**MAYOR’S OFFICE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS**

**COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

January 13th, 2024 6:30 PM

441 4th Street, NW Room 721 North

Washington, DC 20001

**Conference Call**

Conference call: 1-877-787-5492

Participant Password: 9401470

Confirmation Number: 7981972

Agenda

1. Call to Order (2 minutes)
2. Introductions (2 minutes)
	1. Commissioners
	2. MOAPIA Staff
3. Quorum (2 minutes)
4. Approval of Agenda (2 minutes)
5. Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes (2 minutes)
6. Executive Reports and Business Items (10 minutes total)
	1. Director’s Report, Ben de Guzman, MOAPIA
	2. Questions and Answers
7. CAPIA Brainstorm Follow-Up (20 minutes)
8. Miscellaneous Items (10 minutes)
9. Meeting Adjournment (5 minutes)

Questions:

Nir Adhikhari, Vice Chair, Niranjan.Adhikari@dcbc.dc.gov

Jennifer Hara, Secretary, Jennifer.hara@dcbc.dc.gov

Ben de Guzman, MOAPIA, ben.deguzman@dc.gov

[communityaffairs.dc.gov/moapia](https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/moapia)

**Call to Order**

Director de Guzman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**Introduction of Commissioners and Quorum** – Quorum was not present.

Commissioners In Attendance

Nir Adhikari (phone)

Aneysha Bhat (phone)

Jennifer Hara (phone)

Karen Kwok (phone)

Martha Watanabe (in person)

Yilin Zhang (phone)

Not present: Jennifer Anderson, Jeff Duong Le, Krishna Godiwala, Halaevalau Hiya, Artisha Naidu, Mike Park, Moh Sharma, and Sina Uipi.

MOAPIA Staff in Attendance

Ben de Guzman, Director

Lavau Nalu, Public Information Officer

**Approval of Agenda and Approval of December Meeting Minutes** – We did not have quorum so the agenda and the meeting minutes were not approved.

**Executive Reports and Business Items**

Director de Guzman gave his Director’s report. MOAPIA is looking for two more Community Outreach Specialist and a new Language Access Coordinator to complete the team. We are currently in the process of interviewing. Korean, Chinese or Vietnamese language proficiency is a requirement.

MOAPIA has continued its community outreach engaging with AAPI small business owners and assisting them with their diverse challenges and needs. From December 7-January 3, 2024,

MOAPIA assisted 20 businesses and provided case assistance and resources regarding issues such as Small Business Resources including funding opportunities, public safety related resources, permits, Building inspections, Business Licenses, DC Façade Improvement Program, Tax, Clean Hands Certificate, etc.

Director de Guzman shared upcoming activities in January and February including an informal Chinese Lion Dance January 28/29, the Chinese New Year Parade on February 2 and the inauguration next week on January 20. The CAPIA Office has also participated in the last meeting of the White House Initiative on AAPIHAs. Additionally, the Office’s grantees have been engaging frequently.

**CAPIA Brainstorm Follow-Up**: Briefly there are six areas of focus that the Commission came up with and we will walk through these.

1. Immigration (Nir, Jennifer H)
2. Embassy Engagement (Nir)
3. Desi (South Asian) Subcommitee (Aneysha)
4. Pacific Islander Community Subcommittee (Halaevalau, Lavau, Sina)
5. National Network (Martha, Jennifer H.)
6. Chinatown Initiative (Yilin, Karen)

**Immigration**: Know your rights initiative related to enforcement actions. Good time to engagement with our grantee(s) (Legal Resource Center, specifically) and think about doing a clinic. *Next Steps –* meeting with grantees.

**Embassy Engagement**: The office will be reaching out to the embassies for World Pride (Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal) as well as connecting with the DC Office of the Secrretary. We will continue to work with the embassies for proclamations regarding National Days.

**Desi (South Asian) Subcommittee**: Diwali and Holi festivals has been the focus. Other organizations to engage with in the future? The office will call for a subcommittee meeting.

**Pacific Islander Subcommittee**: Graduation celebration idea proposed. Next subcommittee meeting is January 22.

**National Network**: Recent interaction with the new leadership of the network. Additional leaders to engage and connect with in this new year. Coordination with White House (previously), California and DC. Also, Seattle, Chicago and Philadelphia. Director de Guzman will share the information that we have.

**Chinatown**: DC Public Library, Events DC, DMPED, and the Downtown BID. Also the businesses that are in Chinatown and other Ward 2 businesses. Lastly the residents in Chinatown. The events related to this committee were mentioned previously under the Director’s report.

**Miscellaneous Items**: There were none.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.