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## A Statement in Support of the AAPI Community

*This joint statement is offered in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations, City of Charlotte Office of Equity, Mobility and Immigrant Integration, Mecklenburg County Office of Equity and Inclusion, Community Building Initiative, and Race Matters for Juvenile Justice.*

The recent surge in the mistreatment of and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in our country should be a concern for all of us. According to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, Anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 149% in the year 2020. Regardless of who you are, where you are or what you believe, as human beings we are all connected. Collectively, we must condemn violence, hate and discrimination, and stand against these harmful acts whenever they occur, because as a community, an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is a diverse, multicultural community, but all too often the cause of racial equity has missed the voices of those in the AAPI community and the unique challenges they face. It is important that we come together in support of all those who have been marginalized and victimized through no fault of their own. The AAPI community is hurting and under threat.

In order to address the nexus of hatred and violence against those who are vulnerable, we must be willing to look inward and find solutions to the betterment of our diverse country. We must turn our pain and grief into action, our words into advocacy and acceptance, and our divisions into community. There is much more work to be done, but there is strength and power when a community works together and honors its mutuality.

The Partners for Racial Equity are committed to building stronger relationships and supporting community-led solutions. We will work across our community to create a more equitable and inclusive Charlotte-Mecklenburg where violence is not a part of our ethics or our values. A Charlotte-Mecklenburg that is willing to see one another and, more importantly, stand in solidarity together. We are grateful for the leadership and resources provided by the Carolinas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnamese Association of Charlotte and the Southeast Asian Coalition, among others, to the AAPI Community.

To report violent crime, please contact the [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department \(CMPD\)](#) by dialing 911. Non-violent crime can be reported online via the CMPD website. Criminal activity can also be reported to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) by dialing 704-672-6100.