



Worthington Community Supports Asian American and Pacific Islander Citizens

The Worthington community stands together in support of our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors. As community leaders, we are speaking out with one voice to strongly condemn acts and expressions of hate and discrimination toward AAPI citizens. During the past year, Asians and those of Asian and Pacific Island descent have been the victims of increased racism and xenophobia. We continue to be shocked and saddened by ongoing aggressions and violent attacks on AAPI citizens that are traumatizing families and communities. The senseless acts of violence and hateful rhetoric must stop. We are committed to promoting a more diverse and accepting community where all citizens feel safe and protected.

Worthington has a long history of inclusion and respect for people of diverse backgrounds through the efforts of our Community Relations Commission (CRC), Worthington International Friendship Association (WIFA), City Council and other community initiatives.

In 2020, racism was declared a public health crisis and Worthington City Council passed a Resolution "Recognizing the Impacts of Racism, Condemning Racism in All Forms, and Committing to Promote Racial Equity." In 2019, Council approved a Non-Discrimination Ordinance, as recommended by the CRC to promote tolerance, respect and inclusion in the Worthington community. The CRC continues to promote an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation among all members of the Worthington community through racial justice initiatives and educational opportunities.

Worthington's history of nurturing cultural understanding and acceptance is also apparent through the nearly 30-year relationship we've held with the people of our sister city Sayama, Japan and ongoing partnerships with Japanese and Asian organizations and communities. Through international programming and exchange opportunities, WIFA fosters intercultural friendships, welcomes international citizens and promotes experiences that embrace cultural differences.

Worthington strives to be a welcoming place to people of all cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. We commit to being supportive, respectful and caring to all individuals and urge our citizens and neighbors to uphold the same values of human decency. We cannot stand by in silence if we witness harassment, bias, racism, violence, or threats of violence towards our citizens. What we fail to condemn, we condone. We must hold people accountable for their actions so that others are not emboldened to commit similar acts. We urge all citizens to uphold the human rights of all people and to call out injustice.

We come together to reaffirm our commitment to be a community free of discrimination, where all people are included, feel safe, and are fully valued. Please join us and our community partners as we work to effect positive change in our community.

Sincerely,

Worthington City Council
Worthington Community Relations Commission
Worthington International Friendship Association
City of Worthington Administration

[Find resources and information about how to take action in solidarity with the AAPI community.](#)