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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:

OAPIA continues to work with other District government agencies to help ensure that the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, especially limited English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) members, is able to receive relevant and vital information concerning District government programs, services, and updates in a timely and culturally competent manner.



Through a partnership with the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), OAPIA has translated and made available emergency information for the LEP/NEP AAPI community. Such information offers safety tips and recommended actions for residents to follow in the event of an emergency, and is now available in the Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, and Hindi languages.

Additionally, OAPIA has partnered with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to offer in-language vending guides containing general information and requirements concerning vending procedures in the District for community members.

For online access to these in-language government materials or for additional materials, please visit www.apia.dc.gov. I encourage everyone to share these resources with fellow family members, friends, and colleagues, and to check the OAPIA website frequently as new materials are added.

Warm Wishes,

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

OAPIA in the Community

Mayor Gray Offers District's Indian American Community Best Wishes During Diwali Festival

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray today offered his greetings and best wishes to the District's Indian American community during the multi-day celebration of Diwali (also known as Deepavali). Diwali, the "festival of lights," coincides with the Hindu New Year, and celebrates the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. The festival is celebrated not only amongst Hindus, but also amongst individuals of the Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist faiths, as well as people of other faiths across the world and among the Indian diaspora.

"I am thankful for the many Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, and Indian American residents in the District who help make our city a great place to live and work," said Mayor Gray. "As communities celebrate Diwali across the District, I wish them a joyous and blessed holiday, and encourage all District residents to work towards peace, justice, and goodwill."

For the press release, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Releases Newly Translated Materials for AAPI Community *In-language Vending Guides and Emergency Information are Now Available*



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) partnered with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) to translate materials for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. In-language DCRA vending guides offer community members general information and requirements concerning vending procedures in the District. Translated HSEMA emergency information includes safety tips and recommended actions for residents to follow in the event of an emergency.

"OAPIA will continue to partner with other District government agencies to provide in-language translations of relevant and vital government information to better educate, inform, and serve the AAPI community," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director.

"The District strives to make compliance as simple as possible for our regulated industries. Offering vending information in different languages is an important milestone in further simplifying the licensing process for our vendors," said Rabbiah "Robbie" Sabbakhan, Interim DCRA Director.

The in-language vending guides and emergency information are available on OAPIA's website under "Community Resources" at www.apia.dc.gov.

For the press release, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight: South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC



The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC (SABA-DC) is a voluntary association devoted to addressing the needs and concerns of the South Asian American legal community in the DC metropolitan area. SABA-DC was founded in 2001. Key objectives of SABA-DC include advancing professional development and networking of South Asian American lawyers and law students, providing better access to quality legal services for South Asian Americans, and increasing ways to promote greater understanding of legal issues impacting the South Asian American community in Washington, DC.

For more information on the [South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC](#) or ways to get involved, please visit [here](#).

November is National Adoption Month



Every young person deserves the chance to learn and grow under the care of a loving family. Each year, November is recognized as National Adoption Month. Across the nation, activities and observances such as recognition dinners, public awareness and recruitment campaigns,

and special events spotlight the needs of children who need permanent families. It also includes National Adoption Day, traditionally observed on a Saturday, which is observed in courthouses across the nation as thousands of adoptions are finalized simultaneously.

Over the last two decades, research has demonstrated the critical nature of sibling bonds and their importance for children's development and emotional well-being. In fact, some research suggests that children and youth in foster care experience better outcomes when placed with their siblings.

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

- [DC Child and Family Services Agency: Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent](#)
- [Adopt DC Kids](#)
- [US Department of Health & Human Services: Administration for Children & Families](#)
- [National Adoption Month 2014](#)

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