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## We felt we may have been killed.

- Recent victim of the July 2 racist attack on the Eastbank Esplanade

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Our Asian American Native Hawai’ian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community, in solidarity with other communities of color, is horrified and angered by the racially-motivated violent attack against a Japanese family, including a 5 year old child, while they were enjoying Portland. Without the intervention of bystanders, there could have been a more horrifying outcome. This unprovoked attack continues a pattern of rising hostility and overt acts of violence against AANHPI, and it must be stopped.

**We send** our support, strength, and hope for healing to the family that was assaulted in our city, as the trauma of racist violence is particularly difficult to overcome. We send this to all the victims of racist hate in our city, who often bear this burden alone. There are too many of us.

**We deserve** to feel safe in our city. We deserve to feel welcome in our city. We stand together as communities of color for whom each slur, each attack, and each murder redouble our fear for our families, friends, and communities – people who are simply trying to live their lives. We deserve better than this.

**We demand** meaningful actions on historical injustice and erasure that feeds the current atmosphere of hate, which includes elevating the voices of AANHPI and communities of color to be seen and heard. Despite perpetual oppression and exploitation, our communities have contributed untold value to America and Oregon since the beginning and to this day. Our stories are American stories.

**We call** on you, as elected officials, to strengthen bias crime enforcement and data collection and to prioritize addressing racism in our community, using all the vast resources available to you. It is too easy to pretend that this racism is not as pervasive as it is.

**We challenge** you, as elected officials, to lead our community so it may remember its compassion and that we are all in this together. You must foster a change in our community, one that now disregards the welfare of its houseless and those with untreated mental illness while at the same time allowing racism to proliferate. There can be no real justice until then.

**We pledge** to work together as communities of color to seek changes that will stop these violations of our humanity and to never stay silent in the face of hate.

**We are STRONGER than hate. In SOLIDARITY,**

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for  
Holocaust Education  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
The Asian Reporter Newspaper  
Lan Su Chinese Garden  
Q Center  
All Hands Raised  
Portland Chinatown Museum  
Portland Police Bureau, Asian & Pacific  
Islander Advisory Council  
NAACP Portland  
Portland Sapporo Sister City Association  
Unite Oregon  
Philippine American Chamber of  
Commerce of Oregon  
National Asian Pacific American Bar  
Association

Portland Japanese American Citizens  
League  
Chinese Friendship Association of Portland  
Urban League of Portland  
NAACP Vancouver  
Portland Taiko  
Portland Lee’s Association  
Japan-America Society of Oregon  
Asian and Pacific Islander Community  
Coalition of Oregon  
The Immigrant Story  
Filipino-American National Historical  
Society  
Council of Filipino American Associations  
API Forward  
Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, San  
Francisco

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon  
Wong Family Association  
Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent  
Association  
Basic Rights Oregon  
Portland Japanese Garden  
Minoru Yasui Tribute Project  
Micronesian Islander Community  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance,  
Portland Lodge  
Coalition of Communities of Color  
Oldtown Community Association  
Age +  
Hop Sing Tong  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland