

September 22, 2014

Assemblymember Paul Fong  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, Ca 94249-0028

Assemblymember Fong:

The recent comments from your campaign attempting to invoke anti-Arab sentiments in support of your campaign for City Council are xenophobic and racist and deserve condemnation. Describing an Arab American as a “Palestinian activist, who served as a high-ranking member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)” is an appeal to fear and hate, designed to generate campaign contributions. Your so-called “correction” which restates your characterization, does not hide its racist appeal.

Silicon Valley’s strength is built upon our ability to welcome people from all over the world and to focus on what we have in common, rather than our differences. Attacking people because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or the origins of their ancestors is an unethical act, which would not be tolerated if you were a member of our San José City Council.

It appears to fall well below the minimum standards for the California Assembly, which you should be familiar with as a member of Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity and Race Relations.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of the API Legislative Caucus, you called for a TV show host to resign for xenophobic and racist comments. You should apply the same standards to your own behavior.

Sincerely,



Chuck Reed,  
Mayor