

Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development Meeting
JANUARY 27, 2010

Present: David Chung; John Tinpe; Martha Watanabe; Matt Finucane; Richard Chiang; Neel Saxena, Julie Koo. On phone was Dhaval Patel

A review of the minutes of the previous meeting was postponed till the next meeting.

John Tinpe reported he and interns did a verbal merchant safety survey at the Florida Avenue Market. There's a large number of Korean, Chinese and other Asian American merchants and it would take a whole day to cover everyone, he reported. We would need more people, perhaps 20 plus with four to a group. Mapping out the market in advance would be helpful.

Julie Koo has done a language survey at the market before. One idea discussed was a unified survey covering crime, language, etc. so as not to impose on the merchant's time.

On the issue of crime, the committee discussed the status of the Asian liaisons within the police department, both with regard to the Market and generally. Julie Koo explained the history of the Asian Liaison unit, previously housed in one district, now operating under the central office, reporting to the chief and operating with multiple language capabilities citywide. The unit however appears to have regular police duties and Richard Chiang noted that their physical office does not appear staffed. To get a better sense of how the unit works, the commission requested a briefing by a representative of the unit at the next meeting.

The committee also discussed overtime scheduling issues around police officers who are contracted to protect businesses operating in the evening. The process does not always operate smoothly insofar as the requested officers apparently do not always appear as scheduled. The commission will continue to discuss this matter.

Related to the Florida Avenue Market, a question was raised about the status of the New Town development project, no one had an exact update.

Julie Koo noted that there were a number of vacancies on the commission.

Neel Saxena reported that the census was a huge priority, that the office was actively engaged, holding workshops (Elliot Lee), encouraging people to apply for census jobs, publicizing the census, putting info on the website and shortly, operating as a questionnaire assistance center.

Julie Koo gave an overview of her detailed five page report, which are attached and incorporated into these minutes, highlighting issues such as the upcoming Oversight and Budget

Hearings (February and May), the census and the Toy Drive. OAPIA received toys for 301 children which were distributed through several community service centers.

The commission commended Julie for her report.

The chair suggested that we develop an annual commission report, related to the fiscal year. It was suggested that the commissioners develop some paragraphs/bullets on commission accomplishments and issues facing the community.

The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, February 25 from 6:30-8pm.