

Human Relations Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE:** MARCH 25, 2021

FROM: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR **WARD:** ALL

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CONDEMNING INCREASE IN VIOLENCE
TOWARDS ASIAN AMERICANS.

ISSUE:

Commission discussion on the creation of a formal letter to the City Council that calls for a city-wide condemning of the recent increase in violent acts towards Asian-Americans following the widespread United States outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Human Relations Commission:

1. Discuss the below shared data and statistics that outline the increase in violent acts towards Asian Americans and,
 2. Take action on one of the three staff recommended next steps for publicly condemning the increase in violence and,
 3. Send to the City Council the formal condemning of such acts, requesting that the City Council publicly rebuke any such violence in the City of Riverside.

BACKGROUND:

Since the widespread outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States there has been an increase in reported acts of violence and crimes committed against Asian Americans. Between March 19, 2020 and August 5, 2020, there were 2,583 reports of anti-Asian attacks nationwide. For the year 2019, only one hundred (100) hate crimes towards Asian Americans were reported in the United States. For the year 2020, approximately three thousand (3,000) total hate crimes towards Asian Americans were reported in the United States and incidents between March 2020 and June 2020 were totaled at 1,800, showing a large increase following the March 2020 outbreak of COVID-19.

In California, law enforcement officials have estimated ten (10) anti-Asian incidents occur a day and have 832 reported incidents across thirty-four (34) counties in the state over the three-month, March 15, 2020 to June 15, 2020, window. California is home to 1/3 of all Asian Americans. More than 40% of all reported anti-Asian incidents in the United States occur in California. Of these reportings, approximately 40% occur at the place of employment and are not physically violent and approximately 10% of reported incidents are physical assaults, according to organization “Stop AAPI Hate.”

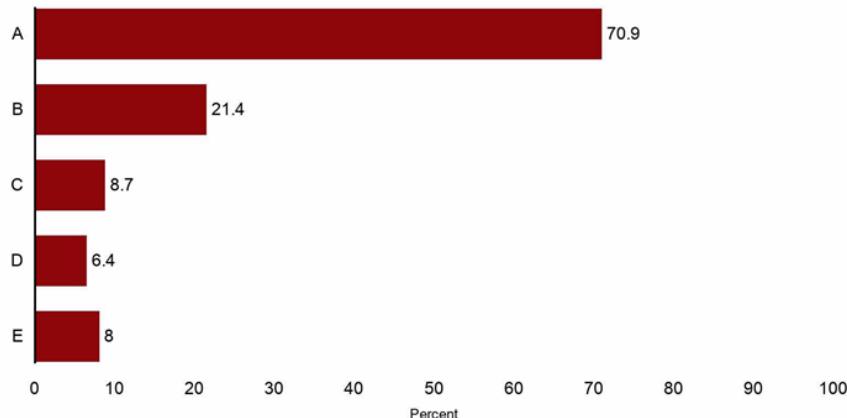
Reporting of such acts remains low. According to the FBI, of the estimated annual (non-pandemic) 205,000 hate crimes occurring in the United States only 7,500 were counted and documented by authorities due to the low reporting rates.

Below charts are for reference and are provided by the BBC from information provided by Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center and research centers from the University of Southern California.

What kinds of discrimination have been reported?

Percentage of 2,808 reported incidents from March-December 2020

A - Verbal harassment B - Shunning
D - Coughed/spat on E - Workplace discrimination or refusal of service
C - Physical assault



Source: Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center

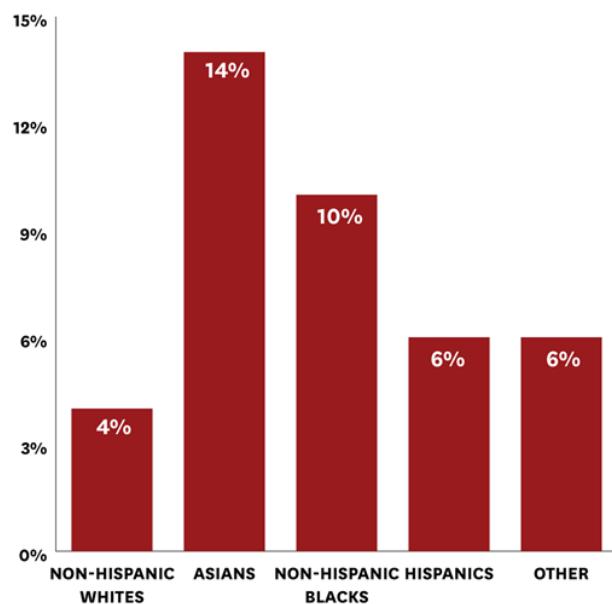
BBC

CORONAVIRUS PERCEPTIONS

USC Dornsife
Center for Economic and Social Research

USC Schaeffer
Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics

Percent of People Experiencing Discrimination and Unfair Treatment Due to People Thinking the Person Might Have the Coronavirus



DISCUSSION:

Staff recommends the HRC select one of the below three different routes of next steps:

1. A discussion surrounding the topic of the HRC condemning the increase in violent acts followed by action via a motion and vote that directs one (1) HRC Commissioner to formulate a letter to the City Council requesting that the Council publicly rebuke any such violence in the City of Riverside. Staff can assist where needed.
2. A discussion surrounding the topic of the HRC condemning the increase in violent acts followed by action via a motion and vote that establishes a subcommittee of three (3) HRC Commissioners to formulate a letter to the City Council requesting that the Council publicly rebuke any such violence in the City of Riverside. Staff can assist where needed.
3. A discussion surrounding the topic of the HRC condemning the increase in violent acts followed by action via a motion and vote that publicly rebukes such actions for the record and requests the Mayor's Multicultural Forum take up this item at their next regular meeting for open discussion in their forum, as has been done in the past and thus established precedent for such topics.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact is associated with this item.

Submitted by: Philip Falcone, Assistant to the Mayor - Office of Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson