



SAN MATEO COUNTY
API CAUCUS

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Contact: Wayne Lee 415-515-8814
Smcapicaucus@gmail.com

SMC API Caucus Calls Out Illegal Campaign in Foster City

FOSTER CITY, Calif. (October 12, 2022) – In support of Foster City Mayor Richa Awasthi and transparent elections, the San Mateo County Asian Pacific Islander Caucus is calling on all candidates for Foster City City Council to publicly denounce recent, illegal campaign tactics as well as the anonymous perpetrator(s). Additionally, the Caucus hopes that no candidate or sitting public official is involved in any potential violations of state election laws.

“Such cowardly acts have no place in Foster City or anywhere else on the Peninsula,” said Wayne Lee, Caucus president and former Millbrae mayor. “This is an unregistered and opaque opposition campaign that smacks of a personal vendetta.”

First elected to Foster City City Council in 2018, Awasthi became the city’s first-ever minority woman mayor in 2021 and only the sixth female mayor since municipal incorporation in 1971. Awasthi is currently seeking re-election as the sole incumbent.

In September, multiple unsigned copies of political allegations against Mayor Awasthi were found posted inside Foster City’s Sea Cloud Park, Boothbay Park, Dog Park, certain businesses, on city traffic-light poles and distributed among parked cars. Also discovered were several of Mayor Awasthi’s campaign signs defaced and vandalized.

“This is embarrassing,” said Sam Hindi, who served as Foster City mayor in 2018 and 2019. “It’s embarrassing to see this hate and criminal behavior -- once again – in Foster City.”

This illegal campaign appears to target Awasthi solely in a field of five candidates vying for two seats in November’s election for Foster City City Council. According to data compiled by Stop AAPI Hate, anti-Asian hate continues to surge in the United States and disproportionately impacts API women, who have reported twice as many incidents as API men. In December 2020, Awasthi’s home was vandalized when someone threw a large rock through a window, just missing her husband’s head. A suspect has never been identified.

“We look forward to hearing from the Foster City City Council and the other four city council candidates,” Lee added. “We hope they will join this Caucus in declaring that neither dirty politics nor those who practice them are welcomed in Foster City.”

DRAFT 3.0
###