

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: June 16, 2020

Consent  Regular  
 Ordinance  Public Hearing

Department: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution denouncing 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 County's Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, immigrant or other communities, and urges residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

**Summary:** At the June 2nd BCC meeting, staff was directed by the Commission to draft and bring back this resolution for consideration by the Board. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has set forth a national initiative to call attention to acts of antisemitism and hate that have been witnessed throughout our country. The ADL has seen a rise in hate crimes, discrimination and aggression against Asians and Jews throughout the country as these groups are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak and spread. COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial, religious or ethnic one, and the deliberate use of racial or ethnic terms to describe COVID-19 only encourages hate crimes and incidents at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis. This Resolution denounces antisemitism by affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, by encouraging prosecution of hate crimes related to COVID-19, by pledging to support the inalienable rights of all people in our community, who should be treated with respect and must remain safe during this pandemic, and by calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate. Countywide (HF)

**Background and Justification (or Policy Issues):** The ADL, founded over 100 years ago, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism. ADL pursues fair treatment for all through legislative initiatives, the courts and in public venues at the grassroots level. This resolution is the one of the first in country to be introduced at the local level to make a strong statement denouncing discrimination and hate related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ADL is pursuing this for adoption in jurisdictions throughout the country as part of a national initiative of the organization.

**Attachments:**

- 1. Resolution

Recommended by: N/A  
Department Director Date

Approved By: [Signature] 6/12/2020  
Assistant County Administrator Date

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years					
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT					
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE					

Is Item Included in Current Budget?                      Yes      No  
 Does this item include the use of federal funds?      Yes      No

**Budget Account No:**

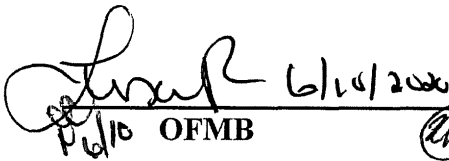
Fund            Agency            Organization            Object

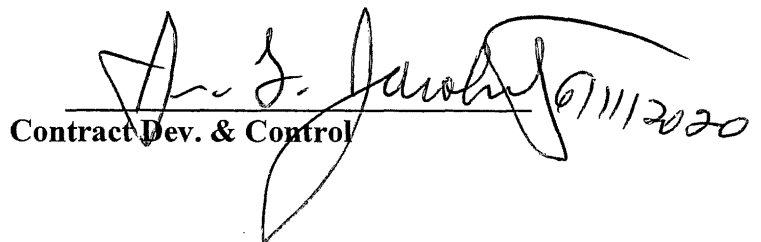
### B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

### C. Departmental Fiscal Review:


## III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

### A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

 6/14/2020  
 P. 6/10 OFMB                      (2/20) 6/10

 6/11/2020  
 Contract Dev. & Control

### B. Legal Sufficiency

 For H. Falcon 6/12/2020  
 Assistant County Attorney

### C. Other Department Review

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

**(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)**

**Resolution No. 2020-**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING 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 COUNTY'S ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER, JEWISH, IMMIGRANT OR OTHER COMMUNITIES, AND URGES RESIDENTS TO JOIN US IN CALLING ATTENTION TO THESE HARMS AND DENOUNCING HATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, over 7.4 million cases and over 400,000 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of June 10, 2020, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and as of the same date over 1.9 million cases and over 112,000 deaths have been reported in the United States; 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, Palm Beach County 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, antisemitic 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 Palm Beach County 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 antisemitic, discriminatory or racist incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County 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 Palm Beach County is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, that:

1. Palm Beach County 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 Palm Beach County Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, immigrant or other communities.
2. Palm Beach County 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.
3. The County will continue its efforts to protect residents and targets and victims of hate crimes and to encourage prosecution of hate crimes related to COVID-19 by the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office and enforcement of related laws by law enforcement.
4. Palm Beach County 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.
5. Palm Beach County urges residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

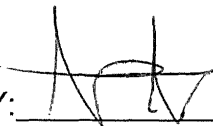
The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Dave Kerner, Mayor	_____
Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor	_____
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	_____
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger	_____
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	_____
Commissioner Mack Bernard	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

BY:  for Howard Falcon

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Howard J. Falcon  
Chief Assistant County Attorney

Deputy Clerk