

**DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
November Commission Meeting Notes
November 15, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 7:37 PM**

- **Welcome/Introductions**
 - Meeting was opened by Chair John Tinpe
 - Chair Tinpe introduced each Commissioner present. In attendance:
 - CAPIA
 - Martha Watanabe; Ben Takai; Ronak Desai; K.J. Bagchi; and Meina Banh.
 - MOAPIA
 - Phuong Nguyen
- **MOAPIA Updates**
 - Updates were provided by Ms. Phuong Nguyen on behalf of Director David Do.
 - Ms. Nguyen announced that MOAPIA has three job openings: Community Outreach Assistant, Community Outreach Specialist and Program Coordinator. If the Commission knows of any interested candidates, please refer them to the website to apply: <http://mota.applytojob.com/>.
 - Ms. Nguyen reported that FY2017 AAPI Community Grants have been announced. MOAPIA awarded a combined \$240,000 to nine community-based organizations that serve District residents.
 - MOAPIA hosted its second Diwali Reception on November 9th at George Washington University. Approximately 300 community members attended as Mayor Bowser presented a Proclamation declaring Nov 9th as Diwali Day and participated in the lamp lighting ceremony.
 - Ms. Nguyen reported progress of current community outreach activities including office hours in the community, outreach to small businesses and residents, and the Arcadia Mobile Market.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Toy Drive on December 6th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at 441 4th Street
- **Commissioner Items**
 - Business Items
 - Chair Tinpe reminded Commissioners to fill out the Doodle poll to determine the best date/time for the Commission Retreat and Reception.
 - Housing
 - There were no new updates concerning Museum Square.
 - Language Access and Cultural Sensitivity
 - Char Tinpe reported that he is currently still waiting to hear back from Directors and Head of Agencies regarding the Commissioner’s request to appoint Ex-Officios.
 - The Commission proposed a deadline of January 17, 2017.
 - Safety
 - The Commission inquired if other community affairs agencies work with MPD to address cultural sensitivity. Commissioners agreed that they would like to learn more about what MPD is currently doing around cultural sensitivity training and the content of the training. Information about the number of AAPI officers in MPD and where they are located would also be helpful.

- Commissioners expressed concerns over the rise in hate crimes around the country and discussed how other cities are addressing the issue. Some cities have created hot lines for residents to report hate crimes. Commissioners inquired if the DC government has considered setting up a similar hotline.
- Chair Tinpe reminded the Commissioners that they are the eyes and ears of the community. Some residents may not feel comfortable informing law enforcement or government agencies about issues. The Commission should encourage community members to come to them with any issues or concerns.
- After discussions about whether the Commission should advise Mayor Bowser to release a stronger statement to address community members' current anxieties and fears, Commissioners agreed that they would rather push for cultural sensitivity training. The Commission asked if they can issue their own statement.
- **Other Announcements**
 - Chair Tinpe announced that the Historic Preservation Review Board is proposing to preserve a few historic buildings/landmarks in Chinatown in order to extend the boundary for the Downtown Historic District. Chair Tinpe is currently notifying building owners listed on the application. Some building owners are not in favor of the preservation because of the restrictions placed on historically-preserved buildings.
 - Commissioner Banh would like an update regarding the outcomes of the Access for All meeting and how Metro's proposal to cut operating hours will affect different communities.
- Next Commission Meeting: Commission Retreat and Reception (Date TBD)
