



Chinese American Service League

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Statement from Chinese American Service League CEO Paul Luu on Chinatown Shooting Near John C. Haines Elementary School

On Tuesday, tragedy struck Chinatown. Our community is reeling, in pain, and now mourning. The murder of 71-year-old Woom Sing Tse directly across the street from John C. Haines Elementary School in broad daylight brings a new and urgent level of fear to our community. The Chinese American Service League (CASL) sends our deepest condolences to Mr. Tse's family, especially his daughter, a teacher at John C. Haines Elementary. During this challenging time for our community, as we deal with yet another violent incident, CASL is here to support our community in any way we can.

The Chinatown community and the greater AAPI community will be demanding that the perpetrator be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. While the motive is still unclear for this horrific crime, the sad reality is that our community faces hate incidents often accompanied by violence every day. According to FBI data, Anti-Asian hate crimes rose 73 percent last year, and unfortunately, this is a problem with no easy solution.

Earlier this year, the Chinese American Service League released our 2021 Social Determinants of Health report from our Center for Social Impact. [From the report, we know that residents in Chinatown feel isolated, and over 40% of residents say they don't even feel safe in their community.](#) Our team at CASL will not rest until we know that our communities are safe for everyone.

CASL is dedicated to finding solutions to these complex issues. In partnership with The Asian American Foundation and other national organizations, CASL is convening a diverse network of community organizations that are collectively engaged in the work of creating a more socially just and equitable society. In addition, we are actively developing strategies and support systems to address the increase in violence against the AAPI community and other individuals and groups that face identity-based violence. Eradicating hate in all forms is a top priority.

At CASL, our main concern is the safety and wellbeing of our staff, clients, and community members. CASL is meeting with staff, a vast majority of whom are from the neighborhood, and offering a variety of support to anyone on our team or in the community who needs assistance.

Yours in service,

Paul Luu

Chinese American Service League, CEO