

## **Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) – Washington, D.C.**

The team lead by Steve Brigham and Kim Sescoc worked closely with MOAPIA Director David Do and his staff to produce a city-wide, Asian-American, Pacific Islander Action Forum in the fall of 2015, followed by producing an Action Forum Implementation Plan in 2016.

On September 12, about 200 District residents primarily from the Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community met at Walter E. Washington Convention Center to determine how the District can work more collaboratively with residents across different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, participants considered pressing issues and priorities in (1) health, (2) community safety, (3) youth education, (4) adult education and job training, (5) small business engagement and (6) affordable housing. Seventy-three percent of participants were from the AAPI Community. Throughout the meeting, participants used keypad polling to register their views and engaged in facilitated group discussions about how the city can better meet their needs.

In the six months afterward, PEA worked with senior MOAPIA staff to create an implementation plan that addressed the six policy areas. The top priorities in the plan were:

- Advocate for compliance regarding language access services for AAPI residents at government-funded clinics, hospitals, and other offices
- Advocate for more effective and efficient transportation access to health services for AAPI seniors
- Work with key partners to improve healthy food in grocery stores for AAPI seniors
- Work with MPD to enhance community policing (1) in ways that produce better communication, more trust, and relationship building, and (2) where officers know the residents, business owners and their languages
- Increase language resources for families (not just for students), especially providing official interpreters to communicate between teachers and ELL parents
- Work with DCPS to provide additional and effective cultural competency training for teachers
- Provide more effective English language programs to enable more AAPI residents to enter into job training programs while effectively promoting existing job training programs to AAPI residents
- Help neighborhood retailers become more effectively engaged with their communities in ways that ultimately bolster their businesses
- Keep advocating for housing affordability in rapidly changing neighborhoods

### **Reference**

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### **Dates of Service**

June 2015-June 2016

