



**PROCLAMATION
OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

- WHEREAS,** King County is home to diverse communities and has been for many generations; and
- WHEREAS,** We are disturbed and alarmed by the severity and frequency of hate crimes and race-based harassment against Asians and the Asian Pacific Islander Communities associated with COVID-19 in King County and throughout the world; and
- WHEREAS,** Language that evokes xenophobia endangers our communities who are experiencing heightened discrimination; and
- WHEREAS,** Our community has long benefited from the rich diversity of our immigrant population including rich cultural traditions, political and economic contributions; and
- WHEREAS,** The Port of Seattle values the relationships we have built with all our trading partners including those in Asia first affected by COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS,** Seattle has a history that includes support for racial and social justice for all communities; and
- WHEREAS,** We are pledged to not repeating the egregious acts of discrimination committed in King County in recent history including the incarceration of Japanese during World War II and the exclusion of Chinese in the 1880s; and
- WHEREAS,** No race, nationality or ethnicity is responsible for COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS,** having Chinese ancestry –or any other ancestry—does not make a person more vulnerable to COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS,** Ignorance is the lifeblood of conspiracies that hamper our ability to fight the pandemic and endanger the most vulnerable; and
- WHEREAS,** The Port of Seattle recognizes the negative impact of institutional and structural racism, past and present and responded by creating an office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to address these issues; and
- WHEREAS,** An insensitive minority have vilified our Asian communities in response to the COVID-19 virus, inflaming racism and inciting xenophobia in countries across the globe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby proclaims that racism against Asians and Asian Americans shall not be tolerated in any form, AND we stand in support of individuals and communities targeted by association with Covid-19, AND we urge everyone to interrupt instances of racisms and intolerance by speaking up in support of equity, justice, and inclusion.

We urge everyone to report instances of racism and intolerance to The Washington State Human Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Port of Seattle employees are encouraged to report all instances of discrimination on the job to the Port's Office of Workplace Responsibility.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 12th Day of May 2020.