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OFFICE OF NEW YORK STATE SENATOR STEVE CHAN

17th Senate District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 24th, 2026

Senator Steve Chan Statement on the Killing of Jin Yu in Chinatown

BROOKLYN, NY – The Office of State Senator Steve Chan is responding to the death of 62-year-old Jin Yu, who was killed inside her home on Catherine Street in Manhattan's Chinatown on November 20. The man charged in her death had been arrested 38 times, reportedly missed at least a dozen court dates and had multiple open cases. He was released twice in the week before the attack. On November 13, a judge released him on charges that included attempted arson and drug possession. On November 19, another judge turned down prosecutors' request for bail and released him on theft charges. The next day, police say, he attacked Ms. Yu in her apartment.

"He was given chance after chance. Jin Yu will never have a second chance at life," said Senator Chan. "She was 62 years old and was attacked in her own home, the one place she should have been safe. Her family and loved ones are now grieving a loss that never should have happened."

"This tragedy was avoidable," Senator Chan continued. "For years, Senate Republicans have put forward measures to let judges weigh the danger a defendant poses and to keep repeat offenders off the street while their cases move forward. For years, Democrats in Albany have refused to pass them. The warning signs in this case were all there. What was missing was a law that required the court to take them seriously."

The case echoes the killing of Christina Yuna Lee, a 35-year-old creative producer who was followed from the street into her Chinatown building in February 2022, up six flights of stairs, and stabbed to death inside her apartment on Chrystie Street. The man charged with her murder had three open criminal cases at the time. Weeks earlier, he had been released on non-monetary conditions despite an outstanding arrest warrant.

"For Asian American New Yorkers, this is painfully familiar," said Senator Chan. "Four years ago, it was Christina Yuna Lee. Today it is Jin Yu. Our families, and especially our elders, have

been told again and again that the system is working as designed, and they have learned to look over their shoulders anyway. They deserve to feel safe in their own homes, and right now the law is failing them."

Senator Chan's office stands ready to help Ms. Yu's family access victim services and support, in their own language. The family or anyone assisting them may contact the district office at 718-333-0311.

"My thoughts are also with the 66-year-old man injured in the same attack," said Senator Chan, "and with Chinese-American families across New York who are grieving alongside them."

Senator Chan emphasized that keeping communities safe requires a shared commitment: “This is not just about the police or elected officials. Safety is a partnership. When the community and law enforcement work together, we are stronger, smarter, and safer.”

For more information on the Safety First Initiative or to get involved in upcoming events, please contact the Office of Senator Chan.

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