



Latino and Latina Roundtable

of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley

1460 E. Holt Ave. # 144, Pomona, CA 91767

October 14, 2022

The Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley (LRT) Statement in response to the disheartening and disturbing comments by Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez and Councilmembers Kevin de Leon, and Gil Cedillo.

The Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley (LRT) is pleased that the former President of the Los Angeles City Council resigned but still owes an apology to the Indigenous, Black and LGBTQ+ communities. We join the chorus of voices calling for the resignation of Councilmembers Kevin de Leon and Gil Cedillo.

The anti-Black, homophobic, and anti-indigenous comments made in a leaked audio can only have the detrimental effect of taking back years of political gains that communities of color have made at all levels of government. Over the years, grass-roots efforts have made advances in multi-racial unity among our Black, Latinx, AAPI, Indigenous, and working-class communities. The comments made will only hinder this process. Their comments will only serve to create divisions in our communities and inflame anti-Black sentiments at a time when there are those who seek to influence the future of local elections and redistricting efforts. The LRT has worked for a redistricting process that includes the voices of our diverse communities with the outlook of connecting the needs of underrepresented and disconnected groups alongside building multi-racial coalitions.

The actions by these Councilmembers, in their closed meeting with labor leader Ron Herrera, President of Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, showed what can happen when personal and political interests are placed above those of our communities and brings forward the need for a truly independent redistricting commission process.

We are in unity in holding these councilmembers accountable and urge an increase in our collective efforts to rebuild intersectional trust and solidarity.

Jose Calderon President of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley (on behalf of the LRT Board)