

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-54-2021

Proposed by Council Members Taveras and Hawkins

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Hawkins, Turner, Davis, Ivey, Dernoga,
Streeter, Harrison and Glaros

Date of Introduction May 24, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Condemnation of Sentiment, Racism, and Discrimination Against Asian Americans and Pacific
3 Islanders

4 For the purpose of condemning all forms of anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)
5 sentiment, racism, and discrimination, and a call on federal officials, in collaboration with state
6 and local agencies and Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations, to address
7 the rise in COVID-19-related hate crimes.

8 WHEREAS, May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

9 WHEREAS, roughly 43,000 residents of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent
10 account for 4.6% of Prince George's County's population; and

11 WHEREAS, Prince George's County firmly believes its strength lies in its diversity and
12 rich culture of its residents; and

13 WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian rhetoric across the country, stemming from classifying
14 COVID-19 by a geographic location or linking it to a specific group of people, has increased
15 stigma, harassment, assault, racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and scapegoating of our Asian
16 American population; and

17 WHEREAS, we recognize African Americans and Latinos have a shared history with Asian
18 Americans of discrimination starting from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the repeal in
19 1943 and still today we see very minimum representation of Asian elected officials including in
20 the State of Maryland, which only has 10 elected officials of Asian descent.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
22 County, Maryland, that the County Council condemns all forms of anti-Asian and Pacific

1 Islander sentiment and recognizes the health and safety of all people, regardless of background,
2 must be of the utmost priority.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on federal law enforcement
4 officials, working with state and local agencies to

- 5 1. expeditiously investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes,
6 harassment, bullying, and threats against AAPI communities;
- 7 2. expand data collection and reporting to document the rise in incidences of
8 hate crimes relating to COVID–19; and
- 9 3. hold the perpetrators of those crimes, incidents, or threats accountable and
10 bring such perpetrators to justice.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on the State’s Attorney to
12 work with state and local agencies and AAPI community-based organizations to prevent
13 discrimination and expand culturally appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of
14 hate crimes.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on the Secretary of Health
16 and Human Services, in coordination with the COVID–19 Health Equity Task Force and AAPI
17 community-based organizations, to issue guidance to mitigate racially discriminatory language in
18 describing the COVID–19 pandemic.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls upon the United States to
20 recommit to serve as a model in building a more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant society.

Adopted this 24th day of May, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council