



CITY OF NEWCASTLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our vision for the City of Newcastle is a safe, vibrant, tolerant community, where residents celebrate diversity, embrace family values, treasure the environment and appreciate our history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle, King County, the State of Washington and the United States of America have declared the COVID-19 pandemic a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Asian community makes up almost 30 percent of Newcastle's population; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, doesn't recognize race, nationality or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, having Chinese ancestry – or any other ancestry – does not make a person more vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, King County leaders and organizations have noticed an alarming increase in bias and harassment against Asian American communities in connection to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Newcastle stands up against stigma, bigotry and hate-based violence as a result of COVID-19, and recognizes we are stronger as a community when we stand together against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Newcastle believes in the equality and safety of all people, and will not tolerate hate, discrimination, harassment, or behavior that creates fear, isolation or intimidation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Newing, Mayor of the City of Newcastle, Washington, on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim that bias and bigotry are not welcome in Newcastle and urge residents to speak up if they hear, see or read misinformation or harassment.

Dated this day of April 21, 2020

LINDA NEWING, MAYOR