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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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

A Message from the Director

**Dear Community Members,**

To prepare our District's youth to become productive members of the workforce and our community, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the DC Department of Employment Services announced applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted. SYEP is a six-week work-training program that aims to offer youth meaningful work they can be proud of. To apply for SYEP, you must be a District resident between the ages of 14 and 21. If you or someone you know wants to be considered for the program, an online application is available at [www.summerjobs.dc.gov](http://www.summerjobs.dc.gov).



Internships have proved to be a stepping stone for many students, offering them a chance at receiving a full time position after graduation. Mayor Gray encourages employers both in the public and private sectors to take part in SYEP by offering youth in our District with meaningful internships to give them the tools necessary to meet the demands of today's job market.

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) has been offering internships for spring, winter, and summer semesters. Interns play an important role in the daily functions of our office and assist staff with a variety of tasks ranging from researching to community outreach. Interns work closely with the outreach staff assisting with cases involving District residents and merchants. Furthermore, interns provide language translations, help create brochures and flyers, and write for our newsletter. At OAPIA, we ensure that our interns acquire the skills they need to perform competently in the work place. We have been very fortunate to benefit from their passion and dedication to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage employers in the AAPI community and beyond to also offer internships. Not only will you prepare our youth for today's job market by providing them with valuable work experience, you will also set them on the right track by equipping them with essential skills to compete in the future.

Warm Regards,

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

### OAPIA News

#### **OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo Takes Part in Urban League Taping**

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013, OAPIA Director Koo participated in a program taping at the National Urban League. The National Urban League, headquartered in Columbia Heights, invited Ms. Koo to the program to discuss the role of OAPIA within city government. Roland Turner, who interviewed Ms. Koo, directed the taping that lasted 30 minutes. The format was a question and answer style. The show will air on February 17, 2013 at 6:00am on WPGC 95.5 and has a listening audience of over 60,000 residents in the D.C. metropolitan area. We hope you can tune in and listen!



Roland Turner from the National Urban League and OAPIA Director Koo at the microphone.

**Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo Interviews with Chinese Outlook News**



Director Koo and Chinese Outlook News Reporter, Mike Zheng.

**OAPIA Welcomes Additional Interns**



Xin Jin was born and raised in Beijing, China. She moved to the United States in 2009. She is currently a senior at The George Washington University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in international business with a minor in chemistry. She interned with Estee Lauder and L'Oreal in the past and gained marketing and research experience. She also interned with an event planning firm and a social media company in recent years.

At OAPIA, Xin is looking for sharpen her communication skills and gain valuable work experience, in order to better serve the AAPI community. Her goal is to become an entrepreneur in the future.

Xiaoyun Duan was born and raised in China. She attended college in China and moved to the United States in 2011. She is a second year graduate student in Georgetown University, pursuing a masters degree in communications and Asia studies. Through her previous internships, Xiaoyun has considerable experience in communication and technology, and

research on international development.

At OAPIA, Xiaoyun hopes to sharpen her communication skills. Working with people from different countries of Asia enables her to gain valuable work experience and to learn better about the AAPI community. In the long run, she aspires to be a communication specialty in the Asia development field.



## District Headlines and Events

### **Mayor Vincent C. Gray to Deliver 2013 State of the District Address on February 5**

*WHAT/WHO:*

Mayor Vincent C. Gray will deliver the 2013 State of the District Address, where he will report on the status of the city and his administration and outline his agenda and priorities for the coming year.

*WHEN:*

7 pm, Tuesday, February 5, 2013

*WHERE:*

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, Sanctuary, 600 I Street NW

*BACKGROUND:*

The Sixth and I Historic Synagogue is a cultural institution and community center that connects the District's past, present and future and symbolizes the city's multicultural nature. Originally built in 1908 as the home of Adas Israel, one of DC's oldest Jewish congregations, the building was purchased by Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1951. It served as Turner Memorial's home for half a century before that congregation moved to a new facility. A group of civic leaders acquired and renovated the Sixth & I building, reopening it in 2004 as a non-denominational, non-membership-based synagogue that serves as a cultural and educational center for the entire DC community. Emblematic of the rebirth of the District's downtown, the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue has become a center for the arts, entertainment and community engagement.

### **Mayor Vincent C. Gray Releases Year Two Report**

When Mayor Vincent C. Gray took office in January of 2011, he promised to focus on creating jobs, reducing unemployment, and growing the District's economy, while educating and preparing residents for jobs in emerging industries and improving the quality of life for all our residents. Throughout his two years in office, using the One City Action Plan as a guide, Mayor Gray has continued aggressively to move DC forward, towards his vision of a more prosperous, equitable, safe, sustainable city for all.

To view the report in its entirety please click [here](#).

### **Mayor Vincent C. Gray and CFO Natwar M. Gandhi Announce Significant Surplus and Sustained Growth in City's Fund Balance**

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and D.C. Chief Financial Officer Natwar M. Gandhi announced that the District's financial health continued to improve through Fiscal Year 2012, with one of the largest surpluses in recent history bringing the city's savings account to its second-highest level ever.

