



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: FileID

Walk-On Item

3/26/2021

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA EXPRESSING CONDEMNATION OF HATE CRIMES, MISOGYNY AND DISCRIMINATION TARGETING MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.

Information Contact: Commissioner Ted Terry

Phone Number: (404) 371-4909

PURPOSE:

The Board of Commissioners forcefully condemns violence and harassment of members of the AAPI community and will work to ensure that AAPI people feel safe and welcome in our county - both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

NEED/IMPACT:

In collaboration with the relevant criminal justice agencies and officials, the DeKalb County Public Safety Department will collect both hate incident and hate crime data and report hate crime data to the FBI, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and nationality.

Additionally, we will work to implement policy changes in collaboration with local, state and national organizations that have studied the rise in Asian American hate crimes, and have developed policy proposals to directly address the violence and discrimination in many communities.

Encourage the administration to initiate the One Region Initiative that was launched by Welcoming America in 2016, which seeks to create an inclusive metro Atlanta region in which all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, or place of origin.

DeKalb County should rejoin the One Region Initiative as a member of Welcoming America and adopt the One Region welcoming plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.



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RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the ordinance and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA EXPRESSING CONDEMNATION OF HATE CRIMES, MISOGYNY AND DISCRIMINATION TARGETING MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia prides itself as a diverse county that welcomes people from all backgrounds and nationalities; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, DeKalb County's Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities have been subjected to a stunning, horrific increase in both verbal and physical assaults throughout this country; and

WHEREAS, the STOP AAPI Hate reporting center documented over 2,800 hate incidents nationally against Asian Pacific Islander Americans in 2020; and

WHEREAS, racism towards AAPI people has been exacerbated by racist rhetoric used during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, six Asian American women were recently killed by a gunman blaming them for his sex addiction; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County has long been a leader in anti-discrimination policies and practices and has sought to create a welcoming county for all; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is committed to stand against all forms of discrimination against people based on their race, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or military status; and

WHEREAS, other local DeKalb jurisdictions, like the City of Doraville, have adopted resolutions condemning racially motivated attacks, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners encourages all municipal and elected leaders in DeKalb to join us in speaking out, and enacting policy change to address the rise in Asian American hate crimes and discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE ITS RESOLVED BY THE Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, that this governing body forcefully condemns violence and harassment of members of the AAPI community and will work to ensure that AAPI people feel safe and welcome in our county - both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

Be it further resolved, by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County that:

SECTION 1.

Data Collection

Data must drive policy. The first step to addressing hate-based violence in America is to understand know how its nature and magnitude. In collaboration with the relevant criminal justice agencies and officials, the DeKalb County Public Safety Department will collect both hate incident and hate crime data and report hate crime data to the FBI, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and nationality.

SECTION 2

Investigations of Hate-Based Incidents

In collaboration with the DeKalb District Attorney and DeKalb Solicitor General, law enforcement will continue to identify, investigate, report, and vigorously prosecute violence and harassment based upon hatred for protected categories.

SECTION 3

Welcoming America One Region Initiative

Launched by Welcoming America in 2016, the One Region Initiative seeks to create an inclusive metro Atlanta region in which all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, or place of origin, have the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, engage with the larger community, and fully contribute their talents - expanding prosperity and well-being for all. DeKalb County previously served as a member of the One Region steering committee tasked with creating the regional welcoming plan. As part of our work to ensure a welcoming region and implement programs and policies that build a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, DeKalb County will rejoin the One Region Initiative as a member of Welcoming America and adopt the One Region welcoming plan.

SECTION 4

Evidence-Based Policy Making

Work, and implement policy changes, in collaboration with local, state and national organizations that have studied the rise in Asian American hate crimes, and have developed policy proposals to directly address the violence and discrimination in many communities; and that the pervasiveness of hate in America takes its toll on communities across the country as well as in DeKalb. Reports such as the Hate Magnified Report shows that individuals reported that they experienced depression and anxiety, sought therapy, and even moved after hate incidents occurred. The findings show that after people experience hate incidents, they largely feel unsafe and unwelcome in their communities, which further divides the nation. And that 43 percent of respondents in the report stated they experienced or witnessed a hate expression or hate incident in the past two years.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners DeKalb County,
Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer DeKalb County,
Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk

VIVIANE ERNSTES
County Attorney