# Meeting the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community of Cleveland



The Cleveland City Council recognizes the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with a Resolution of Recognition for hosting the Cleveland AAPI Community Listening Session

The Cleveland City Council recognizes the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with a Resolution of Recognition for hosting the Cleveland AAPI Community Listening Session, January 28, 2015. Pictured (left to right): Michael Byun, member of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs; Brian Cummins, City Councilman; Rebecca Lee, WHIAAPI Communications Director and Senior Advisor;

Radhika Reddy, Partner at Ariel the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U. Ventures; and George Mui, WHIAAPI Senior Advisor. (Photo by Listi Kimlee Sureemee)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) represent around 5.5% of Ohio's population. Furthermore, AAPIs are one of the state's fastest-growing demographic groups, having grown by 40 percent between 2000 and 2009.

As part of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific

Islanders (WHIAAPI)'s regional engagement efforts, particularly in cities with large and emerging AAPI communities, WHIAAPI held a Cleveland AAPI Community Listening Session on January

28, 2015. The Listening Session was held at the Ariel International Center in downtown Cleveland and drew nearly 100 community leaders from across business, nonprofit, and public sec-

Over a dozen federal agencies were represented, including S. Department of Education, Equal Employment and Opportunity Commission, Small Business Administration, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Veteran dive deeper into the issues of housing, education, Affairs. Each agency provided an overview of its work particularly with services to the AAPI community, such as SSA's Multilanguage Gateway that includes translated materials and free interpreter services or MBDA's Cleveland Business Center that provides free counseling to local busi-

Community provider Sujata Burgess shares

her perspective on the challenges the Cleveland AAPI community faces Community provider Sujata Burgess shares her perspective on the challenges the Cleveland AAPI community faces during the Cleveland AAPI Community Listening Session, January 28, 2015. (Photo by Rebecca

Federal representatives and community members then participated in break-out sessions to immigration, labor and workers' rights, health and human services, social security, and business. We greatly valued the perspectives of the community members and worked together to brainstorm recommendations on how the federal government can address key challenges. In the upcoming months and as a follow-up to the Listening Session, then White House Initiative on AAPIs looks

> to provide tailored technical assistance and trainings to the Cleveland community. We look for ward to continuing our collaboration with Cleveland as we work to open the federal government's doors to all AAPIs.



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