



March 8, 2021

Shana Hazan
San Diego Human Relations Commission
1200 Third Ave.
Suite 916
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. Hazan,

With the growing trend of hate and intimidation directed against our AAPI neighbors since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially the spike in violence against elderly AAPI citizens around California and the U.S. since the Jan. 6th insurrection at the Capitol, I'd like to ask the commission to increase its outreach to our local AAPI communities and related organizations throughout the city.

Just as my neighbors and I in Mira Mesa are increasing our vigilance regarding anti-Asian violence and intimidation, I want to ensure the city is increasing its vigilance too. I'd like to suggest the commission consider a series of hearings on the epidemic of anti-Asian hate as soon as it's safe to gather at city libraries and recreation centers for a thorough airing of local, and potentially unreported, incidents from neighborhood leaders and stakeholders.

Similarly, I'd like to propose that the commission invite police, fire personnel, and other public safety services to be part of the dialogue to not only discuss specific hate incidents, but to consider the potential for cultural misunderstandings that may arise from language barriers or incomplete communication, which could discourage some elderly AAPI neighbors from reporting a hate-related, violent, or intimidating incident.

As bad as the specific incident is involving the attack on an elderly Filipino woman aboard the San Diego Trolley last month, there may be dozens, if not hundreds, of additional incidents of hate, violence, and intimidation that have occurred over the last year that have affected our AAPI neighbors and gone unreported, or unnoticed except by those involved.

This is an opportunity for the city, and the commission, to enable a forum on this important matter, and an opportunity for neighbors, policymakers, and city officials to discuss solutions as we and maintain vigilance. Please let me know how I can assist in any of these efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tommy Hough