



**The League of United Latin American Citizens
District 12
PO Box 6958 Salinas, Ca 93912**

2/15/2022

Dear Mayor Peake, and Pacific Grove Council members:

My name is Jose Andrew Sandoval. I am the District Director of LULAC Region 12. The League of United Latin American Citizens, founded in 1929, is the oldest and most widely respected Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States of America. LULAC was created at a time in our country's history when Hispanics were denied basic civil and human rights, despite contributions to American society. The founders of LULAC created an organization that empowers its members to speak out and address the wrongs inflicted upon people of color in our community. Today, our membership extends into every state in the union and Puerto Rico, with over 1000 councils nationwide. Our District 12 Board, which represents Monterey, San Benito and Merced Counties, voted unanimously in support of this letter.

As is our mission LULAC councils have responded to an alarming rate of xenophobia throughout the United States. It has come to our attention that the Coalition for Asian Justice has requested that the City of Pacific Grove's celebration of the "Feast of Lanterns" not be permitted to continue due to the shameful past in its depiction of the Asian community. A depiction which has included yellow face and cultural appropriation by the Caucasian participants dressed as Asians celebrating European pageantry. These depictions have caused embarrassment and brought shame to the Asian community, whose true story is excluded. This event has long been in conflict with the true Chinese history in the region. In today's day and age stereotypical portrayals of people of color are no longer tolerated. They are a wrong that must be corrected in our generation. It is for this reason that LULAC stands in solidarity locked arm in arm with The Coalition for Asian Justice and our Asian brothers and sisters in requesting that the City of Pacific Grove put a stop to this hurtful mockery.

We urge you to open your hearts and minds to the pleas of the Asian community and take into consideration the harm which is unwittingly inflicted upon their community members. A harm that can result in exclusion, or in some cases even personal harm. When we tell a false narrative of their history and refuse to correct the wrongs of the past we do a disservice to ourselves and our descendants.

Pacific Grove "America's Last Hometown" must not be viewed as "America's Last Holdout" in failing to recognize the harm suffered upon people of color and their descendants.

Let us all work together to right these wrongs.

Respectfully yours,

Jose Andrew Sandoval

LULAC, District 12 Director

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