



**CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION 2020 - 5**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
CONDEMNING RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC HATE AND BIAS TOWARDS ASIANS,
ASIAN-AMERICANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Council of Governments recognizes the challenges faced by all residents during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic which, in addition to the universal impact on daily life has also exposed existing inequities and biases in our communities and placed additional stresses on specific populations; and

WHEREAS, Asians, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders across these United States, including in our own community, are dealing with an increase in bias and hate crimes directed toward them; and

WHEREAS, racist acts range from avoiding or shunning people to name-calling and bullying in personal conversations and have also included racist comments and acts in grocery stores, medical facilities, workplaces, and online venues; and

WHEREAS, zoom participants have been subjected to acts of bias using the practice of Zoom-bombing where hackers interrupt meetings with offensive imagery or taunting participants with hate speech; and

WHEREAS, acts of bias have been directed not only at Chinese nationals and Chinese-Americans but also against those with origins in other Asian countries and these acts have also targeted other communities of color and other religious and ethnic minorities; and


WHEREAS, our leaders in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania State Police have called for an end to these acts of bias and hate which have no place in our community, our state, or our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HERE RESOLVED:

1. We, the Executive Committee of the Centre Region Council of Governments, remain committed to ensuring that everyone in our community will have equitable access to resources and equal protection under the law; and
2. We call on everyone in the Centre Region and neighboring communities to respect the individual humanity and dignity of all residents to stop bias, prejudice, and hate, and to stand united as we collectively respond to the COVID-19 virus; and
3. We strongly urge all businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to create conditions that avoid discrimination against patrons and students, and to stand up against any acts of hate or bias.

RESOLVED, this nineteenth day of May 2020, meeting in regular session.

Attest:



Eric Norenberg
Executive Director, Centre Region COG

By:



Elliot Abrams
Vice Chair, Centre Region COG