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OAPIA Update

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

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

Dear Community Members:

With the holidays just weeks away, it is important to remember our fellow District residents who have fallen on hard times. While our city has weathered the economic downturn better than most other cities and states, we still have too many families and individuals who need help - including help finding work.

Reducing unemployment is one of my top priorities, and we're making progress. Since taking office, my Administration has created 23,000 jobs. And from a high of 11.2%, we've seen seven straight months of a falling unemployment rate which now stands at 8.7%. Although still too high, it is good to see the trend going in the right direction.

This success can be partially attributed to our One City*One Hire program, launched just a year ago, that asks employers to hire at least one unemployed District resident. As a result, we've placed nearly 5,000 unemployed D.C. residents in jobs. And OAPIA has played a key role in these efforts adding a hundred additional businesses to the list of more than eight hundred One City*One Hire employer partners. OAPIA's continued efforts in reaching out to local business owners and leaders have helped our unemployed residents find jobs.

By forging key partnerships with our small and large businesses and implementing sound economic development projects that are growing our local economy faster than anywhere else in the country, we're seeing real progress. With the "fiscal cliff" on the horizon, my Administration remains fully vigilant to challenges ahead. But we remain committed to and optimistic about building a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable city for all.

This holiday season, I encourage the District's wonderfully diverse communities to come together to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need. I am thankful for the progress we've made and grateful to those working to keep the District moving forward towards an exciting future.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Testifies in Support of PR 19-1002 Regarding the DREAM Act



On November 13, 2012, OAPIA testified in front of Councilmember Phil Mendelson and the Committee on the Judiciary in support of PR 19-1002, "Sense of the Council Encouraging Congress to Enact The DREAM Act Resolution of 2012." According to statistics, six percent of those affected by the DREAM Act come from Asian countries. OAPIA is currently funding a grant project to provide legal support to those who would qualify for the DREAM Act within President Obama's deferred action program, which allows certain young people the opportunity to obtain a status that would allow them to be legally employed. OAPIA supports the Council for taking such an important step and this type of action further demonstrates that all branches of DC government are supportive of immigrant issues.

OAPIA Participates in Dialogue on Domestic Violence in the Pacific Islands

On November 15, 2012, the [Domestic Violence Research Project \(DVRP\)](#) and the [DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(DCCADV\)](#) sponsored an event entitled "Dialogue on Domestic Violence in the Pacific Islands." OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo was on hand to provide opening remarks. The seminar focused on challenges that domestic violence service organizations face and provided an in-depth look into domestic violence in the Pacific Islands. More than 40 people attended the event.

OAPIA Recognizes America Recycles Day



OAPIA intern Reshma is seen recycling at the office in recognition of America Recycles Day, held on November 15, 2012. OAPIA continually makes an effort to recycle. Recycling saves resources and sends less trash to landfills and incinerators. To learn more about recycling efforts in the District, please visit the Department of Public Works' website [here](#).

Spotlight: Veterans Day

By Reshma Dabadi, OAPIA Fall Intern

A Tribute to Veterans

On Monday, November 12th, 2012, DC government and federal offices were closed in observance of Veterans Day. It is a federal holiday observed on November 11th of each year in honor of people who have served in the United States military.

On this day, we reflect upon our veterans' work, praise their bravery, and salute their devotion for protecting our nation and its citizens. Veterans are our nation's heroes as they volunteered to fight for the country to maintain American pride and dignity across the borders. They contributed to the nation in times of need and ensured our safety at the cost of their own lives. Therefore, it is necessary to show our appreciation and acknowledgment to their commitments made to the country. That's the least we can do as American citizens to express our gratitude for the sacrifices and efforts they made to protect us.

In many cities and towns across the United States, parades of surviving veterans and organizations are held on Veterans Day, where people gather to voice their gratitude. A period of silence is observed at 11

am by many people to pay tribute to veterans. There are many others ways to observe Veterans Day such as by participating at flag raising ceremonies and attending activities of the local veterans organizations in the community. The biggest ceremony of Veterans Day is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery with remarks by either the President or military dignitaries.

We would like to thank the many men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. Your unwavering commitment and dedication has what has made our country the strongest country in the world.

DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place November 29, 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.

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