



Government of the District of Columbia
Muriel Bowser, Mayor



Mayor's Office on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs
David Do, Director

MOAPIA's Statement on the Recent Videos that Target Chinese Americans

Washington, DC – The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) is shocked and appalled by the videos that have recently surfaced targeting Asian Americans. Fox News' segment of "Watters' World" that aired on "The O'Reilly Factor" and rapper YG's "Meet the Flockers" music video are just two examples of how the media's portrayal of Chinese Americans – and often, Asian Americans as a whole – can promote negative stereotypes and incite violence against an entire community.

On "Watters' World," the correspondent, Jesse Watters, conducted on-the-street interviews with several Asian Americans about their views on the U.S. presidential election. The segment actually focused little on the Asian American vote. Instead, it perpetuated many stereotypes about the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. "Do you know karate?" and "do they call Chinese food in China just food?" were among some of the interview questions that Watters asked. The segment also included clips of Watters attempting to perform martial arts and receiving pedicure services rendered by an Asian woman.

YG's song and music video, "Meet the Flockers," also perpetuate stereotypes about Chinese Americans, but his lyrics take it one step further by providing step-by-step instructions on how to burglarize an Asian American household. One line reads, "Find a Chinese neighborhood cause they don't believe in bank accounts," which implies that Chinese Americans are the ideal targets for burglaries because their money and valuables are stored inside their homes. This generalization puts the safety of an entire community at risk.

"The District of Columbia is home to a diverse group of AAPIs. My office works tirelessly to ensure that our residents are safe, respected and included in the larger community. The offensive segment aired by Fox News mocks an entire group of people, but yet is deemed by the correspondents as 'gentle fun,'" says David Do, Director of MOAPIA. "Watters interviews several people with limited English proficiency and pokes fun at their lack of a response. The language barrier presents a real issue for many residents and small business owners not only in the District, but across the country. It is certainly not a laughing matter. We do not take the Fox News segment lightly nor do we view YG's lyrics as harmless words. My office is working to improve community safety, and his glorification of violence and crimes against our residents stalls our progress. These recent events show that we have a long way to go when it comes to ensuring that the AAPI community and other underserved communities are heard, respected and treated fairly."

MOAPIA's mission is to improve the quality of life for District Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through advocacy and engagement. MOAPIA advises the Mayor, the Council, and District agencies on the views, needs, and concerns of the AAPI community. MOAPIA provides recommendations on District programs and initiatives affecting the AAPI community, and helps coordinate programs and initiatives within the government that promote the overall welfare of the AAPI community.

