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## **The Aftermath of Our Vigil**

SACRAMENTO – In the wake of yesterday’s vigil, state legislators, leaders, and the broader community stood in solidarity with the victims of the Monterey Park mass shooting and further demonstrated their resolve for ending gun violence.

On Saturday, January 21st, ten people were killed at Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park and an additional ten people were hospitalized. Authorities revealed yesterday that one of the wounded individuals had passed away. The incident occurred at a local Lunar New Year festival which is celebrated for the prospects of peace, hope, and fortune.

2023 marks the first year in which Lunar New Year is recognized by California’s legislation as an official state holiday. Rather than cherishing this accomplishment however, members of the Asian Pacific Islander community grieved as they reflected on the Monterey Park shooting. The California Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC) convened a vigil at the Capitol Building in response to the Monterey Park tragedy, as a way to garner support from the community as well as amplify a call to action against gun violence.

Chair of the AAPILC, Asm. Evan Low, opened with, “it is unfortunate that we are gathered here today” before affirming that no group is immune from encountering acts of mass violence. Vice Chairs Asm. Mike Fong and Sen. Dave Min expanded on this message in their remarks by signaling the value of representation, resilience, and collective action. Sen. Susan Rubio, further called on federal lawmakers to follow California in hosting stricter gun control laws.

While still in process of healing, a second mass shooting occurred in Half Moon Bay where local authorities reported that seven people were killed.

We must continue to leverage resources and support for individuals affected by mass violence, while transitioning towards a preventative viewpoint regarding these crimes. As such, the AAPILC upholds equality, opportunity, safety, and justice for everyone.

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**Website of the California AAPI Legislative Caucus: <https://aapilegcaucus.legislature.ca.gov>**