

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

July 27, 2016

The Honorable Leung Chun-Ying
Office of the Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Tamar, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Dear Chief Executive Leung:

I write to express concern over the course of events regarding New Tang Dynasty Television's (NTD-TV) agreement with Heung Yee Kuk Building Management. The original agreement between both entities would have allowed the television station to host the 2016 Preliminary International Chinese Classical Dance Competition on July 30th, 2016. This agreement was canceled on June 1, 2016—prompting an unexpected event date change for August 1st, 2016 and placing a burden on event logistics.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) cites "election purposes" as its justification for the agreement's cancellation and later rescheduling despite NTD-TV's previous full payment. While I understand that the Hong Kong government requested mandatory recovery of the venue, it is important to note that such moves can easily become a significant burden for spectators, local businesses and tourists alike.

It is also my understanding that certain groups in Hong Kong are stepping up their efforts to protest and disrupt the upcoming rescheduled event. Some reports suggest that these groups have used harassing tactics and offensive crude language aimed at event attendees. From a third party standpoint, the cancellation of the original event date and general track record of recent events could, arguably, suggest that NTD-TV and its hosted performances may be targeted and constrained for political or ideological reasons.

Bearing in mind the previous issues, it is imperative that any activities and behavior from both protestors and the Administrative Region alike impose no significant hardship on attendees or local businesses. Further complications and perceived hardship may impact future traveler, consumer and business confidence throughout the HKSAR. While the right to protest peacefully must be guaranteed, so too must the right for attendees to enjoy the rescheduled spectacle free from provocative harassment and other disturbances. I trust that you and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's government will continue to work proactively to achieve this goal and find the appropriate balance so that all groups, regardless of political or ideological beliefs, may express themselves equally and fairly.

In addition, I would appreciate your collaboration in ensuring that all appropriate elements for the upcoming dance competition remain unaltered. Such work would not only affirm your commitment to cultural expression, but also serve as a testament of you and the Administrative Region Government's willingness to support diverse programming for the people of the HKSAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nydia M. Velázquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nydia" being more prominent and the last name "Velázquez" following in a similar style.

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress