

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Manisha Bewtra

(781) 462-1085

aapimapoli@gmail.com

### **150 Massachusetts AAPI Leaders Stand in Solidarity for Black Lives**

The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, as well as other Black lives lost due to acts of bigotry, bias, and brutality must come to an end. As Asian American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) community leaders, elected officials, and organizers in Massachusetts, we stand firmly in solidarity with the Black community and the movement for Black lives.

Our country was built on the foundation of racism, ranging from the genocide of indigenous people, chattel slavery, racial profiling of young men of color, and a criminal justice system that tears families apart. We also acknowledge the additional, intersectional hardships faced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) in the LGBTQ+ community. We condemn all injustices that continue to perpetuate violence in our communities and devalue Black lives.

Last week, a few AAPI individuals criticized the acknowledgement of anti-Blackness within the AAPI community. We support the intent of the Massachusetts Asian American Commission’s statement and will continue to hold our communities accountable. Anti-racism work starts with the recognition that we are all part of the system, and all people, including AAPI people, have more learning to do to advance racial justice and equity.

We recognize and understand that solidarity is not enough to dismantle systemic and structural racism. We must do more by holding ourselves and each other accountable. We must do more by addressing the anti-Blackness in our families and our communities; refusing tactics to divide our communities of color; rejecting the “model minority myth”; and centering the people who are constantly living at the margins and most impacted by systemic racism in all of our work.

The brutal murder of George Floyd was a renewed moment of national reckoning, but the urgency itself is not new, and systemic change to eradicate anti-Blackness and racism will take sustained and consistent effort and unwavering solidarity.

As AAPI community leaders, elected officials, and organizers, we are in this fight for the long haul, and will support our Black community’s continuous efforts. We begin this work together through these initial commitments:

- We will support the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and the Massachusetts Elected Officials of Color Ten Point Plan issued on June 2, 2020 to ensure that change happens now.
- We will advocate to increase participation in the US Census and voting at local, state and national elections to ensure that BIPOC get the fair share of resources and representation.
- We will advocate for data disaggregation by race and ethnicity to address disparities in poverty, food access, housing access, education, health outcomes, and other indicators; disparities that the COVID-19 crisis continues to exacerbate.
- We will advocate for BIPOC to be included on all local, state and federal governing bodies, including but not limited to advisory boards, commissions, task forces, and committees.

We call on all AAPIs to join the collective commitment to do more. Progress will only happen when we fight together, demand justice together, and heal together.

Signed,

Aaron Dy, Boston resident, Young Democrats of MA AAPI Caucus  
Afroz Khan, Newburyport City Councillor  
Akriti Bhambi, Cambridge resident  
Alex Chiu, Tufts University  
Amanda Westlake, Democratic State Committee  
Amy Cheung, Quincy resident  
Amy Mah Sangiolo, Former Newton City Councilor  
Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation  
Anh-Phi Tran, Watertown resident  
Anita Tonakarn-Nguyen, Candidate for Westford Select Board  
Asha Nadkarni, Co-Chair, Five College Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program  
Beata Coloyan, Campaign Manager, Committee to Elect Ayanna Pressley  
Beth Huang, Director, Massachusetts Voter Table  
Bethany Li, Greater Boston Legal Services, Asian Outreach Director  
Bopha Malone, Bedford Select Board Member  
Bora Chiemruom, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
Brooke Kamalani Yuen, Community Outreach Coordinator, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
C.N. Le, Sociology Faculty and Director of Asian & Asian American Studies Program, UMass Amherst  
Carolyn Leung Rubin, Tufts University School of Medicine  
Chanelle Dow, LMHC, Boston resident  
Christina R. Chan, Co-Founder of Asian American Playwright Collective  
Christine Araujo, Boston resident  
Christine Madore, Salem City Councillor  
Cinda Danh, Democratic State Committee  
Cliff W. Chuang, Reservoir Church (part of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization)  
Constantino "Coco" Alinsug, Democratic State Committee  
Cory Bisbee, Membership and Outreach Director, Young Democrats of Massachusetts  
Cristina Ayala, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence  
Cynthia Mark, Chief, Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office  
Cynthia Townsend, Shrewsbury resident  
Dan Arrigg Koh, Andover Select Board Member  
Danielle Kim, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
Dave Madan, Builders of Color Coalition, Boston Farms Community Land Trust  
Dawn Sauma, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)  
Dean Endow, Melrose resident  
Diana Hwang, Founder, Asian American Women's Political Initiative  
Diana Jeong, Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition  
Dimple Rana, Commissioner, Asian American Commission, Chair, Revere Democratic City Committee  
Divya Kumar, LCSW, ScM, Commissioner on the Ellen Story Commission for Postpartum Depression  
DJ Song, Boston resident  
Emily Tam, Malden resident  
Emily Yu, Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund  
Erika Uyterhoeven, Candidate for 27th Middlesex State Representative  
Erina Colombo, The Committee to Elect Ayanna Pressley  
Franklin Odo, Visiting Professor, Amherst College  
Fred Dow, Trustee and Past President, Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund  
Gianina Chua, Director of Programming, Asian American Women's Political Initiative  
Haniya Saleem Syeda, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
Helen Moon, Pittsfield City Councilor  
Helena Berbano, Democratic State Committee, Young Democrats of MA Asian Caucus  
Hema Sarang-Sieminski, Policy Director, Jane Doe Inc.

