

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-123

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND TO COMBATING HATE CRIMES PARTICULARLY DURING THE HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY, AWARENESS, AND STRESS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CRISIS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more than 4,420,743 cases and more than 301,160 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of May 14, 2020, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1,384,930 cases and 83,947 deaths have been reported in the United States as of May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 will not be stopped by political boundaries and was not created or caused by any race, nationality, or ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors that can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has infected people from all racial, national, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each individual has the ability to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asians and those in the Jewish community are on the rise throughout the country as these groups are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak and spread; 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;” and

WHEREAS, extremists are taking advantage of COVID-19 to spread their hateful ideologies, including antisemitism, racism, Islamophobia, and Sinophobia; and

WHEREAS, amid the growing spread of COVID-19, there are surging reports of bias-motivated incidents targeting members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial, religious or ethnic one, and the deliberate use of terms such as “Chinese virus” or “Kung Fu virus” to describe COVID-19 only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asians and further spreads misinformation at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish community has been targeted with blame, hate, anti-Semitic tropes and conspiracy theories about their creating, spreading, and profiting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to target and stigmatize specific communities for the COVID-19 outbreak and world-wide spread creates an inexcusable risk to all community members; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the City of Coconut Creek take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian and Jewish communities to send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, all persons are encouraged to report any such anti-Semitic, discriminatory, or racist incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian and Jewish community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that the City is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission determines the adoption of this resolution is in the best interest for the public health safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission denounces antisemitism, anti-Asian bigotry, and all hateful speech, violent action and the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19 that casts blame, promotes racism or discrimination or harms the City’s Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, immigrant, or other communities.

Section 3: That the City of Coconut Creek joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, including the Asian and Jewish communities, and in combating hate crimes targeting Asians, Jews, and Pacific Islanders.

Section 4: That the City of Coconut Creek will continue its efforts to protect residents and targets and victims of hate, and to prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19 in partnership with nonprofit organizations, the Broward County State Attorney’s Office, the City of Coconut Creek Police Department, and other law enforcement partners.

Section 5: That the City of Coconut Creek pledges to support the inalienable rights of all people in our community, who should be treated with respect and must remain safe during this pandemic. We call upon all our residents to treat each other with respect.

Section 6: That the City of Coconut Creek urges residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

Section 7: That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 28th day of May, 2020.

Louis Sarbone, Mayor

Attest:

Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

Sarbone Aye

Rydell Aye

Tooley Aye

Belvedere Aye

Welch Aye