

March 10, 2020

Scarsdale Village Board Meeting

Thanks to the mayor and the board trustees, for having a special meeting this afternoon to provide information to all Scarsdale residents on how to well prepare for the corona virus outbreak. I was looking forward to getting more professional advices from the doctor who would give a speech. It shocked me that he started his presentation with many rumors. One of the rumors he used was that the Chinese eat bats, which is simply not true! I have printed an article from BBC out to show you where the rumor was from. This article was published by BBC on January 28th. It revealed the resources of some rumors wildly spread on the internet, one of them was “some people blaming Chinese eating habits”. BBC found out the picture of eating bats was a popular blogger and travel show host who shot the picture during her trip to Palau, an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. Interestingly, we discovered last night that the picture of people selling bats in the market that the doctor used for his presentation was from ” Bat for sale at Indonesia’s wildlife market despite virus warning – France 24 (<https://www.france24.com/en/20200212-bat-for-sale-at-indonesia-s-wildlife-market-despite-virus-warning?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0>) This is a very irresponsible behavior as a public speaker talking about the serious public health crisis. He was supposed to be in Scarsdale to provide his professional knowledge to help us to prepare well for the coronavirus outbreak. He should not be here to spread the rumors and misinformation to mislead the public. He has lost his credibility to provide reliable information. His talk is unprofessional, insulting, harmful, and it’s not acceptable completely.

I accepted the apology from the mayor, but the damage was done. What our Chinese community have worried the most is the consequence. What would our children have to deal with when they come back to school? What could happen when the kids talk about what they heard from their parent’s discussions on the talk today? or how they will react to the doctor’s opinions broadcasted? I sincerely hope that the mayor and the board trustees will do something to repair the damages.

I personally don’t think this is a racial issue. This is about what is right or wrong. What the truce is? It’s about the compassion and sympathy for the people in the pain. This is about the justice. It’s about the American values all of us always stand by.

Thank you,

Han Zhou