

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2020-R-19**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM, ANTI-ASIAN BIGOTRY, AND ALL HATEFUL SPEECH, VIOLENT ACTION AND THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19; JOINING OTHER CITIES, COUNTIES AND STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN AFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS; CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO PROTECT RESIDENTS, TARGETS AND VICTIMS OF HATE; PLEDGING TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE; URGING RESIDENTS TO JOIN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES IN CALLING ATTENTION TO THESE HARMS AND DENOUNCE HATE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more than 5,034,458 cases and more than 329,186 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of May 21, 2020, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1,528,235 cases and 91,664 deaths have been reported in the United States as of May 21, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 will not be stopped by political boundaries and was not created or caused by any race, nationality or ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors that can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has infected people from all racial, national and ethnic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pembroke Pines is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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**WHEREAS**, each individual has the ability to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

**WHEREAS**, hate crimes, discrimination and aggression against Asians and Jews are on the rise throughout the country as these groups are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak and spread; and

**WHEREAS**, as our history has shown, times of great fear, uncertainty and unrest can lead to the demonization, blaming, and scapegoating of groups as the “other;” and

**WHEREAS**, extremists are taking advantage of COVID-19 to spread their hateful ideologies, including antisemitism, racism, Islamophobia, and Sinophobia; and

**WHEREAS**, amid the growing spread of COVID-19, there are surging reports of bias-motivated incidents targeting members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial, religious or ethnic one, and the deliberate use of terms such as “Chinese virus” or “Kung Fu virus” to describe COVID-19 only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asians and further spreads misinformation at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jewish community has been targeted with blame, hate, anti-Semitic tropes and conspiracy theories about their creating, spreading and profiting from COVID-19; and

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**WHEREAS**, to target and stigmatize specific communities for the COVID-19 outbreak and world-wide spread creates an inexcusable risk to all community members; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that the City of Pembroke Pines take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian and Jewish communities to send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, all persons are encouraged to report any such anti-Semitic, discriminatory or racist incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pembroke Pines wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian and Jewish community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that the City of Pembroke Pines is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a specific part of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2.** The City of Pembroke Pines denounces antisemitism, anti-Asian bigotry, and all hateful speech, violent action and the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19 that casts blame, promotes racism or discrimination or harms the City of Pembroke Pines Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, immigrant or other communities.

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**SECTION 3.** The City of Pembroke Pines joins cities, counties and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, including the Asian and Jewish communities, and in combatting hate crimes targeting Asians, Jews and Pacific Islanders.

**SECTION 4.** The City of Pembroke Pines will continue its efforts to protect residents and targets and victims of hate, and to prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19 in partnership with nonprofit organizations, the Broward County State Attorney's Office, the City of Pembroke Pines Police Department and other law enforcement partners.

**SECTION 5.** The City of Pembroke Pines pledges to support the inalienable rights of all people in our community, who should be treated with respect and must remain safe during this pandemic. We call upon all our residents to treat each other with respect.

**SECTION 6.** The City of Pembroke Pines, urges residents to join in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

**SECTION 7.** All resolutions inconsistent or in conflict herewith shall be and are hereby repealed insofar as there is conflict or inconsistency.

**SECTION 8.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

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**SECTION 9.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and adoption by the City Commission.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF  
PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.**

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR FRANK C. ORTIS

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARLENE GRAHAM  
CITY CLERK

ORTIS \_\_\_\_\_

SIPLE \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SCHWARTZ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE OF THE  
CITY ATTORNEY

GOOD \_\_\_\_\_

CHANZES \_\_\_\_\_