



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

Snohomish County Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201
Saturday, September 15, 2012

REGULAR BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Lisa Dickinson, Pearl Leung, Darren Pen, Frieda Takamura, Rey Pascua, Quang Nguyen, Ty Tufono and Jagdish Sharma.

Commissioners Absent: Debadutta Dash, Jeannie Lee, Sofia Aragon and Tashi Khamshitsang.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director, Kendee Yamaguchi; Executive Assistant, Justin Chan.

APPROVAL OF SEPT 15, 2012 AGENDA

Motion was made 10:06 a.m. by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Tufono to approve the agenda with no amendments. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2012 MINUTES

Motion was made 10:06 a.m. by Commissioner Dickinson and seconded by Commissioner Tufono to approve the minutes with amendments. Minutes approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** The operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium amounts to \$234,000 for FY 2012 and \$212,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$446,000. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, translation services and supplies.
- **Operating and Supplemental Budget:** On September 5, 2012, the agency's supplemental and operating budget was submitted to the Office of Financial Management. Because of reductions made to the agency's discretionary funding in the last budget, the agency will be requesting additional funding to maintain operations.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Transition:** In July, staff completed and submitted all transition documents and briefings for the next administration to the Office of the Governor.

Agency Overview

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

- **Administrative Policies and Employee Manuals:** In August, staff reviewed and updated the agency's administrative policies and employee manuals. Essential infrastructures for the operation of the agency were tested and directional guidelines developed in preparation for transition.
- **Casework System:** The agency is maintaining an integrated online casework system. Requests on financial aid resources for school and employment opportunities remain steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Asian Pacific American Summit:** This year, the annual legislative day at the capitol was replaced with a summit. The Asian Pacific American Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement is on September 21st at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is organizing this event. More information can be found on our agency website.
- **API Legislative Day:** Staff is currently assisting the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition in securing a permit to use the capitol campus for the 2013 API Legislative Day and a venue for the legislative leadership meeting.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris Response Force:** Washington's coastal beaches are seeing an increase in marine debris from the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated Japan. The state has created a Marine Debris Task Force, a group of state agencies led by the Military Department's Emergency Management Division. The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is a member of this group and serves as a lead to the Cultural Heritage Workgroup. In August, a statewide Workplan and Outreach Strategy was completed and submitted as a framework to strengthen the Washington State Marine Debris Response Force's relationship with the state's diverse communities. This plan outlines approaches for state government officials to expand outreach efforts to address issues associated with potential debris, including risks to human safety and the spread of invasive species. Residents who encounter potentially hazardous marine debris should use the state's toll-free reporting and information line, 855-WACOST (855-922-6278).
- **Commission Initiatives:** The commission continues its work on two statewide initiatives: the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative and the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. More information can be found on our website.

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community and outreach to underrepresented populations. Over 130 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the AAPI community in our state.
 - **Commissioners Meet with Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** On July 9th, Commissioners Sharma, Nguyen, Takamura and Tufono participated in a meeting at the Wing Luke with Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. During this meeting, commissioners provided an update to the White House on our state's policy work in the areas of education, health, human services and economic development.
 - **Monitoring Federal Agency Policies Impacting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Since June, staff has been regularly participating in monthly calls with federal agencies on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Issues range from health, education to the economy and immigration. Federal agencies include the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services and the National Economic Council.
 - **Small Business Administration Roundtables:** On August 17th, the executive director participated in two small business roundtable discussions hosted by Congresswoman Patty Murray and Mr. Major Clark, Assistant Chief Counsel for Procurement Policy with the Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy. Topics included federal rules in government contracting and the 8A program process. Staff advocated for disaggregated data, increased outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses and

translated materials to provide access for the community. Community business leaders also discussed obstacles and shared experiences in government contracting.

- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our agency liaisons on a monthly basis. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff received an update from Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on programs, policies and data. On August 28th, the executive director participated in a meeting with officials from the Busan City Rehabilitation Center in Korea who visited the Department of Social and Health Services office in Seattle to learn about models of service delivery to people with disabilities.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Staff connected with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, who provided an update on outreach to the Pacific Islander community given the high unemployment rate of this population. Outreach activities are ongoing. Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses may be interested in knowing that they can reduce their 2012 federal taxes by up to \$9,600 for each eligible military veteran they hire before the end of this year under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. This tax credit also provides an incentive for employers to hire disadvantaged veterans who have been unemployed within the past year, received public assistance in the past 15 months, or have a service-related disability.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff continues to connect with Lyn Peters on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. Community members may want to be aware of events held under a program called, Investor Education In Your Community, that focuses on retirees in the Puget Sound area.
 - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff spoke with Paul Corning, our new agency liaison, to discuss consumer fraud issues impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Staff continues to advocate for the collection of disaggregated data to better understand which ethnic communities may be experiencing higher cases of fraud and to encourage the agency to develop more translated materials in Asian languages.
 - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided an update on the status of the statewide strategic plan on workforce development which will be adopted by the board at its next meeting on September 28th. Staff continues to participate in the Multiple Pathways for Workers and Employers Work Group which provides input to the plan.
 - **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff continues to meet with Chris Liu on issues related to the certification of Asian American and Pacific Islander firms and access to capital. The commission continues to have a representative on the OMWBE Adhoc Advisory Committee which provides input on OMWBE's draft business plan.
 - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu Scott on current programs, data and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In monitoring the number of cases coming into the Ombudsman Office from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, there has not been a rise or a decline. This fall, community members should be aware of a program called, Finding Your Voice, which hosts events in Spokane, Yakima Valley and the Tri-cities. The purpose of the events is to help parents better understand the public school system and to become better advocates for their children.
 - **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, continues to provide updates on proposed policy changes and the number of discrimination complaints filed by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. There has not been an increase or decrease in the number of cases filed over the past few months. Most recently, the Human Rights Commission held two rule making meetings on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. More information can be found at www.hum.wa.gov
 - **Department of Early Learning:** Amy Blondin, our agency liaison, provided an update on early learning programs and policies. Staff continues to work in partnership with the department and Thrive by Five on racial equity issues. Speakers from the agency will be featured at the next commission board meeting. On September 10th, the executive director met with Bette Hyde, Director of the Department of Early Learning, to discuss several early learning policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
 - **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison on changes in law or policies that may impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community

members should be aware of upcoming rate changes to workers' compensation that will take place in November.

- **Secretary of State:** Our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, provided an update on new policies and publications of interest to the community. In September, one large and one small business will be selected to receive the Corporations for Communities Award, which honors exceptional Washington businesses that make community a priority. Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses should consider applying. According to the Secretary of State, the number of profit corporations and limited liability companies filing annual reports online has grown over the past year. In June 2011, 42% of annual reports were completed online and as of June 2012 that number has grown nearly 20%.
- **Department of Revenue:** Rick Stedman updated staff on the Department of Revenue's current policies and programs. Community members should be aware of the Washington Small Business Fair on September 29th at the Renton Technical College which provides information on how to form and run a successful business. More information can be found at www.dor.wa.gov
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with Chewon Lee, to discuss policies and programs impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to work with OIC as a partner in our statewide AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. Most recently, staff has been connecting community leaders to OIC to provide information on the Affordable Care Act. Community members should be aware that beginning August 1st, coverage for preventive services with no co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance, expands to cover additional preventive services for women. Anyone enrolled in an individual health plan will get this new benefit and people with employer-sponsored health plans will see the new benefit when their plan renews. More information is available at www.insurance.wa.gov
- **Department of Commerce:** Staff spoke with Leigh Felton, our agency liaison, on acquiring more information on ways the Asian American and Pacific Islander community can access federal funding opportunities. Community members should be aware of the Capital Facilities Funding grant available to community non-profits for a variety of capital programs and specified projects. More information is available at www.commerce.wa.gov. Briefings were also provided to staff on the Governor's upcoming trade mission to Asian countries.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** A special acknowledgment and thank you to former liaison Susanne Beauchaine who recently left the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A new liaison is currently being identified. In August, the executive director participated on the selection committee for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant Program. A total of 5 million dollars was awarded to programs in high poverty areas or with low-performing schools to help them meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects.
- **Department of Health:** Our agency liaison, Jovi Swanson, provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the community. The Department of Health announced that due to 30 confirmed illnesses from Vibrio bacteria, the Totten Inlet near Olympia, North Bay and Dabob Bay in north Hood Canal are closed for the rest of the summer. Community members should also be aware that now is the time to make sure children are protected from diseases before they start school. All vaccines required to enroll in school are available to children at no cost. More information can be found at www.doh.wa.gov
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Antonio Sanchez, our agency liaison, provided an update on the Lieutenant Governor's work with Asian countries on behalf of our state. The Commission is working with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on developing future trade missions to Japan, South Korea and China. Commission Leung is serving as our liaison. In August, the Lieutenant Governor met with Singaporean Consul General Hock Seng Chin to discuss areas of potential collaboration. A recent trade mission to Taiwan also occurred.
- **Department of Ecology:** In August, the executive director met with researchers at the request of the Department of Ecology to provide recommendations on a health impact assessment for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community fishing in our state.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** The executive director continues to serve as a member on the Advisory Committee for the Race and Justice Research Project. A statewide study surveying the experiences and perceptions of minority communities with law enforcement and the courts is currently underway.

- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members, the commission provides briefings on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community and the agency.
 - **APA Legislative Members:** Upon the request of the Legislature, the executive director met with Representatives Santos, Hasegawa and Ryu to provide an update on programs, services and the interagency work of the commission on August 2nd. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

Board Meetings: The next statewide board meeting will be on November 17, 2012. Special thanks to Commissioner Tufono for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Standing Committees: Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. Most committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call.

7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Submission to the Department of Education on Request for Information on Data Disaggregation:** On behalf of our commission, Dr. Shirley Hune, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Washington, submitted input on our state's practices for disaggregating data on subgroups within the Asian American and Pacific Islander student population to the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Shirley Hune was one of our state's primary researchers on a landmark study focusing on the Achievement Gap of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2008.
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** In August, the Advisory Council met to discuss the education phone survey and the two education summits taking place this fall. An education phone survey of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) households was conducted from June 25th to August 1st with nearly 1,000 responses about AAPI experiences navigating the education system and communicating with schools. The results are currently being compiled and analyzed. The Pacific Islander Education Summit is on September 29th at South Seattle Community College and the Southeast Asian and Asian American Education Summit is on October 6th at Highline Community College. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative and will provide an update.
 - **Community College Scholarships for Asian American and Pacific Islander Students:** South Seattle Community College, an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution, is promoting scholarship opportunities at community colleges in the amount of \$2,500. Community members should be aware of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) Scholarship which is accepting applications until October 12th. More information can be found at www.apiasf.org
 - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa are our community representatives on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update.
 - **Education Workgroups:** Community representatives continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee and the OSPI & External Partners Dropout group.

Health Care and Human Services:

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** The commission continues its work on the statewide AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our state. The focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention and education on the Affordable Care Act. A series of events held in partnership with the community focusing on increasing awareness and encouraging testing for prevention are in progress. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director serves as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission. The council continues to work to develop policy recommendations for areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse

child experiences, health reform implementation and the state system and its potential impacts on health disparities.

- **State System and Health Disparities Workgroup:** In August, staff participated in meetings with the State System and Health Disparities Workgroup to discuss language access policies in our state.
- **Economic Development:**
 - **Trade Missions to Asian Countries:** The commission is working with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on developing future trade missions to Japan, South Korea and China. Commission Leung is serving as our liaison.
 - **Pathways to Careers, an Opportunity Nation Summit:** On September 11th, the executive director participated in Pathways to Careers, an event comprised of businesses, educational institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations focusing on building an educational pathway to middle-wage jobs.
 - **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** A special thanks to the many representatives serving on statewide committees working on economic development issues. Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, serves as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash sits on the Export Initiative which hosts quarterly working group meetings. Maiko Winkler-Chin is working with staff on the Microenterprise program and Mohan Gurung on the Efficient Regulation exercise.

GUEST SPEAKERS

AAPI Voices in Education Initiative

- Frieda Takamura, Commissioner, welcomed the speakers and introduced AAPI Voices in Education Initiative.
- Michael Itti, Program Coordinator at the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative, provided an overview of the initiative. The first phase of the initiative included forums, round tables and surveys. Issues discussed included cultural barriers and communication. Phone surveys were on the expectations parents, children and teachers have on the school system. Recently completed were interactive workshops. A report from the survey will be distributed and there will be a continued effort in finding additional sources of funding to continue the work of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative.

