

Vaming Xiong
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November 1, 2017

RE: Letter of Reference for Yang Xiong

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Yang Xiong all his life both personally and professionally as his brother.

While we were living in Chico, CA in 2003 - 2004, I had the privilege of supervising him in my role as board president of the Chico Hmong Advisory Council. He was our project director and lead community organizer who successfully secured a grant for our organization to engage the Hmong community in organizing and advocacy work to gain access to public services and narrow the gap between the police and the Hmong community. He did an excellent job at it which resulted with the hiring of a Hmong speaking staff at the local public housing authority. He was also able to provide a Hmong cultural competency training to the Chico Police Department.

Yang continued to be instructmental in supporting me as we continued our community organizing efforts in Sacramento, CA during the time when the late Hmong leader General Vang Pao was accused of plotting to overthrow the country of Laos from 2007 - 2009. I was the president and lead organizer of the Hmong American Ad-hoc Committee of Sacramento, but Yang worked in the background filling many roles as my press release and speech writer, personal advisor, moral supporter and others. Working with Yang and many others, we mobilized thousands of Hmong community members, like never before, both young and old to show up at the courthouse whenever General Vang Pao and his fellow defendants were in court which eventually influenced the court to dismiss the case.

Not only is Yang an effective community organizer, manager, and leader, but his end-user IT skills are also admirable and would be very beneficial to any organization. Yang has the ability to quickly and easily learn how to use various software products and troubleshoot to resolve computer issues. In our family, Yang is our IT person who is able to connect all of us via video conference, group phone conference, and via other technologies that even though we all live far from each other, we can still easily be in touch.

Overall, I highly recommend Yang as a well-rounded community organizer, manager, and leader who will be an invaluable asset to your organization.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Vaming Xiong', with a stylized, flowing script.

Vaming Xiong, Former President
Chico Hmong Advisory Council
Hmong American Ad-hoc Committee of Sacramento