

PROCLAMATION

City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County strongly condemn the mistreatment of and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, both locally and across our country; and

WHEREAS, between 2019 and 2020, according to The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, hate crimes against Asian Americans spiked 149% from 49 incidents to 122 incidents in 16 of America's largest cities even though hate crimes overall declined. The recent surge in the mistreatment of and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in our country should be a concern for all residents of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, according to incidents reported to "Stop The AAPI Hate," a non-profit organization formed in 2020 in response to the rise in Asian related hate incidents, businesses are the primary site of discrimination (35.4%), followed by public streets (25.3%), online incidents (10.8%), and public parks (9.8%). Regardless of who you are, where you are or what you believe, as human beings, we are all connected as one community; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte-Mecklenburg encompasses more than 1,000,000 people, with AAPI individuals accounting for more than 67,000 members of this community. Collectively, we condemn violence, hate and discrimination, and stand against harmful acts whenever they occur, because as a community, an attack on one is an attack on all; and

WHEREAS, in order to address hatred and violence against those who are vulnerable, we must be willing to find solutions to the betterment of our diverse community, to set aside exclusion and to recognize the efforts of those seeking equal rights for all. We will turn our pain and grief into action, our words into advocacy and acceptance, and our divisions into community; and

WHEREAS, there is much more work to be done, and there is strength and power when a community works together and honors its mutuality, while renewing our resolve to continue the work toward fair treatment and an improved quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County believe in the worth of everyone regardless of color or creed, and strive to promote understanding, good will, respect and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will continue to strive for the betterment of human relations by promoting awareness, understanding and communication; and

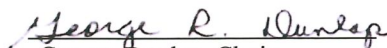
WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are committed to working for fair treatment, equity and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vi Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim that the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are committed to rooting out racism and xenophobia by building stronger relationships and partnering with community organizations, and we will work across our community to create a more equitable and inclusive Charlotte-Mecklenburg where violence and fear of the other are not a part of our ethics or our values, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg that is willing to see one another and, more importantly, stand in solidarity.

WITNESS OUR HANDS and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.


Vi Lyles, Mayor
City of Charlotte




George Dunlap, Chair
Mecklenburg Board
of County Commissioners

