

DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Meeting Minutes - 9/25/2013

1. Welcome & Introductions

Commissioners updated on what they did over the summer.

Director Koo suggested that the Commissioners should send updates to OAPIA, so that they can be featured in the OAPIA newsletter (e.g. Nicholas' work organizing VietFest in Alexandria).

2. OAPIA Updates

The main focus has been trying to get funding from other agencies – this past year, OAPIA managed to get funding from DHCD and DSLBD for work. This funding will add to the expendable budget, allow for the hiring of more FTEs, and allow OAPIA to put more money into grants. The plan for next year is to collaborate with a) HBX to pay OAPIA \$95K to engage the AAPI community and register them into DC Health Link, as well as b) DCRA to do outreach on K2, vendors, and general outreach; and c) 2nd round of MOU to get \$60K as well as d) renew DSLBD MOU.

The OAPIA staff was very successful in organizing for the March on Washington. Mayor Gray noticed AAPI visibility.

3. Committee Structure Updates

The topic of committee structures came up when the size of the Commission expanded. Two issues that needed to be addressed last year: 1) “Small businesses” and 2) “Safety” (related to MPD's Asian Liaison Unit, but beyond this as well – might also include the issue of educating AAPI community members about resources for safety). The Commission discussed adding “Outreach” as a topic to address as well. A few issues that OAPIA has noticed: a) “Emergency Preparedness” (coming up with recommendations that DC can put into place, perhaps based on other jurisdictions. Will need to partner with Comcast, etc. and/or recruit a volunteer base to put phone tree into place.), and b) “Vietnamese community outreach and engagement” (need to organize a community volunteer network to address this gap – issues of gang violence, inability to pay for after school activities).

The solution is the formation of three committees:

- “Small business” - building on work in Wards 7 and 8 after Councilmember Marion Barry's comments, investigations of small businesses (by DCRA, DOH, etc. to make sure that they are up to code or not breaking regulations) – agencies need to make sure there is a protocol in place so that agencies are linguistically and culturally competent in their visits.
- “Safety” - which includes “Emergency Preparedness”
- “Outreach” - focus on the Vietnamese community as well as youth engagement (focus on sensitivity and provision of special education services through DC public schools, gang violence prevention, college/career readiness, etc.)

4. Announcements

1) New Outreach Coordinator has been appointed for MPD Special Liaison Division, Yun Fei Kay Gibb. Plan to invite them to next meeting; 2) Curtis Chin has a happy hour at 6 PM on Tuesday, 10/1 at Asia Nine to promote his new documentary called “Tested.”