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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:

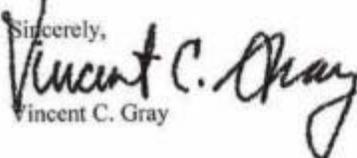
Now that the federal government has reopened, and the District is able to spend its own money, it's still important that I reiterate the points I repeatedly made throughout the 16-day shutdown—that the health, safety, and welfare of 632,000 District residents should never be a bargaining chip in a debate over the federal budget. The District is not a federal agency, and our residents, visitors and businesses should not be forced to endure extreme hardships no other city or state in our nation has to face as a result of partisan standoffs.

While the federal government was operating with only essential employees on the job, I refused to let the District government shutdown and declared all city employees and operations essential. The shutdown has served to highlight the District's unique plight. It is completely unjust that we are the only place in the country where shutdowns of the federal government threaten basic city services and where Medicaid providers, public charter schools, and our regional transit system are faced with significant financial hardship or even ruin because we are prohibited from spending our own money.

The revenue we raise through income and sales taxes and fees supports critical services. Services like reimbursing Medicaid providers who care for people who are poor and disabled, or paying our public charter schools, or collecting our garbage – services that the residents of every other city and state in America take for granted, because they are services that will continue for every other place during a federal shutdown. Fortunately, in the deal that raised the debt ceiling and reopened the federal government, Congress finally recognized the importance of freeing the District's local budget through Fiscal Year 2014, regardless of what happens with the federal budget in the coming months.

Meanwhile, despite the shutdown, DC Health Link, a new online health insurance marketplace that offers affordable health plan options, was up and running. Since October 1st, residents and small businesses have been able to shop and sign up for coverage through our DC Health Link site and use online tools to choose the right insurer and health plan that meets their needs and budget. My Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs also educated community members about the benefits of the Affordable Care Act and how to navigate the new law through DC Health Link.

Moving forward, my administration will continue to work with community partners to ensure that all District of Columbia residents have access to affordable health care; and reinforce that our city must not become collateral damage if the federal government is again forced to shut down. I urge all to join us in our fight for permanent budget autonomy, full democracy, and statehood.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Interviews with Washington Chinese Radio



OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo (right) with Zheng Xie of Washington Chinese Radio.

On October 5, 2013, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo met with Zheng Xie of Washington Chinese Radio to discuss the role and history of OAPIA, as well as OAPIA programs and services.

View the interview [here](#).

OAPIA Attends the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the US (TECRO)'s 102nd National Day Celebration



TECRO's 102nd National Day Celebration

On October 9, 2013, OAPIA Director Koo attended TECRO's 102nd reception to celebrate the National Day of the Republic of China.

OAPIA and the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Hosts the Florida Avenue Market Safety and Business Meeting



OAPIA Director Koo is seen addressing the meeting attendees.



MPD addresses business merchants about crime and safety within the Florida Avenue Market.

OAPIA, in collaboration with MPD, organized a safety and business meeting for Florida Avenue Market merchants on October 10, 2013 inside the market at Maurice Electrical Supply. Twenty-one individuals attended the meeting, with interpretation services provided in Mandarin and Korean.

The meeting was organized in response to a rash of robberies targeting business owners depositing money at banks within and around the Florida Avenue Market. MPD Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, 5th District Commander Andrew Solberg, and the Asian Liaison Unit gave attendees safety information and updates, and implored business owners to consider practices that reduce risks of theft. The MPD officer assigned to patrol the market will also be available to escort business owners making bank deposits.

The DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) was also present to address concerns from merchants regarding motor vehicles not obeying stop signs and one way street signs. The Office of the Clean City provided information regarding the Adopt-A-Block program and urged merchants and businesses to consider adopting their blocks to beautify the environment surrounding their businesses. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) informed participants of new changes to licensing. Lastly, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development presented information on financial incentives for Florida Avenue Market merchants and businesses; incentives which include the Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program, Supermarket Tax Credits, and the DC Tech Incentives.

OAPIA Participates in the 2nd Annual Great SouthEast ShakeOut



OAPIA intern Miriam is following the procedures to "Drop, Cover and Hold On."

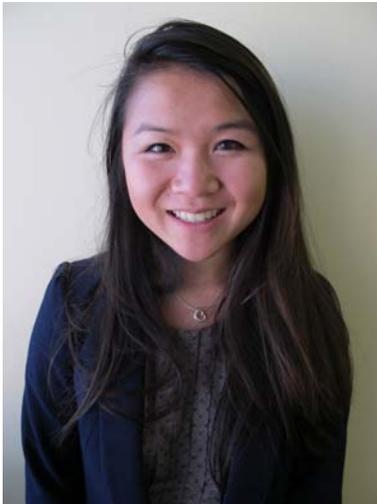


OAPIA intern Jayoung is participating in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut earthquake drill.

On October 17, 2013, OAPIA staff and interns participated in the 2013 Great SouthEast ShakeOut. The Great SouthEast ShakeOut is a regional opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: "Drop, Cover and Hold On." The ShakeOut has also been organized to encourage individuals, communities, schools, or organizations to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure spaces in order to prevent damage and injuries.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Welcomes Additional Fall Intern



Lucy Tan

Lucy Tan is currently a sophomore at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business pursuing a degree in finance and international business with a minor in Chinese. She was born in Chengdu, China, and moved to California when she was six years old. Lucy has moved around quite a bit since then, but has lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland for most of her life. Lucy attended a magnet high school in Maryland that offered a humanities program, allowing her to take numerous language, arts, and history courses. At Georgetown University, Lucy is involved with on-campus clubs and activities such as the Chinese Student Alliance, Women's Club Volleyball, Smart Woman Securities, as well as the East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU).

Spotlight: ASHA for Women (ASHA)



Asha means "hope" in several South Asian languages. For hundreds of women, ASHA for Women means hope through empowerment. ASHA for Women (ASHA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing community-based, culturally competent support to South Asian women living in abusive marriages and homes. One of the first South Asian domestic violence prevention organizations formed in the United States, ASHA has been serving the legal, financial, and emotional needs of South Asian women in the Washington, D.C. metro area for 20 years. Created to circumvent many of the language, cultural, and social barriers that can stop many from seeking help, ASHA has committed itself to preventing abuse victims from falling through the cracks within the domestic violence service system.

ASHA provides the following services: support network of caring women; confidential peer counseling; information about community resources and services; preliminary legal advice and referrals; medical and educational assistance; short-term shelter and temporary housing referrals; and emergency loans for food, legal and educational needs.

For more information about ASHA, please visit [here](#).

October is National Bullying Prevention Month



Every October, schools, organizations, and communities across the country join in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal is to encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages.

Bullying is defined by unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Asian and Pacific Islander educators and policymakers recommend a range of strategies to protect Asian American and Pacific Islander students and empower the school community.

- Provide a diversity consultant or cultural awareness training.
- Make school bullying policies available to students and parents in multiple languages.
- Provide bullying prevention training.
- Use community-building principles and activities to help people from diverse communications communicate effectively.
- Don't assume students recognize their own bullying behaviors.

For more information about bullying prevention, please visit:

- [DC Citywide Youth Bullying Prevention Program](#)
- [Washington D.C. Anti-Bullying Laws & Policies](#)
- [The American Psychological Association Presents "Bullying & Victimization and Asian-American Students"](#)
- [The National Education Association Presents "API Students at Increased Risk for Bullying"](#)

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