RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) SENTIMENT ARISING DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING RHCCD’S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF API COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, since the 2019 outbreak of the COVID-19, COVID-19 has affected millions and caused the untimely death of many around the world; and

WHEREAS, some have used this pandemic as an opportunity to verbally and physically attack Asian Pacific Islander (API) Americans of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, some have used this as an opportunity to unwelcome immigrants and Americans of different ethnic origins and Americans of mixed ancestry; and

WHEREAS, some have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to the COVID-I9 virus as the "Chinese virus," and "Kung-Flu"; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, inciting fear and xenophobia, thus putting API Americans at risk; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-I9 disease does not respect borders and is not focused on one ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-I9 virus has spread, numerous API Americans have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Valley is home to APIs of various ethnic origins, and currently APIs make up about 7 percent of the student body at Rio Hondo College; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Hondo College affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of API community members and supports all to speak out against all forms of bigotry;

WHEREAS, the struggle against racism requires continued active resistance against it in collaboration with those striving for justice; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees denounces xenophobia and anti-API sentiment and all microaggressions and hate crimes.

THAT the Board of Trustees joins school districts, cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of the API community.

THAT the Board of Trustees supports all allies who have joined the fight to end all xenophobia, hate crimes and anti-API sentiment.

THAT the Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent/President to share this resolution with other elected officials as appropriate.

Presented on this 13 of May 2020.