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COMMUNITY LEADERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR API COUNCIL

Local Elected Officials Laud a Decade of Rising Together

May 31, 2024, San Francisco, CA – Last night, community leaders gathered to commemorate a decade of united advocacy for San Francisco’s diverse API communities across the City. Since its inception, and through collaborating with the Federal, State and City governments, the [API Council](#) has garnered over \$95 million of critical funding for its 57 member organizations that provide San Francisco families with a wide range of essentials they need to thrive in our City – access to food, housing, healthcare, employment, education, and legal services.

“Our communities rise together, and our commitment to forging a brighter tomorrow remains unwavering,” said **API Council Executive Director, Cally Wong**. “We persist in our pursuit of a future where full inclusion is the norm, where historically marginalized communities are not just acknowledged but actively heard. We will continue to look for new areas of partnership with the city and other organizations and coalitions to build our collective power. We know that we are stronger together, and that a strong tide lifts all boats. Together, we can make the next decade another strong decade of API leadership while making a difference in our community. We’ll continue to build a more equitable community together.”

Nearly 300 community leaders and supporters attended the celebration event held at the McLaren Conference Center of University of San Francisco. At the celebration, API Council honored long-time community leaders **Gordon Chin** and **Bernadette Sy** for their work on behalf of San Francisco’s API communities. Chin noted “It was a great honor to receive a Lifetime Achievement award from the API Council at its 10th Anniversary event. The Council has been an important coalition for our communities, an

essential place for our individual and collective voices to be heard in San Francisco.” Sy added “Over the past decade the API Council has been instrumental in supporting the non profit organizations that work tirelessly to meet the needs of the API's most vulnerable communities. The API Council has brought resources, advocacy, technical assistance and informative community forums to improve the outcomes for all member organizations and their constituencies. Collectively strengthening the civic engagement of our API communities - the bayanihan spirit, in Filipino, is at the heart of the API Council's work.”

A number of community leaders and elected officials offered their congratulations to API Council on the occasion of their 10th anniversary and all of their achievements dedicated to serving the community, including:

U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi: “Gordon Chin is a visionary leader in affordable housing and civil rights, whose contributions to the field of community development are a model for the nation,” Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi said. “It has been my personal privilege to partner with Gordon on so many occasions to improve the lives of San Francisco families — and it was with immense pride that I joined the API Council today to honor Gordon, Assemblymember Phil Ting, Bernadette Sy. Congratulations, Gordon, on your decades of leadership as an unyielding voice for equity and justice in the Bay Area and beyond.”

San Francisco Mayor London Breed: “I want to congratulate the API Council on the momentous milestone and thank Executive Director Cally Wong for her extraordinary leadership. The API Council has made significant achievements over the years, and has become a driving force for positive change, uplifting our API communities across the City. Their unwavering advocacy and efforts have continued to lead to better lives of those served by member organizations. I am so proud to be a partner through the decade to ensure that we are delivering on those much needed resources and promises to our children, youth, seniors and their families. As Mayor of this great City, it is my commitment to continue investing and sustaining the important work and essential services by these non-profit partners. That is why I am proud to have collaborated with the API Council to ensure that we are able to grant 93% of their requests during a challenging budget year. I look forward to continuing our work together, and the best is yet to come.” Mayor Breed also issued a proclamation declaring May 30, 2024 as API Council Day. [Full text of proclamation below.](#)

California Senator Scott Wiener: “For the past 10 years, the API Council has played a critical role organizing the API community and making their concerns heard among policymakers. It’s been a particular honor to work with Assemblymember Phil Ting on

the pressing issues facing the AAPI community, and I'm glad to see him recognized. I congratulate the API Council on this momentous anniversary and look forward to another 10 years of working hand in hand."

California Assemblymember Phil Ting: "Congratulations to the API Council and all of its coalition members for a successful decade in helping to direct resources to our communities. Too often we are overlooked, but your efforts ensure our needs are addressed and our voices are heard. I'm proud to be a partner in your fight and appreciate you honoring me, as you celebrate this milestone."

San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin: "API Council is one of the most effective coalitions of organizations that elevates the unique needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, while empowering the individual strength of each API ethnic community that helped build San Francisco. The resulting collaboration between today's 57 member organizations was Rose Pak's vision to garner API unity and strength-in-numbers, particularly around budget advocacy to ensure public grants and resources are allocated equitably to API neighborhoods. For the last 10 years, API Council has championed housing opportunities for seniors and low-income families, provided life-stabilizing services, preserved community spaces to promote API artists and culture, and enhanced the economic vitality of all communities of color."

