

Yolo County, City of Davis, University of California, Davis

A Collaborative Resolution Declaring Our Community Hate-Free Together

WHEREAS, hate crimes are defined as illegal acts that are motivated by bias against race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or physical ability; and

WHEREAS, hate incidents, which are actions motivated by bias but which do not rise to the level of a crime, can inflict trauma on multiple levels, impact feelings of safety, and threaten mental health; and

WHEREAS, both hate crimes and hate incidents impact not only their direct targets, but also ripple out to families and communities, making them equally important to report to appropriate authorities and to respond to with support and resources; and

WHEREAS, acts of hate—such as attacks on mosques, threats to our Jewish community, confrontations at LGBTQ Pride celebrations, acts of white supremacy, assaults on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and any other incident that baits, threatens, or discriminates against historically marginalized groups—hurt individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, we affirm the right to freedom of expression and our commitment to the nonviolent exchange of ideas, but will not tolerate the use of hate speech, including online targeting and harassment; and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of victims of hate acts are targeted because of their race, ethnicity, or ancestry; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 250,000 hate crimes are committed each year in the United States, the majority of which are not reported to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of hate acts increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to grow in our region; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the COVID -19 Hate Crimes Act in response to the dramatic increase in acts of hate against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, raising public awareness of acts of hate helps to destigmatize being targeted, improves victim reporting, enhances trust with law enforcement, and recognizes individual and collective trauma; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors declared racism a public health crisis due to the health inequities caused by discrimination that result in disparities in family stability, physical and mental wellness, education, employment, public safety, criminal justice, and housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Davis City Council approved a resolution condemning racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against people of Asian and Pacific Island heritage, and accepting responsibility for preventing and correcting racism against everyone in the City of Davis; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Chancellor of the University of California at Davis issued a statement condemning acts of hate, intimidation, and white supremacy, and declaring that such acts have no place in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Principles of Community, affirmed by the City of Davis and the University of California, Davis, proclaim the right to freedom of expression within the community and uphold a culture based on mutual respect while rejecting all forms of violence and discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender and gender expression, age, visible and non-visible disability, nationality, sexual orientation, citizenship status, veteran status, religious or spiritual beliefs, political perspectives, socio-economic class, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension, or hatred; and

WHEREAS, the City, County and Campus are reaffirming their commitment to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms while prioritizing the well-being and safety of all residents to ensure everyone's rights are respected; and

WHEREAS, leaders from Yolo County, the City of Davis, and the University of California, Davis have committed to taking action to condemn hate, create safety, and cultivate change by developing and supporting "Hate-Free Together," a community-based campaign to protect and celebrate the rich diversity of humanity in our community; and

WHEREAS, Hate-Free Together will strive to support and protect individuals, groups, and the community, challenge and reinforce values, heal and strengthen relationships, develop and offer resources, encourage and demand inclusion, inspire and applaud acts of courage, and proactively influence the growth of our community to be centered around respectful curiosity, compassionate progress, and restorative transformation; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, City of Davis City Council, and University of California, Davis are dedicated stewards in the rejection of hatred, ignorance, and bigotry, and are committed to recognizing and celebrating our shared community's strength, beauty, and connectedness.