



Resolution of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Condemning Violence, Harassment, Discrimination and Bias Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) established by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955, is the leading civil rights enforcement agency in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act declares it to be the public policy of this Commonwealth to foster the employment of all individuals in accordance with their fullest capacities, to safeguard individuals' rights to public accommodation, and to ensure individuals can secure housing accommodation and commercial property free from discrimination because of, inter alia, the individual's race, color, ancestry, or national origin.

WHEREAS The practice or policy of discrimination against individuals or groups deprives large segments of the population of the Commonwealth of earnings necessary to maintain decent standards of living, necessitates their resort to public relief and intensifies group conflicts, thereby resulting in grave injury to the public health and welfare, compels many individuals to live in dwellings which are substandard, unhealthful and overcrowded, resulting in racial segregation in public school and other community facilities, juvenile delinquency and other evils, thereby threatening the segregation in public schools and other community facilities, juvenile delinquency and other evils, thereby threatening the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the Commonwealth and its inhabitants.

WHEREAS the Commission seeks to prevent and remedy barriers to equal employment opportunity, housing or accommodation based on race, color, ancestry, and national origin, including those that impact Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities; and

WHEREAS discrimination related to the COVID-19 pandemic has put AAPI persons, families, and communities at risk; and

WHEREAS nationwide crimes and reports of bias-motivated harassment against AAPI communities have increased over the past year, and AAPI-owned businesses have been targeted for discrimination; and

WHEREAS hatred, bigotry, and violence have a devastating impact on individuals in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS the Commission remains resolute in its commitment to advancing equal opportunity and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS all members of AAPI communities must be treated with dignity and respect in all other aspects of their lives:



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT – the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent violence, harassment, and acts of bias against AAPI persons; expresses our heartfelt sympathy to and solidarity with victims and their families; and reaffirms our commitment to combat racism, xenophobia, harassment, and all other forms of discrimination against AAPI persons and communities and to ensure equal opportunity, inclusion, and dignity for all throughout the Commonwealth.

Signed this 25th day of March 2021.

M. Joel Bolstein, Commission Chairperson

Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Commissioners