Southeast Asian / Asian American Education Summit

- Ay Saechao, Program Manager at Highline Community College, provided an introduction on the Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition and the education summit. The coalition started on January 5th of 2011 to address the education disparity among Southeast Asian American students. The coalition is built on the core strategy of data to propel their work. He gave thanks to Highline Community College for providing a venue and non-profit service. The education summit is open to everyone to allow for connections to be established between student needs and resources. Parents can visit him at Highline Community College for additional information.
- Ammara Kimso, Student Development Coordinator at University of Washington, provided an introduction on her work and assistance on the education summit. She has met with students and parents to provide an opportunity with a sense of empowerment. The education summit is an opportunity to exchange ideas between students, teachers and faculty. There will be a Southeast Asian American panel that she will facilitate. Her work consists of helping community college student and nontraditional students obtain their Associates Degree. She is excited to work with the diverse stakeholders in the community.

Pacific Islander Education Summit

- Rochelle Fonoti, the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (ANNAPISI) Pacific Islander Cultural Specialist at South Seattle Community College, described her work on the ANNAPISI grant. They were successful in making South Seattle Community College a federally designated AAPI institution.
- Sheryl Day with the University of Washington spoke about her work. Work began on the Pacific Island Education Summit in February at the Asian Pacific Island American Think Tank (APIATT) planning session. As the designated planning chairs, they focused on communication, producing flyers, radio segments, and emails. With hopes of sustaining the project for years to come, they are expecting a large turnout for the first Pacific Islander Education Summit which will be a discussion with the community on K-12 issues. They will be transporting community members to the summit on multiple buses. They have also extended the Education Summit to be longer than originally planned.

Lastly, she gave appreciation to the Gates Foundation for providing funding and South Seattle Community College for providing food, venue and staff.

Education Panel: State Agency Representatives

Question 1: Please provide an introduction to your work.

Adie Simmons, the Director of the Office of the Education Ombudsman, provided an introduction. The agency resolves complaints, disputes, and problems between families and elementary and secondary public schools in all areas that affect student learning. The focus is on complaint resolution and data.

Bob Hamilton, Deputy Director at Department of Early Learning, provided an introduction. The agency is in charge of implementing, developing and coordinating early learning policy and programs that create safe, culturally appropriate and healthy learning experiences for children in Washington State. The agency encourages, incentivizes and engages parents in the process.

Molly Boyajian, Director of Policy and Community Partnerships at Thrive by Five, provided an introduction. The organization works with state agencies on educational partnerships and is a nonprofit public-private partnership for early learning. The organization focuses on community partnerships because the path to educational success is rooted in the community.

Question 2: Please provide an overview of services provided to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Office of the Education Ombudsman:

- The office utilizes experienced staff in conflict resolution which saves money that would have gone to education related lawsuits.
- The agency has a diverse staff from all varieties of backgrounds focused on what is fair for students. The agency has resolved many difficult multi-issue cases by modeling after courteous treatment when corresponding with parents and schools. Staff are respectful and provide culturally competent prevention and intervention services.
- The caseload has grown 15% annually but the agency's budget is currently inadequate for serving the increasing demand. As a result, the agency has a waiting list of cases. The current priority is on intervention and assisting students to return to school who are expelled or dropout. The agency also ensures that students are able to learn in a safe environment without fear of being bullied or harassed.
- The top complaint issues are special education, bullying and parental involvement. Students currently being served are 14% bi-racial. 18% of all bullying complaints are English language learners such as Asian students (Chinese and Vietnamese). 8% of all special education complaints are Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander students. 23% of all parent engagement complaints are Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander and East Indian parents who not provided an interpreter. Lastly, she gave thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs for her work.

Department of Early Learning:

The agency is currently working on developmental guidelines for children from birth through the third grade. The guidelines replace the Early Learning and Development Benchmarks, which were first created in 2005 to outline what children know and are able to do at different stages of their development.

This Guideline provide roles and skills for children, acknowledging them and incorporating their values. Parents can see what is required to be ready for Kindergarten. By 2014-2015, the agency is aiming to complete a state wide disaggregated data report on how Washington State children are doing.

Thrive by Five:

The organization receives support from sponsors and grants.

Thrive by Five attempts to find barriers in education by engaging with parents and children with the assumption that teachers and parents want what is the best for children.

The organization is working to create a platform for diverse children and parents to voice their opinions on race and a roadmap on how diverse communities can engage and address issues in education.

