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## OAPIA Update

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

**Dear Community Members,**

As the Mayor of the District of Columbia, I take pride in what our city has become and the steps we are taking to ensure that all of our residents have access to quality services as well as have the assurance that they can call the District of Columbia their home. With that said, let me address an issue close to the hearts of the AAPI community.

Many are aware of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) and its "Secure Communities" deportation program. The District is a vibrant city with a diverse population, and I am deeply disappointed about the federal push to implement the program here despite expressed local objections. Some forget or undermine individuals from immigrant populations who contribute to their communities on a daily basis. Contrary to what the "Secure Communities" proposes, it is with the trust of those community members - not through alienating them - that we are able to build a safe community.



The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) together with the Office on Latino Affairs, and Office on African Affairs recently organized a Secure Communities informational workshop with the purpose of educating the community on the newly implemented law and D.C government's position on this issue. Among other information, participants learned about the emergency legislation the Council passed, restricting the impact of the Secure Communities law in DC. Speakers were from DC Metropolitan Police Department, National Day Laborer Organizing Network, National Immigration Project and CAIR Coalition. The workshop drew more than 50 residents.

I commend OAPIA for its work on this issue and with other areas of outreach and advocacy. It is through agency collaboration that we were able to provide a timely response to a broad-reaching law affecting many of our residents. Without cooperation and information sharing we would not be able to achieve this goal. In keeping with the spirit of the important work OAPIA is doing, I want to remind you of my "One City" vision- to ***have a vibrant, sustainable city, where all residents have an opportunity to provide for themselves and their families, where every neighborhood is safe, and where every student goes to a good school, where every tax dollar is spent wisely on a government that works, and where citizens' voices really count.*** I appreciate everyone's collective work and cooperation in helping my administration achieve these goals.

Sincerely,



Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor

## OAPIA New Summer Intern Additions

OAPIA is proud to announce our newest wave of summer 2012 interns.



**Joanne Ly**

Joanne Ly is a rising sophomore at the University of Michigan (U of M) in Ann Arbor, majoring in cellular biology. At a young age, Joanne became interested in visual arts, and thus attended the Visual Art Center, a merit-based, magnet art program at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, Maryland. Initially, she attended U of M's School of Art and Design, before transferring to U of M's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Despite the transfer, Joanne still enjoys painting and drawing in her free time, as well as playing the guitar, playing tennis, and reading.

Joanne is looking forward to working as an intern at OAPIA, and becoming involved with initiatives that will benefit and connect the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Julie Wu is a junior at Emory University in Atlanta, double majoring in international studies and psychology. Born and raised in China until she was 9 years old, Julie is very connected to the Chinese culture, and is fluent in both Mandarin Chinese and English. Originally a psychology student, she became interested in international relations and policy after taking her first political science class. She plans to spend her spring semester abroad in Europe, studying foreign policy and comparative politics. During her free time, Julie enjoys cooking, traveling, and taking pictures.

Julie is very grateful for the opportunity to work in DC this summer as an OCA intern placed at OAPIA. By the conclusion of her internship, she hopes to gain a better understanding of current issues faced by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community as well as insight into the policy-making process.



**Juehao "Julie" Wu**



**David Lee**

David Lee is a high school junior at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Virginia. He is 16 years old and was born in Maryland, but attended elementary school in China. David is involved in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program and student government at his school, and aspires to attend the United States Naval Academy in the future.

He hopes to gain a new perspective on communication and outreach skills at his first ever internship at OAPIA. By interning within a professional work environment at OAPIA, David also feels he will acquire real work experiences and knowledge that cannot be obtained from an instructional setting. In addition, David feels most passionate and adept at serving the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Joohee Kasliwal is a second year international relations major at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). She was born in Mumbai, India, but grew up in Huntington Beach, California. She is quite involved in Student Government at UC Davis and aspires to become a Foreign Service officer. Joohee has also traveled to England for Model UN conferences and is excited to spend next year abroad in Paris at Sciences Po, an international French university specializing in the humanities and social sciences.

Joohee is looking forward to gaining a new perspective on community outreach and enhancing her administrative, communications, and outreach skills while working at OAPIA.



**Joohee Kasliwal**

## Local News: Remembering June Lim, Owner of Grace Deli

June Lim was the owner of Grace Deli at 701 H Street NE for 8 years until she was murdered on Thursday, June 14, 2012 during an apparent robbery that occurred at her store. Lim was 64 years old, and a part of the local community, where she was well loved. Her former customers remember her sharp memory and recalled her giving credit to people when they didn't have sufficient money to pay for their food. Mrs. Lim was always there when community members and store patrons needed her.

The community held a candlelight vigil for her on Friday, June 15, 2012. The Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) is donating \$5000 in the form of reward money for assistance that leads to the capture of the suspect involved in the murder. OAPIA is providing support for the Lim family by ensuring they receive access to the Crime Victim Compensation Program, in addition to other services.

## Spotlight: Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School



Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School, located in Ward 5, aims to spark the fire of lifelong learning by providing a world class education for students in the nation's capital. The first public school in Washington, DC to offer Chinese language immersion, Yu Ying combines language immersion with the inquiry-based curricula of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

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

## DC Mayor's Commission on APIA Community Development

The DC Commission on APIA Community Development usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July, 11 2012 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 721N, Washington, DC 20001.

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).

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