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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

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September 24, 2025

Cherelle L. Parker  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
City Hall, Office 215  
Philadelphia, PA 1910

Dear Mayor Parker,

I urge you and your administration to reconsider the People's Republic of China (PRC) flag-raising ceremony scheduled for September 30, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

Raising the national flag of another country on U.S. soil through an official act is a powerful symbol. A flag raising is used to show respect for a nation that can inspire unity and pride between our two peoples; but it can also be inadvertently used to misrepresent support for another nation's actions and values.

The Five-Star Red Flag, embodying the totalitarian government led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), represents a regime that is persecuting spiritual people of all faiths, including the genocide of Uyghur Muslims. It is a government that actively subsidizes the precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl, which has killed or harmed millions of Americans. It is a Communist Party-State that is diametrically opposed to American values and working to undermine our interests worldwide. The city government of Philadelphia should cancel the raising of the national flag of a foreign adversary country.<sup>2</sup>

While all citizens and law-abiding residents of our great nation enjoy freedom of speech, petition, and assembly, I am deeply concerned that the city government of Philadelphia is partnering with local organizations that appear to be civic associations in name only and, more troubling, have ties to the CCP. In particular, the Pennsylvania United Chinese Coalition (PUCC) and Greater Philadelphia Fujian Hometown Association (hereafter "Fujian Hometown Association") stand out as entities of concern for their ties to the People's Republic of China (PRC) government, and especially the CCP's United Front system.

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<sup>1</sup> *All Events | City of Philadelphia*, City of Philadelphia, available at <https://www.phila.gov/the-latest/all-events/>.

<sup>2</sup> 10 U.S.C. § 4872, Acquisition of sensitive materials from non-allied foreign nations: prohibition and Robert Nonemacker, *City Hall Honors Diversity: Upcoming Flag Raisings*, City of Philadelphia (August 21, 2019) available at <https://www.phila.gov/2019-08-21-city-hall-honors-diversity-upcoming-flag-raisings/>.

In November 2023, the Select Committee released its bipartisan *United Front 101* memo, which explained that United Front work is “a unique blend of engagement, influence activities, and intelligence operations”<sup>3</sup> used by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to “shape its political environment, including to influence other countries’ policy toward the PRC and to gain access to advanced foreign technology.”<sup>4</sup> The Select Committee also found that “the united front policy system encompasses united front work departments at every party level; united front elements housed in PRC government agencies, enterprises, academic institutions, and ostensibly non-government organizations; and the network of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conferences from the central to local level.”<sup>5</sup>

While the Pennsylvania United Chinese Coalition presents itself as a community organization representing the interests of local diaspora groups, the organization and its senior leaders frequently engage with the PRC consulate in New York,<sup>6</sup> host meetings with CCP United Front groups,<sup>7</sup> and participate in political activities that appear to deliberately involve local and state officials.<sup>8</sup> A senior representative of the group has spoken openly about its desire to help the “motherland”—in reference to the People’s Republic of China.<sup>9</sup>

The Fujian Hometown Association, which is one of the co-organizers for the flag-raising ceremony, also warrants scrutiny. In March of this year, the Association’s president visited China and held a meeting with senior representatives of the Fuzhou Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese (hereafter “Fujian Federation”).<sup>10</sup> In that meeting, the president reportedly stated the Association wish to “receive more support and guidance” from the Fujian Federation. The Fujian Federation serves as the provincial chapter for the All-China Federation of Returned Chinese (ACFROC), which is one of the primary organizations within the CCP’s United Front system that is tasked with conducting “overseas friendship ... to unite and mobilize the vast number of returned overseas Chinese relatives and overseas compatriots to carry out friendship and liaison work.”<sup>11</sup>

As you may also know, “hometown” Chinese community associations were originally intended to provide Chinese immigrants in the United States a venue to connect with others from their or their family’s provinces of origin. Unfortunately, a growing number of cases throughout the United States reveal a disturbing pattern of how the CCP United Front has penetrated and

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<sup>3</sup> *Memorandum: United Front 101*, U.S. House Select Committee on China (November 27, 2023) available at <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/uf-101-memo-final-pdf-version.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://pennchinese.org/meeting-119/>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at <https://www.worldjournal.com/wj/story/121388/8768783?zh-cn>.

<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGS7IqaqW5c>.

<sup>9</sup> Available at <https://pennchinese.org/meeting-pennrep-102024/>.

<sup>10</sup> Available at <http://mdqs.fqworld.org/lyjl/89717.jhtml>.

<sup>11</sup> All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, *2022 Budget of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese*, Translated by Etcetera Language Group, Inc., Edited by Ben Murphy, CSET Translation Manager (September 6, 2022) available at [https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0452\\_overseas\\_Chinese\\_budget\\_2022\\_EN.pdf](https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0452_overseas_Chinese_budget_2022_EN.pdf).

coopted “hometown” Chinese community associations across U.S. cities, and other types of nominally independent-civic organizations purportedly representing the interests of diverse communities.<sup>12</sup> Instead of protecting their members from the dictatorship that they may have fled, many of these groups now work to monitor and control the Chinese diaspora and to covertly influence U.S. political leaders to advance CCP objectives.<sup>13</sup> The recent case involving hometown associations in New York allegedly engaging in prohibited political activities that are interfering with our electoral process is emblematic of the enormous risks.<sup>14</sup>

Raising the national flag of a foreign adversary country sends the wrong message to our citizens and lawful residents, especially those oppressed by the CCP regime. The city government of Philadelphia should not allow itself to be exploited as a tool for CCP propaganda. To cancel the PRC flag-raising ceremony will not only demonstrate that the local government in the United States stands for U.S. values and national interests, but that it stands in support for the people of China who face the regime’s ruthless oppression and transnational repression.

Additionally, the Select Committee has consistently highlighted the insidious nature of sister-city relationships with China and how they advance CCP malign influence, and the sister-city arrangement between Philadelphia and Tianjin is disconcerting given how the CCP exploits these relationships to promote its own interests.<sup>15</sup> In June, the Select Committee sent a letter to the District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser asking her office to review the city’s sister city ties with Beijing.<sup>16</sup> I have additionally introduced a bill (H.R. 4519) that would prohibit our nation’s capital from establishing or maintaining sister city relations with jurisdictions located within foreign adversaries including the PRC.

For all the concerns stated above, I request that you cancel the PRC flag-raising ceremony and reconsider your current arrangement with Tianjin and end this sister-city arrangement. I request that you inform us of the city’s decision by no later than September 29, 2025. Thank you for your time.

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<sup>12</sup> Michael Forsythe, et. al., *How China Influences Elections in America’s Biggest City*, NEW YORK TIMES (August 25, 2025) available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/25/nyregion/china-consulate-new-york-elections.html>

<sup>13</sup> *New York Resident Pleads Guilty to Operating Secret Police Station of the Chinese Government in Lower Manhattan*, United States Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs (December 18, 2024) available at <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/new-york-resident-pleads-guilty-operating-secret-police-station-chinese-government-lower> and *Former High-Ranking New York State Government Employee Charged with Acting as an Undisclosed Agent of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party*, United States Department of Justice, Eastern District of New York (September 3, 2024) available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/former-high-ranking-new-york-state-government-employee-charged-acting-undisclosed>.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Sister Cities*, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, available at <https://wacphila.org/public-programming/sister-cities/>.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from the Hon. John Moolenaar, Chairman, House Select Committee on the CCP, et. al. to the Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor, Washington, D.C. (June 4, 2025).

Ms. Cherelle L. Parker

September 24, 2025

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Moolenaar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Moolenaar

Chairman

House Select Committee on the CCP