There will be an upcoming large stakeholder meeting.

Question 3: How can the commission help you?

- Thrive by Five seeks support from the commission in shaping an outreach plan as the organization moves into phase two of how to connect with parents.
- The Department of Early Learning seeks support from the commission in working on legislation assisting diverse populations. Possible policy work could relate to cultural education plans.
- The Office of the Education Ombudsman requests assistance in providing information and outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander parents on the agency's services and upcoming *Finding your Voice* trainings which are a group of modules offered in different languages that teach parents to play a central role in education.

Presentation: Commissioner Pen

- Commissioner Pen provided a presentation on his current work in the community. He acknowledges that there is an opportunity gap among the Asian American and Pacific Islander population which is why he is focused on communication, patience and commitment. He works closely with law enforcement as a representative for the community by focusing on safety and health as a priority to all residents no matter their race or class. Currently, he is working with detectives on home invasion cases that are targeting minority households. By conducting safety sessions every month to outreach to the community and advocating for the transformation of a public vacant land into a community garden in Tacoma, he is remaining active. He recently attended the Cambodian Cultural Celebration at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines, Washington on August 25th

Presentation: Commissioner Leung

- Commissioner Leung continues her work on the Wine initiative and hopes to connect local wine producers to the growing demand of wine in Asia. There is a current project called, 18MillionRising.org that promotes Asian American and Pacific Islander civic engagement by leveraging the power of technology and social media. This project targets the next generation of Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. Commissioner Leung also provided an update on StarImpact, a nonprofit organization created to help mentor Asian American high school women.

Public Comment

- Seayoung Yim from Why Marriage Matters Washington provided information on the campaign. Approximately 6% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have dealt with harassment as a result of their LGPT preference. The AAPI LGBT population is invisible in the community and there needs to be a conversation to further this issue.
- Paul Corning, Lemon Law Program Manager at the Attorney General's Office, provided a brief background on his work. The Washington State Motor Vehicle "Lemon Law" is designed to help new vehicle owners who have substantial continuing problems with warranty repairs. The law allows the owner to request an arbitration hearing through the Attorney General's Office. As part of the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office, his client is the public with issues ranging from cars to pharmaceuticals. He provided information on the Cy Pres grant that provides grants to nonprofits and agencies on consumer protection. He is also the volunteer coordinator at the Consumer Resource Center and seeks community volunteers.
- Kinuko Noborikawa, a representative from the Communities of Color Coalition shared information on an upcoming race conference in Snohomish County on April 27th. This is the 2nd annual conference. The first conference on race was successful with a large turnout and it received a positive response from the community. 92% of the attendees thought the information was very relevant on raising awareness of race. Bo Tunestram shared that multiracial students are the fastest growing in schools in the area and there needs to be a boarder way of reporting information on multiracial populations.
- State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos of the 37th legislative district thanked the commission and commented on how helpful the board meeting has been in providing her with new ideas. Representative Santos will be hosting two town hall meetings on October 15th and 16th on the issue of charter schools. She is currently working on disaggregated data and an education bill of rights to expand cultural competency of educators. She is also looking at the Dream Act and providing tuition assistance to Latinos and Asian American and Pacific Islander students. She thanked the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition for inviting her to speak at the Washington Regional Leadership Academy on September 22nd and acknowledged Sili Savusa and Commissioner Takamura's involvement on the Education Opportunity Gap Accountability and Oversight Committee. She also thanked the commissioners for their important work in the community in moving forward initiatives and strategies to bridge the opportunity gap.

Announcements

- Commissioner Pascua announced the need for apple pickers in the Yakima Valley. The Filipino drill team will also be dancing on October 6th and the Yakima Valley Harvest dinner will be on October 28th.
- Commissioner Tufono announced an ongoing lawsuit related to US national Samoans and Samoan residents becoming U.S. citizens.
- Commissioner Takamura announced that the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition met with the new superintendent of the Bellevue School District and briefed him on issues of concern to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Commissioner Takamura motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 1:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pascua with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Justin Chan.

Commissioner Report
September 15, 2012
Snohomish County Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
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1. **COMMISSIONER ARAGON:**

- Announced her recent appointment by the Health Benefit Exchange Board to the Navigator Technical Advisory Committee. The goal of this committee is to ensure that strong outreach on insurance coverage occurs for communities of color on the Health Benefit Exchange.
- Attended the Pinoy Reporter's 3rd Annual Tagumpay Awards on August 18th.
- Presented at the Washington State Labor Council Convention on upcoming legislative issues on August 6th.
- Assisted with numerous activities and events for Asian Pacific Americans for Civic Engagement.

