

Proclamation

COVID-19 ANTI-HATE DAY

- WHEREAS,** since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more than 2 million cases and more than 100,000 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of June 15, 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 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 Colorado Springs is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- 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 U.S.; 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
- 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 Colorado Springs 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 Colorado Springs 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 Colorado Springs is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Skorman, President of the Colorado Springs City Council, do hereby proclaim June 23, 2020 as

COVID-19 Anti-Hate Day

in Colorado Springs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this twenty-third day of June 2020.

Richard Skorman, President
Colorado Springs City Council