

March 20, 2021

Asians to Politicians: Make New York City Safe Again!

Recent news report a sharp rise in crime, particularly violent crime, against us Asian Americans. CACAGNY shares our community's outrage. The hate and disregard for life in attacks on our elderly, our vulnerable, and our young are especially heinous. Our folks now fear walking the streets, traveling by subway, taking out garbage. Even sitting at home, vagrants from nearby shelters peer through our windows to check us out. City, State, and Federal officials, hear this: New York City is a DANGEROUS CITY again.

Crime has been a worsening scourge for our communities for years, but we endured silently. Language has always hindered crime reporting, but in recent years, the biggest barrier has been FUTILITY. When you must take time off – maybe from a small business – to report and follow through the law enforcement process, but there's no longer the street presence or commitment to catch perpetrators, or worse, they are caught and quickly released to prey upon your community again, why bother?

The pandemic from China and the hardships from subsequent lockdowns triggered scapegoating attacks against innocent Asians around the world, including Brazil, South Africa and UK, each with deadly virus variants named after them. New York is no exception. Then there is the coincident media and entertainment embrace of Critical Race Theory (CRT), a debunked political ideology which tells believers to profile and convict total strangers just by the color of their skin – their *look* – rather than by the content of their character. As such, CRT always appealed to base scapegoating instincts. Worse, CRT leads to policies that increase lawlessness and violence, such as the bill in California, soon in New York no doubt, to downgrade robbery to petty theft if the robber's beating didn't result in serious injury.

Now the press is suddenly keen to cover hate crime attacks on Asians, so we are silent no more, especially if the robbery came with a slur. Incidents, starting from an under-reported, under-classified base, skyrocketed, so politicians are paying attention, even nationally.

Now what? City, State and Federal officials: after all your declamations, what are you going to do? Is it just politics, or will you finally get serious about *catching perpetrators* and *keeping them away from us*? We've been through FUTILITY before.

Longer term, most perpetrators did not fall into trouble just last year. That'd be a nakedly fake narrative. Many have previous brushes with the law, coming out worse, not better. Many have mental illness, at best partially treated. Many have drug addictions that aggravated other problems. But these ills are not recent. Neither is it recent that grand policies founded on fashionable ideologies announced with great fanfare by politicians end in failure; failure characterizes the track records of our social policy experts.

CACAGNY President Phil Wong said: "We've had enough with futility and failure. We want City, State and Federal officials to make New York City safe again, for Asians as well as communities of all races and ethnicities. In this we stand in solidarity."

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