

## **Hmong American Partnership expresses deep disappointment in Appleton Common Council after push back of resolution condemning xenophobia, racism, anti-Asian violence**

**April 22, 2021** - The Hmong American Partnership of the Fox Valley (HAP) is deeply disappointed in the Appleton Common Council's decision to push back Resolution #6-R-21 condemning xenophobia, racism, anti-Asian violence, in hopes of bringing increased safety and solace for local AAPI communities in light of the pandemic.

Kou Vang, HAP Board President, speaks on the collective pain and frustration that he and many community members shared after the Council moved to push the resolution back to "re-examine and change" the language that speaks about the lived experiences and narratives from many members of our AAPI communities:

*"Last night was a big blow to our Hmong community in Appleton. We feel betrayed by our local elected officials and feel we are not in their best interest, even though we have been here for over 45 years adding value to this City. It was one of the first times our elders and members spoke out in public to make their voices heard and, most importantly, bring the council's attention to their traumatic and lived experiences. We all know that those who spoke last night were not even a fraction of our AAPI community.*

*We watched each person stand up there reliving their traumatic experiences and making a plea to the Council for recognition, protection, and allyship to pass this resolution. Yet, they decided to push back the resolution to "re-examine and change" the language. Why do they want to change the collective narrative of an entire community? What harm will this do to these Alderpersons if they pass a resolution like this? Is it about them or the people? Now we know there is still more work to be done until we can achieve racial, equity, and economic justice for everyone in our community."*

Sincerely,

Kou Vang  
Board President  
Hmong American Partnership of the Fox Valley

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**About Hmong American Partnership of the Fox Valley:** Originally founded as the Fox Valley Lao-Hmong Association in 1980 by settled refugees, the Hmong-American Partnership of the Fox Valley was established to help identify the needs of the local Hmong community and to coordinate services and educational activities. Today, Wisconsin ranks third in the United States for Hmong population, with more than 47,000 residents. About 4,700 Hmong call the Fox Cities home. Fifty percent of the Hmong population in the United States is under the age of 18. There are 1200 Hmong children in the Appleton Area School District and another 500 in Neenah, Menasha, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Hortonville and Wrightstown.