

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Councilmember

**DATE:** February 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Anti-Hate Resolution**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt resolution as written.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**No Additional Funding Requested.** Cost for administrative tasks is included in the Adopted FY 2021-22 General Fund Budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

This past Saturday, February 12, 2022, white supremacists unfurled hateful banners on the Borchard Road overpass and reportedly used a drone to film a recruitment video. These neo-Nazis were also training at a children's playground at Newbury Gateway Park, as reported in the Thousand Oaks Acorn. This event may have been the most direct, recent expression of bigotry in our community. From the hate-filled Westboro Baptist Church protest following the Borderline Shooting in 2018, to vandalism of Black Lives Matter signs on Westlake Boulevard, to the airing of Hitler speeches over the PA at Newbury Park High School, and several other smaller acts of racism and antisemitism, our community has experienced hateful incidents. Unfortunately, no community- no matter how great- is immune from such acts of hatred.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, incidents of intimidation against people of color have escalated over the years. The number of hate groups operating in the U.S. remains at near-historic highs. According to the FBI's most recent data, 62% of victims were targeted because of their race, ethnicity, or ancestry, which continues to be the main motivation for such incidents.

**Anti-Hate Resolution**  
**February 22, 2022**  
**Page 2**

Agencies which participate in data collection reported more than 5,200 such incidents in 2020. That's a 32% increase from 2019.

The FBI states that anti-Black or African American hate crimes continue to be the highest, with 2,871 incidents in 2020, a 49% percent increase since 2019.

Additionally, there were almost 280 anti-Asian incidents reported in 2020, a 77% increase since 2019. In 2019, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded more than 2,100 antisemitic incidents throughout the U.S. This is a 12% increase from 2018 and it marks the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979.

In July of 2020, the ADL received a report from a Thousand Oaks resident who found a note on her car which read "Jewish Lives [sic] Don't Matter." This appeared to be in response to a BLM sign on the door of her home.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 2020 unanimously passed a resolution stating that racism is a threat to public health. Other Ventura County cities have adopted similar resolutions. The Board of Trustees of the Conejo Valley Unified School District also adopted a resolution in 2020 advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion. Despite strong ideological divisions on the Board, their vote was unanimous. Our residents need assurance - and, in fact, many demand it - that Thousand Oaks and its elected representatives take an official stand against hate speech. In times such as these, the obvious needs to be stated loudly and clearly.

This resolution (Attachment #1) makes it unequivocal that the City condemns all forms of bigotry. This resolution also highlights the steps the City has already taken, and will take, to promote a better understanding of our diverse culture, and to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome.

**COUNCIL GOAL COMPLIANCE:**

Meets City Council Goal A:

- A. Create a more equitable, accessible, safe, welcoming, and inclusive government and community regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, language, education, and/or socio-economic status.