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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-37

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
CONDEMNING AND COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, AND
INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

WHEREAS, the City of Albany welcomes and values all of our community members and appreciates their contributions to our City; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) account for seven percent of the Nation’s population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Asians and Pacific Islanders (API) make up nearly 30% of the total population in the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have been among the frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing lifesaving services, food, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, during the coronavirus pandemic, inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric has put Asian American and Pacific Islander persons, families, communities, and businesses fearful and at risk; and

WHEREAS, Chinese immigrants had to accept low pay for difficult and dangerous jobs beginning in the 1850’s including on the Transcontinental Railroad, in mining, agriculture, and dynamite factories (including at the Giant Powder Company in what would become Albany); and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian policies began in the United States with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the first law in the United States that barred immigration solely based on race; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 9066 signed in 1942, incarcerated people of Japanese
2 descent under suspicion of being enemies to the United States. Those interned included Jewel
3 Okawachi who later became Albany Mayor and her family; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, many Japanese men fought and died for the United States during World
6 War II in a segregated combat unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, including Albany
7 native Taka Nishi; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albany recognizes the contributions of our AAPI community as
10 elected officials, educators, business owners and workers, families, friends and neighbors.
11

12 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council denounces
13 xenophobia and anti-API sentiment and condemns harmful rhetoric and racist acts; and
14

15 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council joins cities, counties, and
16 states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens,
17 non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region and in combating racist acts
18 targeting APIs; and
19

20 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council calls upon all counties,
21 cities, local governments, residents, City staff and community groups to assist in the furtherance
22 of these objectives.
23
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25 _____
26 GE'NELL GARY, MAYOR
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