



OCA Chicago - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 15, 2021

Contact Name: Mabel Menard, President  
Organization: OCA Greater Chicago  
Phone Number: (312) 625-1715  
Email: [info@ocachicago.org](mailto:info@ocachicago.org)

**OCA Statement**  
**Re Dennis Zheng Murder**

OCA Greater Chicago is appalled and outraged at the murder of Dennis Zheng, a University of Chicago graduate, who was shot and killed during a robbery in Hyde Park. The 18-year-old suspect charged in the murder robbed Zheng of his phone and sold it for \$100. We are dismayed by the increase in violence in our neighborhoods. According to the Sun Times, “there have been at least 698 homicides this year compared to 680 this time last year. At this point in 2019, the city had seen just 442 homicides. At least 3,909 people have been shot this year, an increase of almost 9% compared to the same point in 2020 and 69% compared to 2019.” It should not take the murder of an international student in the relative safety of Hyde Park to bring attention to the continuing violence in Chicago. We ask the Mayor’s office and the Chicago Department of Public Health to declare the increase in violence in Chicago a public health crisis and implement programs for education, prevention, and intervention.

*The mission of OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates is to advance the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. The **Greater Chicago Chapter** focuses on professional and leadership development and is dedicated to promoting the economic, professional, and social well-being of AAPIs in the Greater Chicago area. Our homepage is <http://www.ocachicago.org>*

---

OCA IS A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNITY ADVOCATES HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON D.C. DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

OCA Greater Chicago Chapter, P.O. Box 365, Chicago, IL 60690-0365  
(312) 625-1715  
[www.ocachicago.org](http://www.ocachicago.org)