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STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Joint Statement Condemning Hate Speech by Los Angeles Officials
and Calling for their Immediate Resignation**

Sonoma County's Black, Indigenous, Peoples of Color (BIPOC) City Elected Officials'

Marta Cruz, City of Cloverdale

Ozzy Jiménez, City of Healdsburg

Esther Lemus, Town of Windsor

Eddie Alvarez, City of Santa Rosa

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Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park

Samantha Rodríguez, City of Rohnert Park

Sylvia Lemus, Cotati

Jack Ding, City of Sonoma

Madolyn Agrimonti, City of Sonoma

SONOMA COUNTY, CA – Sonoma County's Black, Indigenous, Peoples of Color (BIPOC) City Elected Officials **condemn the hateful speech** by Los Angeles Councilmember and former President Nury Martínez, Councilmembers Kevin De León and Gil Cedillo, and former Los Angeles Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera. We are **calling for their immediate resignation** as councilmembers.

We are appalled at the egregious and highly offensive anti-Black, anti-indigenous, anti-LGBTQ, and anti-Asian (Koreatown) comments which are not only dehumanizing, but also unbecoming for elected officials from the most diverse city in California.

At a time when hate speech and hate crimes are at an all-time high, nationally, against communities of color, such speech is not only painful and angering, but also serves to harm the solidarity that has been built over years of shared struggle amongst our Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian brothers and sisters.

The western Hemisphere is the home of multiple indigenous groups. Every country has Indigenous and African heritage, this must be acknowledged by all. The contributions of great

civilizations are present in our daily life. Once we accept the roots of our people, we will be able to continue in the effort to advance as a society.

We are particularly sickened by former Los Angeles City Council President and current Councilmember Nury Martínez's racist attack on a young, Black toddler and her racist, historic use of the word monkey to describe him.

Our Black/African American and Indigenous brothers and sisters have been in the battle for equity and justice for over 400 years in Latin America and the USA. We as LatinX cannot deny the Indigenous, African, and Asian heritage in Latin American countries, many of us share African & Indigenous blood and heritage, too.

We condemn this divisive and hateful speech and stand with our Black/African American, Afro Latin Americans, Asian, LGBTQ, and all indigenous communities in calling for the resignation of Los Angeles City Councilmembers Nury Martínez, Kevin De León, and Gil Cedillo and their acceptance of full responsibility. They are not deserving of a post as elected officials since constituents are to be respected regardless of their race, heritage, sexual orientation, or financial standing in life.

We stand united in our condemnation of these recent statements and call for resignation of the Councilmembers. We continue to work hard to build solidarity and bring healing within and throughout all our communities in furtherance of our work for a more equitable and just community for everyone.

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