

Funding the County’s Anti-Hate Program to Combat Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Since the beginning of the pandemic, many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Los Angeles County and around the nation have been unfairly targeted for discriminatory treatment, hostility, and violence. Recently, there has been a surge in reported and widely publicized hate incidents around the country. In the past several months, brazen attacks and harassment of AAPIs in Los Angeles County have also been reported. A week ago, a Buddhist temple in Little Tokyo was vandalized. In February, Matthew Leung, an elementary school worker in Rosemead was beaten with his own cane while at a bus stop, and ended up losing part of his finger from the injury. Asian, Latinx and immigrant residents in West Covina have been enduring multiple acts of hate and harassment over months. In Koreatown, a 27-year-old Korean American man was physically assaulted by two men who yelled racial slurs during the attack. In recent months, hate incidents and attacks against AAPIs have occurred in Oakland, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and numerous other large and small cities. Acts of hate – crimes and incidents – are generally on the rise countywide and nationally,

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targeting other groups such as African Americans, Latinx, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and the Jewish community.

This Board previously directed the creation of an anti-hate initiative now known as the *LA vs Hate* program, which has enabled millions to download and share diverse artistic and animated messages against hate; enabled hundreds of people experiencing hate and hostility – both crimes and incidents – to report and get help with counseling, medical costs, civil rights and other remedies via the 211 hotline; and advocated for changes to prevent more hate via the LA vs. Hate Rapid Response Network of non-profit community partners. The County Human Relations Commission staff, who lead the LA vs. Hate program, has worked with the Rapid Response Network and its partners to address a number of hate crimes and incidents which have jarred communities with its brazen bigotry and animosity. For example, the Commission and its Network partners met with survivors of hate and engaged with city officials, along with county, state and federal partners in Torrance, Los Angeles, El Monte, West Covina, and others, to bring about solutions to conditions and situations giving rise to the hate activity.

The LA vs. Hate program and the Rapid Response Network have been praised in national convenings as groundbreaking in creating a way for everyone in the county to report an act of hate and hostility, even if it is not deemed a crime. It has provided immediate assistance and support to survivors of hate and advocated for systemic changes needed to prevent more hate from happening. The program has also been successful in capturing data on hate crimes and particularly hate incidents, which are a

large part of the picture of hate activity that previously was not systematically being captured by law enforcement agencies.

Given the rise of hate incidents, particularly directed against AAPIs, the urgent need to expand the LA vs. Hate Program is clear. The Human Relations Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS), has estimated that in order to expand the number and capacity of agencies serving within the Rapid Response Network to respond more effectively to hate incidents, and to sustain the 211 hotline and hate incident data collection, at least \$831,000 is required annually. As such, the LA vs. Hate program is in need of more resources for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission and the Acting Director of the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services, to:

1. Immediately identify funding, including but not limited to ~~existing or future CARES Act COVID-19 Relief Funds~~ one-time departmental, state and federal resources, to expand the Human Relations Commission's LA vs. Hate program, particularly the Rapid Response Network, for the remainder of the current fiscal year.
2. Identify, during fiscal year 2021-22 budget deliberations, ongoing funding for the LA vs. Hate Program, including the 211 hotline contract, the Rapid Response

Network, and public education and outreach efforts, ~~and report back to the Board during Recommended Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.~~

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Acting Director of the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services to amend and renew existing contracts within the LA vs. Hate Program and Rapid Response Network, based on available funding, in order to ensure a continuity of service and to facilitate the expansion of service capacity.

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