



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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Nilsa Orama  
Chair

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District Manager

## Resolution

Date: April 20, 2021  
Committee: Youth & Education  
Board Vote: 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions  
RE: **Opposing anti-Asian violence and requesting more education on racism**

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**WHEREAS**, according to 2010 census data, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population of New York City was 1.1 million out of 8.2 million residents in New York City;

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-year estimate, the AAPI population comprises about 7.5% of Community District 11 residents;

**WHEREAS**, many incidents of coronavirus-related harassment and violence towards Asian Americans have been reported during the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, what is happening today is reminiscent of the Asian American anger and activism galvanized by the 1982 killing of Vincent Chin by two White autoworkers who resented the success of the Japanese auto industry, a story that is retold by Michael Moore, then a young unknown journalist in Michigan, and Annie Tan, the cousin of Vincent Chin and a teacher currently working in NYC public schools;

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Grace Meng introduced House Resolution 908 "Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19;"

**WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2021, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, in March 2021, dozens of Asian Americans who have served in top roles across six Democratic and Republican presidential administrations said they "strongly denounce the alarming increase in violence, rhetoric, and bigotry against the AAPI community;"

**WHEREAS**, many organizations, elected officials, activists, and ordinary people have since gone on to organize and participate in rallies, sharing hashtags such as #StopAAPIHate and #StopAsianHate, and to oppose anti-Asian coronavirus racism in myriad ways;

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that one full year has passed since CACF issued its [open letter against anti-Asian coronavirus rhetoric and racist violence](#), the coronavirus rhetoric and violence against Asian Americans has not abated;

**WHEREAS**, education is a key tool to address racial bias, xenophobia, and system racism, as well as a key tool in empowering marginalized communities, whose voices and histories are often erased, invisible, and silenced;

**WHEREAS**, The Anti-Defamation League has created educational materials for middle school students on Coronavirus and Infectious Racism, which is an example of what a first lesson could look like;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, this Community Board previously adopted a resolution on February 18, 2020, calling for the contributions of people of color to be integrated into curricula, specifically to support curricula and instruction in schools that affirms Black/African-American and people of color's history and self-determination; and to place "culturally responsive sustaining education (CR-SE)" at the center. CR-SE embraces students' identities, placing aspects of their race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or ability at the center of their education. According to DOE, students that learn using CR-SE are more active in class, achieve higher grades, and graduate more often; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board 11 believes that:

1. Language tying Asians to the COVID-19 coronavirus must stop. Such language stigmatizes Asian Americans. Discriminatory racial attitudes and anti-Asian violence will persist long after the stigmatizing language by public officials fades.
2. It is important to remember that the unbridled pursuit of racial self-interest without consideration for other groups is at the core of White supremacy. Patterns of thought involving maximization of racial and ethnic self-interest have contributed to some of the worst violence in world history: self-interested colonialism and imperialism over races perceived as primitive, American slavery and Jim Crow, the decimation of Jewish communities during the Holocaust, and more. A toxic mixture--race, self-interest and the absence of a concept of racial equity for the marginalized-- contributed to virulent ideas about race and then to violence.
3. Asian Americans, particularly those Americans who present as East Asian, currently face vulnerability, marginalization and exclusion due to coronavirus racism. This sudden vulnerability demonstrates how conditional and tenuous the position of any group in society can be. Without a broad societal commitment to racial equity, no community is safe.
4. Groups with their own histories of marginalization understand what Asian Americans are facing now. We must engage in productive cross-racial dialogue and build solidarity and understanding between diverse communities to oppose anti-Asian coronavirus racism and to support any community that faces marginalization and exclusion. People of all races, ethnicities, ethnoreligious groups, religions, languages, and national origins benefit when we focus on helping groups that are disproportionately vulnerable, marginalized and excluded.
5. To the extent possible, Districts 4 and 5 children should learn about: the histories of Asian American and other communities, anti-Asian coronavirus racism happening now, social justice current events like #StopAAPIHate and #StopAsianHate activism, the difference between racial self-interest and racial equity, recognizing racist ideas and thought patterns, recognizing racial

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<sup>1</sup> [Coronavirus and Infectious Racism](#)

fear and fear-mongering, speaking out for themselves against marginalization or exclusion, speaking out against the exclusion of any group from institutions/society, being upstanders against the marginalization of any group, and being change agents.