

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 6-001

**RESOLUTION TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY TO CALL FOR FREEDOM FOR JUSTIN  
CHEONG**

- WHEREAS,** Justin was born in 1990 in Macau, China, and his parents named him Man Tou Cheong. As a teenager, Man Tou acquired a student visa to attend high school in the United States. He traveled to Minnesota, where he adopted the name Justin, and led a successful high school student career. His bright mind and artistic talents propelled him to advance and graduate from the University of California at Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts degree; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In California, Justin became a student activist and political artist, and a respected leader with the civil rights organization BAMN, championing the defense of public education and building a movement to unite people against all forms of bigotry and oppression; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Justin has been married for 5 years to a US citizen, Liana Mulholland, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Art & Design, and they have made a home together in Detroit MI; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Since moving to Detroit, Justin has established himself as a leader to many students and teachers in the Detroit schools. He was a lead organizer of the teacher sickouts and student walkouts to defend public education in Detroit in December 2015, January 2016, he has organized and led community marches and public tribunals against police brutality, and to stop the poisoning of Detroit students with lead and copper contaminated water in their schools. He has become a familiar face to countless students, faculty and community members at the University of Michigan through his organizing to increase minority enrollment and to make the campus open, accessible and a sanctuary campus for immigrant students; in 2014 Justin went to Ferguson, MO to help organize a march and public tribunal with the family of Michael Brown to build the movement against police brutality. He has also organized students and teachers in Washington DC for affirmative action, and attended several national teachers union conventions to work with teachers across the country to defend public education<sup>1</sup> **AND**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTcZs1FO\\_A8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTcZs1FO_A8)

**WHEREAS** Justin’s commitment to civil rights and the advancement of progress in our society are exemplary attributes of a model citizen striving to make America true to its constitutional principles of freedom and democracy, and to make real for all members of our society the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness; **AND**

**WHEREAS** On June, 30 2016, Justin was arrested by federal agents and taken to an immigrant detention facility in Monroe, Michigan. He has been held in detention without bond despite the fact that he has no criminal record and is not suspected of committing any crime; **AND**

**WHEREAS** More than 2500 people have signed the petition for “FREEDOM FOR JUSTIN CHEONG” and faxed them to Immigration & Customs Enforcement Director for Detroit, Rebecca Aducci. Signers include students, teachers, professors, and community members at UM, Wayne State University, University of California Berkeley, Detroit Public high schools, the city of Detroit, Ann Arbor, Hamtramck in Michigan, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco in California, Washington DC, Ferguson Missouri, New York, and other cities in the US and Britain where Justin has done civil rights community organizing and others where he is known; **AND**

**WHEREAS** Notables and organizations in Detroit and Justin’s previous home in the Bay Area California have signed the petition to free Justin or issued statements of support, including the last democratically elected president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, Steve Conn, Teamsters Local 299 president Kevin Moore, interim President of AFSCME Local 207 Michael Mulholland, DMC CHM Unit Chair Donna Stern, President of the Detroit Board of Education Herman Davis, 3rd District State Representative Wendell Byrd, State Representative Stephanie Chang, Michigan State Representative Robert Wittenberg, Pastor Kevin Clarke of the Springwells Baptist Church in Detroit, Pastor DaRell Andre Reed from Spirit of Love Church in Detroit, Wayne State University Chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, Black Student Union of Lansing Community College, Noel Gallo from the Oakland, CA City Council, Roseann Torres from Oakland Unified School District School Board Director, Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington, United Native Americans (Bay Area) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus, **AND;**

**WHEREAS** Justin has spoken at many Central Student Government meetings, and contributed to the drafting and advocating for the resolutions proposed by BAMN and passed by CSG in April 2016 “to support making UM a sanctuary campus for Immigrants”(AR5-063B) and “A RESOLUTION FOR A DECLARATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE DIVERSITY OF THE UM AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY; IN WORDS AND DEEDS, OPPOSE THE CREATION OF A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR ANY GROUP OF STUDENTS ON AN ETHNIC, NATIONAL, RACIAL, OR RELIGIOUS BASIS; DEFEND THE SAFETY OF MUSLIM MEMBERS OF OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY AGAINST XENOPHOBIC AND DEMAGOGIC ATTACKS” (AR5-063A); **AND**

**WHEREAS** Justin has continued his life’s work as a leader for freedom and equality even in detention; **AND**

**WHEREAS** On September 13, Justin was transferred more than five hours away to the Chippewa County Jail in Sault St. Marie, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, without notification to his family, lawyers and or friends, effectively isolating and separating him from close access to his loved ones and fellow detainees in Monroe

**THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** CSG defends the rights of immigrant and international members of our campus community to live, work and study free from the threat of deportation, free from intimidation, discrimination and racial profiling, and targeting of any kind; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** CSG stands in solidarity with the efforts to win freedom from detention and stop the deportation of civil rights leader Justin Cheong; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED** CSG will forward this resolution to President Schlissel’s office and the editorial boards of the Michigan Daily, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, MLIVE and other relative media outlets.

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Attest

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Noah Betman, LSA  
Speaker of the Assembly

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Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

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David Schafer

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abs: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Necessary: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Received By \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_