

YIAYER CHANG	Hi my beloved brethren and friends who are staying at home! This is YIAYER CHANG at Hmong USA TV. I hope that everybody is doing well. Today is an important day and we are having our special guest who will be sharing about many incidents that concern us, the Hmong. Today, I am very happy with our guest who is a mayor at Elk Grove, California, Mayor STEVE LY. Even he is living in Elk Grove, California, and I am living in Fresno, we still get a good opportunity to join together at the Hmong USA TV. We will be discussing about many of his ideas and whether if the rumor that is spreading about him is real. And he is here with us at the Hmong USA TV. Whether at home or wherever you are, please spare some time to listen to us now. Hello, STEVE LY!
STEVE LY	Hello, YIAYER and our brethren! I am happy for getting a chance to see all of you through Hmong USA TV.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok. In case that you did not know, this is the first Hmong mayor in the US, in Elk Grove, California. Many people may not know who he is. But tonight, I feel very happy. There was a moment of time when people would like to know what are actually happening and asked why STEVE LY did not come out to speak. Today, STEVE LY appears on Hmong USA TV. Thank you very much for sacrificing your time to join us. Today, we will discuss whether that rumor is true or false. What do you think about your problem with your opponents? Could you please explain to us?
STEVE LY	Frankly speaking, this is another year that I will be participate in the election for a mayor. So please cast your votes for me. Right now, a political campaign is taking place. The entire rumor is only political. I would say it for you to understand easily. The US is a country of freedom of speech. It is only part of my opponent's political campaign to accuse me, so I do not need to come out and solve this problem. What I want to tell you all is that the rumor is not real. This is the truth, and please understand that it is only political. It is almost time for election. This is my sixth time of working in the office and my sixth time of seeing problems like this. There is some information that I do not think it will exist. But my opponents are thinking of making problems for me. This is the truth that I want to let all of you understand. I am not the one who forces the 18 Hmong Clans to harass the women. My opponents are doing dirty jobs to accuse me. We all know the Hmong culture. If there is a problem that is not appropriate for talking, the 18 Hmong Clans need to come out and speak to make us unified. There is also a law involved in this matter. I came to this mayor position not only for Hmong people but also for the American. So I need to abide by the US laws. Even if someone insults me, I cannot respond back as it is all political. So if there are people who misunderstanding, I will let all of you understand the truth.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok. I am happy that at last you spoke it up. There are two terms involved, that is "threaten" and "harass". They said you have committed these two to someone. Is it right?
STEVE LY	No! One Hmong lady came out to accuse me of speaking badly with others and supporting others to do so. Because of this, I reported to the police for an investigation. Anybody knows that we could not do such thing in the US. And there

	<p>were 4-5 policemen who conduct an investigation and report to City Council. It turned out that there were no enough evidence. In the US, before accusing someone, we need to have evidence. Since there was no evidence, this case was resolved in July 22 by a four-stared police chief. He also reported to me that there is a baseless rumor in this. When the rumor spread, Hmong people do not ask for the root cause or the whereabouts of the story, instead they were just listening to some vague sayings. When you heard all of this, you will also understand that there is no a single truth in this rumor.</p>
YIAYER CHANG	<p>Ok! Why did those women come out and speak in social media platform? And who are they?</p>
STEVE LY	<p>There are a few people who have lost to me in the past election. When I won, they were not happy about this and waiting for an opportunity to attack me. This is not the first time they do like this, but they have been doing it for the past twelve years. My opponents who have lost to me found a Hmong lady and may ask her to come out and speak. In this case, I may be dismissed from my mayor position. What I am saying is all political. Those people were competing with me in the City Council and they lost, as well as in the school board where their colleagues also lost. For the Hmong lady who caused me trouble, she asked me to meet her at the City Hall, but I could not. This made her upset, so she said these things out. I also received a report from a Chinese lady that there was a Hmong lady who gossiped about her on an online platform. She was disturbed by phone calls, stalked, and there were people throwing eggs to her house. This is her claims. I ordered the policemen to investigate, but that Hmong lady did not understand what she has done wrong. She would not give any information to the policemen and not allow the police to check on her phone. So the police told me that there may be nothing, because of the evidence. That is not all. There is one American lady who worked with them. She did a campaign together with my opponents. They were not happy that there is an American men working with me, because they do not get along well with this man. I got a report and called every campaign leaders in our campaign, where there are about 7-8 people. We held a meeting and solved that problem. He decided to join our campaign until November 11, 2018. But these days, they would be speaking about the past. These stories did not just take place. What is taking place right now is that this Hmong lady is not happy about what I posted in social media platform to support one Hmong automobile repair business. I spoke broadly. Whoever did burned down his shop should come and negotiate so we will love and help one another. Then the Hmong lady made a false accusation that I discriminate the Black. Then I responded that I did not talk about the Black, I spoke in a way that made her upset. She may feel revengeful and make this into a bigger problem. If you do not know the root cause, you will doubt and suspect if STEVE LY is a dishonest person. But this rumor is a lie. I always share my ideas with my daughters, sons, or whoever asks for my opinion. I am a soft-hearted person and have been helping people since the very first campaign. If there is someone requesting me to help, I would ask what I could help. I helped LEELAW, I helped MIYAVANG, and I helped everybody. I helped everybody who is a Hmong. She was upset with me because she misunderstood, so she came out to speak like that. And this is the truth.</p>

