

# SOUTH BAY SV

COMMUNITY COALITION

P A C

***For Immediate Release***

***South Bay SV Community Coalition PAC***

***November 5th, 2018***

The South Bay SV Community Coalition PAC takes responsibility for the mailer critical of Rich Tran printed in Vietnamese. The PAC stands by its decision to mail the literature to Vietnamese-American residents in Milpitas, many of whom are immigrants who fled the tyrannical Communist regime of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The mailer criticizes certain actions committed by Tran as undemocratic in nature and disrespectful to not only the Vietnamese community in Milpitas, but also throughout the United States. Such actions include :

- Tran's attempts to extend own mayoral term
- Tran's negligence of disclosing communications received from the Vietnamese government
- Tran's disregard for open-meeting laws
- Tran's perversion of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag (by wearing it as a towel and having it touch the ground)
- Tran's censorship of dissenting views on social media

Although the list actually goes on, the elements highlighted in the mailer enlightens residents as to how Tran has dishonored the endless sacrifices of Vietnamese refugees, the American patriots who fought against tyranny in Vietnam, and all those still missing in action. We made sure that every claim is cited with either a media reference and the date of publication or explanation. These are not rumors, they are direct actions taken by Tran. We never called Tran a communist. However, his questionable actions as a Vietnamese-American Mayor undoubtedly reflect values parallel to that of the authoritarian Vietnamese government.

To that end, we believe the mailer is justified, and we stand by our decision. The mailer is controversial, it is provocative, you may disagree with it, but it is free speech that is only allowable in a free and democratic society such as ours. Literature critical of officials in authoritarian governments, such as Vietnam, is explicitly banned. Retaliation and harassment is almost guaranteed by those criticized. Even coverage of such controversy by journalists, similar to what you are reading right now, is not permitted. South Bay SV Community Coalition PAC condemns government retribution of adversaries, we stand in solidarity with dissidents and journalists currently detained by the Vietnamese government, and we call for their immediate release.

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