

DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
October Commission Meeting Notes
October 18, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

- **Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting was opened by Chair John Tinpe
- Chair Tinpe introduced each Commissioner present. In attendance:
 - CAPIA
 - Martha Watanabe; Ben Takai; Ronak Desai; and Meina Banh. On the phone -- Sapna Pandya; Kishan Putta; Gregory Cendana and Jed Wulfekotte
 - MOAPIA
 - David Do and Phuong Nguyen
 - Public
 - Adam, student from American University

- **Agenda Items**

- MOAPIA Updates were provided by Director Do.
 - Director Do announced new staff, Tuyet McDonald, has joined the MOAPIA team as Community Outreach Specialist. The Program Coordinator position remains to be filled. If the Commission knows of any interested candidates, please refer them to the website to apply: <http://mota.applytojob.com/>.
 - Director Do reported progress of current activities including office hours in the community, assisting AAPI small businesses to apply for the Great Streets grants, community walk-through with the Mayor.
 - Upcoming events include:
 - FitDC Park Run 5K with Mayor Bowser on October 22
 - Diwali Reception on November 9
 - Annual Toy Drive (Date TBD)
- **Commissioner Items**
 - Business Items
 - Chair Tinpe announced that Commissioners Ben Bahk and Surjeet Ahluwalia have resigned.
 - Director Do informed the Commission that he is currently working with MOTA to fill the vacant positions.
 - The Commission expressed interest in hosting an evening retreat for the commissioners and MOAPIA staff. Chair Tinpe will resend the Doodle poll to determine the best date/time.
 - Housing
 - On behalf of the Commission, with permission of General Counsel, Chair Tinpe signed with AAJC the petition to the Supreme Court concerning housing. Chair Tinpe congratulated the Commission on this effort.
 - There were no new updates concerning Museum Square.
 - Language Access and Cultural Sensitivity
 - Char Tinpe inquired if commissioners had any changes to the letters to Directors and Head of Agencies requesting to appoint Ex-Officios.
 - The Commission did not express any changes.

- Safety
 - Chair Tinpe attended the Police Citizens Community Building meeting, organized by US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Civil Rights Services, on Wednesday Oct 12 at Shilo Baptist Church at 9th St. Chair will continue to engage through this group organized by USDOJ.
 - Director Do reported that he released a statement last week regarding a recent Fox News segment and YG's song, both of which target Asian Americans and perpetuate negative stereotypes. YG's song incites violence against the AAPI community.
 - Commissioner Pandya reported that there have been several recent incidents of racist and xenophobic discrimination by Metro Transit Police on our buses and trains. Director Do will report these incidents at the upcoming Access for All board meeting.
- Other Announcements
 - Commissioner Wulfekotte announced that APABA-DC is forming a Policy and Advocacy Committee. Applications are due on October 21.
 - Commissioner Takai introduced himself.
 - Commissioner Banh expressed concern regarding Metro's proposal to reduce hours of operation during late night hours. MOAPIA staff will follow up with information about how Commissioners and the general public can provide input regarding the proposal – the deadline is October 25th.
- Next Commission Meeting: November 15 at 6:30 pm
