



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2021 APR 16 PM 4:56

CITY COUNCIL WRITTEN PETITION

Please provide the information requested below. When complete, please submit to the City Clerk's Office, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Date: 4/16/2021

I, Gabriela Garzón Gupta, am hereby requesting to be placed on the Santa Clara City Council Agenda for the following purpose:

- Censure of Councilmember Kathy Watanabe
- Admonishment of Mayor Lisa Gillmor

I understand that it is important that I attend the meeting in the event there are any questions the Council wishes to ask me.

Signed:

NAME: Gabriela Garzón Gupta

ADDRESS: 991 W Hedding St. #202
Street

San Jose 95126
City Zip Code

TELEPHONE:* 408-287-9710
Optional

DATE: 4/16/2021

*NOTE: This is a public document. If your telephone number is unlisted or if you do not want it to be public, please provide an alternate number where you can be reached.

April 16, 2021

Mayor Gillmor and Santa Clara City Councilmembers
Santa Clara City Hall
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Re: Stop AAPI Hate Rally Incident

Dear Mayor Gillmor and members of Santa Clara City Council,

Thank you for considering the letter that was sent earlier. As community members, we would like to again express our deep concern over the incident that happened at the Stop AAPI Hate Rally on Wednesday, March 31. The denial of Kevin Park to speak at the rally was troubling to watch. As a public facing council, the residents look to City leadership to set a tone- and the tone that was set was one that is not inclusive or collaborative. Santa Clara is a majority-minority city, and when an Asian American is denied to speak at a rally that is advocating for Asian Americans, we must speak up and ensure that this type of behavior is not repeated.

As community members, we demand that true accountability takes place. The apologies issued by Councilmember Watanabe and Mayor Gillmor indicate a shallow understanding of what the incident means for our community. Mayor Gillmor has defended the behavior and stated that there “were faults on both sides.” She attempted to turn the tables by asking Councilmember Park if he “would have done anything differently.” Councilmember Watanabe issued an apology at the Council and Authorities Concurrent Meeting on April 6 that implies that we are hyperfocusing on the “controversy about Councilmember Park not speaking”, instead of focusing on how “our community came together to support AAPI residents.”

The type of dynamics that are on display with these types of words signal to us that some of our City leaders do not understand the true harm they cause when they interact and treat their colleagues in this manner. To imply that we are “dividing” ourselves, as Mayor Gillmor has stated in the April 6 meeting, by calling attention to the incident is insulting. We are not taking away from the original mission to support the AAPI community. Rather, we are only furthering the original mission. Supporting AAPI residents means calling out hate crimes, but also examining how interactions can either create a sense of inclusion or a sense of alienation.

For us, this incident is personal. Too many times have we been subject to the same type of interaction where we are dismissed or told we are taking away focus from the real issue. **We would like to demand a formal censure that denounces Councilmember Watanabe’s actions, as well as an admonishment of how Mayor Gillmor handled the incident.** It would have been a sign of true understanding for our leaders to truly apologize and make amends by committing to collaborate with AAPI leaders on future events and motions pertaining to events

aimed at “supporting the AAPI community.” We look forward to seeing this item on the April 20 Council and Authorities Concurrent meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

1. Victoria Q. Smith, Santa Clara resident
2. Herminio Hernando, Santa Clara resident
3. Minh Steven Dovan, Santa Clara Resident, Legal Counsel for Viet-American Community of N. California
4. Wesley K. Mukoyama, Santa Clara Resident
5. Jeannie Mahan, Santa Clara Resident
6. Patricia Mahan, Santa Clara Resident, former Santa Clara Mayor
7. Mike Kaku, Santa Clara Resident
8. La Donna Yumori-Kaku, Santa Clara Resident
9. Shirley Odou, Santa Clara Resident