

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. 20-0519
An Anti-Hate Statement

WHEREAS, the outbreak of COVID-19 has seen an unprecedented spread with devastating effects across countries, communities, and cultures, including throughout the United States; 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, the City and County of Denver is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic but recognizes that it has had a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, including communities of color; 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 specific communities including Asian American Pacific Islander and Jewish communities are on the rise throughout the country as they 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 to target and stigmatize specific communities for the COVID-19 outbreak creates an inexcusable risk to all community members; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian American Pacific Islander 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 and County of Denver 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; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver 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 American Pacific Islander and Jewish communities, and in combatting hate crimes targeting Asian American Pacific Islander and Jewish communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver will continue its efforts to protect residents who are targets of hate, and to prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19 in partnership with nonprofit organizations, the Denver County District Attorney's Office, the Police Department and other law enforcement partners.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Anti-Defamation League Mountain States Office and the Asian American Pacific Islander Commission.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 8, 2020

_____ PRESIDENT