

1 [Condemning the Hateful Usage of the Term “Chinese Virus” and “Wuhan Virus” and  
2 Condemning Hate and Xenophobic Attacks]

3 **Resolution urging City employees and others not to use the terms “Chinese virus” and**  
4 **“Wuhan virus,” and to condemn President Trump’s use of such terms and the**  
5 **xenophobic attacks on the Asian American community.**

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7 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control  
8 (CDC) guidelines on naming infectious diseases recommends against using location-based  
9 names for infectious diseases to avoid the stigmatization of locations and ethnicities; and

10 WHEREAS, The SARS-CoV-2 virus commonly goes by the name of the illness it  
11 causes, COVID-19, but is also more colloquially called the “coronavirus”, all of which are  
12 commonly used names by the WHO, the CDC and other medical organizations and  
13 practitioners; and

14 WHEREAS, Regardless of its origin, there is no racial, ethnic or cultural basis for the  
15 spreading of the coronavirus; and

16 WHEREAS, President Trump has time and time again used the term “Chinese virus”  
17 when referring to the coronavirus, and members of his administration have used similar  
18 discriminatory terms such as “Wuhan virus” and “Kung Flu” when referring to the coronavirus,  
19 contrary to public health guidelines, and President Trump and other political leaders continue  
20 to defend the use of these terms; and

21 WHEREAS, The WHO, the CDC, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the  
22 Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the California Asian Pacific Islander  
23 Legislative Caucus, and many others have all condemned the use of such terms; and

24 WHEREAS, The use of the term “Chinese virus” and other such stigmatizing terms can  
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1 normalize and even incite violence and xenophobic attacks against the Asian American  
2 population; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council's online incident  
4 reporting tool, as of March 23, 2020, there have been over 450 reports of xenophobic and  
5 racist behavior and many physically violent attacks against the Asian American community  
6 attributed to reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long history of medical scapegoating the Chinese  
8 American community dating back to the 1800s, racializing disease and conflating other-ism  
9 with the health crises of the time; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1877, J.L. Meares, the health officer of San Francisco, in the midst of a  
11 severe smallpox outbreak that the City was not able to account for, blamed the Chinese in  
12 San Francisco as the cause of the disease, stating: "I unhesitatingly declare my belief that the  
13 cause is the presence in our midst of 30,000 (as a class) of unscrupulous, lying and  
14 treacherous Chinamen, who have disregarded our sanitary laws, concealed and are  
15 concealing their cases of smallpox"; and

16 WHEREAS, President Trump's repeated use of the term "Chinese virus" and other  
17 dangerous rhetoric have a harmful and dehumanizing effect on the Asian American  
18 community and fuels xenophobia, bigotry, discrimination and violence against the Asian  
19 American community; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a multicultural and diverse society and all its residents  
21 deserve to feel safe and welcome, and the Asian American community has centuries-long  
22 history and roots in San Francisco and is a vibrant part of the San Francisco community; and

23 WHEREAS, There is broad community support for the condemnation of the use by  
24 President Trump and other lawmakers of the terms "Chinese virus," "Wuhan virus," and

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1 similar derogatory terms and the xenophobic attacks against Asian Americans; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges City employees and other persons  
4 not to use the term “Chinese virus” or similar stigmatizing terms in describing the COVID-19  
5 virus; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City and County of  
7 San Francisco to support outreach and education efforts to prevent racist attacks and hate  
8 crimes against Asian residents and businesses; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemn President Trump’s  
10 use of the term “Chinese virus” and his administration’s use of stigmatizing and xenophobic  
11 terms in describing the COVID-19 virus; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns hate and  
13 xenophobia against the Asian American community and seek to unify San Francisco and all  
14 communities in the face of this global pandemic.

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