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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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

Spotlight: Mayor Muriel Bowser



Mayor Muriel Bowser brings a pragmatic, hands-on approach to finding solutions to address the needs of residents in Washington, DC. She was first elected Ward 4 Councilmember in a special election in 2007, re-elected in 2008, and again in 2012. On November 4, 2014, voters elected Muriel as the seventh elected, and only second woman, mayor of the District of Columbia. Voters have strongly endorsed Muriel's ambitious agenda focused on an open and ethical government, rebuilding quality neighborhoods, and transforming our schools and commercial corridors.

During Muriel's tenure as Councilmember, Ward 4's population has grown, quality school choices and public spaces have increased, and hundreds of units of housing have been created. Dozens of new stores, restaurants, and small businesses have opened, and violent crime has plummeted. Positive and sustainable change is visible on every corner of Ward 4.

Throughout her career, Muriel has focused her attention on enhancing the lives of residents District-wide. She was selected by her colleagues on the Council as Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic Development and created more than 5,000 units of affordable housing, passed legislation to build a new soccer stadium and secured the best portion of the Walter Reed campus for DC. Previously, as Chairwoman of the Committee on Government Operations, Muriel worked with her colleagues to pass comprehensive ethics reform in the District, improved the safety and efficiency of the Metro system, and increased transparency in government contracting. As Chair of the Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation and the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Muriel championed the causes of increasing the revenue generating potential of our public spaces, curbed bullying in our schools and recreation centers, and created consumer protections for homeowners facing foreclosure. As Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Board's Planning, Program, and Real Estate Committee, Muriel led the adoption of comprehensive revisions to joint development policies that promote more transparency, competition, higher quality transit oriented development, and include Metro's first ever affordable housing policy. She also previously served as Chair of the regional Metropolitan Washington Council of

Governments' Transportation Planning Board.

Muriel's strong message of representing all eight wards won the hearts of voters and an endorsement from President Obama, who described Muriel as "a champion for working and middle-class families, and a passionate proponent of Washington, D.C." She is committed to improving the lives of all Washingtonians, whether they have been here for five minutes or five generations. Muriel's fierce advocacy to improve the District won her the endorsement of the Washington Post which wrote: "Smart, hardworking and independent-minded, Ms. Bowser has shown herself to be an effective advocate for the interests of her demanding ward and a leading voice for education reform and good government." She was also honored with the Democratic State Committee's Legislator of the Year Award (2012), the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award (2012), and the NoMa Business Improvement District Public Sector Award (2012).

Muriel, a native Washingtonian, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Chatham College and a Master's degree in Public Policy from American University.

For more information on [Mayor Bowser](#) or the [Bowser administration](#), please visit [here](#).

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Spring Intern

Zhouyuan Dou is a junior undergraduate from Renmin University of China, where she studies law and business management. With the Chinese government scholarship, she is visiting University of California Davis for one year and was admitted to its UCDC program to spend here winter quarter interning in D.C. Zhouyuan has gained a great deal of office experience through interning in a couple of on campus offices during the past two years.

As a saying goes in China, read a million books, travel a million miles. Not only does she behave very well in her academic scores, Zhouyuan is also crazy about traveling and exploring cultures and the nature, which makes her more independent and calmer. She also enjoys being involved in all kinds of international communication activities and has developed a good sense of how to get along with people from different backgrounds, especially API communities.

January is National Blood Donor Month



January is National Blood Donor Month. The month not only recognizes the important role of blood donors in our society, but also encourages potential donors - able-bodied men and women - to help. During the winter holiday season, potential blood donors are in high demand due to family vacations, a wide array of illnesses, and harsh winter conditions. The shortage of blood donors is met by a crucial problem - every 12 seconds an American needs a blood transfusion. On any given day, up to 44,000 blood donations are needed across the United States to treat cancer and conduct surgeries. By sacrificing 8-10 minutes of their time, blood donors could potentially save those that are fighting for their lives.

Compared to the much needed blood transfusions, the number of blood donors in the U.S. is only at a meager 11 million per year. However, doctors contend that one transfusion could help up to three patients. At the time of year when blood donors are needed more than ever, the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals (ADRP) encourages those who are 17 or older and weigh 110 pounds or more to give blood.

For more information or resources concerning National Blood Donor Month or donor centers, please visit:

American Red Cross

Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals

Children's National Medical Center: Blood Donor Center

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