

## Advancing social justice for and empowering low-income Vietnamese and immigrant communities in Orange County.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TWO DOZEN VIETNAMESE, ASIAN AMERICAN, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS CONDEMN ORANGE COUNTY OFFICIALS FOR FAILING TO DEFEND IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE HUMAN RIGHTS

Little Saigon, Orange County, CA – On Monday afternoon, a broad coalition of Orange County Vietnamese, Asian American, student, immigrant and civil rights organizations denounced local Vietnamese elected officials, Board of Supervisors member Andrew Do and Westminster Mayor Tri Ta, for failing to take action to defend the human rights of immigrant and refugee communities. The letters follow a march and rally attended by more than 300 community members held last week in Westminster city to call on the local officials to "Bring Human Rights Home."

The letters blasts the Vietnamese elected officials, who are themselves immigrants and refugees, for siding with the demands of a known white nationalist hate group, FAIR, that helped <u>orchestrate attacks</u> against California laws that limit the use of local and state resources for immigration enforcement. The OC Board of Supervisors was one of only two county boards that voted to join former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Session's lawsuit against California. The letter reads in part,

"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 [public] meetings to make this message clear. Instead, you sided with Trump, and turned your back on us."

The 25 organizations that signed the letters represent mental health, services, youth, and healthcare groups that serve immigrant, refugee, Vietnamese, Asian American, and working families in Orange County. The letter urges Supervisor Do and Mayor Ta to stand up for human rights by condemning immigrant concentration camps, ICE raids, and white nationalist hate groups, and passing a resolution that supports and upholds the California Values Act, the state's sanctuary law.

Read the full letters here: Westminster City Council; OC Board of Supervisors.