



Office of the City Manager

March 23, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Recent rise in Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander hate crimes

There has been a concerning increase in violence and more specifically hate crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Deplorable acts of hate have occurred in local jurisdictions such as Oakland and San Francisco. In Atlanta, on March 16, 2021, a gunman shot and killed eight people at three separate locations, six of whom were of Asian descent. These hate crimes have heightened fears among Asian Americans that they are being targeted because of their ethnic heritage.

In response to these incidents, Interim Chief Louis has communicated to Police Department Command staff the expectation that every member of the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) will continue to have an awareness about all hate-related incidents and crimes, treat these incidents with the utmost seriousness, and fully investigate and pursue these cases.

Interim Chief Louis has further directed Operations Captain Schofield to ensure that all of our patrol teams discuss these recent hate crimes as well as the above expectations. He will also ensure that our Area Coordinators are connecting on this issue with our community, and our Bike Team is increasing patrols and monitoring for hate crime related problems in the downtown areas.

Finally, I understand that the Mayor has given direction on developing systems to improve hate crimes reporting and response. Interim Chief Louis will be prioritizing this work internally and assigning a lead in BPD to partner with other City departments.

The intent is to ensure that all employees of the BPD are fully abreast of emerging issues, proactively working to prevent these crimes, and properly investigating any incidents that occur.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
David White, Deputy City Manager
Jennifer Louis, Interim Police Chief
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Jenny Wong, City Auditor