



December 21, 2021

City of National City
Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis and
Member of City Council
1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA 91950

Re: Request to Implement District Voting under the California Voting Rights Act

Dear Honorable Mayor Soletto-Solis and National City Councilmembers:

The Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) is a community-based, non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to cultivate civic engagement to forward the voices of San Diego’s Asian Pacific American community. Our goals are to engage, educate, and empower Asian Pacific Americans which is why we implore you to adopt a resolution to transition from at-large voting to district voting by election year 2022. Your “at-large” voting disempowers minority voters and communities of interest, which includes the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

National City is deeply rich in Asian influence; from the Asian-owned businesses on Plaza Boulevard, to the many healthcare workers at Operation Samahan and Paradise Valley Hospital who risk their lives daily during this pandemic. AAPI homeowners and communities of interest contribute greatly to National City’s ongoing thriving economy, yet are not given the opportunity for an equitable, fair chance for representation. Seeing someone who looks like you in an elected position who understands your specific needs, matters. It matters to the Asian senior citizen who feels forgotten. It matters to the Asian immigrant, new to our country who longs to feel included. It matters to the Asian storeowner who wants to know that someone on the City Council understands their business needs. It matters to our children who need to see that diversity, equity and inclusion is important in National City, and that they can someday have a fair chance to become Mayor or serve on City Council. As you can see, we can no longer wait another 20+ years without representation.

You have the chance to make history with your vote today. We are calling on you to comply with the California Voting Rights Act immediately by implementing district voting. The time for leadership is now.

Sincerely,

Steve Hsieh

Steve Hsieh (Dec 20, 2021 21:51 PST)

Steve Hsieh
Chair, APAC

Mitz Lee

Mitz Lee
APAC Co-Founder

Cynthia Suero-Gabler

Cynthia “CK” Suero-Gabler
Vice Chair & Redistricting Sub-Committee Chair



Steve Hsieh

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Steve Hsieh, APAC Chair
President of San Diego Asian Americans for Equality and Senior Advisor to Republic of China Taiwan Overseas
Community Affairs Council

Mitz Lee, APAC Co-Founder
President / Co-Founder of Alliance for Quality Education and past Trustee of the San Diego Board of Education

Cynthia “CK” Suero-Gabler, APAC Vice Chair and Redistricting Sub-Committee Chair
Lifetime Member Bay Terrace Fil-Am Seniors Association and Filipina Woman’s Network (FWN)’s Awarded Top
100 Most Influential Filipinas in the World 2021, BAPAC-SD Lifetime Member

Jantima Danford

Jantima Danford (Dec 21, 2021 05:44 PST)

Jantima Danford, APAC Treasurer
Community Advocate and Interpreter, Thai and Lao Communities

Sandy Spackman

Sandy Spackman (Dec 21, 2021 09:15 PST)

Sandy Spackman, APAC Secretary
President of the Lao American Coalition (LAC) and Secretary of Lao Advocacy of San Diego (LAOSD)

Natasha Wong

Natasha Wong (Dec 21, 2021 09:15 PST)

Natasha Wong, APAC Board Member At-Large
Vice President of the Avery Tsui Foundation and President of San Diego Balboa Park’s House of China

Denise Meyer

Denise Meyer, APAC Board Member At-Large
Kupuna (Elder) and Pelekikena (President) of Ahahui Kiwila Hawaii O San Diego (Hawaiian Civic Club of San
Diego)

*APAC Board Member Parliamentarian Alex Nguyen is recused.