

September 7, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission 202 C Street San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: AAPI Community Representation in District 6

Good evening, I am Robert Ito:

- ✓ Native San Diegan
- ✓ Active in the AAPI community for past 47 years
- ✓ Founding member of the Asian Business Association of San Diego
- ✓ Former board member of the San Diego Japanese American Citizens League
- ✓ Workforce development and affordable housing professional and advocate

I grew up in Encanto and have lived in Normal Heights and Clairemont. I am writing cause I want to ensure that the AAPI community is represented in District 6.

<u>I believe it is extremely important due to the increase in the AAPI population that an Asian-empowerment district connects Kearny Mesa, Mira Mesa, Miramar, west through Carmel Valley and all of UTC and the UCSD campus.</u>

In your deliberations please consider the decades of marginalization, underrepresentation, and rising violence against the AAPI community. It is more important than ever to provide full representation to our community. We can improve upon the current District 6, and we have a responsibility to do better.

By including UCSD and the adjacent neighborhoods that house its employees, students and faculty, we can increase AAPI representation in this district from 30% to over 40%. This district would reflect the breadth and diversity of our community, from the cultural hub in the Convoy District, through residential neighborhoods of all income levels and housing types, to the academic institution that brought so many of us to the region and continues to provide opportunities.

This moment in time is too important. Anything less than a 40% AAPI district would be to intentionally dilute the voice of our community.

Thank you,

Robert P. Ito

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