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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 24, 2021

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Voices Against Hate, Part 1:

C.A.C.A. Chapter Leaders Respond to Increased Attacks on Asians

San Francisco, January 24, 2021 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) has expressed alarm at the rise of attacks of Asian Americans reported across the country. Last month, President Joe Biden signed a memorandum condemning the discrimination directed at the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community that has risen during the pandemic. It was a directive that included a group of racial equity-focused executive orders, memorandums and actions, and in part issues guidance on how the U.S. Justice Department should respond to anti-Asian bias incidents.

The welcomed reception to the White House announcement was short-lived when rocked by a series of violent attacks and unprovoked harassments of AAPIs. The Nation answered back with rallies and vigils, volunteer patrols and condemnations from civic and community leaders.

“We call for prompt attention of local enforcement to seek out, apprehend, and to pursue justice for these cruel perpetrators attacking our elders and members of the community. We also call upon our members to work for tolerance, understanding, and cooperation toward unity for harmony and social justice in our communities,” states C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan.

C.A.C.A. is stepping up to its historical leadership role as the oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry. Its Purposes and Objectives not only enshrine the aspirations of its members to be model Americans but more fundamentally to be accepted as Americans. And Asians are at a crossroads where once again inclusion faces resistance through prejudice and violence.

Hear from the leadership of C.A.C.A. Chapters nationwide who responded to the invitation of President Chan to submit statements, observations and reflections on the current crisis.

C.A.C.A. National will publish their words beginning today and will continue as a series with the hope that thoughtful persuasion produces action. Please submit your thoughts to info@cacanational.org and they will be shared via C.A.C.A. social media.



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Alice Lee

President, C.A.C.A. Houston

Houston Lodge stands in solidarity with C.A.C.A. National and all Lodges/Chapters in expressing our concerns in the recent violence targeting our most innocent and vulnerable members, our beloved elders. These senseless attacks against APA elders recently led to the unfortunate death of an 84-year-old Thai American in San Francisco. We hope justice will prevail for all of the targeted victims. We urge the public to be situationally aware and to use this opportunity to check in on an elderly neighbor.



Mack Miller

President, C.A.C.A. Las Vegas

There has been an increase in violence against American-Asians during the onset of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). This is unacceptable and we as a lodge and a united people call for peace and unity. As we bring in the year of the Ox. As the Greek storyteller said in “The Four Oxen and the Lion,” “United We Stand, Divided We Fall!”

We express heartfelt solidarity with our community during these tense and troubling times. As a member of the American-African community and the local chapter President of C.A.C.A., we are concerned about rising xenophobia aimed at Chinese and Asian people across the Nation. We know that in such times, the concern can quickly turn into hysteria, which can lead to blaming others. We pledge to help ensure that all people feel safe and supported and to combat attacks and stereotyping on social media as well. We know from history, that such fearmongering can be devastating.



We are also aware that many businesses including Chinese and Asian-owned establishments have been affected by misinformed concerns about the COVID-19 virus. Please be assured that we will strongly encourage our own community not to give in to such fears. The Las Vegas Lodge of Chinese American Citizens Alliance and I are more committed than ever to upholding these ideals and ensuring they are



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extended to all. Lastly, we know many of you are concerned about the health of relatives and friends. We offer our thoughts and prayers.

Wayne C. Ng

President, C.A.C.A. Los Angeles

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Los Angeles (“C.A.C.A. Los Angeles”) joins in the loud chorus across the country condemning the recent string of violent attacks against Asian Americans that has caught the attention of mainstream media. Whether such incidents are racially motivated spurred on by anti-Chinese COVID-19 rhetoric or the result of deep-seated bigotry triggered by the pandemic economy or simply criminal acts by opportunistic bad actors, these attacks have encouraged people into action to protect communities; to demand change from the police, the government, and each other; and to have difficult but necessary conversations regarding racism, xenophobia, race relations, and institutional discrimination. Anti-Asian sentiments



have a long history in the United States both by private and public actors and Asian Americans have often been scapegoated, stereotyped, and targeted as easy marks. Although we stand up against hate to defend ourselves as Asian Americans alongside our C.A.C.A. chapters across the country, we must not forget we are also part of the ongoing bigger fight against racism and discrimination against all people of color and those in the LGBTQ communities.

In this regard, C.A.C.A. Los Angeles continues to support efforts like [LA vs Hate](#), a program serving L.A. County residents by community partner organizations led by the L.A. County Human Relations Commission to address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it, build understanding about what constitutes hate and how to report it, and use cultural strategy and art to connect with residents in an authentic and meaningful way. We are proud that one of our own C.A.C.A. Los Angeles past presidents serves as program manager for LA vs Hate. C.A.C.A. Los Angeles also supports the efforts of several of our members who formed the dialogue group called Coalition for a Better L.A. partnering with other community organizations like Los Angeles Urban League, Brotherhood Crusade, Community Build, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, among others to jointly address issues at a high level such as police reform and congressional redistricting that affect Asian American and Black American communities alike. Through these efforts, C.A.C.A. Los Angeles hopes to help address racial and hate issues affecting Chinese Americans not through a narrow lens but as part of a larger big picture view that affects the entire community.

Next Time: Oakland | Portland | San Antonio



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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.