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Joint Statement in Response to the Violence Towards the
Asian American and Pacific Islander Community
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The Chinese Community Center, together with our partner organizations within the Empowering Communities Initiative (ECI) including BPSOS-Houston, Emgage-TX, OCA-Greater Houston, and VN Teamwork, are committed to strengthening communities and prioritizing the safety and welfare of our clients, volunteers, staff, and community. We condemn the hateful discrimination and violence disproportionately aimed at Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To compound these injustices, the reality of painful discrimination that AAPI communities have experienced throughout United States history to the present moment is often invisible and underreported.

To prevent xenophobia against AAPI communities, we call on media outlets and social media users to be conscious of how they produce stories and spread of information about COVID-19. At the same time, we urge the public to exhibit courage with wisdom and compassion and to stand up against anti-Asian hate and racism in any form. We condemn all verbal harassment and physical assaults that prevent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of all ages—and particularly the elderly—from having a sense of safety while living in their communities and going about their daily lives.

The Empowering Communities Initiative is a collaborative of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations developed to engage AAPI leaders in public and legislative decisions that impact AAPI constituents, build and strengthen partnerships with local organizations, and to support community leaders as they respond to the needs of a growing AAPI population. We must all come together to help each other overcome fear, harm, and barriers in order to create safe, inclusive, and thriving communities throughout the United States.

We all share the responsibility and privilege of advocating for the well-being of our community. We call on all Houstonians to be compassionate witnesses; acknowledge our own biases and judgements; and work towards fostering inclusivity and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people. Let us uphold the unity of diverse people as a source of strength necessary for our city to flourish.

We urge individuals to report any hateful discriminatory incidents they witness to the websites below:

- https://aapihatecrimes.org
- https://standagainstthatred.org

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