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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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,

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream of racial equality, and while progress has been made throughout the years, the dream of the people of the District of Columbia has yet to be realized – the important right of autonomy, voting representation in Congress and statehood.

Fifty years ago, Dr. King knew that, if African Americans continued to wait patiently for the freedom and equality they were being denied to be given to them, it would never happen. In his “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” Dr. King himself famously summed it up by quoting British statesman William Ewart Gladstone’s timeless line: “Justice delayed is justice denied.”

And justice has indeed been delayed and denied to the District of Columbia for decades. The nation’s capital is home to more than 632,000 people who pay more than \$3.5 billion a year in federal taxes. We send our sons and daughters to fight America’s wars – wars authorized by a Congress in which we have no vote. We can’t even spend our own locally-raised tax dollars or enact our own laws without first getting permission from Congress! Today, the District of Columbia still suffers with the injustice of taxation without representation.

Dr. King himself recognized this fundamental injustice, and he even advocated for self-determination for the District of Columbia. In 1965, he led a march from Shaw to the Lafayette Park in support of democracy for the District. Across from the White House in a speech at the end of that march, he said Congress had been “derelict in their duties and sacred responsibility to make justice and freedom a reality for all citizens in the District of Columbia.”

This past weekend, I led District residents and community members in a rally on DC Statehood and Self-Determination at the DC War Memorial, and joined people from all across the United States in marching to the Lincoln Memorial. Even though we turned out in full force, the struggle is not over. Let us continue to raise our voices and be champions for our rights to ensure that Dr. King’s dream is realized for all who live in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA, DC Public Schools (DCPS), and the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) Host Education and Housing Workshop



Attendees at the workshop listen to a speaker from DCPS.

On August 20, 2013, the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs hosted a workshop on education and housing in collaboration with DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) at the Chinatown Service Center. The two hour workshop had language interpretation for the Mandarin and Cantonese speaking residents who were in attendance. OTA started the workshop by providing a presentation about tenant rights and rental housing matters. DCPS followed with a presentation on early childhood programs, particularly for three and four year olds, and how to register using the lottery system for the Pre-K and early childhood programs. Information on the programs and services provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was distributed in-language to the attendees of the workshop. All three District agencies left information with the Chinatown Service Center who will continue to distribute the information to their clients.

OAPIA Project BUILD (Business University Partnership to Innovate, Link, and Develop) Updates



OAPIA meets with the AYT Institute, a participant of Project BUILD, on August 20, 2013.

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islanders Affairs is nearing the completion of Project BUILD (Business University Partnership to Innovate, Link, and Develop), a pilot program which launched this fiscal year and is designed to help improve existing AAPI small businesses in the District by connecting them with bilingual Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate students for free business consulting services. Additionally, Project BUILD is a joint partnership with the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development and the DC Department of Housing and Community Development. This year, the project had selected nine MBA students and six AAPI owned small businesses to participate in the program.

Among the Project BUILD MBA student participants were Manu Agrawal, Claire Hsieh, and Tang Kulkanchanachewin. The three students worked as a team and developed a customized business plan for the AYT Institute, an auto repair service and training school company, located in Ward 8.

After two months of working closely with the AYT owner and staff, as well as through site visits of various AYT branch locations, the student team came up with a business plan that covered a wide range of topics: cost and benefit analysis of AYT's current business, strategies & recommendations for e-marketing, franchising and licensing. "I am glad I joined this project that OAPIA started. The students were very professional and came up with many solutions and possible options that we have not thought of before. They have put in a lot of time to work on doing the analysis for our business," said Gary Zhu, owner of AYT. Mr. Zhu hopes in the future that Project BUILD can further expand its involvement in the AAPI small business community.

OAPIA Participates in the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington: Rally for DC Statehood and Self-Determination March



OAPIA makes signs for the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington: Rally for DC Statehood and Self-Determination March.



Seniors advocate for DC statehood at the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington: Rally for DC Statehood and Self-Determination March.



Seniors at the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington: Rally for DC Statehood and Self-Determination March.

