



**For Immediate Release**

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### **API Council Engages Community with Mayoral Forum**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Asian & Pacific Islander Council (API Council), a 45-member coalition of non-profit organizations in San Francisco hosted a mayoral forum spotlighting issues and concerns affecting the Asian & Pacific Islander community in the City. API Council’s consortium represents the majority of the housing and community development, health and human service, and arts organizations serving API’s. The goal of the forum is to increase voter turnout and help the API community make a more informed vote. Additionally, the forum provided an opportunity for the community to increase understanding to their promises during the campaign trail.

“I want to thank all of the candidates for addressing the needs and concerns of our API community,” said Cally Wong, Director of API Council. “It is impossible to cover every factor that affects API’s here in San Francisco, but we feel we are shifting the narrative by highlighting the plight of so many in our community who live in abject poverty, who are homeless, who live in the shadows.”

Supervisors London Breed and Jane Kim as well as former State Senator Mark Leno and former Supervisor, Angela Alioto participated in last night’s forum with 400 people in attendance. The forum was moderated by Richard Lui of NBC and translated in Cantonese by Crystal Liang of Skylink TV. Topics discussed included: Poverty and unmet needs amongst APIs in San Francisco, the commitment for candidates to work with non-profits to continue to meet these unmet needs, the cultural vitality of San Francisco and the crossroads of attending to global city growth while prioritizing affordable housing, homeless and open spaces.

“The fact is there is so much that needs to be done,” said Sarah Wan of Community Youth Center. “Today’s forum was certainly a good start as we were able to have our mayoral candidates address these critical issues, but we must not as APIs have short term memory. Our next mayor must be held accountable to the needs of APIs and the broader communities of color as a whole.”

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#### **About the Asian Pacific Islander Council**

The Asian Pacific Islander Council (API Council) is a 45-member coalition of nonprofits in San Francisco that ensure that underserved Asian & Pacific Islanders’ needs are visibly engaged, addressed, and represented in policies, research and data collection, and equitable funding allocations to advance overall healthy communities to enhance and shape San Francisco’s continued vibrant evolution. Collectively, these organizations serve approximately 250,000 APIs annually.

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