

## Southeast Asian Community Briefing, May 22, 2020, 11:00 am

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**PURPOSE:** The City will share important COVID-19 information with and gather input from community members, leaders and stakeholders about their communities' needs and priorities so that we can respond appropriately and ensure that our communities know where to access the correct information. This input will also shape how the City shares information with the public.

**CITY'S COMMITMENT:** To ensure that community leaders and organizations know where to access the proper and most up to date information related to COVID-19.

### Welcome

- Michael Yang, NCR – welcome to everyone, thank you for being here. Note that City Council is currently in session so our Council Members are not here right now but may join us later.
- Christina Kendrick, NCR – Welcome and housekeeping, also introduction for Hmong Interpreter
- David Rubedor, NCR – Welcome and thank you. We will be doing these briefings monthly and right now the City Council is adopting a resolution
- Adedotun, CM Ellison Aide – Resolution adopted today. Full resolution on LIMS, links to be provided.

### City update of COVID-19 response

- MPD
  - John Elder – We will continue to work and address COVID-19 and concerns around the community. 3 of our staff have tested positive. Doing testing every day to all those who come in the building to ensure safety of staff and community.
  - Officer Bee Lee - Working with a lot of SEA leaders and police; in connection with police departments across the country, making sure that people have the right info before we deal with any hate crimes.
  - Jen White, Mayor's Office, Policy Aide – Mayor wanted to be sure to convey our unwavering support of the community. Many community members have experience racially motivated discrimination and violence. These crimes are totally unacceptable in the community. Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo issued a message early on. If you are impacted, reach out to us or Civil Right
  - Chief Arradondo - Make sure all our community members are living safely and free from targeted violence and/or hate. This is a strong message the officers understand. We will be there for our SEA community members. Here in service.
- Attorney General's Office
  - Katherine Kelly, Attorney – We are working on the evictions moratorium. Governor Walz said during this Peace Time Emergency (PTE) that tenants have the right to stay on the property until the PTE is lifted. On our website we have intake forms where tenants who have been locked out or told they need to leave, etc... can come to the website and fill out the form. We will reach out, contact the tenant and the landlord to mediate a solution. 99 percent of the time the landlord agrees, but will do it after the PTE. We will send something in writing asking the landlord to follow the law, tenant gets a copy of that letter. There have been 4 times that the landlord has taken the issue to court and in all cases, the judge agreed with us. We are a resource to for other questions regarding the law and COVID-19. There are 7 lawyers doing that work as well as other staff and investigators.

- City Council
  - Council Members Ellison and Cunningham joined the meeting
    - CM Cunningham- Here to listen and be of service. Just passed our resolution honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the creation of the Minneapolis Asian Pacific Employee Resource Group.
    - CM Ellison – Happy to pass the resolution. We looked to grassroots support and for community to contribution to what that resolution looked like. Want to echo what CM Cunningham said, we are here to work for you. I want to listen and know your concerns. If you have criticisms, I want to hear those too.
  
- Civil Rights Department
  - Franklin Reed, Director of Complaints – We will enforce City code. If anyone feels discriminated, contact us and we will investigate. We need to get this right. Lots of policy makers involved, the City is serious about how to establish a way forward. Everyone needs to feel that they are being engaged in a way that is meaningful.
  - David Rubedor, Director NCR – Wanted to add, there is a lot of work going on in the City regarding discrimination. Civil Rights, NCR, and the Police Department doing different parts to try to coordinate the effort to know what each other is doing to be more responsive and identify where gaps exist and where to step in. We are clear that we are a welcoming city and we want everyone to feel safe and welcome here.
  
- CPED, Small Business Division
  - Meng Vang, MAPE ERG – Excited to get this group up and going! We are finally official, will kick start Asian presence at the city. Coming from small business, here to support small businesses and businesses in general. The small business team is here to help everyone out, reach out to us.
  
- OIRA
  - Michelle Rivero, Director – Focus of my work is to identify issues that impact immigrant and refugee communities and to help departments respond to these issues. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, very clear that this disease has the largest impact on communities of color. I’ve been sharing grant opportunities, with community fund opportunities, including gap funds... initiatives at various levels include at the federal level. House bill hf4611 bill would provide relief to individuals that don’t qualify for federal funding. Many unique issues. Concerns around public charge – fear of accessing health services, relief aid, etc.. Call 800-292-4150 state dept of human services for addressing public charge issues.

