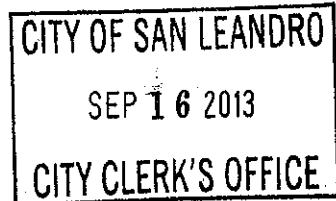




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TIBETAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SAN LEANDRO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RE: RAISING THE FLAG OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

It has come to our attention that City Council member Benny Lee is proposing a resolution entitled "10.B. 13-458 Consideration of Request to Raise the Flag of the People's Republic of China on October 1<sup>st</sup>" and it is under consideration for vote on September the 16th. Needless to say, it has deeply concerned us, as it should for anybody who stands for democracy, the rule of law, and believes that all men are created equal and have certain inalienable right which includes the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is a well-established fact that the America Government and its people champions these ideas and defends it across the globe.

The red flag of the People's Republic of China represents oppression and totalitarian control of an entire nation and its neighboring states. Its iron fist control is all encompassing and even restricts the very basic ability to freely express oneself. Those who dare to stand up for justice and democracy are subject to harsh and ridiculous state laws and draconian policies. Routinely the Chinese Government puts down and jails activists for significant lengths of time. Let me remind you that in the name on "order", China has gone as far as running tanks over its own unarmed college students in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Even now, China executes martial law in our home country of Tibet, and this government has made life unbearable for our brethren in Tibet. 121 brave Tibetans, both young and old, laymen and clergy, women and men, have self-immolated to show their defiance against the Chinese flag. Our brave Tibetan martyrs have done so to stand up for freedom and independence of the Tibetan Nation. Ultimately, the red flag is the antithesis of everything we hold dear in these United States of America.

Flying the red flag over the beautiful city of San Leandro suggests support and tolerance for forces which oppress others and deny them the basic liberties that we take hold dear in America. Raising the Chinese flag indicates that despite China, or any other actors' discreet actions which violate the very principles this nation was built upon, they and their oppressive propaganda are nonetheless welcome here. Raising the red flag does injustice to all that stands for liberty, justice and freedom. In effect, this will mean the City of San Leandro will be celebrating the 64th anniversary of Mao's victory and the establishment of communism in China. That is a direct slap in the faces of all those, either Chinese or other nations, who continue to remain subjugated under communism.

Council members, we respectfully request that you take this unsound motion out of consideration. Failing that, we ask that you vote against the motion in such a resounding way that there can be no doubt the proud city of San Leandro stands with those who fight for equality and freedom. We are confident that you will help this motion be *defeated*.

Respectfully,

Jigme Ugen  
President

CC: Mayor Stephen H. Cassidy

[www.TibetanNationalCongress.org](http://www.TibetanNationalCongress.org)

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