RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAINSVILLE, FLORIDA, TO DENOUNCING THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN GAINESVILLE.

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville denounces the racial discrimination that Asian American communities have experienced in Gainesville during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Asian American communities in Gainesville, including but not limited to Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Iu-Mien, Japanese, Khmu, Korean, Lao, Punjabi, Thai, and Vietnamese; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville will continue to celebrate the diverse communities that make up the City of Gainesville, call on all communities to stand in solidarity with those affected by racial discrimination, and work courageously together towards healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is partnering with local organizations to address the heightened xenophobia and anti-Asian incidents that have increased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities continue to be instrumental and pioneers in the City of Gainesville since our beginnings. Asian American community members serve as advocates, attorneys, business owners, educators, farmers, health care providers, industrial and maintenance workers, public service providers, and active contributors to the City of Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 epidemic has had a tremendous impact on all of Gainesville, California, the United States, and globally; fear, decrease in mental wellness, and loss of economic security; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities are faced with discrimination due to the stigma of COVID-19 and xenophobia including harassment, physical assaults, bullying, denial of service at local businesses, racial slurs, and damage to property; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities are concerned about their physical and mental wellness and seek a Gainesville community of healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville will not tolerate acts of aggression and harassment towards any communities including Asian American communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic does not discriminate and that all Gainesvillians are at risk of being infected by the virus; and

WHEREAS, countless other incidents have been shared with trusted community partners, but there are limited linguistically accessible and culturally responsive ways to report hate incidents to the City of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, the targeted killings of six Asian women in Atlanta, Georgia, and the current events involving anti-Asian violence incite fear and a lack of safety in Asian communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**:**

Section 1. The City of Gainesville and supporting entities and community members, denounce the racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia towards Asian American residents and call on all communities to courageously work together towards healing and recovery.

Section 2. The City of Gainesville will look to address the disparity of leadership roles within all City departments, especially in Departments that have daily contact with the community including but not limited to Planning, Purchasing, Public Safety, and more.

Section 3. The City of Gainesville will work with community-based organizations in providing safe public spaces for our Asian community members, especially elders, women, and youth, that promote their physical and mental wellness, as well as healing in culturally responsive ways.

Section 4. The City of Gainesville will work with community-based organizations to address the systemic barriers to reporting Asian hate incidents through services like language accessible hotlines and report data collected in categories disaggregated by ethnicity.

Section 5. The City of Gainesville will work with community-based organizations to support community-centered solutions that address public safety in culturally responsive ways for all communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____day of _____2021.

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Lauren Poe
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Omichele Gainey
City Clerk

_____

Nicolle Shalley
City Attorney