San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan: "The API Council shows how much we can accomplish when our communities stand together. In the short decade since its creation, the API Council has invested tens of millions of dollars into the community, including our partnership in providing 30 million dollars for the API Equity Fund. I am proud to celebrate and stand with the API Council and our new generation of robust services and advocacy work."

San Francisco Supervisor Dean Preston: "We were thrilled to join city leaders and advocates at yesterday's event to celebrate the API Council's 10th Anniversary. The API Council plays a crucial role bringing together 57 community organizations and advocating in the budget process and beyond for organizations serving API communities across San Francisco."

San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman: "The API Council has been an extraordinarily effective advocate for San Francisco's diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Under Cally Wong's leadership, the Council has been able to achieve significant wins over the past decade, including securing tens of millions of dollars for the API Equity Fund, expanding food access through the City's Food Security Taskforce and ensuring culturally competent services for victims of anti-AAPI violence. Thank you and many congratulations on your 10th Anniversary API Council!"

San Francisco Supervisor Shamann Walton: “It is an honor to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the API Council, a cornerstone of the Asian American community here in San Francisco. Over the past decade, the Council has been instrumental in fostering innovation, collaboration, and excellence within our community. This milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. I am excited to be part of this remarkable occasion and look forward to continuing our collaboration. Congratulations to the API Council on this significant achievement!”

San Francisco Supervisor Ahsha Safai: "As Supervisor of the highest population of API residents in San Francisco, I have witnessed first hand how critical it is to advocate for culturally competent services for our youth, seniors, and working families. I commend API Council on their outstanding work for the past ten years."

San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Joaquin Torres: “Our city is at its best when the families, children and seniors that represent San Francisco’s diverse communities and cultures are supported, protected and uplifted. For 10 years, the API Council has brought the collective expertise and experience of its members to the forefront of decision makers minds to ensure the needs of API residents are met and to secure the financial support for vital infrastructure projects, senior housing, rental assistance, youth, health, and safety programming that enables San Francisco’s API communities to thrive. I was honored to stand together with hundreds of community leaders from neighborhoods across the city to celebrate the API Council’s milestone anniversary of coalition building and success, and support their vision for a better future for all they serve.”

San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu: "For the past 10 years, during times of challenge and crisis, the API Council has worked hard to empower and uplift San Francisco's diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities, united in the fight for equity. I look forward to our collective efforts over the next decade to ensure we're all rising together."

San Francisco Public Defender Mano Raju: “Thank you to the API Council for a decade of service to the diverse, vibrant, and large API community in San Francisco. And congratulations to the distinguished honorees who have also contributed significantly to our communities.”

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[API Council](#) is building the voice, visibility and influence of San Francisco’s diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities, united in the call for equity. The Council is made up of [57 community organizations](#) providing direct services in San Francisco to underserved communities.

Mayor's Proclamation Declaring API Council Day:

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco traditionally recognizes individuals which have made significant and remarkable contributions to the vitality of our City, and the incredible and dedicated work of API Council truly represents San Francisco values at their best; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2014, API Council has been advancing its critical mission of advocating for equitable resources that improve the quality of life for San Francisco's underserved Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents; and

WHEREAS, through this mission, API Council is instrumental in building the voice, visibility and influence of the City's dynamic API communities; and through working among one another and with the City government, the Council has helped address issues our API communities face in the most linguistically and culturally competent way; and

WHEREAS, with a coalition of 57 community-based organizations, API Council's efforts have had meaningful impacts on organizations in a variety of spectrums including health care services, advocacy and civil rights, affordable housing, arts and culture, and support for seniors, youth and families; and

WHEREAS, collectively, member organizations serve approximately 250,000 APIs annually; and API Council seeks to unite all the neighborhoods of San Francisco, ethnic communities, and issue areas to promote fair, inclusive, and meaningful engagement of underserved community members to strengthen the vibrancy and vitality of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, API residents are a third of the City's population, and are a powerful cultural, economic, and civic force in San Francisco's rich history and hopeful future; our API communities have played a significant role in shaping our City, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco recognizes API Council for its efforts to serve the API communities; in supporting the work by API Council, our API communities continuously contribute to the City's cultural, social, and economic development, as well as being a part of its diverse richness; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, London N. Breed, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, in recognition of API Council's momentous 10th anniversary, and in recognition of its decade-long mission to support the community City, do hereby proclaim May 30, 2024 as API Council Day in San Francisco.