

Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce
3 East 4th Street, Suite 100
Cincinnati, OH 45202



March 18, 2021

Subject: Our open letter with endorsements (running list and welcome more endorsements)

Dear members of the community,

Thank you so much for pouring your support to our open letter issued by our board chair Lee Wong, US Army (retired), with over 20 years of active-duty service (24/7) to the nation.

With over 50 advocacy groups and individuals from the region co-signing this letter, we stand in solidarity and with the resolve that together we say NO, loud and clear, to hate, to violence, and to racial discrimination and biases.

But that's not enough. We must take actions to prevent the next tragedy from happening. While we can go through the routines and let ourselves be buried in the entanglement of processes and bureaucracies, we can take these actions to move forward:

1. Share this letter publicly and condemn the violence and microaggressions on Asian people.
2. Call for legislation to establish clear definitions of hate crimes towards Asian people. Current federal laws make it extremely difficult to define and prosecute a hate crime aimed towards Asian people in this country.
3. Call for tougher penalties on first-time violations of hate crimes. Many offenders walk free without any penalty.
4. Increase visibility of Asian American in senior and top leaderships in both the government and the private sectors.
5. Promote diversity, inclusion and awareness of Asian culture and history, especially the history of Asian immigrants and their contribution to this country. We offer webinars that talk specifically about the history of East Asian countries and business etiquettes. Please encourage your colleagues to join us.

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Additionally, you are encouraged to visit and support our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/midwestchamber> and check our events page often for information on future events: <http://www.china-midwest.com/events/> or if you feel compelled enough to join us, visit our members page: <http://www.china-midwest.com/membership/>

We will be joined by other advocacy groups this weekend in several peaceful demonstrations and memorial services. Do let me know if you like to join us or hear more about these activities.

Again, a giant thumbs up to all of you and thank you. We look forward to meeting you in the not-too-distant future.

Leo Chan

513.501.3087

Media:

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/pandemic-has-increased-threats-against-asian-americans-pacific-islanders-but-theyre-nothing-new>

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/atlanta-area-spa-shootings-send-shockwaves-spreads-fear-among-local-asian-community/35875131>

<https://local12.com/news/local/advocacy-groups-fears-more-violence-against-asian-americans-possible-cincinnati>

<https://www.fox19.com/2021/03/18/fort-mitchell-oriental-wok-restaurant-reports-violent-threats-against-staff/>

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STOP ASIAN HATE


Join us for a gathering to support the API community.
Share your stories. Show your solidarity.

Sunday, March 21, 2021, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
50 E Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
Masking and social distancing required.



Presented by Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA) Cincinnati Chapter and Greater Cincinnati Chinese Cultural Exchange Association (GCCCEA)

In partnership with
American Jewish Committee (AJC) Cincinnati, Chinese American Association of Cincinnati, Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau, EquaSiOn, Greater Cincinnati Chinese School, Japanese American Citizens League, Mason Hua Xia Chinese School, Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Society of Chinese American Professors and Scientists (Cincinnati Chapter), Sichuan-Chongqing Friendship Association, The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center, The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, United Asian Advocates
(List in preparation)



Dear Community,

In light of the recent nationwide brutality against the Asian community, we are genuinely devastated. While our restaurant and family have been targets of aggressions this past year, we are so fortunate to be in a city that embraces us as their own. We feel the weight of this recent violence and stand in solidarity with our Asian community condemning this behavior. Our homes and cars have been egged, we are pummeled with daily calls telling us to "Go back to China" along with other crude & violent threats. We walk our staff to their cars to ensure safety every night. The police were on the premises even today, due to numerous threats. Luckily we have you, our Friends, whose outpouring of love and respect is appreciated more than you know.

#stopasianhate

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March 17, 2021

To whom it may concern

Subject: Open statement from Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce

Dear Community Leaders,

The Asian American communities are gravely saddened and concerned about the recent sharp increases of attacks and violence on law-abiding, hardworking Asian Americans. Asian Americans traditionally love this great country of ours. They are proud to contribute, to help build this great country and serve in the armed forces of this great nation. The Asian American communities are deeply concerned about the lack of safety these days and call for actions to return to civility and treat each other with respect, dignity, and equality, for which America is proudly known and standing.

