

Dear Fellow Residents of Montgomery County and Greater Philadelphia,

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have watched as discriminatory and xenophobic rhetoric, verbal harassment, and physical violence has increased against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and families in our Commonwealth and across the country. On March 16, an individual in Georgia drove to multiple Asian-owned businesses in Asian neighborhoods to slay Asian women. This haunting intentionality has further highlighted the troubling and dangerous undercurrent that is invoking fear across Asian communities, and by extension, all communities.

On our screens, in the news, and in our communities, Asian American and Pacific Islanders are often misrepresented and underrepresented. The reasons are many and complex, the result and cause of a cycle of racism which we hope will be broken with this generation of leaders and community members. We invite and encourage you to educate yourself about the history of Asian violence and oppression in this country, engaging in conversation with Asian Americans and one another regarding this history and your experiences. In a time of increased hate and discrimination aimed at the Asian community, our goals are to give voice to those who are hurting and encourage all of us to be active bystanders who speak out and stand up for our neighbors. We ask that you join us in condemning any act that would seek to diminish the very humanity or safety of any person, understanding that the Asian community is in particular crisis.

Recognizing and advancing racial equity is an imperative foundation of any healthy community. Our aim is to continue taking steps to ensure the safety and security of our constituents and neighbors. We do not wish to stand idle in a time when it is apparent that much work is needed to create a more accepting, empathetic, and kind society. Let's build coalitions and have conversations. We hope you will join us in this ongoing work; let us not wait for a national crisis to make change.

On the eve of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we seek solidarity, positivity, and action. We call on our community to join us in taking action to combat hate and intolerance in the face of a long-standing history of deeply complex efforts to erode the humanity of people of color. We ask that you reach out to your municipal leaders to take steps to addressing harassment and discrimination in your community. We ask that you take this pledge to value and protect all individuals in our communities, keeping in mind the vulnerabilities of the Asian community members among us.

Are you with us? Pledge your support.

On behalf of a multicultural coalition of concerned residents and community leaders,

Jenna Antoniewicz, Mayor, Royersford Borough

Julia Park, *Steering Committee*, Community for Change; Member, CAARSEA (Colonial Area Anti-Racism and Social Equity Alliance); Resident, Conshohocken

Susanna Ratsavong, Resident and Candidate for Commissioner, Springfield Township

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT TO OUR ASIAN COMMUNITY

In celebration of

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

April 17, 2021 to May 1, 2021

I, _____, join the pledge to provide support to our Asian community members in a time of heightened effect of racism against their community. We recognize these communities are our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF the fact that racist and xenophobic rhetoric, discrimination, harassment, and violence has increased against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and families in our Commonwealth and across the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand the need for all communities to take action to protect each other from the insidious seed and spread of racism. We understand a large collective of the Asian community is currently navigating fear and danger in a time of crisis.

IN RECOGNITION OF the truth that the basic ability to be free from any crime against their personhood is inherent to building better communities, we understand that the victims of bigoted acts and attitudes are our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and loved ones; but, so, too, are the sources. We recognize that there are those among us who have been emboldened to act on harmful notions about Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals, and we recognize this is wrong.

We condemn the actions of those who cause these harms, and vow to work toward educating our communities, and ourselves, on these insidious problems. We will keep the recent vulnerability of the Asian community in America in mind as we work toward combatting race-based harassment, discrimination, and hatred.

This is my commitment to amplify the voices of our Asian community. This is my pledge to stand up for them when witnessing hateful sentiments, rhetoric, and outright violence. I stand in solidarity with my Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and all communities impacted by the recent attacks and the ongoing scourge of racism that plagues our nation.

SIGNED BY: *A Coalition of Neighbors and Allies*
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT TO OUR ASIAN COMMUNITY

In celebration of

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

April 17, 2021 to May 1, 2021

I, _____, join the pledge to provide support to our Asian community members in the face of increased hateful and discriminatory acts toward our Asian constituents and neighbors across the United States of America. We categorically condemn any act of discrimination or violence against any person, and recognize our Asian American and Pacific Islander community is suffering a time of crisis, navigating fears and at risk of danger.

Today we stand united with fellow community leaders to affirm to our Asian communities that we stand with them, now, and in our daily work. As elected officials, we represent our communities as public servants, and we vow to seek understanding in order to better serve the diversity of challenges in the pan-Asian community. These communities are *our* communities.

Therefore,

IN RECOGNITION OF the fact that racist and xenophobic rhetoric, discrimination, harassment, and violence has increased against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and families in our Commonwealth and across the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand the need for all communities to take action to protect each other from the insidious seed and spread of racism.

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We vow to work toward providing the resources to educate our communities, organizations, and ourselves on these insidious problems. We will keep the recent vulnerability of the Asian community in America in mind as we work toward combatting race-based harassment, discrimination, and hatred against any community through policy initiatives, executive actions, and acting as a role model for others.

I stand in solidarity with my Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and all communities impacted by the recent attacks and the ongoing scourge of racism that plagues our nation.

SIGNED BY:

*A Coalition of Elected Officials and Organizational Leaders
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*