

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, since the United States colonization in the Pacific and the first major waves of Asian immigrants arrived on American soil in the 19th century, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have played critical roles in shaping our nation's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, today, the City of Los Angeles is proud to be home to almost 500,000 AAPIs; and

WHEREAS, as the City of Los Angeles celebrates AAPI Heritage Month every year in May, it must also commit to doing more to protect AAPI residents from the rising number of hate crimes and incidents in which they are targeted; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, fear-mongering, discrimination, hate incidents, and crimes against AAPIs have increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, according to a report by Stop AAPI Hate, almost 11,000 hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were reported in 2021 and 2022 across the country, with 67% of the incidents involving harassment and 40% occurring in public spaces, including on public transit; and

WHEREAS, recent studies of California public transit show that women, seniors, LGBTQ+ riders, and other vulnerable populations experience harassment while commuting; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Governor Newsom signed SB 1161 (Min) into law, which required the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to create a community survey for California transit operators to strengthen and promote passenger safety; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the California State Legislature is SB 434 (Min), "Public Transit for All: Improving Safety and Increasing Ridership," which would require California's largest public transit operators to collect and publish data to improve passenger safety and increase ridership; and

WHEREAS, SB 434 would require California's ten largest transit operators to gather and publish qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles; and

WHEREAS, SB 434 would build on the effort of SB 1161 and be a critical first step in addressing and preventing harassment of women and other vulnerable communities on public transit systems; and

APR 26 2023

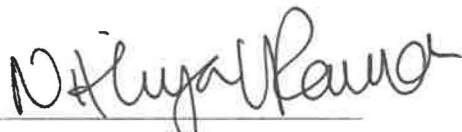
WHEREAS, Los Angeles Metro, the largest transit operator in California and the operator of public buses and trains in Los Angeles County, supports SB 434; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support SB 434 to improve our public transit system to ensure that it is safe and accessible to all;


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Los Angeles commemorates May 2023 as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles and encourages all to use this as a call to action to make our communities more sustainable, equitable, and livable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 434 (Min) to require California's top ten public transit operators to collect and publish survey data as a critical first step towards addressing street harassment, improving passenger safety, and increasing transit ridership.

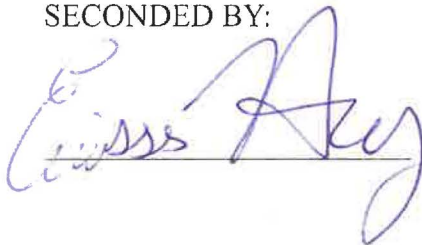
PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

for 
JOHN LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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APR 26 2023