

DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
September Commission Meeting Notes
September 26, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

- **Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting was opened by Chair John Tinpe
- Chair Tinpe introduced each Commissioner present. In attendance:
 - CAPIA
 - Sapna Pandya; Martha Watanabe; Surjeet Ahluwalia; Karissa Mariko Barnett; Ronak Desai; Kishan Putta and Meina Banh. On the phone -- Ben Bahk; Ben Takai; and Easten Law
 - MOAPIA
 - David Do; Esther Kang; and Phuong Nguyen

- **Agenda Items**

- MOAPIA Updates were provided by Director Do.
 - Director Do introduced Phuong Nguyen as the new Public Information Officer (PIO) and announced that 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/>.
 - MOAPIA just wrapped up the Chinatown Park Start FRESH! Summer series.
 - Director Do has provided grant recommendations and is awaiting approval from EOM. MOAPIA plans to announce grant awards by the end of the fiscal year.
- **Commissioner Items**
 - Business Items
 - Commissioner Tinpe emphasized the importance of attending the monthly in-person meetings. Each commissioner will be permitted to attend up to three meetings by phone. Exceeding this limit will result in a request for resignation.
 - NOTE: Two commissioners expressed Mondays will not work for them. Meetings should be scheduled considering this feedback.
 - Another Doodle poll will be set out to determine the best date/time for CAPIA meetings.
 - The Commission expressed interest in hosting a potluck for the commissioners and MOAPIA staff. A Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the best date/time.
 - Housing
 - Update regarding Museum Square Apartments: D.C. Court of Appeals judges rule that Bush Companies did not offer a bona fide price for the Museum Square Apartments to the building's tenant association in accordance with D.C.'s Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.
 - Commissioner Pandya recommended CAPIA's current sub-committee support the working group that she works with currently to address the issue regarding the maintenance of the units.
 - The Commission proposed preparing a letter to send to DC government Agency Heads.

- Commissioner Banh, Commissioner Putta and Commissioner Desai expressed interest in participating in the working group to gear up for 2018.
- Language Access and Cultural Sensitivity
 - The Commission agreed that a strategy for cultural diversity training for MPD, agency heads and front line employees needs to be developed. This would require buy-in from DC Government Agency heads.
 - Commissioner Pandya suggested consulting with other agencies such as MOAA and MOLA to submit a joint letter that advocates for more funds to be put into the Housing Preservation Trust Fund. She proposed:
 - Writing a letter to directors for Ex Officio.
 - Drafting a letter to MPD regarding the need for cultural diversity training and language access.
 - Writing a letter to Council members requesting more funding towards housing preservation trust fund.
- Next Commission Meeting
 - Commissioner Tinpe will send out another Doodle poll to determine the date of the next meeting since there are scheduling conflicts on October 24th.
- Other Announcements
 - Commissioner Putta announced that Mayor Bowser has confirmed her attendance to the Diwali celebration on November 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The planning team is currently working on the program. There will be entertainment, food and dance.
 - Commissioner Putta announced that open enrollment for DC Health Link starts on November 1st, 2016.
