

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting (VIII.F)

Meeting	April 20, 2021
Agenda Item	Equity (VIII.F)
Subject	Equity Resolution No. 52-20/21 - In Support of Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities and Denounces Anti-Asian, Hate, Racism and Violence
College/District	District
Funding	N/A
Recommended Action	Recommend approving Resolution No. 52-20/21 - In Support of Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities and Denounce Anti-Asian, Hate, Racism and Violence

Background Narrative:

Riverside Community College District (RCCD) leaders recognize that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have suffered from racial discrimination and increased violence particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. RCCD is proposing this resolution to support the Stop the Hate initiative and President Biden's Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against AAPI in the United States. The resolution condemns the persecution of AAPI; supports the principles and values of diversity, equity, inclusion and awareness; promotes educational opportunities to learn about AAPI culture and communities; and advocates equitable access and success in higher education for people of all races and ethnicities.

Prepared By: Rebecca Goldware, Vice Chancellor, Institutional Advancement & Economic Development

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT STANDS IN SUPPORT OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER COMMUNITIES AND DENOUNCES ANTI-ASIAN, HATE, RACISM AND
VIOLENCE**

RESOLUTION NO. 52 – 20/21

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have suffered a history of anti-Asian xenophobia in the United States dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries, including anti-Asian immigrant exclusion laws and forced internment of Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a racial category comprised of at least 30 different ethnic groups, have, particularly over the past year, suffered both physical and emotional anti-Asian violence, resulting in injury and even death in the United States; violent attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been horrifying and heartbreaking, such as the recent shooting in Atlanta that left eight individuals dead and families torn apart by anti-Asian violence; and

WHEREAS, six percent of the population at two-year public colleges are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and 57 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander males and 53 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander females earned a bachelor's degree or higher in 2018, Riverside Community College District will continue its work to attract and educate Asian American and Pacific Islander students as well as students from other racial and ethnic groups who have been and continue to be marginalized due to racism; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District supports the Stop the Hate initiative against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities which make up approximately 16.6 million people in the United States (5.4 percent of the population) and will grow to 9.7 percent of the population — over 40 million — by 2050; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up one of the fastest growing racial groups in the United States, constituting about one-third of the one million legal immigrants who enter the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District supports President Joe Biden's Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District leaders encourage communities to dig deeper to understand and explore the needs, strengths and vulnerabilities of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including a call to action to amplify the voices and prominence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders within our own campuses;

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees, and District, and college leadership will continue to encourage individuals to seek their own educational journey as means to inform and eradicate the divide between different racial and ethnic groups, we call on education leaders across the country to continue to address the racial achievement gap in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District will remember those lost to violence and will embrace Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May; the District will focus on recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as it applies to this country's history, culture and individual achievement; the District will continue to use the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties as a means to catalyze an ongoing dialogue on social issues through dynamic exhibits and community participation; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District has advanced its educational mission thanks to the long-standing historical contributions and struggles of Asian Americans in Riverside such as the Harada family, who not only owned and operated the Washington Restaurant formerly on University Avenue in the 1900s, but also, fought for citizenship, belonging, and land rights in Riverside; and former RCC student Miné Okubo, a Japanese American woman artist, writer, and 1974 Alumnus of the Year, who survived World War II Japanese internment and documented the mid-20th century history of Japanese Americans in the United States with her artwork and with the publication of Citizen 13660, the first memoir by an internee; and who went on to work as an illustrator for Fortune, Time, Life, and The New Yorker; and whose artistic work is housed in the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, Riverside Community College District will continue to speak out against racism; it will embrace inclusivity and belonging, and focus on the issues as a way to turn back the surge of racist violence and hate crimes nationally; Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees, staff and faculty will continue to support calls to action that support declarations that highlight the need for diversity, equity, inclusion and awareness, while noting that national origin and skin color should not be a reason to engage in violence, but instead be an opportunity to learn about the unique communities that make up the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Riverside Community College District will advocate for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and people of different racial, ethnic and national groups through the District's comprehensive program of educational opportunities that promote access, success and equity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20 day of April 2021, at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.



Mary Figueroa, President, Board of Trustees
Riverside Community College District