### **Community response**

- Snowdon Herr, President – We have a racial task force for anti-discrimination. It is being established to help people who have been discriminated against to report incident. 833-454-0148 is the MN Human Rights Office. There are 7 different languages...encourage people to use this number. Working on establishing legislation for hate crimes, pending in state capitol, will update.

I am very concerned about the City not hiring a South East Asian (SEA) Community Navigator in Minneapolis! I want to know how that decision was made to not hire a SEA community Navigator! We have had so many issues with law enforcement, especially in the Hmong community, we haven’t had a Navigator to help us establish a relationship between the City of Minneapolis and Hmong people. I demand the City of Minneapolis to revisit their decision to hire a SEA Navigator. I demand action, need action immediately because discrimination is very real concern that many people have been randomly attacked. Want resolve peacefully not only in Minneapolis but in other counties where Asians reside. Consider at very least a volunteer individual to be the community navigator in Minneapolis. It needs to be

done right away. It is an emergency no. So many issues, mental issues, health issues, economic issues, the City of Minneapolis needs to take a priority step to resolving this issue right way. How can we help the community establish a foundation? Want answers next week. I demand that Hmong or SEA Navigator be established immediately in the City of Minneapolis.

Chief Arradondo, MPD – I recognize the need for that and I will say that I recognize the need for support in the SEA community. My promise is that I will take your concerns and demands and take it to Mayor Frey. And hopefully we will works towards satisfying your concerns.

- Dr. Sai Long, Hmong Leadership Council – I wrote a letter and we already asked for the Navigator position to be established. I haven't heard since March 26, 2019. We really need it! This time is very critical. I would like the City of Minneapolis and in particular CM Ellison to look into that position for the SEA community.
  - CM Ellison – The incident in North Minneapolis illustrated the need for a Navigator. I look forward to figuring out how we can have a Navigator position and keeping community safe. How can we better be responsive to assaults that are happening, first response when under threat, police, but we are resources, keep us in loop, reach out to us.
  - CM Cunningham – I also share the concern about lack of Community Navigator. I've spoken on this a number of times. I do remember the letter, and also was a part of the conversations. I will continue to advocate for such a position.
- Tai Vang, President – During my term I have approached Mayor Frey. So many incident in City of Minneapolis. CM Ellison and Cunningham was at the home of Mr. V and we have mentioned that so many times. Nothing has happened. When is this going to happen? If something is not going to happen, then maybe we need new Council Members. We need some action. I would have thought this already. Should have some kind of contact in the City of Minneapolis so the SEA community can reach out to. I don't want to say promise promise and nothing done. I want action.
- Herr - Want to add that we cannot linger on this for any longer. We have so much issue to be dealt with, for the sake of everyone in the City of Minneapolis. We should be a model for other counties, so we can work the right way. We need peace, we should not fear discrimination and attack and should not have empty promise. Minneapolis officials really need to think about their position, how did they come to the conclusion that the SEA Navigator position is not there.
- Dr. May Hang, NP at Health Point – I'm wondering what the is the City and County's perspective on looking at hotspots and the number of people being tested is very small. Within our SEA community, they may not know where to be tested and where to get that information.
  - Gretchen Musicant, Health Commissioner – We are working with a number of community partners to bring testing beyond clinics. We are working on a model to bring testing to hot spots. Testing at the National Guard, they are providing testing this weekend. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday anyone can come for testing at the Armory in NE 105 Broadway, 10-5. Testing until their supplies run out. Please get into the community. Testing is for anyone.
  - Dr. May Hang – North Point is doing drive up testing by appointment. I'm not seeing SEA community members come through the clinic.
  - CM Ellison – We need to improve our communication, if you have points of contacts, please let us know.
  - Musicant – Up until a week ago the state was doing all the testing.. we in the local Health Department have started to assume some of that work. We could do Contact Tracing for about half of the cases, everyone who has a positive test will be reached out to.
- Dai Vu – I've been working in counties; I know how systems work in our communities. I know our SEA community doesn't have much connection with the system. In response to that, communication and collaboration and outreach to our community, takes some effort. AAC, and Hmong Health ..and Ramsey

County Health Nurse Hmong... these entities need to collaborate with elected officials.. I suggest someone take the initiative to do this.

