# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

**FROM:** Ben de Guzman, Director, Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

**CC:** Lindsey Parker, Chief of Staff for the Mayor

**DATE: Monday** February 26th, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Report to Commission on API Affairs, from January 6th - February 9th, 2024.

**Announcements**

MOAPIA has hired a new Director of Operations,

Akina Harada is the Director of Operations for the Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA).  She has been a progressive founder and managed the operations of multiple for-profit organizations in the retail and hospitality, commercial real estate, and gaming industries.  She has the passion, empathy, perseverance, and integrity to lead MOAPIA’s mission and values, so she plans to use her entrepreneurial and stakeholder engagement experience to connect with the District’s AAPI residents and businesses.

She is an advocate for representing minority and underserved communities and has been a successful minority woman business leader in Washington, DC acknowledged and recognized by Mayor Muriel Bowser and several Hawai’i politicians.  In addition, she took risks and preserved through adversity by moving 5000 miles away from her family in Hawai’i to pursue her college education in the East Coast and furthered her education in an MBA at New York University.

Akina is the daughter of Japanese and Native Hawaiian parents from Honolulu, Hawai’i.  She first moved to the District in 2014 and is a proud resident of Ward 3.  She enjoys exploring new places, going to the gym, and loves spending time with her son.

* MOAPIA has the current positions open for hiring:
  + Bilingual Community Outreach Specialists (Vietnamese, Chinese, and/or Korean proficiency required)
  + Staff Assistant
  + Working with MOTA to make sure correct and updated positions are posted online.
  + Information about MOAPIA openings and other job postings is available on the MOTA website: mota.dc.gov
* MOAPIA hosted our annual Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown on February 11th.

1. **Community Outreach**

**Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA)**   
MOAPIA has continued its community outreach engaging with AAPI small business owners and assisting them with their diverse challenges and needs. Through January 6th - February 9th, 2024., MOAPIA assisted 41 businesses and provided case assistance and resources regarding issues such as Business Grants, Permit, Basic business license, Mobile vending license, Health inspection, DC Façade Improvement Program, Tax-related issue, and Clean Hands certificate etc.

**Assistance with other DC government agencies regarding translation services**

MOAPIA continues to ensure that LEP/NEP AAPI residents can access resources in their language when they interface with District government. From January 6th - February 9th, 2024., MOAPIA provided translations and quality control reviews on several documents for other DC agencies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EOM | Frost Bite |
| OGC | Election Phrases |
| EOM | Lunar New Year Parade Graphic |
| EOM | Cold Weather Symptoms |
| EOM | Cold Weather Emergency Graphic |
| EOM | Hypothermia Alert Tweet |
| EOM | DCPL School Closure Tweet |
| EOM | MOCA Open House Survey |
| DOES | QC Living Wage Poster |
| DDOT | English Labor Standards Interview Form |
| DOES | UI IVR Testing All Languages |
| EOM | Hypothermia Alert Tweet |
| EOM | Hypothermia Alert Tweet |
| EOM | DC Health Link Tweet |
| DOES | Unemployment Benefits Claims |
| DPR | DPR Summer Camp |

**MOAPIA Public Safety**

MOAPIA is reaching out to residents and small business owners through its rigorous community outreach and joint public safety outreach with MPD. From January 6th - February 9th, 2024.

MOAPIA conducted business outreach to 16 businesses and connected 15 victims with DC resources such as Security Camera Rebate Program and Crime Victims Compensation Program.

**MOAPIA Regular Outreach**

MOAPIA has continued engaging with AAPI residents and small business owners through its in-person outreach, virtual outreach (via calls, emails, and texts), events, and public meeting opportunities. From January 6th - February 9th, 2024., MOAPIA reached out to about 60 constituents assisting cases regarding Medicaid renewal, SNAP, roadway vendors and small business tax issues and following up on Unemployment Insurance applications, as well as sharing various DC resources.

**Other Activities, Events, and Meetings**

1/08/2024: Launch Gallery-Place/Chinatown Task Force Press Conference

1/10/2024: Joint outreach with DLCP

1/11/2024: Elevating Korean Flavors: A Conversation with Award-Winning Chefs Korean American Day event

1/15/2024: MLK parade

1/17/2024: Business Outreach Ward 4

1/18/2024: Chinese American Museum Outreach

1/19/2024: Snow-day Field desk for MOCRS training and staffing

1/24/2024: Business Outreach + LNY Parade at Ward 3

1/28/2024: CCBA Press Conference re: LNY Parade

1/29/2024: Family Fun Day press conference

1/29/2024: District government agency open house

1/30/2024: District government agency open house

1/31/2024: District government agency open house

2/01/2024: MOCA Apple training

2/01/2024: Chinatown LNY outreach

2/02/2024: Mayoral Proclamation award ceremony: Ward 3

2/03/2024: Attended Chinese American Museum Lunar New Year

2/03/2024: Attended Alexandria Lunar New Year

2/03/2024: Attended City Case Live Discussion with ClockoutDC

2/05/2024: DMPED’s Retail Grant and Grow Expo

2/05/2024: Luna Hall outreach meeting

2/07/2024: Malaysian Embassy planning meeting

2/07/2024: Lunar Parade walkthrough with EOM

2/08/2024: CCBA/Lunar New Year Parade case assistance

2/08/2024: WJLA in Chinatown

2/08/2024: Fox 5 Interview about Lunar New Year

2/08/2024: DC News Now in Chinatown

2/11/2024: Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade

2/12/2024: Mayor Bowser Press Conference: Safe Commercial Corridor Hub Launch

2/13/2024: MPD Chief Press Conference: Public Safety Update

2/16/2024: DACL API Senior Center Lunar New Year event

2/17/2024: Child’s Play Lunar New Year event

**Upcoming Outreach Activities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** | **Time** | **Location** |
| Staffing at Safe Commercial Corridor Hub | Monday - Friday |  | 645 H Street |
| Joint Outreach - DLCP |  | 1:00PM |  |
| Budget Engagement Forum #1 | 2/24/2024 | 10:00 AM | Deanwood Recreation Center |
| Peter Chang's Lunar New Year Temple Fair | 2/25/2024 | 10:00 AM | Q by Peter Chang |
| Senior Budget Engagement Forum | 2/28/2024 | 11:00 AM | Congress Heights Wellness Center |
| Budget Engagement Forum | 2/28/2024 | 5:30 PM | Brookland Middle School |
| Budget Engagement Forum GenZ Podcast | 2/29/2024 | 5:30 PM | Online |