

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)

紐約同源會

Press Release

July 1, 2020

CACAGNY Stands with Unjustly Smeared Parent Leader

Vito LaBella, a valued CACAGNY member, is being personally attacked by the Alt-Left. They are calling him a racist and a supporter of police violence.

Nothing can be further from the truth, but we live in post-truth times. With their usual guilty-by-accusation tactic, the Alt-Left demands Vito's cancellation from his seat at Community Education Council for District 20 in an open letter dated June 16, 2020.

And how did Vito come to be such an Enemy of the People? Vito's crime is his vision that New York City public schools *can*, and *should*, provide the most rigorous academic education to those children who, on their own merit, are best able to rise up to such challenge and thrive. Our top public schools students *have* bested top private school students, with 14 Nobel Prize science winners from the Specialized High Schools!

But to the Alt-Left, public schools *shouldn't* be as good as private schools. Public schools exist merely to meet the lowest common denominator in academics. If you want a first-rate education, go elsewhere. Behind so many euphemisms and word salad, that's the Alt-Left's vision for public education.

Except that people like Vito stand in the way.

To the Alt-Left, the Covid virus was great for pandemic politics. Let no crisis be wasted! Chancellor Carranza extolled. The pandemic is an opportunity to dismantle systems of oppression! declared Councilman Treyger in a letter.

Then came the tragic, brutal killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis cop, and with it, the opportunity to play up the race card, on everything plus the kitchen sink. What "triggered" the Alt-Left, ostensibly, is that Vito, a retired NYPD cop, believes that all lives matter, George Floyd's, as well as that of NYPD Detective Wenjian Liu of Dyker Heights, right in District 20, whom CACAGNY honors with a an annual scholarship. That makes Vito a racist! And if Vito offers a professional view on the reasonableness of another cop's actions -- after all, even cops are presumed innocent until proven guilty -- that makes him even more racist!

But that's just an excuse. The real fight is education, as we see plainly in the June 16 open letter. Achievement? That's racist! Excellence? That's racist! School safety? That's racist! In sum, it's Vito and his vision for public education that they are after with their smears of racism.

Phil Wong, CACAGNY President, said: "This cynical exploitation, politicization, and weaponization of tragedy must end. To quote Joseph Welch at the Army-McCarthy hearings: Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

Vito, please continue fighting for your vision of public education. CACAGNY stands with you.

Contact: Phil Wong 黃友興 <cacagny.phil.wong@gmail.com>

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Chinese American Citizens Alliance Greater New York

PO Box 130024

New York, New York 100013

www.cacagny.org



Founded in 1895 in San Francisco, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest Chinese American civil rights organization in the United States. CACAGNY is its New York Chapter. www.CACAGNY.org

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