Supervisors Mar and Chan Call for Hearing on Crime and Violence Targeting Asian-American Seniors

San Francisco - On Tuesday, Supervisor Gordon Mar and Supervisor Connie Chan called for a hearing on crime and violence targeting Asian-American seniors, in light of the latest wave of unprovoked attacks against vulnerable community members.

The hearing will examine these incidents and the rise of anti-Asian racism, and what City agencies are doing on crime prevention, investigations, victim services and providing public safety resources in communities, including strategies they are deploying to reduce crime and violence targeting API and POC communities and to promote cross-racial solidarity.

City agencies include the San Francisco Police Department, Office of the District Attorney, Human Rights Commission, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, the Department of Adult Probation and the Department of Juvenile Probation.

“Families are outraged and seniors are afraid of being out in public alone. We need to denounce the horrific violence and support victims, while taking collective responsibility to keep each other safe rather than laying blame,” said Mar. “We must hold each other accountable, address the underlying cause of violence, and invest resources in crime prevention, victim services, restorative justice, transparency, cross-racial healing, and building up the community.”

“While we are united in condemning these terrible acts targeting our API seniors,” said Supervisor Chan, “We must also speak out against violence and acts of hate against all our communities of color. We must also work together on a plan for safety and response in order to begin the healing our communities need.”

"Time and time again, we have called for culturally-relevant and trauma-informed investments for our diverse Asian American community. We need ongoing resources to build a city-wide social support and safety infrastructure that enables survivors and their families to fully recover and heal as well as cross racial solidarity work to address the root causes of crime and
violence," said Cynthia Choi, Co-Executive Director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, a member of the Community Coalition of Safety and Justice.

Earlier today, the Community Coalition of Safety and Justice and Asian American Organizations Across the Bay Area released a statement to demand action against violence from San Francisco and Oakland leadership, including increasing culturally-relevant and trauma-informed investments and empowering communities with resources, support, and education as the solution to violence.

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Attachment: Press Statement, “Asian American Organizations Across the Bay Area Join Forces to Demand Action Against Violence”