April 5, 2021

City of Santa Clara
Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor
Vice Mayor Raj Chahal
Councilmember Kathy Watanabe
Councilmember Karen Hardy
Councilmember Antony Becker
Councilmember Suds Jain
Councilmember Kevin Park

Dear Mayor Gillmor and members of the Santa Clara City Council:

We commend Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Watanabe for sponsoring a Stop AAPI Hate event on Wednesday March 31, 2021. We have viewed the news coverage from CBS Channel 5: https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/video/5449314-korean-american-santa-clara-council-member-says-he-was-denied-chance-to-speak-at-stop-asian-hate-rally/

We are shocked and outraged that Councilmember Kathy Watanabe would not allow Kevin Park, the only Korean American member of the Santa Clara City Council, to speak at that rally. With the Korean American community in shock over the hate-motived murders of six Asian American women in Georgia last month, the participation of Councilmember Kevin Park at the March 31st Stop AAPI Hate rally would have added an essential voice to the rally. Councilmember Watanabe's denial of her colleague's request to speak is a disturbing example of her lack of sensitivity to the Asian American community.

We call on Councilmember Kathy Watanabe to publicly apologize to Councilmember Kevin Park at the next Santa Clara City Council meeting.

We call on the Santa Clara City Council to pass a resolution censuring Councilmember Watanabe for her failure to allow Councilmember Kevin Park to speak at the March 31st Stop AAPI Hate rally.

Sincerely,

Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
Michele Lew, CEO, The Health Trust
Sarita Kohli, President & CEO, Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Eunice Chun, Executive Director, Korean American Community Services
Pastor Jethroe Moore II, President, SJ/Silicon Valley NAACP
Victor Garza, Chairperson, La Raza Roundtable
Gisela B. Bushey, CEO, Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen
Maricela Gutiérrez, Executive Director, Services Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Derecka Mehrens, Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA
Wendy L. Ho, MPA, Trustee, San Jose Evergreen Community College District
Aram James, Advocacy Chair, Coalition for Justice and Accountability
Dolores Alvarado, Chief Executive Officer, Community Health Partnership
Michael Chang, Ph.D., Founder Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez, President, Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Atkinson Tran, Vietnamese American Roundtable

Minh Steven Dovan, Legal Counsel, Vietnamese American Community of Northern California

Jennifer Murakami, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley

Helen L Kassa, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, African American Community Services Agency

Steve Eckert, CEO, Alum Rock Counseling Center

MyLinh Pham, CEO, Asian American Center of Santa Clara County

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Contractors' Association (BHCA)

Jahmal Williams, Co-Chair, Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet

Pete Settelmayer, Executive Director, City Year San José/Silicon Valley

Jason Su, Executive Director, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Christy Hayes, Executive Director, Horizon Services

Rose Mukhr, Executive Director, Justice At Last

Darcie Green, Executive Director, Latinas Contra Cancer

Mayra Pelagio, Executive Director, Latinos United for a New America

Salvador Bustamante, Treasurer, Latinos United for a New America

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, Executive Director MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

Rovina Nimbalkar, Executive Director, NAMI Santa Clara County

Gary Montrezza, CEO, Pathway Society, Inc.

Heather Cleary, CEO, Peninsula Family Service

Angelica Cortez, LEAD Filipino

Lizz Finney, Social Justice Manager, Sacred Heart Community Service

Poncho Guevara, Executive Director, Sacred Heart Community Service

Wisa Uemura, Executive Director, San Jose Taiko

Carlos Rosario, President, Santa Clara County Black Lawyers Association

Yvonne Maxwell, Executive Director, Ujima Adult and Family Services

Andre Chapman, Founder & CEO, Unity Care

Eva Terrazas, Vice President Public Policy, Uplift Family Services

Leif Erickson, Retired executive director, Youth Community Service

Mary Cheryl B. Gloner, Former Resident and Property Owner in City of Santa Clara

Hien Do for ALF's AAPI Caucus

Sparky Harlan, Executive Director/CEO, Bill Wilson Center

Lina Park, Executive Director, Korean American Community Foundation of San Francisco

Yeri Shon, Chief of Program and Community Impact, Integration, Korean Community Center of the East Bay

David K. Mineta, President/CEO, Momentum for Mental Health

Jenny Do, Co-Executive Director, Friends of Hue Foundation

Raj Jayadev, Coordinator Silicon Valley De-Bug

Adriana Garcia Cabrera, Community Organizer, Maiz San Jose

Susan Hayase, San Jose Nikkei Resisters

Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, Trustee Fremont Union High School District (for identification purposes only)

Quynh-Mai Nguyen, Social Artist & Community Organizer; Creative Director, Art Builds Community

The Honorable Paul Fong, former member California State Assembly

Peter Kuo, Small Business Owner in Santa Clara & Resident of D1 in Santa Clara

Sarah Hollingsworth, Teacher, Campbell Resident

T. Chester Wang

Victoria Q. Smith

PJ Hirabayashi

Rose Tseng
Michael Kaku and La Donna Yumori-Kaku, Co-Presidents Sequoia JACL
Hsing Kung
Jennie Mahan
Aditi Pasd
Beverley Wong
Herminio Hernando
Papia Gambelin
Deepka Lalwani, MBA
Leslie Bulbuk
Anthony Lê, Owner of PVTL
Thanh Ngo