

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021-XXX

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ANA DENOUNCING COVID-19 MISINFORMATION AND DECLARING ITS DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a dangerous, contagious disease affecting all age groups, known to be caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that is transmitted predominately by inhalation of respiratory droplets generated when people cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breath; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in 49,142 cases and resulted in 911 deaths in Santa Ana as of October 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on our health and safety, our regional economy, our communities of color, and the educational development of our children; and

WHEREAS, viruses constantly change through mutation and new variants of a virus are expected to occur. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Delta variant of the Coronavirus is more than twice as contagious as previous variants, and data suggests that the Delta variant may cause more severe illness in unvaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, all COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States are proven to be effective in reducing COVID-19 transmission and significantly decreasing severe disease, hospitalization, or death due to COVID-19, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted full approval of the Pfizer-BioTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, health misinformation has significantly undermined public health efforts and has prolonged the COVID-19 pandemic, endangering the health and safety of all Santa Ana residents; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2021, the United States Surgeon General issued an advisory describing the urgent threat posed by the rise of false information around COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines being shared, including claims that the vaccines contain microchips, cause magnetism, can give someone COVID-19, negatively impact fertility, alter DNA, constitute gene therapy,

trigger a positive COVID-19 test result, and affect menstrual cycles of nearby people. All of these claims have been disproven.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ANA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Santa Ana hereby finds, determines and declares as follows:

A. The City of Santa Ana denounces COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccine misinformation and declares that it is detrimental to public health.

B. The City of Santa Ana intends to use all appropriate resources to combat the sharing of misinformation of COVID-19, including using digital communications tools such as the City's official website and social media accounts to share COVID-19 factual-based information only.

C. The City of Santa Ana will improve efforts in expanding the education of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and importance through the use of digital literacy education to show the public how to identify online tactics and commonly used approaches in the spreading of health misinformation.

D. The City Santa Ana will prepare a written letter to the County of Orange Board of Supervisors to request that commit to combating health misinformation to curb the spread of falsehoods that threaten the health and safety of Orange County residents.

E. The City of Santa Ana will use any and all available resources to assist the County of Orange Health Care Agency in disseminating accurate, fact-based information on COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by City Council and the Clerk of Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this resolution.

ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

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Vicente Sarmiento  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Sonia R. Carvalho, City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura A. Rossini  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

AYES: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

NOT PRESENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

#### CERTIFICATION OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, DAISY GOMEZ, Clerk of the Council, do hereby attest to and certify the attached Resolution No. 2021-XXX to be the original resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana on October 19, 2021.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daisy Gomez  
Clerk of the Council  
City of Santa Ana