

Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development Meeting
June 24, 2009

Present: David Chung, Tejpal Chawla, Richard Chiang, Martha Watanabe
Staff: Soohyun Koo, Neel Saxena

Minutes were approved from the past meeting. Decision was made to rotate the job of secretary for each meeting going alphabetically. Draft minutes will be sent to David Chung, Chair and staff (Julie and Neel) for any corrections/additions. That draft will then be sent to the Commission for final approval of the minutes. For the next meeting Commissioner Chawla will serve as secretary.

Attendance Policy: According to our bylaws, Commissioners cannot miss three consecutive meetings to retain membership. From this meeting on, this rule will be enforced. Chairperson Chung will notify those that have missed three consecutive meetings in 2009. Commissioners will be allowed to participate by conference call for two meetings per year. It is a Commissioner's responsibility to notify staff whether they will attend the meeting or not. If a Commissioner wishes to participate via teleconference, they will be responsible for notifying staff at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Recap of Washington Liquor Retailers Association Meeting: Chairperson Chung reported on this meeting and has asked the association to come up with their three top areas of concern for the Commission to discuss at a future meeting. After Chung receives the feedback from the Association, it was decided that the Commission would consider facilitating a meeting with the Association and the DC Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the Merchant Survey Questionnaire. An additional survey might be useful to help focus specifically on safety concerns for the merchants. This summer, one of the interns in the office will help to compile a list of Asian owned businesses in the District utilizing information gathered by several of the DC government agencies like DCRA, ABRA, OTR, etc. Director Koo said that once a year, they go out to visit all of the Asian owned businesses in the District as part of their outreach effort. It was suggested that maybe they give out magnets or something with the name and phone number of the office. These magnet, listing the Office's contact information, will be mailed out to merchants. The goal is to have merchants call the Office when they are in need of help and for an Office staff member to complete an incident report.

Commission sub-committees: At the last meeting, staff was asked to compile a list of the issues they deal with most in the office. Sub-committees could be formed around these issues or other issues that arise or are of interest to a particular Commissioner.

List compiled by staff:

- a. Lengthy/difficult licensing process for business owners
- b. Loopholes in street vending regulations
- c. Victims of crime
- d. Business owners dealing with construction issues in front of their businesses
- e. Lack of affordable housing

f. Language access

Commissioners also came up with a few more issues and ideas for Committees:

e. Judicial appointments

f. Census

g. Environment

h. Safety

i. Education

j. Employment

k. Health and Human Services

l. Housing

It was decided that an email would go out to Commissioners soliciting their input and to ask their area of interest(s). The thought is to try to make the Commission relevant to all Commissioners and for Commissioners to take an active part in an issue area.

Director's Report was distributed by Julie.

Endorsements letter(s) of Superior Court Judge(s) - this discussion was tabled for a future meeting. The Commission decided to wait Judge Laura Cordero's request for an endorsement letter as the Commission wishes to meet other applicants.

Happy Hour - Over 150 people attended the APIA Happy Hour which was co-hosted by the Commission at the K Street Lounge on June 17. The next Happy Hour is scheduled for Friday, July 17. It was suggested that future sign-in sheets a box be added to solicit volunteers for future events.

There will be no Commission meeting in July.

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 26.