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## OAPIA Update

*News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs*

**Dear AAPI Community Members,**

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs is working hard to make sure that you are up to date on all the things going on in our office. To help keep you up to date, we have created this newsletter to give brief updates on things happening in our office and in District Government.

Join us in creating a better AAPI community in the District!

Warm Regards,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



**Improving the Usage of Language Services Report**

## Improving the Usage of Language Services by the District's Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

**Neel Saxena and Tina Huang**

The Language Access Survey 2011 on limited English proficient (LEP) persons in the District

Download the latest report on the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander population and their usage of language services in DC.

[Click here to DOWNLOAD](#)

Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, is by definition an international city. Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) immigrants grew 38.6 percent between 2000 and 2010 in the District of Columbia (U.S. Census, 2010). Among them, 28 percent were identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons. Due to their language proficiency they have been held at bay from critical District government services. Providing them language services pays larger dividends to the community in the long run, by keeping the society safer, healthier, and more prosperous economically, educationally, and culturally.

Language access is a rights issue; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating based on race, color, or national origin. The civil rights defined in Title VI include providing meaningful access to individuals who are LEP, because language is associated with national origin.

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Produced by Neel Saxena, Grant Manager and Program Coordinator, and Tina Huang Graduate Student at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland.

### **OAPIA Welcomes New Staff Member Andrew Chang**



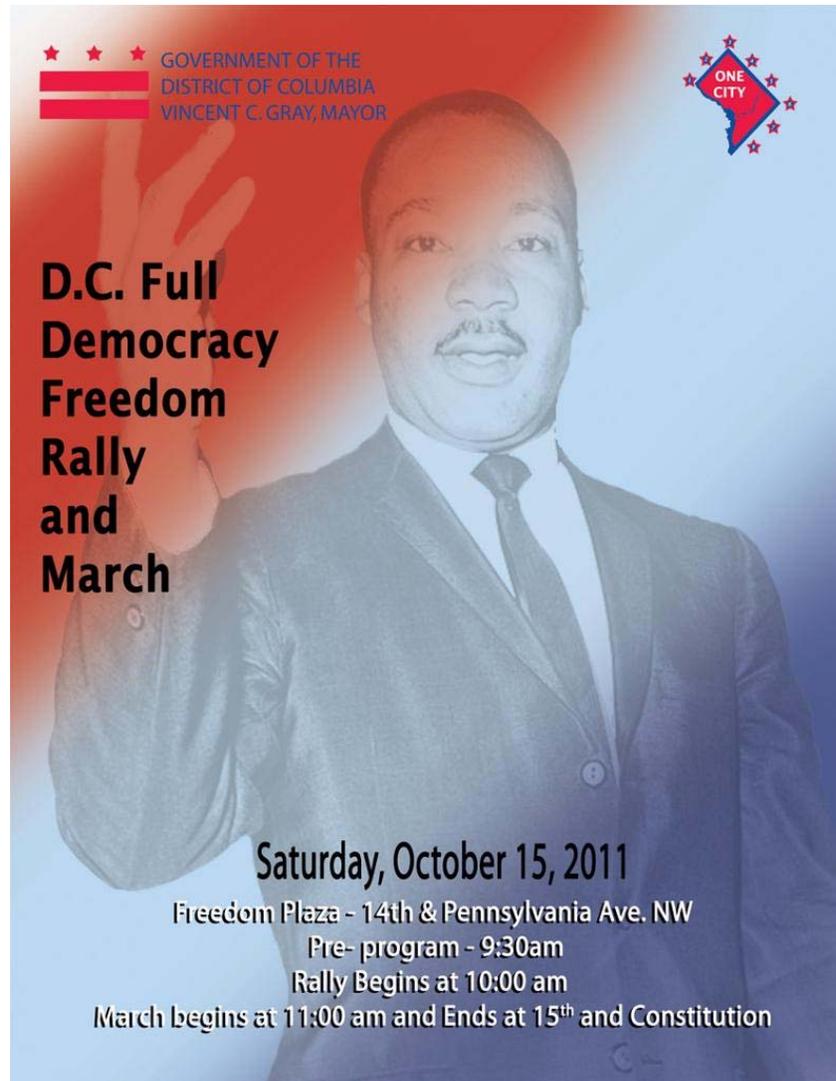
Andrew Chang joined OAPIA as the bilingual staff assistant in October. Andrew is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, having been born and raised there his entire life. He recently graduated with a Master of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in Public Affairs at the University of Florida, and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Andrew is quite familiar with the DC area, as he has previously interned with National CAPACD, as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation through the OCA Summer Internship program. He enjoys visiting relatives in Shanghai, China every two years, and especially loves Shanghaiese



steamed pork soup dumplings. Additionally, he will bring his Shanghainese Chinese language skills to the team, which will further add to the office's outreach and language capabilities.

## DC Full Democracy Freedom Rally and March



The District of Columbia warmly welcomes the world to the nation's capital for the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial. In partnership with the MLK Jr. National Memorial Foundation, we are proud to host all who will attend this historical occasion.

We embrace Dr. King's declaration that "now is the time to make real the promise of democracy" and "...to make justice and freedom a reality for all citizens in the District of Columbia" by promoting awareness of the District's struggle for self-determination, autonomy and statehood through the "DC Full Democracy Freedom" March. It will symbolize our desire and hope to enjoy the same freedom and democracy as other Americans.

Saturday, October 15, 2011  
 Freedom Plaza - 14th and Pennsylvania Ave NW  
 Pre-program - 9:30 am  
 Rally begins - 10:30 am

March begins at 11 am and ends at 15th and Constitution

## DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs convened its monthly meeting to discuss issues going on in the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA Office. All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact [oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov).

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