Resolution denouncing the rise in violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, urging City departments to create a Coordinated Citywide Violence Prevention and Victim Support Plan for the AAPI community, and establishing the Board’s budget priority to support violence prevention and victim services.

WHEREAS, In recent years, there has been a series of high profile unprovoked violent crimes, including beatings, robberies, sexual assaults and deaths involving the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, disproportionately targeting women and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, There has also been an increase in reported hate incidents directed toward AAPI individuals that are not physically violent or do not rise to the level of a crime, such as online and verbal racial slurs, but are nevertheless harmful to victims and promote violence in communities; and

WHEREAS, The racialization of COVID-19, primarily by former President Donald Trump, has ushered in a dramatic spike in hate and harassment directed toward the AAPI community, who are being scapegoated for introducing and spreading the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The organization Stop AAPI Hate reported on March 16, 2021, that there were 3,795 hate incidents nationwide since the beginning of the pandemic, including 359 incidents in San Francisco, though this is largely accepted as a gross undercount; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Asian racism is not a new phenomenon and has been a long part of American history, from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to racism-fueled lynchings and murders of Asians such as the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass incarceration and disenfranchisement of the Japanese American community during World War II, to the
promulgation of the “model minority myth;” and is deeply connected to the struggles against systemic racism of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color communities; and

WHEREAS, On February 9, 2021, Asian organizations across the Bay Area joined forces to demand action against violence, including for San Francisco leaders to “immediately increase culturally-relevant and trauma-informed investments that:

1. Ensure victims and survivors of all backgrounds and language abilities receive full supportive services so they can recover and heal.

2. Expand intervention- and prevention-based programs and invest in basic needs and community-based infrastructure that we know will end the cycle of violence and keep all of us safer.

3. Resource cross-community education and healing in Asian American and Black communities that humanizes all of us rather than demonizes or scapegoats any community of color”; and

WHEREAS, On April 8, 2021, Supervisors Mar and Chan responded to this call to action and held a hearing on crime and violence targeting the AAPI community, which revealed that City departments rely heavily on community-based organizations and community leaders to provide victim support and violence prevention work, that these partnerships need to be strengthened, and that communities need to be adequately resourced; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing victim support and violence prevention work, community-based organizations and community leaders have also worked to mitigate rising racial tensions, particularly between the Black and Asian communities; and

WHEREAS, The hearing also revealed the lack of an adequate citywide response system for AAPI crime survivors and their families, barriers to access victim support -
including in-language outreach and culturally responsive services - and a need to improve coordination to prevent violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors denounces the rise in violence against the AAPI community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that non-law enforcement and law enforcement agencies come together to create a Coordinated Citywide Violence Prevention and Victim Support Plan for the AAPI community, especially to strengthen language access and culturally competent services, with a proposed Draft by June 1, 2021; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That agencies including but not limited to the Human Rights Commission, Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, the Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Police Department, and the Office of the District Attorney take part in the creation of this Plan; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Plan first focus on an inventory and an analysis of existing policies and programs in order to create:

1. A coordinated citywide victim response protocol responsive to the AAPI community
2. A citywide network of violence prevention programs responsive to the AAPI community
3. A proposal for a central convening body for the long-term coordination of the City’s interdepartmental victim response and violence prevention work
4. Recommendations to strengthen objectives 1 and 2; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is a priority of the Board of Supervisors in its budget process this year to support violence prevention and victim services anchored in the AAPI community, such as in-language and culturally accessible community safety infrastructure,
victim wrap-around and care management, community street outreach, restorative programming, and cross-cultural racial organizing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is a priority of the Board of Supervisors in its budget process this year to address the root causes of violence by investing in low-income AAPI communities and other communities of color.
Resolution denouncing the rise in violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, urging City departments to create a Coordinated Citywide Violence Prevention and Victim Support Plan for the AAPI community, and establishing the Board’s budget priority to support violence prevention and victim services.

May 04, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210461

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/4/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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

UnSigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

5/14/2021
Date Approved

05/14/2021
Date