

David E. Lee, Ed.D.

March 25, 2024

Re: Justice in the Case of Ms. Yanfang Wu

Dear Supervisor Peskin,

I am writing to express my full support for the Asian Justice Movement (AJM) and a coalition of civil rights groups and community leaders in their demand for immediate action regarding the tragic case of Ms. Yanfang Wu (age 63). The circumstances surrounding her untimely death on July 3, 2023, demand thorough investigation and accountability from the authorities.

It is deeply concerning that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) concluded Ms. Wu's death as an "accident" without adequately addressing the possibility of it being a homicide or a hate crime. Particularly alarming is the recent development on March 4, 2024, wherein the same suspect allegedly assaulted another elderly Asian woman (age 71), raising serious questions about the nature of these attacks and the safety of Asian communities in our city.

Therefore, we urge the SFPD to take the following immediate actions:

1. Reopen the investigation into the death of Ms. Yanfang Wu as a homicide, considering the evidence and circumstances surrounding her tragic passing. Additionally, investigate whether both incidents involving Ms. Wu and the subsequent assault on another elderly Asian woman were motivated by hate.
2. Release the video footage from July 3, 2023, without delay. Transparency is essential in ensuring public trust and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.
3. Conduct a thorough inquiry to identify the source of the leak that labeled Ms. Wu's death as an "accident." Such misinformation undermines the integrity of the investigation and erodes public confidence in law enforcement.
4. Investigate whether the assailant has a history of targeting Asian individuals in other violent incidents. Understanding any potential patterns of behavior is crucial in preventing future attacks and safeguarding vulnerable communities.

We emphasize the urgent need for swift and decisive action in pursuing justice for Ms. Yanfang Wu and in addressing the broader issue of anti-Asian violence in our society. Failure to act promptly not only perpetuates injustice but also sends a dangerous message of impunity to those who seek to harm others based on their race or ethnicity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly anticipate your prompt response and commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents in our community.

Regards,

David E. Lee

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Executive Director, Chinese American Voters Education Committee (for identification purposes only)