presence in our midst of 30,000 (as a class) of unscrupulous, lying and
14 treacherous Chinamen, who have disregarded our sanitary laws, concealed and are
15 concealing their cases of smallpox"; and

16 WHEREAS, President Trump's repeated use of the term "Chinese virus" and other
17 dangerous rhetoric have a harmful and dehumanizing effect on the Asian American
18 community and fuels xenophobia, bigotry, discrimination and violence against the Asian
19 American community; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a multicultural and diverse society and all its residents
21 deserve to feel safe and welcome, and the Asian American community has centuries-long
22 history and roots in San Francisco and is a vibrant part of the San Francisco community; and

23 WHEREAS, There is broad community support for the condemnation of the use by
24 President Trump and other lawmakers of the terms "Chinese virus," "Wuhan virus," and

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1 similar derogatory terms and the xenophobic attacks against Asian Americans; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges City employees and other persons
4 not to use the term “Chinese virus” or similar stigmatizing terms in describing the COVID-19
5 virus; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City and County of
7 San Francisco to support outreach and education efforts to prevent racist attacks and hate
8 crimes against Asian residents and businesses; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemn President Trump’s
10 use of the term “Chinese virus” and his administration’s use of stigmatizing and xenophobic
11 terms in describing the COVID-19 virus; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns hate and
13 xenophobia against the Asian American community and seek to unify San Francisco and all
14 communities in the face of this global pandemic.

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City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 200325

Date Passed: March 31, 2020

Resolution urging City employees and others not to use the terms "Chinese virus" and "Wuhan virus," and to condemn President Trump's use of such terms and the xenophobic attacks on the Asian American community.

March 31, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee
Absent: 1 - Peskin

File No. 200325

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/31/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

4/10/20

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

4/10/2020

Date