

Dear Mayor Choi:

We, the individuals, groups, and associations of Intercultural Alliance of Irvine representing some 30,000 ethnic Chinese residents of Irvine and other interested and concerned members of the Irvine community, are delivering a unified MESSAGE OF PROTEST TO YOU AND YOUR TWO OTHER COLLEAGUES Council members Jeffrey Lalloway and Christina Shea for exploiting the Irvine International Friendship City Proposal 5.1 at the city council meeting on April 8, 2014 to serve your own agenda. We are doing so for the following reasons:

1. By purposefully allowing about 1000 non-residents of Irvine to occupy Irvine City Hall and dominate the podium to achieve their political agenda, you, together with your two other colleagues at the Irvine City Council, have advanced your narrowly defined ultra-conservative political agenda and have severely undermined the spirit, vision, integrity, and inclusiveness of City of Irvine as a well-integrated global village and tarnished City of Irvine's global reputation. It is common sense that international friendship city projects are part of public diplomacy and good-will at the grass-roots level which merely require the local government's formal endorsement to pave the way for the international exchanges between people of the two cities on a voluntary basis. Yet the outdated Cold War mentality you and your two other colleagues hold have arrested the open dynamism City of Irvine has been enjoying. You three are working against the national and global trend of global engagements. This is not only a sign of bad taste with you three, but also a sign of extreme disqualification as Mayor, Mayor Pro tem, and Council Member of a well-known global city such as Irvine. You have embarrassed our city and shown yourselves to be incapable of genuine leadership.
2. By Using non-residents of Irvine to influence and disrupt the revised agenda of the Irvine City Council meeting towards your favor, you and your two other colleagues have purposefully excluded the presence and attendance of legitimate Irvine residents in the Council Chambers and undermined the possibility of sustained civic and reasoned contemplation over the meeting agenda item 5.1 on the part of various legitimate Irvine residents, marginalized, and silenced their voices. By such permissive action, you three have severely undermined the basic rights and interests of citizens of Irvine who pay taxes to put you all on the payroll and who may have elected you all onto your posts. We believe that such a grave disregard for Irvine residents' basic rights and interest is a blatant abuse of power. It is not only unethical, it is also inconsistent with the standard of public leadership our citizens deserve.

3. By allowing non-residents of Irvine to take all of the Irvine City Hall seats and space, most importantly the podium during the prime time, most Irvine residents of both the Pakistani heritage and Chinese heritage as well as other interested parties who support Karachi and Baoji as possible friendship cities for Irvine lost their opportunities to attend and speak. As a result of the achievement of your narrow and outdated political agenda and petty politics-voting against all the cities proposed as friendship cities for Irvine, you have not only severely insulted the rights, dignity, and pride of these important cultural constituencies of Irvine, you three have also blatantly discriminated against our cultural/ethnic heritages by equating our ethnic/cultural heritages with communism.
4. By your permission of non-residents of Irvine to occupy Irvine City Hall at around 3:00 p.m. April 8, 2014, you and your two colleagues allowed the disruption of the Opening Ceremony of the Photo Exhibit on Chinese Immigrants' Contributions to the US which was taking place at Irvine City Hall. This is your heavy slap in the face of the Chinese immigrant community in Irvine and indeed the whole of the Chinese immigrant community around the US.

Besides the above, by allowing organized groups of another Asian ethnic group who are non-residents of Irvine to protest against the proposal to establish a Chinese city as a possible friendship city for Irvine, you have not only set a dangerous precedent in city governance in the history of Irvine and indeed in the American urban history and that of the world urban history, you have also sowed seeds for new conflicts between people of Chinese heritage and people of Vietnamese heritage. Several Chinese residents of Irvine who publicly spoke in support of the council meeting agenda item 5.1 reported that they had been threatened with fists by some non-Irvine resident Vietnamese members in the Council Chambers after their speaking. Not only their rights to speak were not protected, but also their personal safety was not protected in the Council Chambers. As public officials, to play such ethnic groups against each other to win political battles is not only a sign of recklessness and naked dirty politics, but also is doing the public and the civil society a grave disservice given the fact that public officials are expected to mediate and resolve interethnic conflicts.

For the above reasons, we demand the following:

1. We demand that you call for an immediate face-face dialogue between representatives of the Chinese immigrant community of Irvine and the entire Irvine City Council on the misdeeds we have pointed out above.
2. We demand that you and your two other colleagues extend and publicize a deep written apology to the concerned ethnic groups of Irvine, especially the Irvine

Chinese immigrant community in *Orange County Register*, *Irvine World News*, and *Los Angeles Times* as well on TV and other legitimate media.

3. We demand that Karachi and Baoji will be reconsidered and formally and fully discussed as possible friendship cities for Irvine with Irvine residents only by listening to the concerned residents only at the next Irvine City Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Intercultural Alliance of Irvine

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