



Dear Community Members,

This past week, API Council was made aware of hateful and violent imagery perpetrated against two of our very own SFUSD school board members who are also women of color. Even as we as a community are still reeling from racially driven acts of violence in our API community, we are completely appalled by what we have seen. As an organization, we pride ourselves on intersectional, intergenerational, and inter-community work. As community-based organizations, the work that we do is rooted in solidarity with all advocates who are working toward equity in our City. Commissioners Lopez and Collins are allies in our work as a broader organization and we commit to doing everything in our power to fulfill our duty to support them and the school board as they navigate this despicable experience.

API Council which represents 56 API organizations from around the City, representing tens of thousands of clients, advocates, and staff stand with Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Collins. As an organization, we want to especially take a stand and to acknowledge that there is much work that needs to be done in our very own API community to actively dismantle racism and hate within our own community. Despite claims from the assailant, there is nothing peaceful about the symbolism, imagery, and act that was filmed. This was pure violence and there is no contesting that. Condemning these acts is the smallest of gestures we can offer.

As we work toward finding some semblance of healing amidst this injustice, we also want to uplift an opportunity to continue a very important conversation about race, privilege, and power as it relates to the API community. While it is true that while APIs in San Francisco represent a third of the population, 43% live in poverty. It is also true that APIs do not experience systematic violence, oppression, and racism at the same rate as our brothers and sisters who are black and brown. The work of undoing systematic racism must be rooted not merely in solidarity with those communities but from their leadership. We must listen and follow. We must bolster and protect. For what has the Black Lives Matter movement taught us as allies but to protect black and brown bodies at the cost of our very own.

API Council will always denounce and actively oppose racism, bigotry, and oppression *especially* when it comes from our very own community. We seek to hold our own community accountable. We seek to demonstrate that “ally” is a verb and not a noun. To our trusted and beloved commissioners, we stand by you, behind, you and in front of you.

In Community,
API Council