



February 26, 2025

Honorable Council President Marqueeese Harris-Dawson

The Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization serving the community since 1972. We are writing to express our deep concern about the inappropriate language and behavior that continues to be displayed during City Council meetings. These actions create a hostile environment that undermines the purpose of these public forums and makes it difficult for us to meaningfully contribute to discussions at hand.

AADAP provides supportive services to families and youth in need of assistance in our community. They depend on our ability to provide public comments and advocate for them during City Council meetings. Unfortunately, our staff, parents and youth are regularly exposed to hateful and offensive language, which does not promote productive dialogue or contribute to the discussion of the issues at hand. Public meetings should be spaces for constructive and meaningful engagement, not venues where vulgarity or hateful words are tolerated. We believe that it is imperative for Councilmembers to ensure that City Council Chambers remain a safe and respectful space for all participants, particularly for our families and youth who are trying to advocate for their communities.

We strongly urge Councilmembers to establish and enforce clear standards of conduct to restore order and foster a productive environment for public discourse. The integrity of these meetings depends on the ability of all participants to engage in discussions that are respectful and solution oriented.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support in promoting a safe and respectful environment for all.

Sincerely,

Jose Esqueda, Sr. Director
Youth and Families Programs Department
Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc.