

Communication from Public

Name: Judith Quinones
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Comments for Public Posting: This motion is a slow start, but I would agree with the LFNC that it doesn't go far enough. If you want to stop racist hate, you have to start with education and humanization. There is no escaping that this country was founded on the exploitation of people of color, with AAPI persons being no exception. They built our first transcontinental railroads and mined for resources, and when there was no more use for their cheap labor the Federal Government enacted Exclusion Acts, Immigration Quotas, and other restrictive policies that have shaped the AAPI experience to this day. AAPI phenotypes, coupled with troubling "model minority" and "perpetual stranger" myths continue to affect the way AAPI citizens are treated. Hate crimes are just the RESULT of indoctrination and inculcation of those dangerous stereotypes and myths. Yes, the LAPD needs to dialogue with AAPI leaders, but they also need to address implicit bias in their own ranks. They need to enact measures that bring the institution of policing more in line with Community Policing ideals as outlined in the report of the Task Force for 21st Century Policing. It's not enough that perpetrators of hate crimes are held accountable. We need to find a way to make people accountable for unsafe spaces and micro-aggressions. Education and outreach are paramount. I urge the City Council to support this motion as a beginning, but it would be stronger if amended to include equity, inclusion, and diversity training for LAPD officers AND other public servants. It would be stronger if it included efforts to educate Angelenos on the forms of racism affecting AAPI and other marginalized communities. As already stated, "Any potential responses must include culturally competent community outreach, further investment in developing and anti-racism/anti-bias/anti-bullying education and de-escalation and bystander training, and institutional support for the Asian-American community."