Regards,

Lee Wong, US Army (retired) with over 20 years of active-duty service (24/7) to the nation
Chairman of the Board
Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce (fka. Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce)

The following organizations and persons endorse the above statement:

- Adam Hayden, Seeds of Peace / Kids4Peace
- Aarti, Noah, & Zoe, junior high school students with Kids4Peace Cincinnati
- Alfonso Cornejo, President, Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA
- Allison Reynolds-Berry, Executive Director, Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center
- Bakhtavar Desai, President, Zoroastrian Association of Ky, OH, & IN
- Bao M. Nguyen, Asian American Cultural Association of Cincinnati
- Barry E. Cobb
- Bleuzette Marshall, PhD, VP for Equity, Inclusion & Community Impact, University of Cincinnati
- Brent Cooper, President & CEO, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Bryan Wright, Executive Director, Cincinnati Compass
- Carla D. Walker, CEO, think BIG strategies
- Cathy Heldman, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee
- Charleston Wang, Interethnic Council of Greater Cincinnati, Asian American Hour WAIF 88.3 FM
- Charmaine McGuffey, Sheriff, Hamilton County
- Chip Harrod, Board Chair Michael Hawkins, and Tammy Bennett, EquaSion

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- Cincinnati Regional Coalition Against Hate
- Cynthia Cummins, Brueggeman Center for Dialogue
- Dan Cunningham, Long Stanton Mfg.
- Daniel J. Hoffheimer, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Dr. Amir Izhar, Board Chair and Henry Hane, Executive Director, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
- Eric H. Kearney, Esq., President & CEO, Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce
- Felicity Tao, Greater Cincinnati Chinese Cultural Exchange Association
- Geneva Blackmer, Program Director, the Interfaith Center at Miami University
- Helen Rindsberg, President, Cincinnati Asian Art Society.
- Inayat Malik MD, Past Board Chair, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
- J. Neri, Executive Director, Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition
- Jackie Congedo, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati
- Jaipal Singh, CHAATRIK Architecture
- James Buchanan, Board Chair, Interfaith Cincy and Foreign Policy Leadership Council
- Jan Armstrong Cobb, EquaSion and A Mighty Stream
- Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Cincinnati City Councilmember
- Jeff Liu, President & CEO, Fuyao Group North America
- Jessica Baron, EquaSion
- Jill P. Meyer, President & CEO, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Joe Mallory, President, Cincinnati NAACP
- Justin Kirschner, Associate Director, Jewish Community Relations Council
- Kazuya Sato, President, Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League
- Koji Sado, Board President, and Anne Golden, Executive Director, Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati
- Kristin Burgoyne, Executive Director, RefugeeConnect
- Lynn Tramonte, Ohio Immigrant Alliance
- Majid Samarghandi, CEO, Triton Services Inc
- Mark Jeffreys, CEO 4Sight and Cincinnati City Council Candidate
- Marlaina A. Leppert-Wahl, Ph.D., Wilmington College
- Marvin Cunningham, President, Long-Stanton Mfg.
- Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr. Presiding Bishop, Second Episcopal District Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Mary A. McDonald, Mayor, City of Trotwood
- Mary Carol Melton, Festival of Faiths Steering Committee

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- Michael Howard, CEO, Nichefire
- Mitchel Livingston, VP Emeritus and Professor, University of Cincinnati
- Michele Young, author of medieval-fantasy novels
- Michele Young, Esq., Ohio Asian American Pacific Islanders Public Affairs, AJC Cincinnati Black Jewish Table of Partnership
- Michelle Harpenau, Executive Director, World Affairs Council & Michele Mansfield, Board Chair, World Affairs Council
- Miriam Jackobs, Women's Interfaith Network of Cincinnati
- Pastor Henry Zorn, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
- Patrick Lonneman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Rabbi Gary P. Zola, Past President, MLK Coalition of Greater Cincinnati
- Rabbi Meredith Kahan and Board President John G. Cobey, Rockdale Temple
- Rebecca Newlin, Board Chair, the Interfaith Center at Miami University
- Rev. Heather Buchanan Wiseman St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- Rev. P. Marshall Wiseman Christ Church Cathedral
- Rev. Stacey Midge, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church
- Rick and Zeinab Schwen
- Roula Allouch, member of EquaSion and CAIR
- Samina Sohail MD, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
- Shakila T Ahmad, Allergy & Asthma Specialty Center
- Sharline Martin, President of the Board, Indian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
- Sikhs Community of Greater Cincinnati
- Stephan Vance and Dr. Deborah Vance, Baha'i Faith and EquaSion
- Teresa M. Davis
- The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center
- Umama Alam, EquaSion
- William Madges, Faculty Director, Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue, Xavier University
- Zejiang Yang, Sichuan-Chongqing Friendship Association

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