



June 12, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Angelenos Barred from Mayor's Homeless Solutions Workshop

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

On behalf of the Korean American Coalition-Los Angeles (KAC) and its 2,000 plus members, partner organizations, and countless additional supporters, we write to express our deep concern over the barring of Korean American Angelenos who RSVP'd to the Homeless Solutions Workshop held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. This event was hosted by the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, the Jewish Federation, the United Way, LA Voice, and SafeParking LA, with the implication that it was open to all Angelenos.

The Angelenos who had RSVP'd to the event were placed on a "**not allowed**" list given to the security officer, who showed the post-it note with their names on it and turned them away. One of the community members was given a phone call about an hour before the start of the event and was told that it was an "**invite-only**" function and that he should not attend. This is strange as there were several exchanges in the morning confirming his RSVP. The others, however, did not receive a phone call, an email or any explanation other than the security guard alerting them that they were not allowed to enter and asked to leave the premises.

It is also very unfortunate that everyone on the "**not allowed**" list for the Homeless Solutions Workshop had attended the Ktown rallies for a fair and inclusive process regarding *A Bridge Home* project in Ktown. It was a complete shock to these Angelenos who were barred without explanation, from attending the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement on Homeless Solutions Workshop as they had wanted to go and learn about the best practices and solutions as stated in the flyer.

The description of your workshop from the flyer in verbatim:

The Mayor's Office of Public Engagement offers a convening of community advocates, congregants, lay leaders and clergy to develop a strong foundation for homeless service partnership, sharing comprehensive education, resources and best practices. Empowering communities and building advocates for



KOREAN AMERICAN COALITION
Los Angeles

EST. 1983

supportive and bridge housing is key to ending the moral crisis of homelessness in the City of Angels. Plan to attend both sessions of the Workshop. Each represents two halves of the whole. Enlist other members of your community or congregation to join you as a team.

Nowhere on the Homeless Solutions Workshop flyer is there a “**by invitation only**” notice. We the undersigned, ask for further clarification on the criteria for exclusion and explanation of the discrepancy between what was advertised on the flyer and what transpired for the individuals who were barred from entering the Homeless Solutions workshop. We look forward to hearing the explanation directly from you in an in-person meeting regarding this highly unusual situation.

Sincerely,

Joon Bang
Executive Director
Korean American Coalition

Ron Hasson
National Board Member
NAACP

Ruben Hernandez
President-Founder
UDLA

Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Esq.
Executive Director
A3PCON

“Asian Americans Advancing Justice believes that looking for a housing shelter in Koreatown is important. At the same time, we are concerned why some people were turned away from the Homeless Solutions Workshop. An explanation should be made.”

Stewart Kwoh
Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles

“ADL supports KAC in asking the Mayor’s Office to be transparent and provide an explanation for what occurred in this incident at the Homeless Solutions Workshop.”

Amanda Susskind
Pacific Southwest Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League