

TESTIMONY FOR SF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BY DR. LEIGH KIMBERG ON BEHALF OF BRANDON LEE, THE LEE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITIES BRANDON SUPPORTS

September 10, 2019

Dr. Leigh Kimberg is a Professor of Medicine at UCSF who works at SFGH and serves as the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Dr. Kimberg sincerely regrets not being able to be here in person today; she wanted to share this testimony.

From Dr. Kimberg:

I am providing this testimony to request that you support Brandon Lee and his family in three ways. As many of you know, Brandon Lee is a US citizen who grew up in San Francisco where he attended Lincoln High School and SFSU. He is the son of Louise Lee who has been an employee of the San Francisco Department of Public Health for 40 years. Brandon is a person who understands that our health is inextricably connected to the health of our planet; he feels privileged to support indigenous communities who honor this sacred connection. Brandon has been living and working in the Philippines, courageously advocating for environmental justice for indigenous communities despite many death threats over the past five years.

On August 6th, he was shot many times in an assassination attempt. Miraculously, he has survived; he is paralyzed from low chest down, still riddled with an unknown number of bullets that need to be removed, and recovering from pneumonia but growing stronger each day. Unfortunately, he is unsafe in the Philippines due to the risk of further violence and the urgent need for surgical and medical care in a top-notch hospital that specializes in trauma care.

Physicians in the Philippines think that Brandon will soon be stable enough to transport to SFGH via an air ambulance. The SF Department of Public Health and the SF Health Commission have provided statements of support for this transfer. The costs of transport via Air Ambulance are high—likely approximately \$200,000.

On behalf of Brandon Lee, a brave environmental justice activist, the son of a 40 year employee of SFDPH, and a son of this beautiful city that helped shape him into the activist he is, I am asking you to support the Lee family in three ways. I ask that you (1) Locate funding to support his medical evacuation and (2) Advocate for his safety with our US Representatives and (3) Issue a proclamation of support for Brandon and his family.

Thank you.

Dr. Leigh Kimberg

STATEMENT FROM AARON LEE, BROTHER OF BRANDON LEE- Sept 10, 2019

My name is Aaron Lee. I was born, raised, and educated in San Francisco.

I want to thank Supervisors Mar, Haney, and Ronen and President Yee for sponsoring this resolution for my brother, Brandon Lee.

Brandon has devoted his life towards helping others. His work began here in San Francisco, where he used his early child development education from the City College of San Francisco to help elementary school children succeed in their academics in addition to enjoying outdoor recreation. For the past nine years, he worked to protect the land, water, and air of the indigenous people in the Philippines in addition to documenting human rights violations towards people who are working on various social issues.

I am asking for your support in helping Brandon to be immediately evacuated by a medical team from the Philippines back to San Francisco for his safety and access to specialized medical treatment and rehabilitation from his injuries. He was just transferred to another hospital because of a hospital infection he contracted in Baguio. . He is fighting everyday to get better but he has pneumonia and is still in need of a respirator to breathe. He still has 3-4 bullets lodged in him. He still has not been able to feel or move his legs.

For the past four weeks, I have been at Brandon's bedside, advocating and caring for him for over twelve hours a day as a nurse. I hope you can do everything in within your power to help Brandon. He desperately needs your help with his repatriation to San Francisco. Please consider a City contribution for his medical evacuation expenses.

I am also asking for your help in urging Congresswoman Pelosi to initiate a formal investigation into the attempted assassination of my brother and supporting a congressional hearing on the consequences of using U.S. tax dollars to fund the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aaron Lee
Constituent of District 4

From: Mchugh, Eileen (BOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:00 AM
To: BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: FW: Statement supporting the Brandon Lee Resolution
Attachments: BRANDON LEE STATEMENT.docx

Categories: 190909

From: Norman Fong <nfong@chinatowncdc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:47 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Norman Fong <nfong@chinatowncdc.org>
Subject: Statement supporting the Brandon Lee Resolution

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Dear members of the Board of Supervisors:
I cannot attend the hearing today regarding the Brandon Lee Resolution but here is my statement (attached)

Norman

Rev. Norman Fong | Executive Director
Chinatown Community Development Center
1525 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133
<http://www.chinatowncdc.org>

Statement in support of the “Condemning the Shooting of and urging Repatriation of Brandon Lee, urging a Congressional Investigation...

by Rev. Norman Fong September 10, 2019

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I strongly support this Resolution regarding Brandon Lee. In 1977-1979, I was sent to the Philippines & Hong Kong to be a “Human Rights Mission Intern” of the United Methodist Church. My job included tracking human rights abuses in Asia as well as Multi-national Corporate abuses as well. I was also sent to the Philippines to investigate the Chico River Dam project that threatened the ethnic indigenous tribes (Igorot) living on the Cordillera mountain range. **In 1978, I stayed with the Kalinga Tribe and got to speak directly with Chief Macli-ing Dulag for many hours. He explained why their ancestral land was so precious not only for their livelihood, but their lives. The beautiful rice terraces & land is their identity, culture, history... Ferdinand Marcos, then President of the Philippines when I was there, instituted Martial Law and had Chief Macli-ing killed along with others trying to save their land. I see the same history repeating itself again with Brandon Lee who is also defending “Macli-ing’s Legacy” of protecting the human rights & ancestral domain of the indigenous people.**

Please bring Brandon Lee home now.

Rev. Norman Fong

Parish Associate, Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

Executive Director, Chinatown CDC