



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Li Morrison

Marilyn Park

Jennifer Rubin

Philjay Solar

Ekta Srinivasa

Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee

Forbes

One Ashburton

Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM EST

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

Note: This meeting was recorded in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law during COVID-19.

Commissioners Present:

Li Morrison, Tuyet Tran, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim, Richard Chu, Moana Bentin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Philjay Solar, Rakashi Chand, Jennifer Rubin, Emma Chen-Banas, Christopher Huang (joined at 8:32 PM), Ekta Srinivasa (joined during vote)

Staff Present:

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Leela Ramachandran, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Brissa Hunter

Attachments Reviewed:

- FY2025 Pacific Islander Community Scholarships Justification (Anonymized and Named Versions)
- Scholarship Process Summary
- FY25 Budget Documents
- Interim Executive Director Notes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Saatvik Ahluwalia at 6:32 PM.

A motion to begin the meeting was made by Commissioner Bentin and seconded by Commissioner Li Morrison.

Vote:

Yes – Li Morrison, Moana Bentin, Rakashi Chand, Emma Chen-Banas, Bahara Hussaini, Philjay Solar, Jennifer Rubin, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia

Motion passed with 9 Yes votes.

2. FY2025 Pacific Islander Community Scholarships (VOTE)

Staff member Shubhecchha Dhaurali provided an overview of the scholarship process, outreach, and anonymized selection process. Supporting documents including justification letters and candidate materials were reviewed.



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Commissioner Danielle Kim moved to approve four scholarship awards of \$1,000 each (total \$4,000) to be disbursed from the FY2026 budget. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Rakashi Chand, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Richard Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Li Morrison

Abstain – Moana Bentin

Motion passed with 11 Yes and 1 Abstention.

3. FY2025 Budget – Use of Trust Account Funds (VOTE)

Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia presented the background on the FY25 budget overage, due to vacation payouts linked to staff resignations. A discussion was held on financial tracking and the need to engage a CPA.

Commissioner Rakashi Chand moved to authorize the use of up to \$25,000 from the Commission's trust account at the State Treasurer's Office to address the FY25 budget overage. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Moana Bentin, Rakashi Chand, Emma Chen-Banas, Richard Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia

Abstain – Christopher Huang

Motion passed with 10 Yes and 1 Abstention.

Commissioner Huang requested that all commissioners receive future training on budget management.

4. Interim Executive Director Appointment (VOTES)

Commissioner Ahluwalia outlined the proposed terms for the Interim Executive Director: 18 hours/week at a rate of \$112/hour.

First Motion:

Commissioner Tuyet Tran moved to approve the Interim ED position with the stated terms. Commissioner Bahara Hussaini seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Rakashi Chand, Saatvik Ahluwalia

Motion passed with 10 Yes votes.

Second Motion:

Commissioner Tuyet Tran moved to offer the Interim ED position to Candidate 1,



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contingent on acceptance of the terms. If declined, the offer will be extended to Candidate 2. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu, Bahara Hussaini, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Christopher Huang

Abstain – Philjay Solar, Danielle Kim

Motion passed with 9 Yes and 2 Abstentions.

5. Adjournment

The Chair thanked commissioners and staff for their contributions and emphasized the importance of these decisions in preparing for FY2026.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran moved to adjourn. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu, Bahara Hussaini, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Christopher Huang, Philjay Solar, Danielle Kim

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next AAPIC Meeting:

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM EST via Zoom.



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