

RESOLUTION NO. 21-23

Resolution in Support of Minority Communities in Portage

WHEREAS, Portage is dedicated to honoring its diversity, including our residents of the Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino, Native American and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, all of which have contributed and continues to contribute to our country's progress, culture, and success; and

WHEREAS, the Black or African American community makes up approximately 5%, the Hispanic or Latino community makes up approximately 4%, the Native American community makes up approximately 1% and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community makes up less than 1% of Portage's population, together they own and operate numerous businesses, own properties, pay taxes, provide service to our community and most importantly, contribute to the rich history and culture of Portage; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2020 there has been a documented regional and nationwide trend of increased discrimination, hate, and violence against minority communities, especially Asian-Americans & Pacific Islander communities - from young adults to our most vulnerable elderly - exacerbated by false narratives and xenophobia around the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, these reprehensible displays of hate have often gone unnoticed and unreported, perpetuating a "model minority" myth that Asians will be complacent and stay silent, even when singled out and harmed; and

WHEREAS, hate, violence, and bias are not accepted in our community, especially when targeting or scapegoating individuals based on their race or identity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portage remains committed to our vision of not just building on our past but providing our citizens with a good quality of life in a safe and caring environment; and

WHEREAS, each of us has a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of misinformation, condemn violent acts in any form, to support all fellow community members, and to reject stigma, hate, and bias in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for all of us to unite and come together to support the AAPI community and report incidents of hate and bias; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portage will enhance its efforts and opportunities to engage to combat this virulent type of racism, intolerance, and xenophobia, and to protect all members of our community from crimes, especially those based on the race or identity of our residents and visitors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Portage does hereby proclaim our renewed and ongoing commitment to be a diverse and inclusive

community free from racism, so that all who live, work and visit, in Portage feel welcomed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Portage strongly stands against hate, bias, or violence based on race, nationality, gender, disability, or religion, and we urge all residents to unite together in solidarity with our minority community citizens, including the recently targeted Asian-American and Pacific-Islander residents.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Rick Dodd, Mayor

Marie A. Moe, City Clerk

Resolution requested by:

Mayor