

## Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development

March 17, 2010

Commissioners in attendance: David Chung, Chair, Richard Chiang, Matt Finucane, Dhavel Patel, Martha Watanabe

Staff in attendance: Julie Koo, Executive Director, Mable Kong

Guests: Sgt. Kenny Temsupasiri, Officer Rodney Miller

**MPD-ALU presentation:** Sgt. Temsupasiri and Officer Miller talked about the work of the Metropolitan Police Department's Asian Liaison Unit (ALU). The ALU currently has one sergeant and 5 officers assigned to the unit, who are certified in Korean, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Thai. There are also 5 other officers who are affiliated with the ALU. These officers received training at the Police Academy and then spend 30 days on-site with the ALU.

MPD has a Special Liaison Unit which is comprised of the Asian Liaison Unit (1 sergeant and 5 officers); Gay, Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgender Unit (4 officers); Hearing Impaired Unit (2 officers) and Latino Liaison Unit (1 sergeant, 1 detective and 8 or 9 officers). This unit reports to Edward Delgado who then reports directly to Assistant Police Chief Groomes. The personnel from these units are not assigned to any specific police district which allows for greater flexibility to assist and respond to calls.

The ALU provides community outreach to businesses as well as individual residents through workshops and foot patrol. The ALU works closely with OAPIA in these outreach efforts. Part of their outreach has also been to help the community understand the criminal justice system process; youth gang prevention workshops, home visits and on-going community walk-throughs. Sergeant Kenny said that he reviews daily the calls that have come in and may assign officers to do follow up on certain investigations.

Another topic raised was the ALU office in Chinatown. Sergeant Kenny explained that it is an office not a sub-station and the office is not staff on a full-time basis because the officers are out in the field. It was suggested that a sign be posted in various languages giving people instructions and phones on what to do or where to call if trying to report an incident.

### **Commission Meeting:**

Commissioners discussed follow up questions for either Assistant Chief Groomes and/or the ALU: statistics on the number of calls received by the ALU; number of calls that were not responded to; lag time between initial call and a member of ALU being notified; what are the other duties assigned to the members of the ALU, what efforts are being made by MPD to recruit/hire bilingual officers; possibility of establishing a sub-station in Chinatown.

Mayor's Awards for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month program in May: revised letter and nomination for distribution. Discussed ways to do more outreach to promote the awards in the community. Suggestions included a press release, posting on the OAPIA website, on-line application process, distributing/promoting the awards ceremony at community events, calls to community groups encouraging participation and nominations of individual volunteers who are

making a difference for their organization. Deadline for nominations is April 16. Commission will choose awardees on April 21.

Recruitment of new Commissioners: Three names have been submitted for consideration to the Commission. It was decided that new Commissioners should be invited to attend a Commission meeting to give them a chance to ask questions and for Commissioners to ask questions of them.

OAPIA FY 2011 budget hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 2pm at the Wilson Building.

The Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy will have a public meeting on March 31. Zoning and tax incentives for Asian-themed businesses, promotional calendar and promotion of Chinatown in general will be discussed.

Census outreach: Commissioners are being asked to help do Census outreach by helping to distribute information at Metro stations over the next few weekends. The stations identified were Foggy Bottom, Tenleytown, Dupont Circle and Woodley Park. JACL is planning activities for a Census Day and Commissioners will be encouraged to participate. A Census PSA is being developed in multiple languages by DC government. The staff has been continuing its efforts to provide workshops and technical assistance in the community.

DCRA Vending Legislation: A meeting was held between DCRA and Asian roadway vendors to discuss pending legislation on a new system for procuring roadway vending licenses.

Soohyun Julie Koo made a detailed report on office activities such as the upcoming CCDS project and Roadway vendor legislation meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 21. Main agenda item will be to review and select nominees for the Mayor's award(s).