RESOLUTION NO.

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- WHEREAS, the United States has a rich history of immigration from nations
 all over the world, creating diverse communities in cities throughout the country,
 including in Austin, Texas; and
 WHEREAS, Chinese and Asian Americans have been immigrating to the
- United States since the 1600s; and
 WHEREAS, Asian Americans have long been members of the Austin
- 8 community and by the time of the 1875 Census, 20 Chinese people were living in
 9 Austin; and
- WHEREAS, Asians in Austin are the fastest growing demographic group,
 doubling roughly every 12 years; and
- WHEREAS, 161,000 Asians and/or Asian Americans live in our
 Metropolitan Statistical Area (2018 American Community Survey) and more than
 22 million Asian Americans live in the United States today, making invaluable
 contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and
- WHEREAS, the United States has a dark history of racist anti-Asian policies, including the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Immigration Act of 1924, and the Japanese American internment during World War II; and

WHEREAS, throughout American history Asian Americans have been the 19 victims of xenophobic acts of violence and hate, including the murders of Vincent 20 Chin, Naoki Kamijima and Srinivas Kuchibhotla; and 21 WHEREAS, while hate crimes may target individuals, the psychological and 22 social impacts affect the entire community; and 23 WHEREAS, there has been a hateful backlash toward Chinese and Asian 24 Americans in the form of hate crimes and discrimination since the spread of COVID-25 19 in the United States and in Austin; and 26 WHEREAS, the deliberate use of terms like "Chinese virus" has promulgated 27 racism towards Chinese and Asian Americans and further spreads misinformation 28 about the pandemic; and 29 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic Austin confronts requires our entire 30 community to have trust and faith in our institutions to manage and resolve this 31 crisis; and 32 WHEREAS, we, as elected representatives, have a special responsibility not 33 to stay silent in the face of hatred, violence, or discrimination against any of our 34 constituents; NOW, THEREFORE, 35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN: 36 The City Council of Austin condemns all hateful speech, violent action, 37

racism, and misinformation directed at Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and

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Chinese- and Asian-owned businesses, particularly reactions due to misinformation 39 spread about the relationship between China and the COVID-19 virus. 40 The City Council of Austin asks residents to join us in calling attention to 41 these harms and denouncing hate to help keep all Austinites safe during this 42 unprecedented pandemic and beyond. 43 The City Council of Austin commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms 44 civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, 45 nationality, religion, or immigration status can turn to government without fear of 46 recrimination. 47 The City Council of Austin affirms the value of a pluralistic society, the 48 beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and promoting an anti-racist 49 culture that stands in solidarity with those who experience hate, violence, and 50 prejudice. 51 52 , 2020 **ADOPTED**: ATTEST: 53 Jannette S. Goodall 54 City Clerk 55 56