Jacquie L. Kay, The Sun Walking Group/Labs  
 Janelle Chan, Boston resident  
 Jason Chan, Attorney, Seed, Chan and Associates, LLC.  
 Jelyn Masa, Philippine American Mainstream Advocacy for Non-partisans Assoc. (PAMANA), Board Member  
 Jennifer Sien Erickson, Boston resident  
 Jenny Chiang, Executive Director, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Jessica J. Tang, Boston Teachers Union  
 Jay Wong, Program Director, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Jessica Wong, Regional Director, Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren  
 Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, Cambridge City Councillor  
 John Carlo Laude, Hoy! Pinoy!, UMass Boston  
 Josephine M. Kim, Harvard University  
 Karen Y. Chen, Chinese Progressive Association  
 Katytarika Bartel, Angry Asian Girls  
 Kevin Tan, Coalition for a Better Acre  
 Kim Szeto, Boston resident  
 Kimberly Chang, Hampshire College  
 Kimberly A. Truong, Executive Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, MGH Institute of Health  
 Professions, Adjunct Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education  
 Komal Bhasin, Arlington resident  
 Kourou Pich, HarborCOV  
 Lata Williams, Melrose resident  
 Lawrence K. Cheng, Cambridge resident  
 Leila Bhatti Migliorelli, Melrose City Councilor  
 Lianna Kushi, EforAll Lowell-Lawrence  
 Lily Huang, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice  
 Lisa Wong, Andover resident  
 Lisette Le, Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, Inc.  
 Liza Talusan, Brockton resident  
 Lydia Lowe, Chinatown Community Land Trust  
 Lydia Shiu, Pastor of Reservoir Church in Cambridge, MA, co-founder of Progressive Asian American Christians  
 Mabel Lam, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Manisha Bewtra, Former Melrose City Councilor  
 Maria Dolorico, Counselor and Coach in private practice  
 Maria Robinson, State Representative, 6th Middlesex  
 Mehreen N. Butt, Wakefield Town Councilor, South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston Advisory Board Member  
 Michael Sakamoto, Director, Asian & Asian American Arts and Cultures Program, UMass Amherst  
 Michelle Wu, Boston City Councilor  
 Mina Kim, Somerville resident  
 Mohammad Dar, Physician  
 Monique Ching, Malden resident  
 Monique Tú Nguyen, Matahari Women Workers' Center  
 Nandini Talwar, Melrose Organizes for Real Equality  
 Nate Bae Kupel, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Ngoc Tran Tang, Cambridge resident  
 Nicole Eigbrett, Legislative Aide, MA House of Representatives  
 Nikko Mendoza, State Director, Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren  
 Nina Liang, Quincy City Council President, Emerge Massachusetts Executive Director, Asian American Commission  
 Member  
 Nita Kumaraswami Klunder, Melrose resident  
 Peter Chiu, Malden resident  
 Peter Lin-Marcus, Boston resident

Philjay Somera Solar, Philippine American Mainstream Advocacy for Non-partisans Assoc. (PAMANA) & National Federation of Filipino American Assoc. (NaFFAA)]  
 Phitsamay S. Uy, Co-Director, Center for Asian American Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
 Pratna Kem, UMass Boston  
 Prerna Jagadeesh, Democratic State Committee  
 Puja Mehta, J.D., Emerge Massachusetts, Board of Directors Chair  
 Rani Jacobson, Democratic State Committee  
 Regina White, Dalton resident  
 Richard Chu, UMass Amherst  
 Rita Shah, Saheli Boston  
 Roger Lau, Senior Adviser, Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren  
 Sajid Shahriar, Somerville resident  
 Sam Hyun, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Sandy K. Yeung, Boston resident  
 Sara Boxell, Director, Asian American Student Success Program, UMass Boston  
 Sathyaprya Mandjiny, Political Director, Ed Markey for US Senate  
 Shaleen Title, Commissioner, Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission  
 Shannon Alessandroni, Legislative Aide, Office of State Representative Maria Robinson  
 Sheila Vo, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Shirley Mark, Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund  
 Simone Bui, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence  
 Sokhary Chau, Lowell City Councilor  
 Sovanna Pouy, Executive Director, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.  
 Stephanie Lin, RPh, Lynnfield Resident  
 Sue J. Kim, Co-Director, Center for Asian American Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
 Sumbul Siddiqui, City of Cambridge Mayor  
 Tackey Chan, State Representative, 2nd Norfolk  
 Taejasvi Narayan, Andover resident  
 Tahra Goraya, Milton Town Meeting Member  
 Talat Aman, Wakefield Resident, Yale Young Democratic Socialists of America  
 Tami Nguyen, Asian American Journalists Association  
 Tanya Neslusan, Democratic State Committee  
 Tiffani Sykhammouny, National Finance Manager at Kennedy for MA, Deputy Director at Asian American Women's Political Initiative  
 Tiffany Kwong, Boston resident  
 Tobin G. Abraham, New Leaders Council  
 Tram T. Nguyen, State Representative, 18th Essex  
 Trish Fontanilla, BOSFilipinos  
 Vanna Howard, Candidate for State Representative, 17th Middlesex  
 Varsha Ghosh, Dorchester resident  
 Vasundhra Sangar, Somerville resident  
 Vatsady Sivongxay, Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund  
 Veena Dharmaraj, Massachusetts Sierra Club  
 Vickash Mohanka, Clean Water Action  
 Vira Douangmany Cage, Chair, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Vivian Huang, Program in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Williams College  
 Vivian Chan Li, AAPI Advocacy Director, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association  
 Vivian Nguyen, Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition, Young Democrats of MA Asian Caucus  
 Wayne Yeh, Democratic State Committee  
 Ying Wang, Commissioner, Massachusetts Asian American Commission  
 Yun-Ju Choi, Lowell resident

Signatures updated 07.24.20, 12:30pm. Form to add signatures: <https://forms.gle/6fGZBqmWQG4HMcqZA>.