YIAYER CHANG	Ok! I think we have been talking for long, and I am afraid that your throat may run dry. Do you want to drink a cup of water? If so, please drink. So I want everybody to understand that today I am speaking with STEVE LY. There are many rumors going on about him. This has created a misinformation. Do you think so, STEVE?
STEVE LY	Yes, it is! I have seen a lot people in YouTube who misunderstand. They listened to her claims and thought, "Oh! STEVE! He sent the elder to speak with that lady." In fact, I did not send. Because I know that if I sent, people may misunderstand. She can be talking about me, but I want to let her know that it is not a complete truth and only a rumor. I have talked about the Constitution and laws which we are abiding by in the US. At that time, I was working in the office, so I did not respond. But when talking about me being a dishonest person to those who do not understand, they may misunderstand me. I speak clearly now so our brethren will understand. And there is one rule in the Hmong system. If someone did something wrong, the leader of that clan will talk to that individual, but in the US, it is not right to reach out to someone. This is what I want to let you know.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! According to what we have heard, there is a Hmong lady, LINDA VUE. She came out to say that all ladies who supported you may have slept with you. Is there a kind of story like this?
STEVE LY	Yeah! In the very beginning of this story, they posted in social media saying that I accused the Black, which I was not. She then took this rumor to spread with 2-3 other Hmong ladies. They responded by saying, "No, I don't think STEVE LY will be that kind of person." When they said like that, the revengeful Hmong lady said, "If you support STEVE, that means you are sleeping on the same bed with him." Looking from the American point of view, this may be a common expression, but from the Hmong point of view, this is inappropriate. After that, this expression even escalated the problem, so those 2-3 ladies thought this is not right, it is not consistent with the US laws, and they asked me to sue. I pondered upon this decision and just let it go. I say to all Hmong people that whoever can come to my office. Whoever does not speak the truth is not abiding by the law. In this matter, we should carefully ponder upon each part of the story. The rumor is a lie, and I need to defend myself. If I don't defend myself, it will affect my supporters who are like the spine of my campaign. If I was accused like this, my reputation will be gone, and it will be messy. So "yes" is an answer to what you asked.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! We have talked about this for some time. You did not respond in social media platform. You did not let us know that those rumors are all lies. So these caused misunderstanding among ourselves. Why did you come out to speak as quick as you could? Do you have anything to say to everybody?
STEVE LY	Frankly speaking, there were many urgent tasks that were related to COVID-19 spreading in our city. And we are quite worried of what to do. I was trying to help businessmen to reopen their businesses and students to return to schools. I was quite busy, so I did not have time to respond. On the other hand, I don't think it is worth to respond to a nonsense like this. Because at that time, I don't think the problem would escalate to this level, so I was not worried. But at this moment, I think that it

