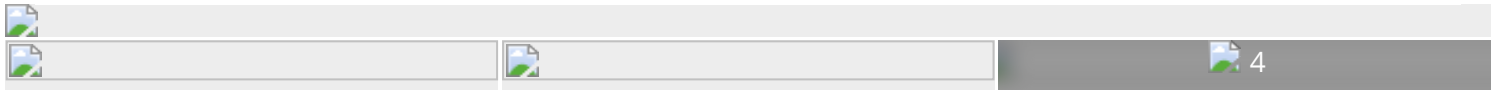


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Resolution aimed at hate speech targets anti-Chinese COVID-19 references

by Jim Lefko
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Golden Star Cafe (SBG photo)



SAN ANTONIO - City Council unanimously passed a resolution this afternoon condemning hate speech. Elected officials believe it was necessary to try and combat the anti-Chinese sentiments that have surfaced during the pandemic.

"Unfortunately during times of crises we do see the best of humanity and sometimes we also see the worst," says Mayor Ron Nirenberg, who initiated the resolution. "There has been a rise of hate speech throughout the course of this pandemic."

One of the businesses that has been on the receiving end is Golden Star, a Chinese restaurant near downtown.

"It's been in operation for almost 90 years," says councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, "They're a Chinese restaurant family and they have been threatened. They have been the victims of hate speech and hate crimes, with vandalism and that sort of thing on their property."



Gonzales was happy to support the resolution.

"Weâ€™re reminding everybody that they are still there in the neighborhood and to patronize your small businesses, especially Chinese restaurants," she says.

Golden Star is not the only area businesses or individual victimized during the pandemic. Mayor Nirenberg says he is aware of several examples of hate speech - and actions - in San Antonio.

"Iâ€™ve seen them myself, and thankfully theyâ€™ve been handled by our community," he says.

The resolution - which also covers anti-Semitic speech - reads in part: "The deliberate use of terms such as â€œChinese virusâ€ or â€œKung Fu virusâ€ to describe COVID-19 only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asians."

The mayor says the resolution is not aimed at constitutionally-protected free speech.

"Oh no, not at all. What this is is a statement of values, as we say weâ€™re a compassionate community," he says.

Mayor Ron Nirenberg introduced the hate speech resolution. (SBG photo)


The Asian American Alliance of San Antonio this afternoon thanked Council for denouncing anti-Asian bigotry, and all hateful speech, violent action and the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19.

To read the full Council resolution, [click here](#).

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