CITY OF REDMOND
RESOLUTION NO. 1531AM

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,
WASHINGTON, DECLARING OUR COMMITMENT TO AN
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY THAT REJECTS STIGMA AND
BIAS RELATED TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City Council passed a resolution affirming our commitment to cultural inclusion in all city operations, recognizing that diversity of all backgrounds of people in our community makes us richer and stronger, and pledging to continue adopting policies that improve our culture of inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond, King County, the State of Washington, and the United States of America have declared the COVID-19 pandemic a state of emergency and community members are looking for ways to slow the spread of the virus and minimize loss of life; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American communities, and other increased instances of overt racism against other marginalized communities; and
WHEREAS, COVID-19 does not discriminate based on race, nationality, or ethnicity and has infected people from all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, misinformation about coronavirus propagates fear that hurts people and impairs the ability of our first responders and other city services to provide necessary response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and African Americans and other communities of color have reported concern of higher levels of racial profiling while wearing masks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond is committed to cultural inclusiveness and equal treatment of all community members, and urges other local jurisdictions and the State of Washington to take similar action to support and advance these principles; and

WHEREAS, each of us has the ability to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. Statement supporting inclusion and rejecting racially based bias, harassment, and hate crimes due to COVID-19. The City of Redmond is committed to building a more inclusive community; we will not tolerate discrimination of any kind and denounce all COVID-19-related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race, immigration status, ethnicity, physical ability, socio-economic status or religion. We pledge to support the inalienable rights of all people in our community, who should be treated with respect and must remain safe during this pandemic. We call upon all our residents to treat each other with respect and recognize when community members wear masks or cloth face coverings it is done so to protect the community from harm. This virus does not discriminate, and neither should we. Let us work together to defeat COVID-19 and all expressions of hate and bigotry.

Section 2. Reporting incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes. We ask community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes to call 911 to report the incident, whether it is deemed an emergency or not. Community members can also make a report to the Washington State Human Rights Commission. We encourage organizations addressing these issues to apply to King County’s Hate and Bias Response Fund.
ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this 21st day of April, 2020.

APPROVED:

[Signature]
ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: April 14, 2020
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: April 21, 2020
RESOLUTION NO. 1531

YES: ANDERSON, CARSON, FIELDS, FORSYTHE, KHAN, KRITZER, PADHYE