

## **DRAFT**

A resolution declaring support for Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian American communities, affirming the City of Austin's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and encouraging Austin City Council to take extra effort to ensure the safety of those targeted by hate speech and hate crime.

Whereas, the City of Austin established the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission to advise the City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center and provide on-going guidance and support for the City's Asian American quality of life initiatives;

Whereas, presently, those who are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim, which include Sikh, Arab, and South Asian Americans have become targets of unjustified hate and violence in other municipalities throughout the country due to an increase in anti-Muslim and fear based rhetoric in the national discourse;

Whereas, our neighboring community of Pflugerville recently experienced a heinous act against an Islamic Community center, which was vandalized on November 16, 2015 with feces and a torn Quran. The police classified the incident as a hate crime;

Whereas, anti-Muslim rhetoric only seeks to divide us as a community, fuels extremist ideologies, and creates a climate of fear that impacts the quality of life of Muslim, Sikh, Arab, South Asian Americans, and all Austin residents. As those call for a profiling of Muslim Americans, along with a ban on Muslims entering the United States, the Asian American community is reminded of a dark time in our American history of unjustified exclusion and internment on the singular basis of race and national origin;

Whereas, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian Americans are a part of our society and the City of Austin and contribute to the success of our city serving as U.S. Military personnel, public servants, health-care and social service workers, educators, and many other roles.

Whereas, the City of Austin prides itself on being the top in the nation of great cities to live, work and play and seeks to establish itself as a 'welcoming city' for immigrants of various cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds;

Whereas, the City of Austin Asian American Quality Life Advisory Commission believes all Austin residents deserve to live in a safe environment free of hate, violence, and discrimination;

Be it resolved that the City of Austin Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission encourages the City Council to take a strong stand against anti-Muslim hate speech and violent acts committed against those who are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim. That the city take extra efforts to ensure the safety of Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian American places of worship, businesses, schools, and community centers which have become vulnerable to vandalism and violence. That the City Council continue to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the rich cultural, religious and ethnic diversity that represents us as a community.