



美洲同源總會

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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CONTACT: Rick Eng at rickeng562@gmail.com

Racist Signs Target Lewiston Mayoral Candidate Ben Chin *Alliance Condemns Racist Imagery and Fear-Mongering Tactics*

San Francisco, California—The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) condemns signage that contains a racist caricature emphasizing opposition to Ben Chin, Democratic candidate for mayor of Lewiston, Maine. The signs read: “Don’t vote for Ho Chi Chin,” comparing Mr. Chin to an unflattering depiction of North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh and communist political imagery.

C.A.C.A. joins many advocacy and civil rights organizations in condemning these statements of bigotry, including the Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine and American Civil Liberties Union of Maine. “Sadly, race-baiting continues to sully our electoral process,” said Ed Gor, national president of C.A.C.A., the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights and social advocacy organization. “Electability of candidates for public offices should be based on the merits of their positions and whether you agree or disagree with them. Racism and xenophobia have no place in electoral process.”

The signage has been attributed to Lewiston resident and rental property manager, Joseph Dunne, who reportedly put up the signs in retaliation to the Maine People’s Alliance, where Chin works as its political director, when it released a report this past summer identifying Dunne as one of the “three of the city’s worst landlords.” The signs have appeared on two buildings co-owned by Mr. Dunne. He has indicated that the attacks were not racist but personal and remains unapologetic. He intends to post them elsewhere after tenants complained.

A third-generation American whose grandparents emigrated from China to the United States, Mr. Chin is one of four candidates vying to unseat Lewiston’s current mayor, Republican Robert



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MacDonald, who had defended Mr. Dunne in the media by praising him as “a big-hearted landlord.” The Maine Republican Party, which has launched attacks against Mr. Chin in social media, condemned the signs.

“I choose to believe that more of the almost 37,000 citizens of the second largest city in Maine will see these signs for the insensitive, hurtful displays of extreme anti-Chinese rhetoric they are and will react to this by rejecting these depictions and giving Mr. Chin the same respectful opportunity to express his ideas, views and plans to make the Lewiston community a place free from racial animosities and fear mongering,” said Gor.

“The Alliance was founded more than 100 hundred years ago to combat institutional racism and prejudice that had limited employment, educational and housing opportunities to Chinese Americans,” reminded Gor. “We fought for our rights in the spirit of American patriotism and that meant embracing the responsibilities of citizenship, notably voter participation. It’s shameful when the legacy of anti-Chinese feeling resurfaces in our modern political process. We are better than this.”

The second largest city in Maine, Lewiston received the All American City Award from the National Civic League in 2007. The election for its next mayor will take place in early 2016.

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1044 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA.

Web: www.CACAnational.org
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA), Tucson (AZ), and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.