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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

July 2, 2014

Dear Community Members:

I am proud to announce that as of yesterday, the minimum wage in the District of Columbia has increased from \$8.25 per hour to \$9.50 per hour for all workers, regardless of the size of the employer. The new law, the Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2013, will help all District workers to earn a decent living by boosting average family income and enforcing an increase in hourly wages by \$1.00 each year through 2016. Restaurant workers could also see an increase in their wages, depending on the amount of their tips. I am confident that with this higher minimum wage, our city will experience an increase in economic growth, as more money in families' pockets will allow our residents to spend more money on goods and services.

Over the next few weeks, all District sites where the affected employees work will be required to post new minimum wage posters provided by the Department of Employment Services (DOES). My Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs will work with DOES to address any questions Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses may have about the law. And I encourage all employers and employees who have questions about the new minimum wage to contact DOES at (202) 671-1880.

Creating jobs for District residents and sparking economic development opportunities across the District remain top priorities for my administration. I believe a higher minimum wage will also be a key factor in improving the economic status of our working families and individuals.

Sincerely,

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

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA and Department of Human Services (DHS) Host Food Stamp Workshop



DHS speaking to workshop attendees.

On June 17, 2014, OAPIA along with the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) organized a workshop on the DHS food stamp program at Gibson Plaza Apartments. The session covered the District's policies on non-discrimination, citizenship/immigration requirements, and general food stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility guidelines. The workshop was open to the general public and attracted 54 residents. Cantonese and Mandarin language interpretation was provided.

OAPIA Hosts Workshop on Limited Purpose Driver License



Workshop attendees listen to DMV Director Babers.

On June 22, 2014, OAPIA along with GABRIELA DC, a DC area Filipino American organization, held a workshop on the Limited Purpose driver license for undocumented residents at the Tenley-Friendship Library. Director Lucinda Babers of the DC Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) conducted a presentation on the procedures and requirements for the Limited Purpose driver license and answered questions from the audience. Representatives from DMV were available on site to sign up individuals for appointments. Over 50 individuals participated in the workshop.

Background: Starting May 1st, the District is issuing the Limited Purpose driver license to undocumented residents. The Limited Purpose driver license cannot be used for entering federal buildings or boarding planes. It is issued for residents who are here without documentation or for those who cannot obtain a social security number. Individuals wishing to get this type of driver license have to make an appointment. The knowledge tests for the license are available in seven languages, including six languages covered by the Language Access Act.

OAPIA Launches the AAPI Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - In partnership with the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA), the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) launched the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign on June 24, 2014.

The AAPI Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign is an educational campaign aimed at increasing Asian American and Pacific Islanders' understanding of their rights as renters in the District. Through this campaign, OAPIA will raise awareness of tenants' rights through various outreach efforts, determine the primary housing concerns of the AAPI community by conducting a housing needs assessment survey, and recommend solutions to limited and non-English proficient AAPI residents on how to resolve various housing issues.

"In our community, we have noticed that tenants, especially those with language barriers, face various challenges in addressing their concerns. Through this partnership, we hope tenants will be better able to receive and utilize the available resources and information in the District that can assist them, whether it's for emergency housing assistance or assistance in communicating with a landlord," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Director of OAPIA.

"Outreach and education about tenants' rights is OTA's first statutory duty. Far too often tenants lose valuable legal rights simply because they are unaware of them, or because they fail to act on them in a timely manner. Educating as many renters as possible about their rights is among our highest priorities. I am thrilled for OTA to partner with OAPIA to help spread the word to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander renters," said Johanna Shreve, Director of OTA.

For more information about the AAPI Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign, please email oapia@dc.gov or visit www.apia.dc.gov.

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

OAPIA Attends 20th Anniversary Celebration of A&C Business News



OAPIA Director Koo making remarks.

On June 30, 2014, OAPIA celebrated the 20th anniversary of A&C Business News, a Chinese newspaper organization. OAPIA Director Koo made remarks congratulating the 20th birthday of the publication. The celebration also featured former Secretary of the Department of Labor Elaine Chao and a fashion show by Rockville based fashion company Hudiefly.

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Summer Intern



Jasmine Gatten is currently a rising sophomore at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. She is pursuing a degree in international business and management and a minor in East Asian Studies with a focus on Japan and South Korea. Jasmine currently plays an active role in her college community. She is the president of the Japanese Aesthetics Club, a club which she started in hopes of further enlightening her peers about Japanese art and culture. Jasmine is also the vice president of the Gastronomy Club, a club which aims to expose students to foods from around the world.

This summer, Jasmine returns to OAPIA as an intern through Mayor Gray's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

Spotlight: The Asian American Journalists Association - DC Chapter (AAJA-DC)



The Asian American Journalist Association (AAJA) is a non-profit organization which promotes education and profession of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the United States. Their goal is to develop AAPI journalists as news managers and media executives through providing services and support to the AAPI community. The organization supports young AAPI students through scholarships and keeps the community aware of news media by giving more clear and accurate information on important issues. AAJA holds many workshops, seminars, conventions, fairs and expos to bring service and arrange information for the public.

AAJA-DC will be hosting the annual [AAJA convention](#) in downtown DC from August 13, 2014 to August 16, 2014. The convention will consist of seminars, sessions, panel workshops that will discuss industry and community issues among the AAPI community, and more.

For more information on [AAJA-DC](#), please visit [here](#).

July is National Park and Recreation Month



Since 1985, the United States has celebrated the month of July as an opportunity to encourage the usage of public athletic facilities as well as participation in outdoor activities.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) serves is to enhance the quality of life and wellness for DC residents and visitors by providing equal access to affordable and quality recreational services by organizing programs, activities and events.

For more information on Park and Recreation Month, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Department of Parks and Recreation](#)
- [National Park Service](#)

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