	is enough. Our Hmong brethren should not listen to these lies. Thus, I was looking for a good opportunity to clarify this issue.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! According to what I understand, there are two ladies who came out to oppose the Hmong community. As I have heard, they are writing bad things on their social media. One lady is working at the school board and another lady is working at the community service. She is a director there. How did these two ladies come into the story? Could you tell us?
STEVE LY	It is true that there is one at the school board. Before moving into the school board, I was competing with her colleagues. After that, at the school boards, there are foreigners competing with her. Those foreigners thought that it was unfair and claimed that she committed a dishonest conduct. It would be fairer if the school board recall its appointment. Then they complained their anger to me. And I was telling them about office terms in the US laws, but she thought that I was calling for a special election and that I was behind this story. In the US, we need to make a complete term. In case of dismissal, there are two options: the first one is a provisional appointment and the second one is a special election. Then those who opposed that American lady told me that every day she accused me of sending someone to oppose her. But there were no any Hmong opposing her. You may not know about this, because it was in 2012. But now, she is my opponent and wants to compete with me.
STEVE LY	After that, she started to insult Hmong people. It is ok if she has a problem with me, but she mentioned that Hmong traditions and cultures are stepping on women and do not allow women to have power. And this is not true. Only Hmong people truly know about Hmong culture. They misunderstood. In fact, Hmong culture allows equality of power between men and women. This is the truth. Then, the lady in CSD who is a firefighter responded, "If it is so, let's dismantle the 18 Hmong Clans and take away the Hmong culture." She said like this. Then I replied to her by saying, "You do not know Hmong culture. You are only an American. Hmong culture has existed for five thousand years. Today, you are boasting that you know about our culture and wanted me to fix our Hmong culture. I am just a Hmong and 46 years old, but our Hmong culture existed for thousands of years. What you are saying is not reasonable. You did not learn about Hmong culture, so what rights do you have in saying such things?" I spoke loudly to her and contradicted with her ideas by saying, "If you want me to fix Hmong culture, why do you want me to do so? I am also Hmong. If you want to fix my Hmong culture, my clan, my parents, I do not support this idea." Then there was an argument bursting out, and it is seen as unfair to us. So the story has taken place until now. And we are not talking that Hmong lady anymore. But one American lady, who is competing with me, is using this against me.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok. What they said really made Hmong people angry. Just like what I have seen in social media platform, they sent messages to have all Hmong these documents. I don't know if you've seen these documents before. They also sent these to us and

	said that we have to sign the documents and banish one Hmong lady. As a lawyer, do you have any opinions on it?
STEVE LY	That is all political. If the people agreed, that will be up to them. But I'm in my office. I'm not related to their office. If they are still accusing and prosecuting her, it does not have to do anything with me. But my goal is that I do not allow them to speak about Hmong people in a bad way. If they said that Hmong people are bad, that is not only to me, but to all Hmong people, whether adult or children. When I am in office, they would say, "Oh, don't vote this person as a chief. He threatened women and he will not force women to be without any power." If they do like this, I am not ok with that and it is unfair. Because of this, I spoke out against those American and Black ladies.
YIAYER CHANG	Until now, I understand that there are three men on your side, who will be competing for office in your city. Have you ever thought that every time there is a government election, there are those people who compete and intentionally sow discord among us?
STEVE LY	The question you've asked is important. Because right now, there are three Hmong people in the City Council. The other is going to be in the school board. If there are people accusing us three, they are accusing Hmong people as well, because we three are Hmong. They want to use a single stone to hit us three. In a political point of view, they intentionally caused this against us three.
YIAYER CHANG	Then why is the government not saying anything? Why did they not come out to say anything? Is it because that this is Hmong culture, so they would not respond any single words?
STEVE LY	I don't know about his. You have to ask our Hmong people who work at the office. For me, I think like this. When I first took this position, Hmong people invested in me. I will stamp a policy to fight against those who attack Hmong people unfairly, that will repay Hmong people who have helped me. If I am dismissed, I want the next mayor to do the same. When you are in power, you have to stand up and help. If not, you will be responsible for this. So please ponder carefully if you are going to help or not. I believe and I have a strange goal. If they spoke against Hmong people, I want to immediately step up. I can lose my position, but I cannot let our Hmong dignity be lost. I believe in this way.
YIAYER CHANG	Then, what about the things that people accused you? If you do not teach that person and all Hmong people lecture her, as a lawyer, do you think that it is right? All Hmong people may protest, but it is not your will. Is it appropriate to do so? Or

