Government of the District of Columbia

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 6:30pm

Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

441 4th St NW, Suite 721 North

Washington, DC

* **Welcome/Introductions**
  + Meeting was opened by Chair John Tinpe
  + Commissioners offered introductions. In attendance:
    - CAPIA
      * Ben Takai; Jennifer Hara; Kishan Putta; John Tinpe; Martha Watanabe; Helen Lee; Gregory Cendana; Meina Banh; Ronak Desai; Julie Won;

Easten Law; Niranjan Adhikari; Elena Son

* + - MOAPIA
      * Phuong Nguyen
    - DC Office of Human Rights
      * Monica Palacio; Winta Teferi
      * Laura Williams; Matthew
* **Guest Speaker – Office of Human Rights**
  + Monica Palacio- Director
    - Director Palacio discussed the mission of the Office of Human Rights (OHR) which includes investigating claims for housing, education and public security.
    - Director Palacio went over the detailed protocol of how cases are submitted and addressed by OHR, specifically underlining the process for reporting bias incidents and hate crimes.
    - Director Palacio detailed how every case is reviewed and referred to mediation and half of those cases are solved in that process and therefore do not have to warrant a full investigation.
    - Commissioner Tinpe asked about specific examples of bias incidents that OHR investigates, using a recent example of defacing public works in Chinatown.
      * Director Palacio said that aggregate data on types of bias incidents are reported annually by OHR.
    - Commissioner Banh asked what kind of outreach is done to inform the public about the scope of the work that OHR does.
      * Director Teferi spoke about how outreach is accomplished through partnering with third party organizations that are trusted by community members. This can include participating in civic events, fairs, and religious celebrations. She also impressed upon the commission that interpreters are provided in person when available for all mediation process and are hired through city wide contracts.
    - Commissioner Desai asked what the investigation process entails
      * Director Palacio went through the process of creating position statements from the complainant and respondent detailing the issue in question along with the submission of any supporting documents or evidence. Letters of determination are then produced and reviewed by Director Palacio. Both parties are offered conciliation again before any final decisions by Director Palacio and if conciliation isn’t achieved the case is referred to a tribunal commission for further action.
    - Commissioner TInpe asked how the District addresses government contractors who choose not to comply with the “Ban the Box” policy of having employers not ask about prior incarceration status.
      * Director Palacio said there is no current enforcement in place.
    - Ms. Nguyen asked what are the trends in hate crimes in the past year.
      * Director Palacio said that in FY16 there were upward trends in anti LGBT, anti Semitic crimes in particular being reported.
    - Commissioner Adhikari asked if country of origin was a protected trait under the auspices of OHR.
      * Director Palacio said that country of origin was a protected trait but they were also trying to add “immigrant status” to that list.
    - Commissioner Namkung asked about ways that OHR can reach out to immigrant communities
      * Director Palacio reiterated the outreach being done by OHR to third party community organizations.
    - Commissioner Banh asked about how OHR ensures accurate translation services.
      * Director Teferi said that the responsibility is on the third party vendors but if persons feel that their translation services were not accurate that they could always have their cases reviewed and reopened
    - Director Palacio announce that December 6 is the 40th anniversary of the Human Rights Act and is being recognized in Columbia Heights at a reception hosted by OHR.
* MPD Report –Commissioner Martha Watanabe
  + Commissioner Watanabe detailed how Ms. Ellie Sung is coordinating the cultural competency video and will report to the commission as those updates occur.
  + Ms. Sung is also organizing in tandem with the different interest offices in MPD including the Asian Liaison unit and will invite them to the net commission meeting.
* **Chinatown Business Update**
  + Commissioner TInpe updated the commission on all developments with liquor licensing and business development in Chinatown.
* **Director’s Report**
  + Phuong Nguyen reported on the ongoing work that the Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs are conducting.
  + Commissioner Tinpe discussed the Cafritz awards and encouraged the commissioners to nominate any worthy candidates.

Miscellaneous Questions/Meeting Adjournment

* **Next Commission Meeting:** The next meeting will occur on December 20th at 6:30 pm

Questions:

Chair: John Tinpe, John.Tinpe@dcbc.dc.gov

Vice Chair and Secretary: Ben Takai, ben.takai@dcbc.dc.com

http://apia.dc.gov