



**A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS
AND ASIAN AMERICANS**

WHEREAS, in November 1999, Amherst Town Meeting established a Human Rights Commission and adopted a Human Rights Policy for the Town stating that no person shall be denied any rights guaranteed pursuant to local, state, and/or federal law on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin (among other protected classes); and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the Amherst Town Manager, Chief of Police, and Amherst Schools Superintendent signed a joint statement stating that Amherst is a Welcoming Community, and affirming their responsibility as public officials to use their authority to protect all members of our community regardless of race, color, ethnic or national origin (and other protected classes); and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese Virus" and "Wuhan Virus" have exacerbated the long standing history of discrimination and harassment of Asians and Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian rhetoric, including by federal officials, has resulted in people of Asian descent being harassed, assaulted, and/or scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the United States, and including in our own community, and

WHEREAS, since the March 19, 2020 launch of the STOP Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Hate online reporting system, 1843 incidents of racial harassment and discrimination in the United States were reported, with an estimated 90 percent of those reporting an incident saying they believed they were targeted because of their race;¹ and

WHEREAS, there are a number of Asian and Asian American members of our community, including students and staff at area universities and colleges, who have reported incidents of racial harassment and indicated that they feel less safe and more vulnerable to discrimination and violence with the increase in hate crimes and harassment against people of Asian descent.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Amherst, Massachusetts calls on all local public officials to condemn and denounce any and all anti-Asian sentiment in any form in and around the Town of Amherst.

¹ <http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/> (accessed May 18, 2020)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council recognizes that the health, safety, and dignity of all residents, no matter their race, ethnicity, or national origin, must be of utmost priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council stands with our Asian and Asian American neighbors and businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council condemns all manifestations of Anti-Asian racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and scapegoating.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council calls on the United States and Massachusetts leadership to combat misinformation and discrimination that puts Asians and Asian Americans at risk and to commit to building a more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Amherst Town Council cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to President Donald Trump, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Congressman James McGovern, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker, State Senator Joanne Comerford and State Representative Mindy Domb; as well as to U.S. Senators Kamala Harris, Tammy Duckworth, and Mazie Hirono, and Congresswoman Grace Meng, who have introduced similar resolutions in Congress.

Voted this _____ day of June 2020

Lynn Griesemer, Amherst Town Council President