

# MINUTES

## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday – January 25, 2006 – 2:00 p.m.

Jim Thorpe Building – Conference Room G-91  
2101 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Advance written notice of regular scheduled meetings was filed with the Secretary of State on December 14, 2005. The agenda for this meeting was posted at the State Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Section 301 through 314 of Title 25.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hung Le, Chair  
Tinny Chang  
Dr. Evelina Morales  
Thuy Pham  
Vasithy Sengdara  
Nick Wu

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Kyung-Whan Min  
Dr. Rita Raman  
Dr. Yoshi Sasaki

### **OPM STAFF PRESENT**

Brenda C. Thornton  
Linda Williamson

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### **VISITORS PRESENT**

**Oscar B. Jackson, Jr. – Administrator of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration**  
**John Leung – Cultural Exchange Representative, Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU), Durant, Oklahoma**  
**Marisa New, OTR, MPH -- Coordinator of Arthritis Prevention and Education Program, Community Development Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)**

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#### **A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chair Hung Le called the meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs to order at 2:15 p.m.

#### **B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS.**

Chair Le welcomed and thanked each one for attending. Guests, council members and staff were asked to provide self-introductions. Chair Le took this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

#### **C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 26, 2005, MEETING.**

The minutes of October 26, 2005, were approved as presented on a motion by Ms. Vasithy Sengdara; seconded by Ms. Thuy Pham.

## **D. PRESENTATIONS.**

Brenda Thornton introduced Ms. Marisa New, Coordinator of the Arthritis Prevention and Education Program at the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), who gave an excellent presentation completely covering the topic of arthritis--from who has it and how it affects them, to what help is available for those affected and the practices and strategies that may help in the prevention of its onset. The Arthritis Prevention and Education Program at the OSDH is a relatively young program that works closely with the Arthritis Foundation to help raise public awareness about arthritis.

## **E. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES**

Mr. Nick Wu informed the council that Governor Henry hosted a luncheon on November 3, 2005, to honor the official delegation visiting Oklahoma from the China's Gansu Province in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister state relationship between the State of Oklahoma and the Gansu Province. Council members Chair Hung Le, Nick Wu, Tinny Chang and Vasithy Sengdara attended the luncheon.

Mr. John Leung, guest of Mr. Wu, stated that he has been very instrumental in bringing Chinese students from China to study in a 1 to 2-year program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University studying business and international law.

Ms. Pham announced that Dr. Irene Lamb, Manager of the Gold Dome, would be holding a special meeting for the Asian community in an effort to expand opportunities to promote the Asian culture.

Dr. Evelina Morales also noted that fellow council member Nick Wu was the third artist to be invited by Dr. Lamb to display some of his artwork.

### **JUVENILE CRISIS/SAFETY & SECURITY**

Ms. Pham noted that she was still trying to make arrangements for Dr. Theodore Baumberger to speak about his work with youth development and the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Chair Le announced that Ms. Tinny Chang had been recently appointed to the nine-member Oklahoma City Police Citizens Board. Their first meeting will be February 11, 2006.

### **HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL SERVICES**

Dr. Morales stated that she has been distributing EPA flyers on public health issues and asked that she be allowed to continue. The council agreed that this was a good way to serve the community.

### **ARTS/CULTURAL**

Lunar New Year (year of the dog) celebrations were announced as follows:

- o New Year's Eve – January 28, 2006, at Vien Giac Buddhist Temple.
- o Vietnamese – January 28, 2006, at Lincoln Plaza, beginning at 1:30 p.m.
- o Chinese Association – February 4, 2006, at Trinity Baptist Church (23<sup>rd</sup> & Classen). Lunch is provided beginning at 11 a.m.

- o Laotian New Year – April 13, 14, and 15, 2006, the 20-year anniversary celebration for the Laotian Women's Association

On Saturday, January 21, 2006, the Oklahoma Chinese Cultural Center Foundation partnered with the Salvation Army for the sixth year to sponsor the annual **Feed the Homeless** event. Council members Chair Hung Le, Nick Wu, Vasithy Sengdara, and Tinny Chang participated in this event that served approximately 250. Oklahoma City Chinese restaurants provided the food. Warm clothing and the traditional "Red Packet" were distributed. Health screenings were also offered.

## **EDUCATION**

Ms. Pham provided information about the selection process for students attending the Oklahoma School of Science and Math.

Ms. Sengdara announced that the Douglas High School students have moved into their new building and John Marshall and Eisenhower schools will also be getting new buildings.

She also announced that in the Oklahoma City Public School District they would be implementing the new Language Assessment Tests in accordance with the "No Child Left Behind" Program.

## **F. OLD BUSINESS.**

Chair Le again brought to the table for discussion the creation of a legislative subcommittee. It was decided that Chair Le and Ms. Pham would meet, develop written guidelines, and bring them back to the table.

## **G. NEW BUSINESS.**

The council asked OPM to check on the possibility of providing all members with business cards.

## **H. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.**

Mr. Oscar Jackson, Jr. suggested that the council consider moving a future meeting to the new Oklahoma History Center.

Ms. Marisa New thanked the council for the opportunity of attending and making a presentation about the arthritis prevention and education program at the OSDH.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.