	do you allow it? You know if they do, a petty matter will escalate into a bigger one. What do you suggest for Hmong people to do?
STEVE LY	As for me, I made it simple. This country has one law, and that is the United States Constitution. It guarantees our rights, freedom of speech. Whosoever is making unfair accuse against another person, just let him do it. Think about the Black, they are speaking freely. But whatsoever we have to be careful, because if one day we did not care about the manner, our children may be unemployed. Whoever said that Hmong people are bad, just let them say it. If I am in office right now, I will stamp the seal to enforce legal action. The more you accused someone, the more people will support him. If you want Hmong people to become infamous, this will be up to you. For me, if you are speaking bad things about Hmong people, I will do anything with all of my wisdom to defend my people. If we do not help our brethren, who are we going to help then? How long do we have to wait before helping others? This is not appropriate.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! These are words from our Hmong politician. The truth is according to what STEVE LY has said. We have laws to abide by. If there is someone insulting your Hmong people, you are also one of the Hmong. We have to help and defend one another. If you only wait for others to help, nobody will know about us, Hmong people. Look at those Black protestors who are protecting their own people, that's why they are protesting along the roads. If we, Hmong people, live in silence, it seems like we possess no power. Is it like that, STEVE?
STEVE LY	Yes!
YIAYER CHANG	Ok then!
STEVE LY	We have lived in this country for a very long time, so we must help one another to stand up.
YIAYER CHANG	Because you know the laws, then we need to depend on your power. There are laws to follow in this country. Whether the accusing person is right or wrong, there is a law concerning this matter. At last, do you have something else to insert? Something that we did not ask? So that our brethren may understand completely. Do you have something else?
STEVE LY	The most important thing is for you to understand this is how politics is. I am still STEVE LY, the one that you have known and supported. I am working like before. I hope that you will forward this message to others. Please do not be surprised that there are bad people in the politics. But what is important is I want you to help one another, no matter how far or close you are, so that we will be victorious. Please always remember that I am not alone, there are three other Hmong people who are working in our city. Don't forget to send your encouragement to us. Plug a flag in

	front of your house, and we will be victorious. Thank you everybody as well as YIAYER!
YIAYER CHANG	But before we are ending, there are three Hmong people at your side. Could you tell us what are they running for?
STEVE LY	Oh! Yes, sure. KEOXONG is running for the school board. ALIMUA is running for the City Council. He is very brave! His goal is to help the people to become prosperous. They are both representatives for Hmong.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! We have been talking this. What do you have to say to our Hmong brethren? And what do you want from us?
STEVE LY	What I want is a support from you. Our office is now open for face masks and bags to be distributed at houses. I would like to express my thank to you all. If you want to donate 1-2 USD in our campaigns, please don't forget to visit my website page at mayorstevely.com . There is a link to donate there.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! When will the budget for your campaign start? And when will it end?
STEVE LY	It has started recently and will go on until November 3.
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! Thank you very much! My brethren, you have heard the words from Steve. No matter what you heard from other people, please don't believe too quickly. You have to ponder on every part of the story. If you heard only one side of the story, you should not compare both sides. That's why we invited STEVE LY to speak today, so all of us would be able to hear the truth from him. So before you are going to judge if he is a good person or bad person, please consider both sides of the story. Thank you again, STEVE! I know that you have been working hard in your city, bringing many changes to your community, whether in businesses or in other aspects. I think that everybody will continuously support you for sure, because you are a Hmong. Thank you!
STEVE LY	Ok! Thank you!
YIAYER CHANG	Ok! Good bye everybody!