

Motion made by Councilor Young, Seconded by Councilor Rigney.

DEWITT TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST THE
ASIAN AMERICAN and PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Town of DeWitt is committed to inclusion and advancing equity and justice for people of all races, national origins and ethnicities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of DeWitt is home to approximately twenty-five thousand people, of which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) comprise approximately 5.5 percent; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans have for too long been the target of xenophobic policies, labor exploitation, hate crimes and systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States in 2020, harmful anti-Asian rhetoric related to the geographic origins of the virus have resulted in a rise in reported hate incidents and crimes against AAPI individuals, communities and businesses, and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize that linking COVID-19 to a specific geographic location or ethnicity perpetuates stigma; and

WHEREAS, violence and hate crimes have increased by 150 percent in major U.S. cities over the past year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 68% of the hate incidents directed against AAPI people have targeted women; and

WHEREAS, last week eight women were serially murdered in the Atlanta, Georgia area, and six of the eight women were of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, AAPI people are justifiably concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of racially motivated attacks and hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, no one in the Town of DeWitt or in central New York should have to live in fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council hereby condemns, and commits to combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance against Asian Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of DeWitt will work to ensure that all members of AAPI communities, no matter their background, language or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity and equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council calls upon our leaders at all levels of government to work to build more inclusive, equitable and tolerant communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is requested to send a copy of this resolution to the Onondaga County Executive, the Chair of the Onondaga County Legislature, the Governor of the State of New York, and the New York State legislators and members of Congress representing the Town of DeWitt.

Adopted by the DeWitt Town Council this 22nd day of March, 2021 by a vote of 7-0.