2. **COMMISSIONER DASH:**

- Working on the development and creation of the first Washington State Summit on US-India Trade & Commerce. This event will take place at the Seattle Center from September 27th to 28th and is hosted by the Washington State and India Trade Relations Action Committee in collaboration with the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Foster School of Business and the Seattle Center Foundation.
- The summit will host trade delegations from three India states: Assam, Gujarat and Odisha. This is an opportunity to hear keynote speakers and participate in sessions focusing on key areas of agriculture, bio-tech and medical research, education, clean-tech, infrastructure, logistics, manufacturing, real estate and investment, tourism, and renewable energy. More information can be found at www.NextFiftyIndia.org.

3. **COMMISSIONER DICKINSON:**

- Attended the following events: July 21st, the Bon Odori festival at the Seattle Buddhist Temple. August 2nd to 7th, the American Bar Association (ABA) Annual Meeting in Chicago serving in the House of Delegates, its governing body, and on other committees in the ABA. Combating human trafficking was the issue highlighted and Sandra Yamate, Trailblazer Honoree and the first ever Central Regional Governor of National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), was honored with the ABA Liberty Achievement Award for her diversity promotion efforts.
- Elected as the Secretary of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges' Association in Yakima and will begin working in July as a part-time Administrative Law Judge for the State of Washington doing unemployment cases in addition to continuing her private practice.
- Announced that President Obama nominated Assistant U.S. Attorney Pamela Ki Mai Chen to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York on August 2nd. If confirmed, she will be only the second Chinese American woman to ever serve as an Article III judge in American history, and one of only a small number of openly lesbian judges in the federal judiciary.
- Announced that NAPABA joined a Statement of Solidarity regarding the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Sikh Temple shootings entitled "We Are All Sikhs: A Statement on Oak Creek Tragedy And Its Impact" on August 9th.

4. **COMMISSIONER KHAMSHITSANG:**

- Travelled across North America and presented to numerous Tibetan American communities about the work and services of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

5. **COMMISSIONER LEE:**

- Provided casework assistance to many Korean American residents which included but was not limited to: A Korean American grocery owner who contacted her in June on issues of tobacco sales, a local grocery store owner who couldn't stay in business, a Korean man in Tacoma who was confronting a small claims issue and a Korean couple who requested information on starting a small business in July.

6. COMMISSIONER LEUNG:

- Visited the Filipino Community Center in Rainier Valley to be briefed on plans to develop the site into a mixed use facility that includes affordable housing, community space, and retail space. Provided recommendations to Filipino Community of Seattle President Alma Kern on fundraising, development strategies and capacity building.
- Attended the local ethnic media and multicultural business leaders event hosted by New America Media at Sea Beez, the Washington Hispanic Media Association and the 98118 Coalition on August 22nd.
- Worked with the Chinatown/International District Business Improvement Area to secure a site for their annual Night Market and Moon Festival on September 22nd.
- Met with officers of the Friends of Little Saigon, a grassroots community development organization in the Little Saigon neighborhood of Seattle, on their vision, goals and projects.

7. COMMISSIONER NGUYEN:

- Facilitated the Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan process which is comprised of three phases to build community capacity and advocate effectively on issues such as economic development impacting Seattle's Little Saigon community and the broader Vietnamese-American community.
- Organized meetings between all nine members of the Seattle City Council and Little Saigon stakeholders on the community's concerns to the rezoning proposal for the Seattle Housing Authority's 30-acre Yesler Terrace property. More information can be found at http://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/yesler_terrace.htm
- Assisted in the planning of the August 18th Celebrate Little Saigon festival which showcased Vietnamese music, culture, and food to inject social, business and cultural activities into the Little Saigon neighborhood.
- Continues to work with SCIDpda to develop a business incubator for the neighborhood as part of an initiative to connect the neighborhood to the broader regional and global economy.
- Continues to sit on the Puget Sound Regional Council's South Corridor Task Force (SCTF) to address issues such as transportation and small businesses on the future development and growth of the 24 transit nodes from south of Downtown Seattle to Downtown Tacoma. More information can be found at <http://psrc.org/about/advisory/gtc-committees/corridor-task-forces/south-corridor-task-force/>

