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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

April 9, 2014

Dear Community Members:

Last week I submitted my Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan to the DC Council. It reflects that my administration is committed to continuing improvements in public education, making additional investments in affordable housing, encouraging economic and workforce development opportunities, and improving the quality of life for all.

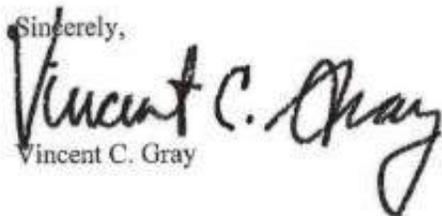
For example, I am proposing major investments in public education, with \$112 million in additional investment for DC Public Schools and our public charter schools; continuing a focus on early childhood education by investing an additional \$4.2 million for infant and toddler programs; and allocating \$409 million for ongoing citywide school modernization.

In addition to my administration's current historic \$187 million investment in affordable housing, I am proposing an additional \$100 million investment, including \$8.5 million in property-tax relief for seniors, and a \$4.7 million commitment to end homelessness for veterans in the District by 2015.

My plan also builds on our success in encouraging economic and workforce development in several ways, including a \$4.2 million investment for adult job training, and \$2.5 million for workforce development programs at the Community College of the District of Columbia.

Lastly, my plan includes items that improve the quality of life for all District residents, including those on the East End of the District, by proposing \$2 million in increased funding for Senior Wellness Centers; \$3 million for improved transportation services; increasing TANF benefits over the next four fiscal years; and allocating \$114 million for sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Overall, my budget's historic investment in improving public education, its commitment to boosting health outcomes for all District residents, and its additional investments in affordable housing and health care helps ensure the District is on its way to becoming the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city over the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Attends DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Needs Assessment Hearing



On March 27, 2014, OAPIA attended a DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) public hearing to discuss "Housing and Community Development Needs in the District of Columbia" at the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Building. OAPIA helped transport residents to the hearing. Residents were given a chance to present their testimonies on the issues of affordable housing, special needs housing, homelessness, homeownership, and community development and public service activities. The hearing helped DHCD form a basis for developing a draft of the District's "Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Action Plan" and the spending priorities utilizing federal entitlement funds.

OAPIA Available to Assist Vietnamese Speaking Individuals On-site at the Department of Human Services

Available Every Wednesday at the Taylor Street Service Center



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - In response to the needs from the community, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) entered a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to hire a new bilingual community outreach specialist to provide direct human services to limited English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) Vietnamese American residents in the District.

"In addition to our efforts to assist the Vietnamese American community in the areas of mentoring and academic services, we are now able to provide needed in-person, in-language, direct human services at a location that is accessible to the Vietnamese American community," said OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA and MPD Announce Continued Success of AAPI Bilingual Recruiting Initiative

Over 32 AAPI Officer Recruits have been Hired during the Gray Administration



Asian American and Pacific Islander MPD officers.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) continue to promote public awareness within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community on law enforcement career opportunities. AAPI community members are informed through the use of an ethnic media campaign, social media, and a university outreach campaign to consider a career in law enforcement with MPD.

Through joint efforts, MPD hired 23 self-identified AAPI officer recruits, or nearly 8% of all total hires, in 2013, more than double the number of self-identified AAPI recruits the year before. Currently, MPD has a total of 4,006 sworn police officers, 111 of which are self-identified AAPI officers. Of those 111 officers, 36 are certified as being bilingual in an AAPI language.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Intern

Hange "Hera" Liao was born in China, and later moved to Italy for high school before coming to the United States. She is currently a junior pursuing a degree in business economics at the University of California, Los Angeles. Having lived in several countries, Hera has been exposed to various cultures, and such exposure gives her an opportunity to interact seamlessly with various communities.

Hera is actively engaged in various programs that promote understanding among cultures. She worked as a program coordinator for the UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars, where she organized events and



Hange "Hera" Liao

workshops to foster interaction between domestic and international students. She also utilized her Chinese language skills to help Chinese students and scholars adapt to new environments. As an OAPIA intern, Hera is excited to serve the District's AAPI community.

Spotlight: Many Languages One Voice (MLOV)



many languages
one voice

Many Languages One Voice (MLOV) is an organization that strives to foster leadership and increase participation from limited English proficient members of the DC community. As a member of the DC Language Access Coalition, MLOV advocates that residents of DC should not be limited to public services due to their limited English proficiency. MLOV also provides education, housing, legal, and health services to limited- and non-English proficient members of DC.

MLOV also strives to build community power and civic participation through their Education Justice Program. Through this program, MLOV strives to reduce education disparities experienced by English Language Learner students and their families. Working with Student Multiethnic Action Research Team (SMART), MLOV also creates evidence-based solutions to propose to DC Public Schools to increase the number of English Language Learner students that graduate on time with a higher quality of education.

In commemoration of the passage of the Language Access Act in the District of Columbia, MLOV will be hosting a [special anniversary fundraiser](#) on April 17, 2014.

For more information on [MLOV](#), please visit [here](#).

April is Language Access Month



April, known as Language Access Month, reflects on the DC Language Access Act of 2004 and the role of language access within the District of Columbia. Prior to the legislation's enactment, DC residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) or non-English proficiency (NEP) were at a disadvantage when it came to accessing District government programs and services. Ten years later, residents are able to receive the appropriate language accommodations that help reduce language and cultural barriers when accessing District resources.

The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) provides District agencies with technical assistance and guidance on providing language assistance to LEP and NEP Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) constituents. OAPIA also monitors the performance of these agencies in providing language access.

This year, OAPIA will be organizing a series of programs and events centered around the [10th year anniversary of the passage of the Language Access Act](#). OAPIA will explore the Language Access Act's effects on AAPIs in the District. The role OAPIA has played in the implementation of the Language Access Act will also be highlighted.

In addition, the Office of Human Rights (OHR) will be observing the 10th anniversary of the Language Access Act through [the Road to a Global DC: 10 Years of Language Access & Immigrant Inclusion](#).

For more information on Language Access Month, the 10th anniversary of the Language Access Act, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [OAPIA: Language Access Month](#)
- [OAPIA: 10th Anniversary of the Language Access Act](#)
- [DC Office of Human Rights](#)
- [DC Office of Human Rights: The Road to a Global DC: 10 Years of Language Access & Immigrant Inclusion](#)

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