

**Attn: Mayor Tri Ta, Vice Mayor Kimberly Ho, Council Member Sergio Contreras, Council Member Tai Do, Council Member Chi Charlie Nguyen**

August 5, 2019

Westminster City Council  
8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683

**Re: Westminster City Council's support for Anti-immigrant Rhetoric and Policies**

To Mayor Tri Ta and the Westminster City Council,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express grave concern in our Westminster City Council for failing to condemn the Trump administration's hate rhetoric, for enabling his anti-refugee/immigrant policies, and for opposing the concrete actions that make our communities safer in this county.

We are writing as Vietnamese and Asian American organizations throughout Orange County as well as immigrant rights organizations and community members who have been directly impacted, intimidated and offended by the migrant concentration camps, the threats of ICE raids, and by the lack of concrete support from our Vietnamese and local elected officials. As the largest Vietnamese community in the United States and outside of Vietnam, and as a community of refugees and immigrants, our elected officials must commit to and stand up for the human rights that we strongly value as a community.

The human rights of migrants and refugees have been violated consistently under this administration. Refugees seeking asylum at the U.S. border have been subjected to inhumane treatment and detention in concentration camps. Refugees and migrants have died, including children, in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. **In this context, the Westminster City Council has not only failed to speak out, you have sided with the most despicable policies of the Trump administration.**

Last year, white nationalist hate group FAIR helped the Trump administration orchestrate attacks against our state laws that limit the use of local and state resources for immigration enforcement. We were appalled by the Westminster City Council's decision to side with the demands of a known hate group and vote to join the Trump Administration's lawsuit against California. The Vietnamese, refugee, and immigrant communities in Orange County benefit from these state laws that protect our dignity, our human rights, and we expected our officials to protect the laws that make us safe. We consistently showed up to city council meetings to make this message clear. Instead, you sided with Trump, and turned your back on us.

Now, more than ever, as a community that has lived the refugee experience, that sought a safe place to settle our lives and families, that suffered the violence of anti-immigrant policies and sentiment, Vietnamese and immigrant communities in Orange County are asking you to take concrete steps to support our immigrant and refugee communities. Not just here, but at the border. We are asking you to take a stand:

- 1) No concentration camps: Condemn the Trump administration's establishment of migrant concentration camps, and take action to challenge immigrant detention, both at the border and in our Orange County communities

- 2) No support for ICE and raids: Disavow your support for Donald Trump's lawsuit against California, and instead **pass a resolution to support and uphold the California Values Act**, the state's sanctuary law, which upholds due process for all and makes our communities safer
- 3) No hate groups: Condemn white nationalist hate groups' orchestrated attacks on our immigrant and refugee communities and their intimidation of residents and city council members

We look forward to Mayor Tri Ta and the Westminster City Council taking leadership to address these concerns and reassure immigrant and refugee communities that we are welcome in Orange County. If you have any questions please contact Tracy La, Executive Director of VietRISE at [tracy@vietrise.org](mailto:tracy@vietrise.org).

Sincerely,

***The twenty five organizations signing below:***

*VietRISE*

*Viet-CARE*

*VietUnity - Southern California*

*Viet Rainbow of Orange County (VROC)*

*National Progressive Viet Gathering (NPVG)*

*PIVOT - The Progressive Vietnamese American Organization*

*Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Orange County*

*Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus*

*Associated Students of UC Irvine*

*Marina High School Amnesty International*

*Korean Resource Center*

*Asian Americans Rising*

*Resilience Orange County*

*OC Rapid Response Network*

*National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)*

*California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA)*

*ACLU - Southern California*

*Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)*

*Palestinian Youth Movement - LAOCIE*

*Women For: Orange County*

*Orange County Equality Coalition*

*Together We Will OC*

*Indivisible OC 46*

*Indivisible OC 48*

*Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights - Los Angeles (CHIRLA)*