Announcing the results of the District's Fiscal Year 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), conducted by independent auditing firm KPMG, Mayor Gray said the District ended the year with a structurally balanced budget and \$417 million more in revenues and savings than expenditures. This has increased the city's Fund Balance to \$1.5 billion over the \$1.1 billion in the fund at the end of FY 2011. The FY 2012 CAFR shows a \$277 million increase in revenue, \$50 million in underspending for a total of \$327 million Local surplus. Additionally, it displays a \$90 million surplus in Special Purpose Revenues.

Please click [here](#) to read more.

### **Summer Camp Enrollment DC Department of Parks and Recreation**



The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announces its summer camp registration, dates and information for the 2013 Summer Camp season. *For Summer 2013, DPR will offer a new rolling registration period from Monday, February 4, 2013 through Thursday, February 14, 2013 for District residents.*

*Open Registration for non-District residents will open on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 10 am.* During the rolling registration period, a specific group of camp sites will open for [online registration](#) each day at 10am. Once the online registration is open for a particular camp, the registration will remain open until all the camp spaces are filled. Please make note of the registration dates for the camp (or camps) of your choice to ensure that online registration is initiated on the correct date.

[Registration](#) can be completed online or in person at the DPR summer camps office located at Columbia Heights Recreation Center - 1480 Girard Street, NW 4th floor. Space fills on a first-come, first-serve basis and enrollment is subject to availability. It is recommended that parents create an online DPR account for all campers in the DPR registration system prior to the registration period, in order to be best prepared.

For more information:

DPR Customer Service: (202) 673-7647  
 DPR Seasonal Programs/Camps Office: (202) 671-0372, [dpr.camps@dc.gov](mailto:dpr.camps@dc.gov)  
 DPR Media Contact: John Stokes, (202) 288-7275, [john.stokes@dc.gov](mailto:john.stokes@dc.gov)

#### Asian Americans in the News

Last month the Obama Administration visited New Orleans, LA and Biloxi, MS to meet up with Southeast Asian American families who were affected by the BP Oil Spill in 2010, most notably those involved in the seafood industry. Source: [White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Asian American women ages 65 and older had a higher suicide rate - 6.5 per 100,000 - than any other racial or ethnic group in that age bracket between 2004 and 2007. White women had the next highest suicide rate: 4.3 per 100,000. Source: [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

In Fountain Valley, CA opposition is rising against the possibility of Vietnamese officials visiting Orange County city. Source: [The Associated Press through the Sacramento Bee](#).

#### Community Resources

##### Office of the Tenant Advocate Live Q & A



The [D.C. Office of the Tenant Advocate](#) holds a monthly chat session online to answer live questions from the tenant community. Generally the sessions are held on the last Tuesday of every month. To submit a question beforehand, please email [horace.lassiter@dc.gov](mailto:horace.lassiter@dc.gov). Pre-submitted and live questions will be answered during the chat session. Click [here](#) for today's session!

##### The DC Office of Partnerships and Grant Services D.C. Bar Program

Did you miss your chance to learn about the DC Nonprofit Corporation Code that went into effect in 2012? It is not too late. [The DC Office of Partnerships and Grant Services](#), in conjunction with the [D.C. Bar Program](#) is offering a seminar on the provisions of the new Nonprofit Code, and how they may impact your organization.

The session will be held **February 21, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** at the law offices of Williams & Connolly, 725 Twelfth Street, NW (At Metro Center on the Red, Blue and Orange lines).

To register, please click [here](#).

Spotlight: APABA-DC



The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. (APABA-DC) is the oldest and largest association of Asian Pacific American attorneys in the Washington, D.C. area. Since its founding in 1981, APABA-DC's membership has grown into a network of about 500 lawyers, law professors, law students, and other interested individuals. Membership in APABA-DC automatically includes membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), which represents over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys nationwide through its local affiliates, including APABA-DC.

For more information about APABA-DC, please visit [here](#) or e-mail [apaba@apaba-dc.org](mailto:apaba@apaba-dc.org).

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human trafficking is known as the transportation, recruitment, or illegal sale of people (men, women, and children) for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation. Human trafficking can occur through the act of kidnapping or misleading someone into believing a lie. Often times those who conduct human trafficking will trick the person into thinking they have a great job waiting for them in the U.S. or that they are being married off to a good man but as soon as they leave their home country, they are sold into brothels or forced to do manual labor without pay. Girls as young as five or six years old have been forced into human trafficking.

In 2005, the Dept. of Justice reported there have been an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 sex slaves in the U.S. since 2001.

Out of the projected total 14,500 - 17,500 individuals trafficked in 2004, 5,200 - 7,800 were Asians and Pacific Islanders, comprising the biggest group of people trafficked into the U.S. The main Asian source countries to the U.S. are China, Thailand, and Vietnam.

For more information on human trafficking, here are a few local organizations in D.C:

Break the Chain Campaign  
1112 16th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 234-9382  
Email: [info@ips-dc.org](mailto:info@ips-dc.org)  
<http://www.ips-dc.org/BTCC>

Polaris Project  
P.O. Box 53315  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Tel: 202-745-1001  
Fax: 202-745-1119  
<http://www.polarisproject.org/>

[oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov) | [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



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