OAPIA Assists in Promoting the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Vending Regulations Training Symposium



Attendees at a DCRA Vending Regulations Training Symposium on Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) partnered with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to ensure the Vending Regulations Training Symposium was more accessible to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) vending community. DCRA had been hosting training sessions for all DC vendors to explain the new vending regulations that were recently approved by the City Council. The trainings covered topics in the areas of vendor licenses, sidewalk vending, mobile vending, public markets, fees and fines, new vending opportunities, and more.

OAPIA had been actively promoting these sessions to the AAPI vending community by mailing translated announcement flyers to over 200 AAPI vendors and by conducting door to door outreach to register vendors to attend. OAPIA encouraged vendors to participate in the sessions that were held at DCRA.

District News and Announcements

District Government & Partners Launch First-of-Its Kind App and Initiative to Help Victims of Sexual Assault and Dating Violence

Mayor's Office of Victim Services and Men Can Stop Rape Launch ASK DC App



(WASHINGTON, DC) - On August 14, 2013, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Paul Quander and the Mayor's Office of Victim Services (OVS) joined community-service providers, leading experts in sexual-assault prevention, and law-enforcement officials from throughout the DC area to launch a new, District-wide initiative to address sexual assault and dating violence through the use of technology.

The Assault. Services. Knowledge. DC, or ASK DC, initiative features mobile application, website and training components all aimed at providing resources and raising awareness for victims of sexual assault and dating violence. For the first time, the app compiles 33 assault-response resources from all service providers throughout the District in one, easily accessible tool. It provides quick access to immediate medical help and law enforcement, 24-hour support hotlines and online chats, and District-specific community resources. The ASK DC initiative also encompasses a series of training sessions that will provide military personnel, law-enforcement officials, Capitol Hill staffers, deaf and hard-of-hearing residents and other District communities with bystander intervention strategies and sexual-assault-response protocols. The initiative also includes specialized resources for victims of sexual assault and dating violence in the military personnel, LGBTQ, deaf and hard of hearing, and multilingual communities. The resources are available in English, Spanish, French, Amharic, American Sign Language, and 22 different Asian languages.

"One of my overarching goals is to ensure that every District resident feels safe and protected in their community, regardless of where they live, their age, their religion, their ethnic background, their sexual orientation or their gender identity," said Mayor Vincent C. Gray. ***"ASK DC is a way to save lives and provide all of our residents and visitors with quick access to critical resources that can help address - and ultimately reduce - incidents of sexual assault and dating violence."***

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight: The Chinatown Service Center

The Chinatown Service Center, sponsored by the Chinese Community Church, provides social services to Asians in the Metropolitan area. Founded in 1977, it was first located at the Chinese Consolidated

Benevolent Association to reach the Chinatown area population. In 1980 the Center moved to the church premises, both at L Street and Mass Avenue. It moved with the church to its current location in September 2006. It is staffed by bilingual social service professionals, clergy and volunteers and provides a wide-range of counseling, education, and cultural programs primarily for new immigrants, children, and senior citizens.

For more information about the Chinatown Service Center, please visit [here](#).

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month



August is National Immunization Awareness Month! Getting vaccinated is an easy way to stay healthy all year round. During the month of August, take the time to make sure that you and your loved ones have received all of the vaccinations you need. By making sure your vaccinations are up to date, you can help prevent harmful diseases from affecting you and your family.

Getting vaccinated is important for people of all ages. Here's some information about vaccines that people need throughout their lives:

- Parents can protect infants and children from 14 serious childhood diseases by age 2. Learn more about immunizations for infants and children.
- Preteens and teens need vaccines too! Getting adolescents vaccinated will also protect their friends and their family members. Find out about the vaccines preteens and teens need.
- Adults: not sure if your immunization schedule is up-to date? Take this online quiz to see which vaccines you need, and use the Vaccine Finder tool below to find a location near you where you can access vaccines.
- Seniors may need one or more vaccines, even if they received vaccines as a child or as a younger adult. Find more information about vaccines for seniors here.

For more information or resources concerning vaccinations and immunizations, please visit:

- [DC Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [HealthFinder](#)
- [The US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health](#)

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, September 25, 2013 at 6:30 pm in Conference Room 1114 at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street NW, 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.

oapia@dc.gov | 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