8. COMMISSIONER PASCUA:

- Provided copies of the 2012 Filipino American History Month Resolution to the Pinoy Reporter, and to the national office of the Filipino American Historical Society. He plans to present the resolution to school district superintendents and newspapers around Washington State leading up to October 2012.
- Attended the National Filipino American National Historical Society conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico from June 27th to July 1st.
- Assisted in the reunification of "Little Manila," a neighborhood in Wapato, Washington, which was an enclave for Filipinos starting in 1953.
- Attended the Pinoy Reporter's 3rd Annual Tagumpay Awards on August 18th and nominated Washington State Senator Jim Honeyford of Sunnyside for the Tagumpay Award.
- Announced that his first grandchild, Natalia Sandra Rosal Pascua, was baptized in Yakima, Washington on August 26th.

9. COMMISSIONER PEN:

- Participated in a groundbreaking for a community garden in Tacoma with the Barangay Community Service, Tacoma City Council Members Marty Campbell and Anders Ibsen. He assisted in advocating for the transformation of the public vacant land into a community garden.
- Attended the following events: August 25th, Cambodian Cultural Celebration 2012 at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines, Washington with members of the South Puget Sound Cambodian community showcasing performances of traditional and contemporary music and art. August 31st, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the reopening of Malkit Singh's gas station in Tacoma with State Senator Steve Conway and Tacoma Deputy Mayor Joe Lonergan.
- Announced that he will be facilitating the 2012 Washington State Cambodian American Singers Contest hosted by the Consulate of Cambodia at the Jumbo Restaurant in Seattle on October 27th.

10. COMMISSIONER SHARMA:

- Attended the following events: July 4th, Ethnic Heritage Council Naturalization Ceremony at the Seattle Center welcoming 525 new citizens with Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Secretary of State Sam Reed, Attorney General Rob McKenna, U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott and many other elected and diplomats. August 18th, Candlelight Vigil and Prayer held at the Renton Gurudwara Sahib in the memory of victims and families of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Sikh Temple shootings. August 19th, Vigil and Prayer held at the Hindu Temple & Cultural Center. August 25th, 66th Independence Day of India celebrations organized by India Association of Western Washington at the Kirkland Performance Center. August 25th, Indo American Friendship Forum three hours Puget Sound Cruise dinner where he was awarded with the “Distinguished Community Service Award”. September 6th, reception in honor of Andhra Pradesh Speaker of the House in Bellevue, Washington.

11. COMMISSIONER TAKAMURA:

- Continues to participate in the following committees and organizations: Governor's Equal Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Compensation Work Group, Voices in Education Initiative Advisory Committee, Power of Words committee, Asian Pacific Directors Coalition and Win/Win Network.
- Met with the following: Representative of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, National Education Association Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Outreach staff, AAPI community representatives with the new Bellevue School District superintendent, Edmonds School District staff, two University of Washington graduate students to discuss education policy, University of Washington Minority Affairs Office staff to discuss the prospective hiring of a recruiter to specifically target Southeast Asian students and Communities of Color stakeholders in preparation of education related legislation during the next session.

12. COMMISSIONER TUFONO:

- Attended the following events: June 24th, Seattle Pride Parade with AAPI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Transgender/Transsexual group Utopia. June 29th, Asia Pacific Cultural Center’s Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders Youth Health Fitness Day at the Harry E Lang Stadium. June 30th, Asia Pacific Cultural Center’s Samoa Cultural Day at the Harry E Lang Stadium. July 9th, meeting at the Wing Luke with Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. August 14th, City of Lynnwood Diversity Commission meeting to introduce the commission and provide information on AAPI services.
- Indicated that in July, she met with Edmonds School District Assistant Superintendent Ellen Kahan on implementing more AAPI student activities in schools. Commissioner Sharma and Tufono also met with Edmonds City Mayor Dave Earling to provide information on the commission and AAPI services.
- Met with Edmonds Community College Director of Multicultural Student Services Shirley Sutton in August to discuss AAPI student issues on campus. She also met with Lika Smith with the National Organization of Women and Maria Garcia, Edmonds School District Manager of Latin Student Multicultural Affairs to discuss effective ways to implement more diversity in the Edmonds School District.