

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)
紐約同源會

Press Statement
October 28, 2020

CACAGNY Joins Lawsuit Against DOE, Carranza, NYC, de Blasio, Others

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Greater New York (CACAGNY) joined a lawsuit filed by Advocates for Justice (A4J) on October 26, 2020 in Federal Court, charging violations of the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments rights of Asian-Americans by the NYC Department of Education, its Chancellor Richard Carranza, and additional City entities and individuals.

On February 4, 2020, Asian-Americans held a peaceful demonstration outside James Madison High School in Brooklyn, before the start of a public Town Hall with Chancellor Carranza. After the demonstration, the Asians attempted to enter the School building to attend the Town Hall peacefully. They were selectively blocked from entering the School, were told not bring signs into the School, and were selectively searched for them, and were physically manhandled by Department of Education and Police Department employees. At the same time, non-Asian members of the public were allowed through to enter the School to attend the Town Hall, without being stopped, and without being asked and searched for signs, which they did have.

This is egregiously racist and illegal.

Sixty years ago, Governor George Wallace blocked African-Americans at a schoolhouse door in Alabama. Today, Carranza's Department of Education blocked Asian-Americans at a schoolhouse door in Brooklyn. Much has changed, of course, but blocking people on the basis of race at schoolhouse doors has evidently not. What's supremely contemptible is that Carranza and deBlasio would have you believe that they champion the fight against racism. DeBlasio even set up an Asian Hate Crime Task Force, and Carranza even talked of adding anti-Asian bigotry to his Department's implicit bias training.

"Empty gestures, my friends, empty gestures," said Phil Wong, President of CACAGNY. "When it comes to real actions, Carranza's DOE blocks Asians at the doors of the Specialized High Schools, holds events that name-call Asians for enjoying White privilege, and sponsors organizations whose members demean Asians for their shared cultural value of studying. This hypocrisy must be called out; this racism must end."

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance was founded 125 years ago, to fight for the civil rights of Chinese Americans after the discriminatory Chinese Exclusion Acts were put into law.

A4J is a public-interest foundation established to fight injustices against community groups, including discrimination and violations of freedom of speech.

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