

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Meeting  
February 25, 2009

In attendance: Ivy, Chaine, Tej Chawla, Wylie Chen, Richard Chiang, David Chung,  
John Tinpe, Martha Watanabe  
Staff: Soohyun Koo, Neel Saxena

Ms. Koo reviewed the Office report to the Commission for the month of February. Prior to the oversight hearing, Ms. Koo met with Councilwoman Alexander, the chair of the committee on to brief her and her staff on the office. On February 20, the OAPIA had its performance oversight hearing before Councilwoman Alexander and the Committee on . Five community groups also testified before the committee including, APALRC, DVRP, AALEAD, VACSC, CCDS (Neel, can you spell out the full names of the groups, please?)

Ms. Koo reported on the increase in crime in the Florida Market and Georgia Avenue areas. She has been in constant contact with MPD and there are plans to hold a safety workshop for merchants. Commission discussed ways in which to be proactive in getting merchants to report crimes and to take their own safety precautions; work on a survey of the merchants and requesting deliverables from the MPD which would include increase of patrols in the area as well as more check-in points in merchants shops on a regular basis.

The OAPIA and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has no specific plan on how to reach the APIA community in the event of an emergency. They are working to come up with names of community leaders, with language capabilities, to assist in the event of an emergency in the District.

The Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy Task Force is wrapping up its initial plans and moving towards developing short-term action items for action by City Council.

The OAPIA met with the newly appointed Asian Liaison for the Census to discuss partnership opportunities and the upcoming Census.

At the Language Access Coordinator Orientation, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department said that they are having problems reaching the community when they have been out trying to distribute smoke detectors. In spite of the fact, that they have hired APIA and Latino representatives to accompany them, there is a reluctance on the part of residents to allow the Department into their homes. They are seeking creative ways in which to reach the community.

It was requested that the OAPIA follow up on their request from the last meeting to Tracy Sandler from the Office of Boards and Commissions to provide the numbers of APIA's serving on different Boards and Commissions.

Commissioners had a follow up discussion on the nomination of Florence Pan to the D.C. Superior Court and discussed next steps.

Copies of bylaws/statutory regulations for the Commission in 1995 and 2007 will be distributed to Commissioners for comment and discussion at the next meeting.

May Heritage Month – date will be selected soon.

Mr. Saxena had sent out to Commissioners the letter to agencies and the community as well as the nomination forms for the Community Nominations for review and comment.

Changes to Commission meeting schedule. The March meeting of the Commission has been changed to Wednesday, April 1. the regularly scheduled April 22 meeting will still be held to discuss and select the awardees for the May Heritage month celebration.