



February 27, 2025

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Hate Speech in Council Chambers

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers,

Catalyst California, formerly known as Advancement Project California, respectfully asks the Council to explore mechanisms for addressing hate speech and other racist displays at City Council meetings.

Catalyst California advocates for racial justice by building power and transforming public systems. We partner with communities of color, conduct innovative research, develop policies for actionable change, and shift money and power back into our communities. Through our coalitions like [OUR LA](#) and [PUSH LA](#), we regularly work with community-based organizations across Los Angeles to support the participation of underrepresented communities in our civic processes. Hate speech and other racist outbursts in Council Chambers have a chilling effect on public participation. It intimidates community members, making it less likely that those who face the most significant obstacles to participate civically are willing to do so.

On February 14, 2025, the Rules Committee met to, among other items, discuss a proposed framework for youth participation in LAUSD's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). Youth participation in the IRC has long been a priority of young people organized through OUR LA. The racist abuse Councilmembers were subject to is not an environment Angelenos, especially our young people, should be subject to when trying to make their voices heard. Council Chambers should be a welcoming space inviting discourse from all its residents. We



strongly urge Councilmembers to address this increase in hate speech and racist rhetoric by establishing clear and enforceable standards to ensure this behavior is not normalized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JK", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Kim
President and CEO