



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Tuyet Tran

Vice Chairperson

Gary Yu

Treasurer

Moana Bentin

Secretary

Rakashi Chand

Karen Y. Chen

Emma Chen-Banas

Gary Chu

Richard Chu

Amy Goh

Christopher Huang

Bahara Hussaini

Danielle Kim

Bethany Li

Li Morrison

Marilyn Park

Jennifer Rubin

Philjay Solar

Ekta Srinivasa

Executive Director

Vacant

One Ashburton

Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

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MA AAPI Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16th · 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM EST

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

**Please note this meeting will be recorded and held via Zoom & teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on Open Meeting Law*

Attendees

Commissioners: Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran, Gary Chu, Li Morrison, Karen Chen, Bahara Hussaini, Philjay Solar, Emma Chen-Banas, Christopher Huang, Rakashi Chand

Staff: Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Leela Ramachandran

Public:

Agenda Items

- **Call to Order**

Gary moves to open the meeting, Moana seconds the motion

Yes: Moana, Gary, Bahara, Li, Karen, Philjay, Tuyet

No:

Tuyet calls meeting to order at 6:36 pm

- **Public Comment**

- None.

- **Meeting minutes approval (VOTE)**

- [November 18, 2025](#)

Emma Chen-Banas joins at 6:37 pm.

Gary Chu motioned to approve the November 18th meeting minutes, Moana Bentin seconded.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Li Morrison, Philjay Solar,

Tuyet Tran

No:

Abstain: Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas

Motion passes.

- **Commissioner Applications & Term Ends - Moana Bentin & Leela Ramachandran**

- Leela Ramachandran provided a brief update on the open Commissioner positions. Completed applications have been



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forwarded to the appointing authorities.

Election for Secretary Nomination

- Secretary Nominations
 - i. [Bahara Hussaini](#)
- Tuyet Tran moved to appoint and vote in Commissioner Bahara Hussaini as Secretary. Moana Bentin seconded.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Li Morrison, Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas, Philjay Solar, Tuyet Tran

No:

Abstain: Bahara Hussaini

Motion passed.

● Budget Updates

- [Updated FY2026 Spending on Comp Controller Website](#)
 - i. As of December 2, 2025, \$102,413.79 of \$586,188.00 Fiscal Year 2026 budget spent (**17.47%**)
- [FY 2026 Budget _ Updated.xlsx](#) (VOTE)
 - i. Updates include:
 1. Added \$24,192.00 back into budget for Interim ED
- On December 1, the Governance and Finance Committee met with the EC and reallocated \$24,192 to the appropriate line item to enable the process to move forward. Due to the significant size of this reallocation, final approval was deferred to the December Commission meeting.
- Due to time constraints, the Executive Committee recommended a revised approach. Rather than hiring an Interim ED, it is recommended that the Commission engages a Technical Consultant to manage the technical and administrative aspects of the role. This solution provides continuity, leverages institutional knowledge, and ensures operational stability while the Commission completes the search for a permanent Executive Director.



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- Tuyet shared that former ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes is available and willing to serve in this capacity during the transition and will work with EC and assume responsibility for critical processes that will ease the burden on staff and the EC.

- **EC Proposal for Hiring Technical Consultant (VOTE)**

- Tuyet Tran moved to approve reinstating \$24,192.00 into the budget and allocating these funds to engage a technical assistance contractor for the next five months. Moana Bentin seconded the motion.

Yes: Christopher Huang, Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Li Morrison, Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini

No:

Abstain: Philjay Solar

Motion passes.

Christopher Huang joins at 6:50 PM.

Rakashi Chand joins at 7:01 pm.

- **Subcommittee Membership & Leadership Updates - December Election**
 - Shubhecchha Dhaurali provided programmatic and policy updates.
 -  Current AAPIC Subcommittees
- **Election for Vice Chair and Secretary for December 2025 - December 2026 (VOTE)**
 - Vice Chair Nominations
 - i. [Rakashi Chand](#)
- Gary Chu moved to appoint and vote in Commissioner Rakashi Chand as Vice Chair, Moana Bentin seconded the motion.

Yes: Christopher Huang, Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Li



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Morrison, Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas, Philjay Solar, Tuyet Tran

No:

Abstain: Rakashi Chand

Motion passed.

- **Legal Consultants Update**

- An update regarding legal services was provided. No vote was taken.

- **AAPIC Bylaws**

- [Link](#)
- Commissioners were reminded to view the current bylaws and requested that a subcommittee be established at the next meeting to undertake this review.

- **Conflict of Interest**

- [Link](#)
- The State Ethics Commission has developed a new Conflict of Interest (COI) training program. All state, county, and municipal employees (including Commissioners) must complete this training every two years. Additionally, you would need to acknowledge in writing that you have received the summary of the conflict-of-interest law annually thereafter (attached).
- To do so, please create an account here. <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com/> This will allow you to access and complete the new online training program and acknowledge receipt of the summary of the conflict-of-interest law. You can fulfill these requirements using any computer or mobile device, and your completion will be automatically recorded.
 - i. Note in "AAPI Commission" when making your login
 - ii. **Training is 1 hour 10 minutes total time**

 FY 2026 Budget _ Updated.xlsx **Budget Approval**

- Gary Chu moved to approve the budget as it is currently, Moana Bentin seconded the motion.

Yes: Christopher Huang, Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Li



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Morrison, Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas, Philjay Solar, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran

No:

Abstain:

Motion passed.

- **Future agenda items**

- Reappointment of current Commissioners
- Legal Services agreement next steps.
-

Gary Chu moved to adjourn. Rakashi seconded the motion.

Yes: Christopher Huang, Moana Bentin, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Li Morrison, Karen Chen, Emma Chen-Banas, Philjay Solar, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran

No:

Abstain:

Meeting is adjourned.

Agenda Compiled by: Shubhecchha Dhaurali

Agenda Review & Final Edits by: Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran

Minutes Compiled by: Shubhecchha Dhaurali & Leela Ramachandran



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