



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee
Forbes

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Agenda

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

*Please note that this meeting will be recorded. The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19.

Commissioners In Attendance: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Chu, Li Morrison, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran, Gary Yu, and Philjay Solar.

Staff in Attendance: Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Leela Ramachandran, Shubhecchha Dhaurali

Attachments:

- Draft Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2025
- Expenditure Budget

- **Call to Order**

Commissioner Gary Chu motions to begin the meeting. Commissioner Rakashi Chand seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Chu, Li Morrison, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran, Gary Yu

The motion passes unanimously. The meeting begins at 6:34 pm.

- **Commissioners Check-in**
- Commissioner Saatvik won't be present at the next meeting if held on May 20

- **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2025 (VOTE)**

Commissioner Tuyet Tran motions to approve the March 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Li Morrison seconds.

Yes: Saatvik, Rakashi, Bahara, Gary Chu, Li, Emma, Tuyet, Gary Yu

The motion passes unanimously.

- **Summary on issues impacting the AAPI community and next steps**

Commissioners engaged in a thoughtful discussion about how the Commission can respond more effectively and compassionately to time-sensitive events that impact AAPI communities, especially in the context of evolving local and national challenges.

Key points from the conversation included:

- The importance of finding ways to express solidarity with other communities while upholding the Commission's values and mission.
- Interest in developing a more agile process for issuing timely public statements or commentary, including legal guidance on how to navigate this responsibly.



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- Recognition that these are unprecedented times, and while the desire to act quickly is valid, decisions should continue to reflect collective input to maintain transparency and trust.
- A potential pathway forward could involve convening a quorum of subcommittee chairs and Executive Committee members to draft and approve timely responses when needed.
- Commissioners expressed concern for affected communities, particularly in higher education settings, and emphasized the need to listen to those directly impacted.
- Ideas were shared about forming a dedicated subcommittee focused on public statements, exploring virtual voting or short Zoom check-ins for urgent matters, and holding listening sessions to better understand community concerns.
- Commissioners acknowledged the nuances between releasing formal press statements and sharing informational content on social media and suggested creating more internal guidelines to support consistent decision-making.
- Suggestions were also made for public educational content to raise awareness of relevant issues and for amplifying statements made by appointing authorities.
- Staff offered to draft a statement template to support these efforts and streamline future communications.

Commissioner Philjay Solar joins at 6:45 PM

The Commission looks forward to continuing this conversation and establishing thoughtful processes to ensure its public voice is both responsive and representative.

- **Budget discussion (as of April 1, 2025):**
- The Executive Director shared the updated budget report. The Executive Director invited Commissioners to suggest priorities for allocating these remaining funds.
- One Commissioner recommended considering options aligned with current challenges.

Immigrant Rights and Community Support

- The Policy Director shared that many community members continue to feel powerless despite the availability of Know Your Rights trainings. Recent incidents have demonstrated that knowing one's rights does not always guarantee they will be respected in practice.
- Information was shared about the LUCE hotline, where community members can report activity: <https://www.lucemass.org>
- It was also noted that recorded *Know Your Rights* trainings and accompanying slides are available through MIRA's website: <https://miracoalition.org/know-your-rights-recorded-presentations-and-slides>
- One Commissioner raised the idea of gathering anonymous testimony or reflections from training attendees to better understand community experiences.



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- Another Commissioner suggested creating an anonymous storytelling archive to give voice to impacted individuals while protecting their identities.
- Commissioners discussed the potential value of translating MIRA's *Know Your Rights* training materials into additional Asian languages not currently available.

Old Business

Reports

- **Sub-Committee Reports:** Updates from each subcommittee on current initiatives.
- **Staff Report:** Review of staff activities and updates.
 - Shubhecchha (Programs & Research)
 - 4/19 Pasifika Gathering- first one, space for PI-identifying folks in MA to come together, learn about AAPIC - hope to take inspiration from the quarterly WM meetings
 - 4/23 Western MA + 5/4 Boston Untold Stories of Bhutanese Living in Western MA Screening ([RSVP](#))
 - 6/3 Survey Event - State House - invitations coming soon
 - 6/23 Youth Council - State House - invitations coming soon
 - Leela (Policy)
 - Staff and some Commissioners met with the Asian Caucus on April 8.
 - The House budget has been released, and AAPIC is currently funded at the level proposed by the Governor. This may change once the House budget is finalized.
 - May 1: APIs CAN advocacy day from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Moana will participate in a panel discussion, which the Commission is co-sponsoring.
 - Unity Dinner is on May 10th. We still have roughly 70 tickets available to purchase.
- **Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:30

Commissioner Gary Chu motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik, Rakashi, Bahara, Gary Chu, Li, Emma, Tuyet, Gary Yu, Philjay

The motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 7:54 pm.