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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:

As you may recall, this year OAPIA celebrated the 10th year anniversary of the passage of the Language Access Act of 2004 and explored its effect on the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community through a series of events and programs.

OAPIA's "10 for 10" highlighted 10 OAPIA resources and programs on language access in the District of Columbia. Some of you joined OAPIA and Mayor Gray at the GroundBroken policy panel and reception in April.



And to conclude the anniversary celebration, OAPIA recently released [2014: A Language Odyssey](#), a policy report looking at the past, present, and future of language access in the District of Columbia and how the act has affected the AAPI community. [The report](#) provides stakeholders, community members, and readers with keen insight into the District's AAPI community, and delves into the state of language access within the AAPI community.

I encourage everyone to review the report, as OAPIA continues to advocate for and develop innovative projects and programs to expand language services in the years to come.

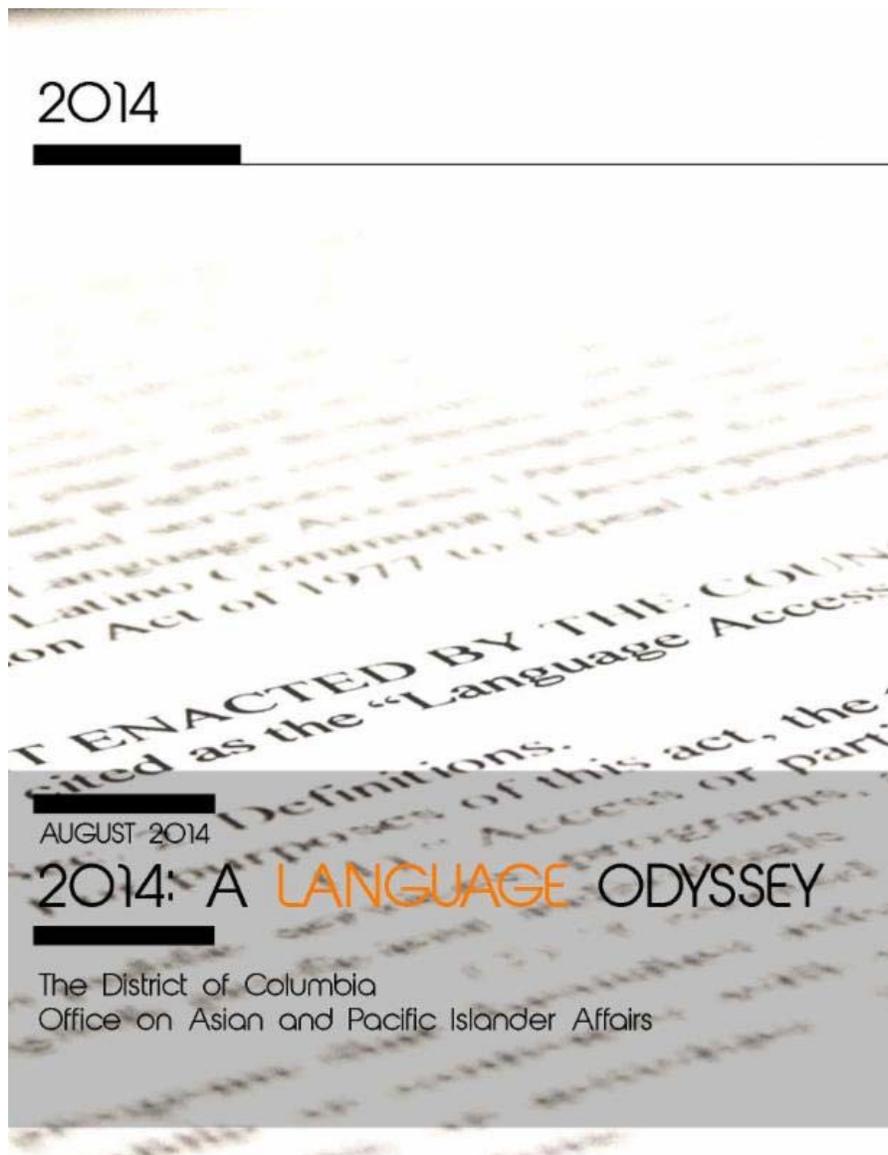
Warm Wishes,

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

### OAPIA in the Community

#### **OAPIA Releases Report on Language Access within the AAPI Community**

*The Report Highlights the 10th Year Anniversary of the Language Access Act*



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is pleased to announce the release of 2014: A Language Odyssey, a policy report looking at the past, present, and future of language access in the District of Columbia and how the Language Access Act of 2004 has affected the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The report uses data obtained from in-language OAPIA surveys and from various U.S. Census Bureau surveys.

"Since 2004, OAPIA has worked more closely with other District government agencies and community based organizations to ensure that the language access needs are being met for the AAPI community," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director. "OAPIA will continue to champion language access for the community by advocating for and developing innovative projects and programs to expand language services."

The report presents the progress of language access within the AAPI community by focusing on: 1) the exploration of the success of the Language Access Act; 2) the perceptions of the AAPI community's motivations on using language access services; and 3) the recommendations on language access practices in the AAPI community in the District. The purpose of the policy report is to educate policymakers, government employees, advocates, and the general public about the effect the Language Access Act has had on the AAPI

community since the passage of the act.

To view a copy of the report or for the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

## OAPIA News

### OAPIA Welcomes Fall Intern



**Esther Kang**

Esther Kang is currently an undergraduate senior pursuing a degree in political science and international relations at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). She previously interned at the Graduate Studies Department at UC Davis as a liaison between student affairs advisors and domestic and international students. Esther also had experience working as a private English tutor, assisting immigrant students in reading comprehension, writing, and speech. Working with a diverse pool of students, Esther has realized the importance of proper communication and accessibility, and the ability to use her language and communication skills to address such issues.

During her free time, Esther enjoys listening to music, reading, spending time outdoors, and biking. Growing up in Los Angeles, California, Esther interacted with people from various cultural backgrounds, and learned to appreciate diversity. At the same time, she understands the struggles that come with language barriers and limited

access to policy and community involvement. As an intern at OAPIA, Esther hopes to aid those individuals experiencing the struggles that she had previously encountered.

## Spotlight: DC Metropolitan Asian Pacific Marrow Network



The DC Metropolitan Asian Pacific Marrow Network is a non-profit organization that seeks to increase awareness about the National Marrow Donor Program among members of the Asian Pacific American community. The network increases awareness of and provides comprehensive education about the need for marrow donations and the marrow donation process. The network also strives to encourage local Asian Pacific Americans to give the gift of life through outreach activities, community education, donor drives, development of partnerships with other organizations, and support for Asian patient assistance programs.

For more information on the [DC Metropolitan Asian Pacific Marrow Network](#) or ways to get involved, please visit [here](#).

## October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month



National Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state, and national levels, and later a whole month dedicated to raising awareness concerning domestic violence.

Domestic violence awareness activities include common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

For more information on domestic violence or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\): Domestic Violence Unit](#)
- [Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\): Domestic Violence Intake Center](#)
- [Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\): Domestic Violence Resources](#)
- [Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\): Domestic Violence Literature](#)
- [Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project \(DVRP\)](#)

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