

**DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**  
**April Commission Meeting Notes**  
**April 20, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

- **Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting was opened by Chair Ada Loo
- Chair Loo introduced each Commissioner present. In attendance:
  - CAPIA
    - Ada Loo; Martha Watanabe; Surjeet Ahluwalia; K.J. Bagchi; and Nick Lephram. On the phone -- Jed Wulfekotte; Ben Bahk; Ben Takai; and Gregory Cendana
  - MOAPIA
    - David Do; Christina Truong; and Kangeun Jeong
  - Community
    - Ming Lowe – Ward 1 resident.

- **Agenda Items**

- MOAPIA Updates were provided by Director Do.
  - Director Do announced 3 new hires but also shared 2 new job postings
  - Director Do asked for recommendations to the Commission – specifically from Ward 7 and 8 and women – as recommended by MOTA.
  - Getting ready for AAPI Heritage Month
    - Mayor’s AAPI event – May 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Other events – comedy (May 17<sup>th</sup>); food event (May 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - Questions for Director Do
    - Commissioner Cendana asked about the Budget – Director Do responded that there was a 12.5% increase in grant funding. The Mayor has sent her budget to the Council for approval.
- Status on CAPIA Priorities:
  - Cultural Diversity Training
    - Commissioner Watanabe gave background on plan. As she will be leaving the Commission, Commissioner Watanabe will hand over her duties to a Commissioner interested in leading this priority.
    - Commissioner Ahluwalia asked about the MASA issue that occurred at DCPL – Chair Loo will follow-up with Commissioner Pandya for status. Director Do shared that his office will assist in training to the specific DCPL and officer subject to the incident.
  - Affordable Housing Initiative
    - Commissioner Nguyen has resigned and is handing over the initiative to Commissioners Pandya and Law.
  - Museum Square Apts – Chair Loo will follow-up with Commissioner Pandya for status.

- **Next Steps**

- This was the last meeting for Chair Loo and Commissioners Nguyen, Burgess, Lephram, Watanabe, and Shin. Commissioner Watanabe brought cupcakes to commemorate this – Thank you, Commissioner Watanabe.

- Christina Truong who has been the Commission's liaison to MOAPIA is leaving the DC area in May and will be replaced by Kangeun Jeong. The Commission is truly thankful for the support that Christina has provided and most importantly, her public service to the AAPI Community-at-large. Thank you, Christina and best wishes to you on your new adventures!
- **Announcements**
  - Fiesta Asia event in DC – May 21<sup>st</sup> (AALEAD will perform)
  - AAPI Film Festival begins on April 21, 2016
  - APABA-DC will sponsor a re-enactment of Korematsu v. U.S. on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, followed by a reception.
  - APAICS Gala is May 4<sup>th</sup> – if interested in discounted tickets, contact Commissioner Cendana.
  - Director Do will meet with Representative Grace Meng on her bill for a National Museum for Asian Americans.
- **Follow-ups**
  - In terms of the MASA issue -- this statement\* has been issued by Collective Action for Safe Spaces, the Muslim American Women's Policy Forum and MLOV. Please do sign on if you haven't already - several other allied groups have done so. A statement was used as part of a testimony given at the DC Public Library budget oversight hearing last week. As a result, next steps include: a) OHR hosting a meeting on confronting Islamophobia, inviting an Imam from DC's Masjid Mohammed coming up by the end of April, I believe and b) Councilmember Grosso has invited CASS, MAWPF and MLOV to a meeting to discuss better enforcement of sensitivity/cultural competence training required at DCPL. \*Link: <http://www.collectiveactiondc.org/our-work/policy/statements/calling-on-dc-public-library-to-address-islamophobia-and-harassment/>
  - In terms of Museum Sq Apts, there is a follow-up meeting with API tenants at Museum Sq scheduled for 4/28 from 2:30 - 4 PM (looking for more Cantonese and Mandarin speaking volunteers! If you're able, please let me know!) wherein we will talk to tenants about the Administrative complaint that was filed against HUD as a result of our story-collecting session. So the Washington Lawyers Committee proceeded to file an initial complaint on behalf of the Chinese-speaking tenants of Museum Square on March 31, 2016 with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which HUD received for processing on April 4, 2016. As part of its review, HUD asked us to answer a few follow up questions to which we are working to respond with the assistance of Caroline Hennessy and Amal Mimish. MLOV has also separately worked on related language access complaint issues through the OHR process (under the Language Access Act) and investigated additional national origin discrimination claims that appear to be unrelated to language access, where the Committee is focusing its efforts. Ultimately, HCS, the Committee, ONE DC, API Resistance, APALRC and MLOV are working closely with the tenants, and it has been a very fruitful partnership with each group bringing a different strength. We look forward to continuing to represent the tenants' interests and will keep you apprised of major developments arising in the HUD matter. With regards to API Resistance and ONE DC, there is a larger effort to connect the API tenants to the ONE DC People's Platform and issues of displacement/gentrification more broadly as well as plan solidarity actions such as protests, etc. as they are needed.

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