

## ***Joint Statement from the Jewish, Black, and Asian Communities***

***“Justice, justice you shall pursue”***

Deuteronomy 16:20

**Religious and community leaders from across Seattle today joined together in support of the Recall Sawant campaign, issuing the following statement:**

Today, we want to make something emphatically clear: Councilmember Kshama Sawant does not speak for us, nor our communities. Only we can do that, and only we should do that.

In making this statement, we encourage District 3 voters to support the Recall of Councilmember Kshama Sawant.

We have not come to this recommendation lightly. We practice and teach acceptance and forgiveness. But District 3 voters ought to be aware of Sawant’s long history of attacking our communities and hi-jacking our efforts.

Sawant regularly trades in rhetoric that gives rise to antisemitism, resulting in violence and hatred directed at the Jewish community. She has also stoked chaos in the black community and sought to hijack the efforts of Black Lives Matter organizers to promote her own political agenda. These behaviors have been well documented by news coverage and amount to a record that we simply cannot condone or support.

Kshama Sawant has consistently sought to exploit and politicize the painful circumstances of our communities for her own personal gain. These craven behaviors do nothing more than to further divide us as people and contribute to the incitement and spreading of hate.

The Seattle Asian community has repeatedly attempted to bring concerns to Councilmember Sawant regarding the loss of vibrancy in the International District resulting from the cities lax attitude toward crime in the district.

Sawant refuses to advocate for the Asian community because she falsely equates crime with poverty and exploits our problems for political gain. Small businesses are still recovering from damage sustained during riots where so many businesses experienced violent property damage and looting – much of which she encouraged.

Sawant appropriates the cultural identity of the Asian community for political gain and gamesmanship – but turns her back on the community’s needs. That is why we support the recall of Kshama Sawant.

Our communities support the recall of Kshama Sawant because she admitted to guilt in using city resources to support a ballot initiative and failed to comply with public

disclosure requirement related to this support; she disobeyed state orders related to Covid 19 by admitting hundreds of people into City Hall on June 9<sup>th</sup> of 2020 when it was closed, endangering public workers; and, she led a protest to Mayor Jenny Durkan's, the location which Sawant knows is protected under state confidentiality laws.

As the Seattle Times recently said in their endorsement of the Recall – “Voters should hold Sawant accountable for transgressions against civil governance and remove her from office”.

These are not characteristics of those who should be trusted to lead our people, and why we cannot support Sawant remaining in office.

Rabbi Herber  
Benjamin Pollock  
Bill Hochberg

Rabbi Mirel  
Nevet Basker  
Murray Lee

Eileen Glasser Wesley  
Michael Spektor

Rev. Dr. Harriett Walden

Pastor Harvey Drake

Victoria Beach

Benjamin Lee - Chairman of Hong Kong- Greater China Business Association of Washington

Robert Yeh- Principal of Westland Associates

Faye Hong - Senior Chairman of Hop Sing Association

Felicity Wang - President of North American Mazu Culture Exchange Association

James Wong - CEO of Vibrant Cities

Julie Weeks - International student exchange foundation founder and Vice-president of Seattle Kaohsiung Sister City Association

Ming Xiao - President of Guangzhou Association

Mipo Seto - President of Global Federation of Chinese Businesswomen

Shiao-Yen Wu - President of Seattle-Kaohsiung Sister City Association and President of International Leadership Foundation

Tony Au - President of Friends of Gee How Oak Tin Family

Alex Hang  
Anh Dao  
Annie Ma  
Anthony Ma  
Carol Leong  
Christopher Hoang  
Cindy Li  
Edison Wong  
Hin Fai Mak  
Hsin Hsin Hsu  
Jack To  
Jason Allison  
Jay Ago  
Jay Lin  
Jimmy Leung  
Joe Zhang

Johnny Nguyen  
Lawson Wong  
Linda Hwang  
Leo Zhao  
Martin Lau  
Mei Zhumai  
Michael Chen  
Ming Fung  
Nancy Lee  
Ngoc Nguyen  
Nora Chan  
Paul Lee  
Peter Hoang  
Phil Lam  
Pui Leung  
Royal Tan

Sean Hsu  
Stephanie Mah  
Sue-May Eng  
Tony Wu  
Tyra Wong  
Qiu Feng Peng  
Winston Leung  
Wei Chang  
Yau Keun Wong  
Yeeman Lee  
Ying Guo  
Ying Mei Chen  
Ying Peng Wei  
Zhao Juquan  
Zhao You Feng  
Zhao You Huan