- Chanida Phaengdara Potter with The SEAD Project – Please answer my question, seems to be a huge lack of communication reaching our communities, and elders in particular. Any sort of coordinated effort to get someone who is bilingual to get things out in a timely manner to get that info out about how serious and how to protect themselves. How do we get that?
  - Musicant - value to hearing how info is or is not reaching communities. We have a whole engagement group in the Health Department. We will double down on the work we are doing to make sure we are reaching the elders in particular. It is an area where our messages are not getting through clearly.
  - Rubidor, NCR – We also have a JIS in place where we are working diligently with a lot of the info that goes out, Michael Yang is on that, he is part of it and who else we should be connecting with, pass them to me, or to Michael Yang and we will do a better job on getting better communication out there .

### **Wrap up/next steps**

- We will send out notes with contact information.
- Thank you all.

### **Chat and Resources**

- Councilmember Cunningham and Ellison talked about resolution 2020-00599 honoring May as Asian Pacific American month and creating the MPAE employee resource group. The resolution can be found at [LIMS.minneapolismn.gov/file/2020-00599](https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/file/2020-00599)
- MN Attorney General's office Katherine Kelly was on the call – for the AG please contact <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/>
- Snowdon Herr, Hawj United of MN, Chairman AntiAsian American Discrimination Task Force Committee for Hmong 18 Council of Minnesota. (651) 888 - 0248.
- Michelle Rivero: Contact information for Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira/index.htm>  
michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov  
612-394-6018
- Public Charge Brochures:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-224082.pdf>  
English  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-224083.pdf>  
Hmong  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-224084.pdf>  
Karen: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-224084.pdf>
- Issue of no Asian navigator or liaison for MPD was top priority for community input
- Franklin Reed, Director of the Complaint Investigations Division, Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. The best way to make a complaint is to call 311 and identify to the person on the call any claim of discrimination.
- Thor, Mai (MDHR): This is Mai Thor with the MN Department of Human Rights, I can speak more on the discrimination hotline and other efforts the state is doing in response to COVID-19
- Greg King: I have concerns about the recent legislation passed to identify COVID-positive households to emergency personnel. Historically, efforts to label and identify community members as "dangerous" have been weaponized against communities of color and used as an excuse to overpolice and neglect immigrant communities. We're already seeing it in NYC, police actions enforcing COVID restrictions are overtargeting black and brown people. How can we be sure that this doesn't happen with this new legislation?  
Greg King - Filipino Minnesotan. Executive Director of FIRM

- Chanida: This is Chanida Phaengdara Potter with The SEAD Project. I'd like to know if there's a bilingual hotline for COVID19 related rapid response? And how are we meaningfully collaborating on a collective response to help support our SEA communities?
- Caines, Mageen: I'm a City of Minneapolis epidemiologist
- Mageen and other Health dept. staff affirmed that there needs to be a more concerted effort to communicate with our SE Asian communities and are looking for partners to help with that outreach.
- COVID-19 testing this weekend - 1025 Broadway St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413
- Testing sites in Mpls: <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/testing-locations/>
- Inouye, Andrea: links to info on Housing Gap funds update and other housing resources:
  - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/housing-coronavirus>
  - <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/emergency-rental-covid19>
  - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/gap-funding>
- Thor, Mai (MDHR): state's discrimination line:

You can report discrimination and bias to our office by calling the helpline or reporting it online

- Discrimination Helpline Number: 1-833-454-0148
  - § Helpline is available Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.
  - § Translation/Interpretation services are available.
- Website: <https://mn.gov/mdhr/>
- Inouye, Andrea: One more housing resource - this one for homeowners: <https://www.hocmn.org/covid-19-information-and-resources/>
- Michelle Rivero: <http://minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/hmoob>
- Dai Vu: [dai.vu@state.mn.us](mailto:dai.vu@state.mn.us)
- notes from this meeting will be posted to : <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/communitybriefings>
- [michael.yang@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:michael.yang@minneapolismn.gov)
- Greg King:

No mike on my computer. I'll ask again: I have concerns about the recent legislation passed to identify COVID-positive households to emergency personnel. Historically, efforts to label and identify community members as "dangerous" have been weaponized against communities of color and used as an excuse to overpolice and neglect immigrant communities. We're already seeing it in NYC, police actions enforcing COVID restrictions are overtaking black and brown people. How can we be sure that this doesn't happen with this new legislation?  
 Greg King - Filipino Minnesotan. Executive Director of FIRM