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Wednesday, October 12, 2022

### **CA African American Chamber Denounces LA Council Members Inflammatory Racist Remarks and Calls for Their Resignation**

Arguably, one of the most diverse states in the U.S., Californians put their blind faith in elected officials—trusting that their duly elected dignitaries are measured and sensitive to the multicultural constituencies they represent across our state. It is clear from the caustic, inflammatory, incendiary, bigoted, and divisive comments made in a leaked recording of a meeting last year between **Los Angeles City Council Members: Nury Martinez, Kevin DeLeon, Gil Cedillo, and former Los Angeles County Labor Federation President Ron Herrera**, that public trust in these leaders has been misplaced.

Gobsmacked by their blatant and wanton discourse targeting the most putrid verbal assaults toward the African American and Indigenous communities, there is but one appropriate course of action—full resignation and restitution of all individuals that participated in the September 2021 meeting.

The California African American Chamber of Commerce, [calaacc.org/](http://calaacc.org/), leverages the power of our national, statewide and regional networks of businesses, local chambers and community organizations, corporate, philanthropic and institutional partners, elected officials and members to bolster Black business success and strengthen our communities. We rely on the dignity and fair-mindedness of those in power to craft policies that improve the lives of those they serve, not divide and disenfranchise them.

Our educational and advocacy programs exist to drive equitable public policies to expand access and the landscape of economic opportunities for the African American community. The overt effort of these four individuals to undermine the voice of African Americans in the Los Angeles community is unconscionable and cannot be ignored.

The behavior of these political leaders is reminiscent of the Jim Crow antics of our past and reeks of white supremacy, only at this moment, cloaked in brown covering. These officials have demonstrated how institutionalized anti-Black sentiment and shameless pursuit of power can marginalize communities and deprive them of opportunities to amass collective voice and wealth to thrive. We stand against maneuvers that pit minority communities against each other and deliberate acts to diminish the power of Black voters.

We, the California African American Chamber of Commerce and the California African American Action Fund, call on Nury Martinez, Kevin DeLeon and Gil Cedillo to immediately resign from their seats as members of the Los Angeles City Council.