

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs – Meeting on Tuesday, May 26.

Commissioners: Tina Ang, Richard Chiang, David Chung, Martha Watanabe

Staff: Soohyun Koo, Neel Saxena

Guest: Laura Cordero, DC Superior Court Judge

Laura Cordero, DC Superior Court Judge spoke to the Commission about her application to become a judge for the US District Court in the District of Columbia. She has received the endorsement of APABA and is seeking endorsement from NAPABA as well as meeting with the both the local and National Hispanic Bar Associations. She talked about her past and current experiences as an Associate Judge in the Family Court of the District of Columbia Superior Court and answered questions from the Commission. The Commission requested that she send a copy of her endorsement letter from APABA to staff.

Newly appointed Chair David Chung began discussion on Commission structure and goals for the Commission. He broached the idea of having subcommittees as a way to get Commissioners more engaged in specific issue areas. Staff programmatic areas are: Education, Health and Human Services, Safety, Small Business and Economic Development, Housing and Employment. Staff will also compile a list of specific programs/projects where Commissioners might be able to plug in. The list will be circulated to Commissioners for discussion at the next Commission meeting. There was discussion on ways to engage DC government agencies in a more productive way as well as with other DC Commissions.

There was some discussion on the current bylaws for the Commission as well as it authorizing legislation. Bylaws changes will be discussed at a future meeting.

There are currently at least three vacancies on the Commission. There is a need to diversify to include all Wards as well as ethnic representation. Several names were discussed and further follow-up will be done to recruit.

Staff presented their monthly report on activities in the office.

David Chung suggested hosting a Happy Hour for the Commission and community. It could also serve as a recruiting event for new Commissioners. It would be one way for the Commissioners to have direct dialog with the community.

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24.