

RESOLUTION NO. 30 - 2021

EXPRESSING the support of the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council for the passage of both the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act of 2021 currently in Congress, including their support of the City Administration proceeding without delay to undertake any and all efforts on behalf of the City of Cincinnati and its residents to support the passage of both bills.

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) has collected hate crime data from university and college, city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies (“agencies”) following the enactment of the Hate Crime Statistics Act in 1990 via their Uniform Crime Reporting (“UCR”) Hate Crime Statistics Program; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies are mandated to submit hate crime reports to the FBI UCR Program but agencies in other jurisdictions only do so voluntarily; and

WHEREAS, Ohio does not require data to be collected about hate crimes, making it a minority in comparison to the 30 states as well as the District of Columbia that require this collection; and

WHEREAS, cooperating agencies share hate crime data through the Summary Reporting System or the National Incident-Based Reporting System (“NIBRS”); and

WHEREAS, the FBI identifies hate crimes as criminal offenses that are partially or wholly motivated by bias in terms of race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender-identity, and disability; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 7,314 hate crime incidents involving 8,812 victims were reported to the FBI, making it the third consecutive year with at least 7,000 reported incidents; and

WHEREAS, in Cincinnati, there were 24 race/ethnicity/ancestry, one religion, four sexual-orientation, and three disability bias-motivated incidents reported to the FBI in 2019; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in part due to the use of stigmatizing, alienating rhetoric such as “Wuhan virus” and the “Chinese virus”; and

WHEREAS, to ameliorate the hate crime reporting system, Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA), Fred Upton (R-MI), Judy Chu (D-CA), and Vern Buchanan (R-FL) introduced the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer

National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act, the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act of 2021 (“the NO HATE Act”) in the 117th Congress; and

WHEREAS, the NO HATE Act would establish three types of grants: for state and local authorities to aptly implement the NIBRS, for example through employee training; for the creation of state-run hate crime reporting hotlines; and for agencies to conduct programing that prevents and addresses these incidents such as through forming liaisons with community leaders and hosting educational forums on the subject; and

WHEREAS, the NO HATE Act would allow a court to order defendants to participate in educational classes or perform services connected to the community that was harmed, during their term of supervised release; and

WHEREAS, the NO HATE Act was not passed during the 116th Congress, but there are current calls from Congresspeople and community advocates for it to be reintroduced in the 117th Congress due to the alarming uptick of anti-Asian incidents; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to directly address the increase of incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the pandemic, S.937 - COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act was introduced on March 23, 2021 under the leadership of Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) who are both members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; and

WHEREAS, upon passage, the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act will categorize a COVID-19 hate crime as one that is motivated by the actual or perceived connection a person has to the spread of the virus due to their race, ethnicity, age, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability; and

WHEREAS, the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act calls for there to be an employee at the Department of Justice who is solely tasked with reviewing and reporting COVID-19 hate crimes, for guidance to be given to state and local agencies to establish multilingual online reporting and public education campaigns, and for stakeholders such as the Attorney General, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to advise how to minimize language that describes the pandemic in a discriminatory manner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council express support for and ratify the City Administration’s efforts to support the passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act of 2021 in Congress in order to address the spike in hate crimes and incidents, empower American residents and agencies with the resources to collect and report hate

crimes, and prevent this form of violence from continuing to occur in Cincinnati and the United States.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Senator Sherrod Brown, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Robert Portman, 448 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 25010; Representative Steve Chabot, 2408 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Representative Brad Wenstrup, 2419 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Passed: April 28, 2021

Attest: 
Clerk


John Cranley, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmembers Kearney and Keating