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C.A.C.A. Condemns Killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police; Calls for Federally Mandated Police Reform Based on Community Policing Concepts

San Francisco, June 2, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) condemns the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, and calls for an immediate and thorough investigation leading to a just punishment of those at fault. This call for justice is not only for Mr. Floyd whose life was cut short and his fiancé, family and friends who suffered a tragic personal loss. It is a call for justice for our entire American community that once again must deal with another case of the most extreme of police brutalities against our African American members, followed so closely by the killing of Ahmaud Arbery by vigilantes in Georgia, and the unmasking of the enabling racism latent but ready to be weaponized by even the most ordinary of us such as Amy Cooper, in New York’s Central Park. These cases—the range of them and their numbers from around the country and across time—cry out again and again for justice.

Justice is not served by reactive violence, destruction of businesses, and looting. C.A.C.A. rejects violence as a solution and echoes Mr. Floyd’s family in calling for calm and reflection of the incident and the underlying causes; but, as Ted Gong, National Vice President of Civic and Public Affairs observed: “We cannot continue to study these cases as the social-political-historical problem they are and accept that it is enough that another commission’s report is added to the shelf next to the report on the Rodney King incident and dozens of others. We need to deal with these cases now and directly.”

Understanding that the problem needs to be addressed at many levels and areas through state and local as well as federal action, but starting decisively with the police force in Minneapolis and then with each police force throughout the country, Mr. Gong states: “all of them must reflect the population they serve. Community policing principles must be ingrained into their ethos from top to bottom. Officers must be recognized, compensated, and continuously trained as professionals and punished immediately and severely when they step out of that mode and betray our public trust.”

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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.