

## **Resolution Condemning Mahan Campaign for Fomenting Racial Division**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party recognizes that protecting and empowering vulnerable and underrepresented communities is crucial to ensuring a fair and just society for all, and supports the rights of every person to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, or color; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party abhors any and all attempts and efforts to deliberately misinform voters, including the circulation of false or misleading information, and strongly opposes all forms of bullying in campaigns, including cyberbullying; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party requires all candidates seeking the Party's endorsement to take the Fair Campaign Pledge, which is a promise to refrain from the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate, and to refrain from any appeal to negative prejudice based on race or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Matt Mahan signed the Fair Campaign Pledge when he sought the Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorsement; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Do has been a very prominent spokesperson for Matt Mahan's campaign, including making repeated appearances in the month of September on Calitoday, a Vietnamese-language Youtube channel that published and maintained its content openly and freely available to the public, the content of which has been transcribed and translated; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Do used racially charged language in those appearances to level attacks against Cindy Chavez, including:

- On September 8, stating in Vietnamese that "Santa Clara County, under the leadership of Cindy Chavez, has given to nonprofit organizations that help their communities...for example Mexican people and Latinos are flooded with PPE money" while "Vietnamese people have largely not received hardly any [PPE money]."

- On September 8, agreeing in Vietnamese with another speaker that Mexican Americans are "[Cindy Chavez's] people," and stating that "If only [Cindy Chavez's 'privileged political faction'] can take the Mayor's seat, then they will take over the City of San Jose. And the Vietnamese community will not have a voice."

- On September 8, stating in Vietnamese that "If Cindy is elected, she, along with her political faction will benefit and her community will be immensely powerful. Change the laws to allow non-citizens to vote. That day, our children and grandchildren will never be councilmember, never will be mayor. Vietnamese people will only be servants/henchmen and cannot have a higher status."

- On September 14, describing Santa Clara County's efforts to address the spread of COVID-19 in its jails as a "policy to release people to save money...They want people to be released, they give the reasons that it's because of COVID, so they help the prisoners go home, the bail is not fair to the people with the

same skin color as them, many Mexican Americans like Cindy Chavez couldn't afford the bail so it wasn't fair to them. Therefore, the County released them without paying the bail."

- On September 14, stating "Cindy Chavez has an unclear viewpoint [on non-citizen voting], but her privileged political faction and councilmembers who are endorsing her now...such as Councilmembers Sylvia and Magdalena Carrasco. These two people have proposed that non-citizen can vote and they can bring a bus of non-citizen, just stay in San Jose for 30 days and those people can vote. Those who are listening to this show know why they want it."; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Do used redbaiting McCarthyist language to assail Cindy Chavez's values and strongly insinuated that Cindy Chavez is a communist, including:

- On September 8, stating in Vietnamese that "Cindy's privileged political faction is a left-wing extremist group. We crossed the ocean...because of our opposition to the Vietnamese communists, partly because we don't want the government to oppress and control us..."

- On September 8, stating in Vietnamese that "Cindy Chavez and her privileged political faction are truly a left-wing group. Their stances are completely contrary to the values and rights our Vietnamese community aspires to."

- On September 14, stating in Vietnamese that former Mayor Ron Gonzalez and Cindy Chavez chose "the recycling company who is part of their union...Because that union donates to them" and "Helps them get elected," and then stating that "in Vietnam it's called bribery, [but] here it is similar but it is made legal through political donations."

- On September 14, stating in Vietnamese about the proposal for non-citizen voting "Our Vietnamese people have to worry. If a non-citizen just needs to stay in San Jose for 30 days, they can vote. It means international students in Vietnam also have the right to vote in San Jose. International students in Vietnam, in China or anywhere, etc. can also run for office. Since you can vote, you have the right to run for office."; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Do is a Democratic elected official who, like Mahan, signed the Fair Campaign Pledge when he sought the Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorsement in 2020, and as a public servant Bryan Do has a duty not to engage in false, malicious, or racially divisive campaigning, for himself or others; and

WHEREAS, Matt Mahan has defended the above conduct by Bryan Do and publicly criticized candidate Cindy Chavez for seeking to put a stop to it, continuing a pattern of using proxies to engage in unethical and otherwise improper campaign activities on his behalf;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party finds that Bryan Do's comments were intentionally used to create conflict between two communities of color in the name of supporting Matt Mahan's mayoral campaign, using language intended to convey the false idea that Cindy Chavez only intends to serve the Latinx community and seeks to silence the voice of the Vietnamese community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party finds that Bryan Do's comments were intentionally used as a form of redbaiting to inflame the traumas and play on the emotional triggers of Vietnamese war refugees by comparing Cindy Chavez to the communist government in Vietnam and to insinuate that she is a communist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party finds that Bryan Do's comments are in flagrant violation of its platform, specifically its provisions on campaign and elections and racial, ethnic, and immigrant communities, and the Fair Campaign Pledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party unequivocally and firmly condemns any campaign tactic or rhetoric that seeks to divide our communities or redbaits people for political gain; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on Matt Mahan to strongly disavow the racist and McCarthyist statements made by his surrogates that are meant to divide the community.