



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the outbreak of COVID-19 has seen an unprecedented spread with devastating effects across countries, communities, and cultures; *and*

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has no country or state boundaries and was not created or caused by any race, nationality or ethnicity, and that the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors that can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; *and*

WHEREAS, hate crimes, discrimination and aggression against specific communities, including Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, are on the rise throughout the country due to inflammatory rhetoric blaming these communities for the COVID-19 outbreak and spread; *and*

WHEREAS, California has the largest Asian American population in the United States and one in five Orange County residents are Asian American; *and*

WHEREAS, the President of the United States stated in a national address on March 11, 2021, that there have been "vicious hate crimes against Asian Americans, who've been attacked, harassed, blamed and scapegoated" and that it is "wrong, un-American, and it must stop;" *and*

WHEREAS, the City's Mission Statement is "the City of Costa Mesa serves our residents, businesses, and visitors while promoting a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community;" *and*

WHEREAS, the history of Costa Mesa includes early pioneers of Asian ancestry, who contributed to the success of agricultural enterprises that significantly fueled economic growth, adding to the variety of crops and innovative production techniques, prompting the Santa Ana Register to promote in 1928 the 150 acres of strawberries farmed year-round in Costa Mesa by the Japanese American community in the Fairview Avenue district; *and*

WHEREAS, the Issei, first generation Japanese Americans, contributed to Costa Mesa's community education, founding one of Orange County's early 20th Century Japanese Language Schools at 18th and Whittier streets, supported by the Kuriharas, Hashimotos, Ezakis, Minatos, and Shuji Kanno, father of Fountain Valley's first mayor James Kanno—one of the first Nisei to become mayor in the mainland United States—and an elder with one of the oldest Japanese missions

in California, the Wintersburg Japanese Mission at Orange County's National Treasure historic place, Historic Wintersburg; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans such as Isamo Noguchi—confined during World War II at the Colorado River Relocation Center in Arizona—made significant contributions to the City of the Arts with the internationally recognized California Scenario sculpture garden in Costa Mesa's theater district; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the United States and Marshall Islands formed an official diplomatic relationship recognizing the Marshallese right to live, work, and travel in the United States and many Marshallese came to the U.S. and made Costa Mesa their home, and

WHEREAS, the Asian American Pacific Islander community continues to make significant contributions to the fabric of Costa Mesa in the arts, education, cuisine, and our City's cultural landscape, bringing international business and tourism to our community; and

WHEREAS, as our history has shown, times of great fear, uncertainty and unrest can lead to the demonization, blaming, and scapegoating of groups as the other, leading to unjust actions such as World War II incarceration of Costa Mesa's early Japanese pioneers, destruction of property, physical violence, and fear, preventing full participation in civic life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Katrina Foley, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim the City of Costa Mesa affirms its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, including the Asian American Pacific Islander communities, and in combatting hate crimes targeting Asian American Pacific Islander communities, and ask residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and condemning hate to help keep us all safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

PRESENTED this 16th day of March, 2021



Katrina Foley, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa