



**HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION**  
**OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

RECEIVED

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

2131 Capitol Avenue  
Suite 206  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 444-6903

OCT 11 11 23 AM '84

September 6, 1984

**APPROVED**  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Anne Rudin  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOV 7 1984

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

Dear Mayor Rudin:

The Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission of the City and County of Sacramento has been invited to make a presentation to the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic and Religious Violence.

Scheduled for September 10, 1984 at 10:00 a.m., the Commission will present the report and recommendations developed following the recently conducted Hearing on Bigotry and Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans.

Prior to the presentation, we will hold a press conference to release the report to the local media.

We would like an opportunity to present our findings to the City Council. We are available for the presentation at your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Sandra K. Virago*  
SANDRA K. VIRAGO  
Executive Director

cc: City Council

*Randy Shirai*  
*schedule for*  
*11/7/84*  
*Call Sandy*  
*on 10/24/84*  
*for material, if*  
*any.*

COMMISSIONERS

Bill White  
Chair

Marina Estrada  
Vice-Chair

Martin Kennison  
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Reuben A. Sanchez  
Rosemary Metrailler

Perry Diaz  
Lisa Bertotto





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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

HEARING ON BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

HELD MAY 17, 1984  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

APPROVED BY COMMISSION JULY 25, 1984

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

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Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

## HISTORY

At the request of the Asian Pacific American Advocates of California, the Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission conducted a hearing on May 17, 1984 to obtain testimonies of violence and bigotry toward Asian Pacific Americans.

In February, 1984 a planning committee met to develop the goals and format for the hearing. Participating on the planning committee were:

Perry Diàz, Human Rights/Fair Housing Commissioner  
Ferd Galvez, Asian Pacific American Advocates of California  
Steve Koyosako, Coalition of Asians for Equal Rights  
Jerry Paular, Philipino American General Association of the Sacramento Area  
Tim Shironaka, Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program  
Diane Tomoda, Coalition of Asians for Equal Rights  
Mike Tsuchida, Sacramento Sheriff's Department  
Randy Shiroy, Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission, Human Rights Associate  
Sandra Virago, Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission, Executive Director

The goals of the hearing as initially defined were:

1. to educate all segments of the community including public officials as to the bigotry and violence that is occurring toward Asian Pacific Americans,
2. to provide information that would analyze the impact the media has on the perpetuation of bigotry and violence,
3. to build community support for Asian Pacific Americans that would work to prevent the spread of these incidents in the community, and
4. to present recommendations to counter the present situation and move to action the community at large, elected officials and leaders in the Asian community.

Following the hearing, Commissioner Bill White designated a committee of Perry Diaz (Chair), Marina Estrada, Martha Powers and Jean Rodgers to prepare a report with recommendations to the Commission by July 25, 1984. Staffing that committee is Randy Shiroy, Human Rights Associate.



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**HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION  
HEARING ON BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS**

MAY 17, 1984

**Presenters:**

Dr. Ferdinand Galvez, Asian Pacific American Advocates of California (APAAC)

"Bigotry and Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans:  
An Overview"

Viet Le, Vice-President Bach Viet Association Inc.

"History and Background of the Indochinese Community and  
Its Emerging Concerns"

Evan Lum, Community Liaison/Human Relations Advisor SCUSD &  
Frances Oda, Human Relations Advisor SCUSD

"Bigotry Against Asians in the Schools - A Question of  
Communication"

Rev. Virston Choy, Chinese Community Church, Member Sutter  
Hospital Citizens Advisory Committee

"Institutional Racism in Health Care"

Hach Yasumura

"Service Delivery to Asian Pacific Americans"

Mike Tsuchida, Deputy Sheriff, Community Resources Bureau  
Sacramento Sheriff's Department

"Racially Motivated Crimes Against Indochinese"

Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.d. President Bach Viet Association Inc.

"Incidents of Bigotry and Violence Against the Indochinese:  
A Community Perspective"

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Lisa Bertotto



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Presenters:

Josie Steelman, Staff, Friends of the Indochinese Community  
(FICC)

"Housing Discrimination Against the Indochinese"

May Lee, Director, Asian Job Resources

"Discrimination Against Immigrants and Refugees in  
Employment"

Perry Diaz, Commissioner, HR/FHC

"Bigotry Against Foreign-Born Asian Pacific Americans"

By Khang, Project Director, Lao Family Community Inc.

"Issues and Concerns of the Lao/Hmong Community"

Tim Shironaka

"A Community Action Plan for Successful Refugee  
Resettlement"

Steve Koyasako, Board of Directors, Asian Legal Services  
Outreach, Inc.

"Bigotry in the Media"

Jerry Paular, Executive Director, PAGASA

"History of Violence and Bigotry Against Filipinos"

Goldie Lew Eng, Attorney Coordinator, Asian Legal Services  
Outreach, Inc.

"The Death of Thong Hy Huynh"

Prof. George Kagiwada, Asian American Studies, UC Davis

"Socio-Psychological Consequences of Violence Against Asians"

Diane Tomoda, Coalition of Asians for Equal Rights (CAER)

"The Community Response"

g Commission finds that incidents of Asian Pacific Americans in the City and en occurring with such frequency that we

g the Asian Pacific community to keep in represented. As of the 1980 census there landers in Sacramento County.

11,637  
13,640  
6,916  
1,532  
1,580  
2,587  
451  
707  
106

do not reflect the continued influx from Indochina since 1980. Figures for ien, and Cambodian refugees are not even

languages/dialects spoken among several refugees from Laos may speak either Lao, community with 3 dialects prevelant in (by older immigrants from the Canton area), g immigrants) and Mandarin (by immigrants Republic of China).

that some Asian/Pacific families have er 100 years, while some have been present

ne bigotry and violence being encountered ty will at times be as diverse as the

y Commission believes that the hearing recommendations will assist our com- decisively to counter racially mo- titute policies and programs to stem olence towards Asian Pacific Americans.

, agencies, institutions, and community nt the recommendations contained in

f the Commission's findings and recom-

cific American community ave increased both locally sulted in the formation lition, Coalition of Asians 3.

racially motivated incidents cy/agencies is charged and record racially motivated blished uniform criteria racially motivated.

primary targets of in- otivated according to the ent. Of the incidents ty in:

ted racially motivated, ted racially motivated, uary 1st to April 30th ted racially motivated.

find it difficult to re- lack of the bilingual n non-English speaking

ers have reportedly failed s or update victims on

ission meet with the Sheriff racial violence and law ling of such incidents, and nt should institute a ivated crimes.

d extend its current mon- er ethnic groups, i.e., Blacks

of incidents by instituting ents of a non-criminal e compiled in conjunction ement and school districts.

4. HR/FHC has supported passage of SB 2080 (Watson) and encourages others to do the same. SB 2080 would fund the research and development of a uniform criteria to be used to determine if a crime is racial, ethnic, or religious in motivation.
5. a. The Sacramento Police Department recruit and hire a bilingual community relations officer to work with the Indo-chinese community.  
b. The Sheriff's Department continue its efforts to recruit and hire bilingual Asian Pacific deputies.
6. Sacramento Police Department establish a fund to reimburse interpreters and translators as the Sheriff's Department has already done.
7. Both the Sheriff and Police Department should educate and sensitize its officers regarding the various cultures and concerns in the Asian Pacific community.
8. HR/FHC should forward a copy of this report to the District Attorney's office and inform him of the concern expressed to us by the Asian Pacific community regarding prosecution of racially motivated crimes.

## II. Education

### Findings:

1. Asian Pacific American students, especially Indochinese, have been subjected to verbal and physical harassment. Reasons cited for these occurrences are: 1) an ongoing anti-Asian bias; 2) isolation of students (Indochinese) due to a lack of adequate orientation to the education system, American customs and a lack of programs to facilitate interaction with other ethnic groups; 3) misinformation and misperceptions that Indochinese students receive special treatment (ESL classes & bilingual instructors); 4) students lack of knowledge of the history of Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S.

### Recommendations:

1. HR/FHC make presentations to school boards about the need for: 1) programs to promote harmony among ethnic groups. This would include cultural and athletic programs; 2) counseling programs for students having difficulties getting along with other ethnic students; 3) PTA cultural programs to promote understanding among racial groups.

unding of the Sacramento City Unified  
ly added Human Relations Advisor po-  
ped in response to tensions between  
udents.

School District's Superintendent should  
ian educators and District Human Re-  
tinue to work closely with the commun-  
rams.

amento County should implement a  
s, incident reporting system.

1) Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
licies, programs, and funding for  
ograms; 2) the Superintendent's Ad-  
Pacific Affairs to discuss goals and

press conference to make known our  
awareness of the problem of racial

ther measures might be taken to in-  
into current school curriculum.

any, additional disciplinary measures  
nding to students who engage in

provide inservice training of school  
er racial harassment of students.

ited by presenters in the area of  
dochinese:

take advantage of the Indochinese  
skills and knowledge of their rights  
e to return deposits; 2) charge illegal  
nder the table to rent an apartment;  
t tenant's permission; 5) subject  
6) charge fees to the non-English  
a utility company to begin or end  
o make repairs.

ndochinese has developed among some  
w find additional competition for  
g.

getting needed repairs made  
Health Department for viola-  
of time allowed for the owners

to the deterioration of some

tant to rent to Indochinese  
ormation regarding the  
dochinese.

ts Handbook into Asian  
se, Chinese, Lao, and

nt of problems in enforcing  
s.

ing testimony to the Attorney  
Grand Jury for further in-  
(absentee) of apartment  
f refugees.

ners Association and the  
nt for assistance in pro-  
on the Indochinese as po-  
resources available to  
home management classes and

ncountered difficulty in  
ue to racist stereotypes or  
"immigrants and refugees talk

amilies who are on public  
dilemma of wanting to work  
employed they will have less  
families.

amber of Commerce to ascertain  
inform their members of the  
ee employees.



2. Forward the concerns expressed over public assistance regulations which tend to discourage employment to our congressional representatives.

## V. Media

### Findings:

1. A perception exists in the Asian American community that the movie and TV entertainment industry continue to portray Asians in a stereotypical manner, i.e., waiters, laundrymen, cooks, house servants, karate experts, prostitutes, war brides and enemy soldiers.
2. Poorly done, inaccurate, or sensationalized news coverage tends to reinforce or fuel misconceptions/stereotypes in the general public especially where Indochinese are concerned. Complaints of reporters covering only one side of the story, not checking facts of a story before printing or broadcasting, and sensationalized headlines were cited.

### Recommendations:

1. HR/FHC establish a program to monitor both biased/inaccurate and sensitivity positive news reporting - a letter is to be sent each time a racially insensitive or a particularly well done news article is published or aired.
2. HR/FHC meet with the Sacramento Bee and Union, and local TV stations regarding our concerns and the findings of our monitoring program.
3. Local media should establish community advisory boards to review and provide input on programming and reporting.
4. Local media should increase its recruitment, hiring and promotion of Asian Pacific Americans.
5. Local media should increase public or human interest coverage of Asian Pacific Americans.
6. Media provide an accurate program on the Indochinese refugee resettlement program and its impact on Sacramento.

## VI. Human Services

### Findings:

1. Lack of access or difficulty in obtaining human services due

to language and cultural barriers was cited repeatedly by the presenters. Presenters noted that service providers either lacked the bilingual staff necessary or no program existed to provide interpreters for a particular program or group.

2. Lack of planning and coordination in the funding of human services in Sacramento County has left many urgent needs unmet. Examples, one program, to assist Indochinese tenants funded by the County has no counterpart in the City, another program, to provide interpreting and paralegal assistance to Asian elderly has no funds to assist or serve those under the age of 60.
3. Funding of Indochinese refugee resettlement programs by the state and federal government have neglected to provide funds for human services or acculturation programs. Funds are currently provided for English as a Second Language (ESL) and vocational training. As one presenter noted, while the goal of English proficiency and employment for Indochinese is important it neglects the fact that students will not show up for class when faced with a myriad of problems for which they cannot get any help.

#### Recommendations:

1. Human Service programs must be made accessible for those who speak little or no English.
  - a. Hiring of bilingual staff by service providers - funding agents should require service providers to include in their affirmative action policy statements a commitment to recruit and hire bilingual staff whenever feasible to increase service accessibility.
  - b. HR/FHC research bilingual service regulations to determine if any are applicable to current human service programs.
  - c. Community Services Planning Council should list language/cultural capabilities of each agency in its Community Services Directory.
  - d. HR/FHC should research the possibility of developing a multi-lingual handbook of legal rights, community resources, and human services in conjunction with other Asian Pacific community organizations.
  - e. HR/FHC monitor the new 911 emergency telephone system to ensure that those with limited English proficiency understand the new system and can utilize it.
2. HR/FHC, in conjunction with other service providers, request a survey of community needs and services by funding agents

## PRESENTATION TO THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

### INTRODUCTION

GOOD EVENING MAYOR RUDIN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO PRESENT THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR HEARING ON BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS. I AM PERRY DIAZ, A COMMISSION MEMBER AND CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH DEVELOPED THE REPORT.

FOLLOWING MY INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, COMMISSIONER JEAN RODGERS WILL PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTO ASIAN COMMUNITY. SHE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY COMMISSIONER MARTHA POWERS WHO WILL PRESENT OUR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

ALSO PRESENT ARE COMMISSION STAFFMEMBERS SANDRA VIRAGO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND RANDY SHIROI, HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATE WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES OF CALIFORNIA CAME TO OUR COMMISSION AND REQUESTED THAT WE CONDUCT A HEARING TO OBTAIN TESTIMONY REGARDING VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY TOWARD ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS.

A PLANNING COMMITTEE WAS DEVELOPED WITH PARTICIPATION FROM SEVERAL LEADERS IN THE ASIAN COMMUNITY. A FORMAT WAS DEVELOPED AND GOALS FOR THE HEARING WERE DEFINED.

THE HEARING WAS HELD ON MAY 17TH AND 5 HOURS OF TESTIMONY WAS HEARD FROM 18 PRESENTERS. FOLLOWING THE HEARING, COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON BILL WHITE APPOINTED MYSELF AND COMMISSIONERS JEAN RODGERS, MARTHA POWERS AND MARINA ESTRADA TO A COMMITTEE TO SIFT THROUGH THE TESTIMONY AND DEVELOP A REPORT. RANDY SHIROI FROM OUR STAFF PROVIDED THE SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THIS DIFFICULT TASK.

IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE TESTIMONY WE VISITED 2 APARTMENT COMPLEXES PRIMARILY HOUSING INDOCHINESE. WE SPOKE WITH THE RESIDENTS THROUGH AN INTERPRETER TO GAIN THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE HERE IN AMERICA. OUR FINDINGS WHICH ARE PRESENTED HERE FOR YOU TODAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED TO STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL VAN DEKAMP'S COMMISSION ON RACIAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND MINORITY VIOLENCE, THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AND EARLIER TODAY, TO THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION.

11-7-84

PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

SITUATION -

SACRAMENTO CITY AND COUNTY ALONG WITH OTHER METROPOLITAN AREAS OF CALIFORNIA HAVE WITNESSED A RAPID INCREASE IN BOTH THE NUMBERS AND THE DIVERSITY OF ITS ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS DUE TO INCREASED IMMIGRATION AND THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.

ADDORDING TO THE 1980 CENSUS THERE ARE 39,000 ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 100% SINCE 1970. REPRESENTED IN THIS FIGURE ARE 9 DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS: JAPANESE, CHINESE, FILIPINOS, KOREAN, ASIAN INDIAN, GUAMANIAN, HAWAIIN, SAMOAN, AND VIETNAMESE. WHAT IS NOT SHOWN BY THE LAST CENSUS ARE THE ESTIMATED 12,000 SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN SACRAMENTO SINCE 1980.

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS DEVELOPMENT IS THAT WE NOW HAVE AN ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY OVER HALF OF WHOM ARE RECENT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES. THIS CHANGE FROM A LARGELY AMERICAN BORN ASIAN POPULATION IN THE 1960S TO A LARGELY IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ONE COMPOUNDS THE DIFFICULTY FACED BY OUR COMMISSION AND ASIAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS OF RACIAL VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY.

THE ASIAN IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE POPULATION NOT ONLY FACES THE BARRIERS OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BUT ONE OF

ISOLATION OR A SENSE THAT NO ONE CARES ABOUT THEM.

AT A LOCAL JR. AND SR. HIGH SCHOOL MANY OF THE INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT THAT WERE OCCURRING WERE GOING UNREPORTED BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS OUT OF JUST THIS SENSE OF ISOLATION. WHEN SCHOOL AUTHORITIES EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SAFETY MANY OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PARENTS WERE RELIEVED AND WILLING TO ASSIST THE SCHOOL IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE.

IT IS THE LATEST GROUP TO ARRIVE IN AMERICA, THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND ETHNIC CHINESE FROM VIETNAM ALONG WITH THE CAMBODIANS AND THE HMONG, LAO, AND MIEN FROM LAOS WHO HAVE BEEN THE MOST FREQUENT VICTIMS OF RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES IN SACRAMENTO. THIS GROUP OF REFUGEES, THE SO-CALLED SECOND WAVE CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE FIRST WAVE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES THAT ARRIVED BETWEEN 1975-1977. MANY OF THE FIRST WAVE REFUGEES WERE WELL EDUCATED, HIGHLY SKILLED, AND SPOKE ENOUGH ENGLISH TO ACCULTURATE QUICKLY. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE SECOND WAVE REFUGEES REMAIN HIGHLY VISIBLE, SPEAKING LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH, UNFAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE, AND POSSESSING LITTLE FORMAL EDUCATION AND FEW MARKETABLE SKILLS ARE FINDING THE PROCESS OF ACCULTURATION FOR THEM A SLOW AND DIFFICULT ONE. THIS GROUP HAS HAD TO RELY HEAVILY ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS WHILE LEARNING ENGLISH AND RECEIVING VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

WHILE THE NEED FOR HUMAN SERVICES HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY, THE RESPONSE FROM FUNDING AGENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAS OFTEN BEEN INADEQUATE AND POORLY PLANNED.

WHILE THIS GROUP OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES MAY BE THE MOST VULNERABLE TO BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE DUE TO ITS VISIBILITY AND ISOLATION, AMERICAN BORN ASIANS REALIZE HOW EASILY THEY CAN BECOME THE TARGETS OF VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY.

THE AMERICAN BORN SECTOR OF THE ASIAN POPULATION CONSISTS PRINCIPALLY OF 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH GENERATION CHINESE AND JAPANESE ALONG WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF FILIPINO AND KOREAN AMERICANS.

THEY, TOO, INHERIT A LEGACY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH CONTINUES TO RECUR TO THIS DAY. COUNCILMAN CHINN'S ENCOUNTER WITH MORT DOWNEY, FORMERLY WITH KFBK RADIO STATION ILLUSTRATES HOW MISINFORMATION AND BIGOTRY CAN APPEAR IN UNEXPECTED PLACES. AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MAY BE AWARE IN THE WAKE OF THE MORT DOWNEY CONTROVERSY, KPOP RADIO STATION STAFF MADE LIGHT OF THE INCIDENT AND USED THE WORD CHINAMAN AS PART OF THEIR DAILY SECRET WORD GAME.

IN BOTH INSTANCES AN OUTPOURING OF PROTEST FROM THE ASIAN COMMUNITY RESULTED IN PUBLIC APOLOGIES FROM THE RADIO STATIONS AND THE RESIGNATION OF ONE BROADCASTER.

THE POINT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT ALTHOUGH THE AMERICAN BORN ASIANS HAVE THE LANGUAGE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE SYSTEM TO BEGIN TO COMBAT ACTS OF RACIAL PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION - THE MAJORITY OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITY, THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SECTOR CANNOT. INCIDENTS OF BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE TOO OFTEN GO

UNREPORTED LEAVING US WITH AN INCOMPLETE PICTURE OF THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM AND THE VICTIMS WITHOUT JUSTICE.

HOWEVER, BOTH SECTORS, AMERICAN BORN AND FOREIGN BORN, ARE FINDING THEMSELVES ASKING THE SAME QUESTION, "DOES ANYONE CARE?" AND ALL TOO OFTEN THE COMMON PERCEPTION IS No! SO TODAY, AS THE INCIDENCE OF RACIAL VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION ESCALATES, WE ARE FINDING ASIAN AMERICANS ORGANIZING TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS AND TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AWARE OF THE GROWING PROBLEM OF RACIAL BIGOTRY. THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE POPULATION FURTHER ISOLATED BY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, WE FIND ARMING THEMSELVES IN THE FACE OF THREATS TO THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE MUST ACT TO PROTECT OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS AND INSURE THAT THEY ARE ACCORDED EQUAL ACCESS TO NECESSARY SERVICES.



11-7-84

PRESENTATION TO THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND THAT INCIDENTS OF RACIAL VIOLENCE, HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA AND CALIFORNIA ARE INCREASING. THESE INCIDENTS HAVE TARGETED THE GROWING INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POPULATION AND HAVE AFFECTED MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

IN TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION BY THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT APPROXIMATELY 40% OF THE CRIME REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF FROM THE INDOCHINESE COMMUNITY WERE RACIALLY MOTIVATED.

IN 1982, 25 OF 60 CRIMES REPORTED WERE RACIALLY MOTIVATED.

IN 1983, 35 OF 80 CRIMES REPORTED WERE RACIALLY MOTIVATED.

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, 11 OF 34 REPORTES RECEIVED WERE RACIALLY MOTIVATED.

THROUGHOUT OUR STATE, INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED. IN LOS ANGELES, A HEARING ON ANTI-ASIAN BIGOTRY FOUND THAT ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY INCLUDED HOSTILE GRAFFITI, ANTI-ASIAN BUMPER STICKERS, PERSONAL ATTACKS, VANDALISM, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, DISCRIMINATION BY IMMIGRATION

OFFICIALS AND RESTRICTIVE HOUSING PRACTICES. THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA FOUND SIMILAR REPORTS WHEN THEY HELD A HEARING.

MUCH OF THE ANTI-ASIAN BIGOTRY APPEARS TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF HISTORICAL AMERICAN PREJUDICE AGAINST ASIANS WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND AS A RESULT OF A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIANS. IN ADDITION, DUE TO AN ECONOMIC RECESSION AND BECAUSE OF STRONG COMPETITION IN THE AUTOMOBILE, STEEL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF ANTI-JAPANESE FEELINGS.

THESE FACTORS, OUTSIDE OF OUR LOCAL CONTROL, FACTORS SUCH AS FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES, THE ECONOMIC RECESSION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN OUR POPULATION ALL HAVE A DIRECT INFLUENCE ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

ALSO COMPOUNDING THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE ARE RACIST STEREOTYPES ABOUT ASIAN CUSTOMS, FOOD, HYGEINE AND ETHICS. AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS OFTEN DISCOURAGE THE INDOCHINESE FROM DIRECT COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, FURTHER ALIENATING AND ISOLATING THEM FROM THE COMMUNITY.

ACCESS TO HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES IS SEVERELY RESTRICTED FOR THE INDOCHINESE IN OUR COMMUNITY. TRANSLATION SERVICES ARE MINIMAL, AND THE STAFF THAT SERVE AS TRANSLATORS ARE OVERWORKED AND UNDERPAID.

THESE BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION SLOW THE ASSIMILATION OF THE REFUGEES INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY AND MUST BE DEALT WITH AS A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND HARMONY.

11-7-84

PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

WE PRESENT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT RELATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DIRECT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO:

I. A. BEGIN MONITORING RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES AGAINST ASIANS AND OTHER MINORITIES.

WITHOUT DATA, SUCH AS THAT GATHERED BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM OF RACIAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HIRE A BILINGUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE.

C. POLICE DEPARTMENT - ESTABLISH A FUND TO REIMBURSE INTERPRETERS.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT INCREASE TRAINING OF OFFICERS TO EDUCATE AND SENSITIZE THEM REGARDING THE VARIOUS CULTURES AND CONCERNS OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITY.

COMPLAINTS WERE VOICED BY PRESENTERS REGARDING THE HANDLING OF CALLS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN BOTH THE CITY AND COUNTY DUE TO EITHER AN INABILITY TO COMMUNICATE BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS OR INSENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF OFFICERS.

II. IN THE AREA OF HOUSING WE WOULD URGE THE CITY COUNCIL TO TOUR SOME OF THE APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN WHICH SOUTH-EAST ASIAN REFUGEES ARE LIVING.

DIFFICULTY IN FINDING DECENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PROBLEMS WITH MANAGERS, WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE TENANTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY AND WERE UNAWARE OF THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS WERE CITED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT A FIRST HAND VIEW OF THE CONDITIONS AND MEETINGS WITH THE RESIDENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION.

III. IN THE AREA OF HUMAN SERVICES WE RECOMMEND:

- A. THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OR CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECENTLY CREATED INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION TASK FORCE.

EVEN WHEN SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE, ALL TOO OFTEN WE HEAR OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING IN UTILIZING EXISTING SERVICES DUE TO A LACK OF BILINGUAL STAFF OR A LACK OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS WHO COULD ASSIST THEM IN USING VARIOUS SERVICES.

ALSO COORDINATION OF EFFORT AND FUNDING HAS BEEN A PROBLEM. UNTIL RECENTLY THE FRIENDS OF THE INDO-CHINESE COMMUNITY (FICC) WAS UNABLE TO SERVE REFUGEES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS DUE TO FUNDING RESTRICTIONS. ANOTHER PROGRAM PROVIDING INTERPRETING AND PARALEGAL SERVICES CAN ONLY SERVE THOSE OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE AND MUST TURN AWAY OTHERS SEEKING ASSISTANCE.

- B. WE URGE THE CITY COUNCIL TO MAKE FUNDING FOR SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT AND DIRECT SERVICES A PRIORITY, AND

C. THE CITY COUNCIL EXPRESS ITS CONCERN AND OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH ACCESSING FUNDING FOR REFUGEES.

FUNDING OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE NEGLECTED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR HUMAN SERVICES OR ACCULTURATION PROGRAMS. FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CLASSES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. AS ONE PRESENTER NOTED, WHILE THE GOAL OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND EMPLOYMENT FOR INDOCHINESE IS IMPORTANT IT NEGLECTS THE FACT THAT STUDENTS WILL NOT SHOW UP FOR CLASS WHEN FACED WITH A MYRIAD OF PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THEY CANNOT GET ANY HELP.

IN ADDITION, PROPOSED CHANGES IN HEALTH ACCESSING RULES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR ANY INTERPRETING/TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR REFUGEES UNLESS THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM. THE CHANGES WOULD ELIMINATE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS NOT CONSIDERED EMPLOYABLE.

AS A HUMAN RIGHTS/FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION, WE WORK TO ELIMINATE BIGOTRY, PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE. YOUR SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP ARE NEEDED IF WE ARE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WE WOULD NOW ENTERTAIN ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.