

3/23/21

# Northwest Voices

Letters and emails

## Anti-Asian hate crimes

### 'All cities must work together'

As King County elected officials of Asian descent, we are outraged by the increase in hate incidents directed at members of our Asian American Pacific Islander communities in this country. A new re-

port by Stop AAPI Hate documented nearly 3,800 hate incidents nationwide during the past 12 months. Anti-Asian hate crime rose 33% from 2019 to 2020 in Seattle and rose in the aggregate 149% during the same period in 16 of this country's largest cities (including Seattle).

While the tragic murder of eight individuals, six of whom were of

Asian descent, in Atlanta has yet to be ruled a hate crime, the murder of these innocent lives has increased the fear and anxiety that many Asian Americans feel.

The violent attack against an Asian woman in the Seattle Chinatown International District last month is unacceptable, and many in our Asian community are now afraid for their personal safety.

All cities must work together to fight racism, xenophobia and bigotry in whatever form they take. We must be silent no more. We must speak up against misinformation, call out scapegoating

and condemn violence. Individually, we can do better. Collectively, we will do better.

Join us. Work with us. Unite together.

— Conrad Lee, Bellevue City Councilmember; Angela Kugler, Kenmore City Councilmember (appointed January 2021); Salim Nice, Mercer Island City Councilmember; Tanika Padhye, Redmond City Councilmember; Peter

Kwon, SeaTac Deputy Mayor; Doris Fujioka McConnell, Shoreline City Councilmember; Janice Zahn, Bellevue City Councilmember; Satwinder Kaur, Kent City Councilmember; Benson Wong, Mercer Island Mayor; Kim-Khanh Van, Renton City Councilmember; Susan Chang, Shoreline City Councilmember; Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson, Tukwila City Councilmember

Letters, not exceeding 200 words, must include your full name, address and telephone numbers for verification. Email: [letters@seattletimes.com](mailto:letters@seattletimes.com); mail: Letters Editor, The Seattle Times, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111.

REACH THE EDITOR | Kate Riley, editorial page editor, 206-464-2260 [kriley@seattletimes.com](mailto:kriley@seattletimes.com) | Mark Higgins, deputy opinion editor/digital, 206-464-2094 [mhiggins@seattletimes.com](mailto:mhiggins@seattletimes.com)