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## OAPIA Update

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

**Dear AAPI Community Members,**

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs is working hard to make sure that you are up to date on all the things going on in our office. To help keep you up to date, we have created this newsletter to give brief updates on things happening in our office and in District Government.

Join us in creating a better AAPI community in the District!

Warm Regards,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



**D.C. Full Democracy Freedom Rally and March**



On October 15, 2011, OAPIA joined Mayor Vincent C. Gray, elected officials, renowned performing artists and national civil rights activists in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by demanding full democracy for the District of Columbia at the D.C. Full Democracy Freedom Rally and March held at Freedom Plaza.

An estimated 1,000 individuals participated in the event, including members from the AAPI community, where OAPIA Commissioners, former OAPIA interns, current OAPIA interns, OAPIA staff, and seniors from the Asian Service Center voiced their support for the Mayor's call for DC statehood. AAPI performers included a spoken word artist and the Wong People Kung Fu Association Dancers. OAPIA and supporters marched in the rally that stretched from Freedom Plaza to the grassy steps of the Washington Monument.

[Photos from the event can be viewed on our Facebook page here.](#)

## AAPI Community Grantee Orientation



OAPIA hosted the 1st Grantee Orientation for the FY2012 Asian American Pacific Islander Community Grant on October 18, 2011. The orientation provided grantees with information related to post-award management. The DC Office of Disability Rights also made a presentation on grantees' responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information about the orientation, please contact Neel Saxena at [neel.saxena@dc.gov](mailto:neel.saxena@dc.gov)

## **Mayor Gray Signs Executive Order Regarding Immigration Status**

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of the Mayor  
Office of Communications



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, October 19, 2011

**CONTACT:** Linda Wharton Boyd 202.727.5011; [linda.wharton-boyd@dc.gov](mailto:linda.wharton-boyd@dc.gov)  
Doxie McCoy 202.727.9691; [doxie.mccoy@dc.gov](mailto:doxie.mccoy@dc.gov)

### **MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY SIGNS ORDER PROTECTING RESIDENTS FROM UNNECESSARY INQUIRIES INTO IMMIGRATION STATUS**

*Executive Action Clarifies that District Public-Safety Authorities Will Not Detain Individuals  
Because of Immigration Status*

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – Mayor Vincent C. Gray signed an executive order today clarifying that the District’s public-safety officials will not inquire into the immigration status of individuals or transmit information about immigration status to federal agencies except when that status pertains directly to a criminal investigation.

*“This executive order ensures public safety by ensuring that our police resources are deployed wisely and our immigrant communities feel safe cooperating with those who are sworn to protect them,”* Mayor Gray said. *“The District is home to thousands of immigrants. If they are afraid to cooperate with authorities on criminal investigations because they fear it might endanger their presence in the United States or the presence of a loved one, then it endangers their public safety and that of our entire city.”*

The order directs District public-safety officials not to detain individuals on the basis of immigration status. It also bars District agencies from making incarcerated youth and adults under their supervision available for federal immigration interviews without a court order.

###

**Follow Mayor Gray on Twitter and Facebook!**

Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/MayorVinceGray> and Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DCGov>

On October 19, 2011, Mayor Vincent C. Gray signed an order protecting residents from unnecessary inquiries into immigration status. The executive action clarifies that District public-safety authorities will not detain individuals because of immigration status. OAPIA Executive Director Julie Koo was in attendance to witness the signing of Mayor Gray's executive order.



### **OAPIA Welcomes Fall Intern Young Choi**



Young Choi is currently a senior at Georgetown University double majoring in American Studies and Philosophy with a minor in Spanish. She decided to pursue an internship at OAPIA because of her passion for public service and community outreach. As a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity on campus, she has spent the past several years in the District working with its immigrant communities and low-income families through ESL tutoring, food and clothing drives, and after school programs. Furthermore, she hopes that her previous internship experiences back in her hometown of Los Angeles will help OAPIA continue to serve as a liaison between DC government agencies and API residents.

Young is excited to serve a community that has had an invaluable impact on the development and success of the District, and through this internship, she hopes to assist the staff in voicing and responding to any needs of the API community.

### **DC's Immigrant Communities - Many Stories, One Night**

African Resource Center    American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area (ACLU-NC)    American University  
 D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence    D.C. Employment Justice Center (EJC)    D.C. Hunger Solutions    D.C. Voice  
 Olivella Afro-Latino Development Center    Many Languages One Voice    Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care

CentroNia    CitiWide Computer Training Center    Columbia Heights Show Family Support Collaborative    D.C. Area Health Education Center    D.C. LEARNs  
 District of Columbia    Legal Counsel for the Elderly/AARP    Life Skills Center    Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area    The Manuel Zapata  
 Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs    Washington National Cathedral Literacy Program    Washington Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE)

**many stories,  
one night**  
**6 - 9pm  
Thursday  
November 3**  
 Gala Theatre  
 at Tivoli Square  
 3333 14th Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20010  
**\$10 suggested donation**

**Communities in Translation**  
 Robert Winn's film  
 about the impact of the  
 language barrier during  
 emergencies

**The State of  
Language Access in DC**  
 Sneak peek at a  
 community-driven report

**Plus**  
 Free food, child care,  
 interpretation services

Multicultural Community Service (MCS)    Neighbors' Consejo    The Newcomer Community Service Center (NCSC)    S.T.E.P. Up DC    Telling Stories

Asian & Pacific Islander Senior Center    Ayuda    Bread for the City    Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)  
 Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)    Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)    The Legal Aid Society of the  
 Project - Teaching for Change    Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC)    Washington Lawyers'

School of Law - Immigrant Justice Clinic    Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)    Asian American LEAD    Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC)  
 Ethio-American Health Center    Ethiopian Community Center    Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council    La Clínica del Pueblo    Language ETC

Learn about DC's immigrant communities. \$10 suggested donation.

Theme: Many Stories, One Night  
When: Thursday, November 3, 2011 from 6-9pm  
Where: Gala Theatre at Tivoli Square  
3333 14th Street NW

There will be a film screening of Robert Winn's film about the impact of the language barrier during emergencies, a sneak peek at a community-driven report on the state of language access in DC, plus free food, child care, and interpretation services.

For flyers in Chinese, Korean, or Vietnamese, please email: [oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov)  
For more information, or for flyers in non-Asian languages, please contact Erin Burns:  
[erin.mlov@gmail.com](mailto:erin.mlov@gmail.com)

## DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs convened its monthly meeting to discuss issues going on in the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA Office. All commission meetings are open to the public.  
If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact [oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov).

[oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov) | [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



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OAPIA | 441 4th St NW | Suite 721 North | Washington | DC | 20001