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OAPIA Update

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

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE OAPIA STAFF

OAPIA would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family this holiday season. We hope that your New Year will be a prosperous one!

We look forward to seeing all of you in 2013.



Warm Regards,

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Community Members,

This week I was delighted to announce the launch of the Great Streets grants for four retail corridors. Through the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, these grants benefit businesses and spark economic development along Georgia Avenue NW and the 7th Street NW/North Capitol Street area in Ward 4 and Ward 1 - as well as commercial corridors along Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE in Ward 7 and Pennsylvania Avenue SE in Ward 8.

Strengthening our local economy is a top priority for my Administration and is the key to the District of Columbia's success. Our city is built on the legacy of small businesses and the residences which surround these areas. Through the Great Streets program, we are providing funds that will help recipients enhance their retail space, and therefore, improve their surrounding neighborhoods. This assistance will help our small and local businesses stay competitive,



create jobs for District residents and increase the tax base. This initiative will have a wide-ranging positive impact on small businesses throughout the city, including Asian owned businesses. Great Streets is just one of the initiatives under which OAPIA and other D.C. agencies will work with you to build a vibrant economy in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Mayor Vincent C. Gray

DISTRICT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Gray Wishes District Residents Happy Holidays

(WASHINGTON, DC) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray today released the following message to District residents as they celebrate December's holidays and festivals:

"As we begin Hanukkah and approach Christmas and Kwanzaa, I want to wish a safe, joyous and happy holiday season to all District residents. For those of all faiths as well as those of no particular faith, this season is one of peace, goodwill, and family and community celebrations.

These holidays celebrate values universal to all people and shared across our city. Hanukkah commemorates the triumph of freedom over oppression and light over darkness; Christmas celebrates the advent of a prophet who preached about justice and challenged ruling authorities; and Kwanzaa promotes values like unity, self-determination, community and responsibility.

One of the joys of living in the District of Columbia is the broad diversity of faiths, cultures, ethnic backgrounds and ideological perspectives our residents embody while still sharing core beliefs in democracy, self-determination, civic responsibility and community service. I pray that we will live up to our highest ideals as a city in this season of celebration and charity as well as in the coming year."

Mayor Gray Mourns the Passing of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye *Mayor Praises Late Hawaii Senator's Lengthy Career of Service and His Support for District*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray today expressed his sorrow at the news that U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) had passed away. At the time of his death, Sen. Inouye was the president pro tempore of the Senate, the second-longest-serving U.S. senator in history and the first Japanese American to serve in Congress. He was also a veteran of World War II, in which he earned the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, for serving and being wounded while fighting in Europe.

To view the entire release click [here](#).

OAPIA NEWS

OAPIA Working With Local Business Owners to Promote Great Streets Small Business Capital Improvement Plan



Mayor Vincent C. Gray announces the release of the Small Business Capital Improvement Request For Applications (RFA) on December 10, 2012.



OAPIA with the Downtown DC Business Improvement District at Reservation 72, also known as Chinatown Park.

OAPIA will partner with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (ODMPED) in the new [Great Streets Small Business Capital Improvement Grant Program](#). The purpose of the grant is to support existing small businesses, attract new small businesses, increase the District's tax base and create new jobs for District residents. ODMPED allocated \$1.6M for this round of funding and will be awarding grants up to a maximum of \$85,000 each to successful applicants. OAPIA will be working with local business leaders and owners to promote the program and encourage them to attend the available workshops that will be offered in January.

OAPIA would like business owners in the targeted corridors to be aware of this funding opportunity and receive the necessary assistance to respond to the RFA.

If you have a small business located in one of these corridors and are interested in the program please [visit our website](#) to get more information about the grant application.

- Georgia Avenue, NW
- Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
- Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE
- 7th Street and North Capitol, NW

The grant application deadline is Friday, February 15, 2013, 4PM EST.

OAPIA Adds New Resources to Increase Information Flow to Limited English Speakers

OAPIA has created two in language Facebook pages along with a brand new social media tool ['QQ'](#), a Chinese equivalent to Skype. The new pages will add new tools to reach out to those with limited English speaking capabilities, while 'QQ' will serve as a valuable resource for residents wanting to get up to date information on issues relevant to the community. The in-language Facebook pages are now available in [Korean](#) and [Chinese](#).

If you have a QQ account, you can find OAPIA by searching 'DC Chinese Community.' The group ID number is: **285262874**.

MPD Releases Statement on Asian Liaison Unit



Community members attend an MPD meeting regarding the Asian Liaison Unit at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center.

(Washington, DC) - Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier and members of the community reached an agreement on the night of Wednesday, December 5, 2012 that the Metropolitan Police Department would request an extension to maintain the Asian Liaison Unit's current location at Gallery Place, until another location could be identified.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release in its entirety.

OAPIA EVENTS

OAPIA Wraps Up Annual Toy Drive



Santa entertains children in attendance at the Old Council Chambers.

OAPIA's annual toy drive was held at the Old Council Chambers on Thursday, December 13, 2012. With more than 150 people in attendance, the donation drive was a success. OAPIA wishes to thank the many District employees and families who came out to participate. Every toy donation helped bring happiness to the children in attendance. To view the entire press release, please [click here](#).

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) to see pictures from the event.

NATIONAL NEWS FROM THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

AAPI Community Impact: Finding a Balanced Approach to Reduce the Deficit

"President Obama knows that the best way to keep our economy growing is by ensuring a strong, secure, and thriving middle-class. By the end of the year, the President and Congress must take action to avoid the so-called 'fiscal cliff' and make long-term changes in how much money the federal government takes in and how much it spends. While the President is committed to working with Congress to reduce the budget deficit in a balanced and responsible way, there is no reason to hold the middle-class families hostage while we debate tax cuts for the highest income earners." - *Chris Lu, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary.*

[Click here](#) to learn more about how the middle class tax cuts will impact AAPI families and to read the entire blog.

SPOTLIGHT: DECEMBER IS NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

December is a time to celebrate the closing of a year and welcoming of a new one. This holiday season many of us will be taking to the roads and visiting friends and family. OAPIA would like to encourage you to plan ahead. If you intend on celebrating over drinks, please designate a friend to drive.

Myths vs. Facts about Drinking and Driving ([Source: Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#))

Myth: Coffee can sober up someone who has had too much to drink.

Fact: Only time sobers. It takes about one hour to oxidize each drink.

Myth: Hard liquor is more intoxicating than beer or wine.

Fact: A 12-ounce can of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, a 12-ounce wine cooler contain the same amount of alcohol and the same intoxication potential as 1 1/2 oz. of liquor.

Myth: Someone who has had too much to drink will look intoxicated.

Fact: Someone's physical appearance can be misleading. One drink can impair someone's ability to drive. Judgment is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking and important motor skills are next.

Please exercise your best judgment this holiday season and don't drink and drive. For additional resources, please visit MPD's website: [Drunk Driving Prevention](#).

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 on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 @ 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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