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Fox Valley Literacy is deeply disappointed that last week the City of Appleton's Common Council refused to take a vote on a resolution condemning the racism, xenophobia, and violence against our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Fox Valley Literacy has had the joy and privilege of working with members of the AAPI community as partners, staff, tutors, students and volunteers for 30 years. We're awed by what the enrichment they bring to our community and they deserve to have a city as committed to them as they are to it.

Aldersperson Maiyoua Thao crafted a resolution that would have allowed this integral and vibrant part of our community some comfort and reassurance that their city cares for them and their well-being. Instead, after listening to stories of violence, threats against children and more, the Council sent it back to committee despite the best effort of some Alderspersons on the council.

That those who sent it back are now saying this was done to 'fix' the language is in itself also problematic. The AAPI community has said what they need to feel seen and heard. Aside from Aldersperson Thao no one on Appleton Common council can speak to what the AAPI community has experienced or needs. The discomfort caused by citing racial slurs in the resolution is nothing compared to the damage done by being on the receiving end of those slurs in one's home city. This council should focus on 'fixing' the community that created this situation, not censoring the experience of those who were harmed.

We at Fox Valley Literacy hope the committee and Council hear how their refusal to vote on the resolution has added to the harm done to the AAPI Community and pass the original resolution as the Hmong American Partnership of the Fox Valley has requested. Any other actions are not in the best interest of those most impacted by the violence and discrimination that made this resolution necessary. Support our AAPI neighbors as they have asked you to, not as it's comfortable for you to.

Brian Leone Tracy
Executive Director
Fox Valley Literacy