



**President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
Inaugural Opening Meeting – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ("the Commission") convened its first meeting at 4:00 p.m. (EDT) on May 20, 2020 via video conference.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (EDT) via audio and video conference technology. A roll call of Commission members preceded the meeting.

Commission members present:

1. Paul S. Hsu of Florida, Chair of the Commission
2. Amata Radewagen of American Samoa
3. Helen Van Etten of Kansas
4. Herman Martir of Texas
5. Eddie Calvo of Guam
6. Doris Brooks of Guam
7. Grace Y. Lee of Michigan
8. Prem Parameswaran of New York
9. Michelle P. Steel of California
10. Chiling Tong of Maryland
11. Jennifer Carnahan of Minnesota
12. George Leing of Colorado
13. Jan-Ie Low of Nevada
14. Keiko Orrall of Massachusetts

All members in attendance.

The meeting began with the swearing-in of Commissioner Helen Van Etten, followed by remarks from Co-Chairs of the Commission, Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur L. Ross.

I. Welcome Remarks by Co-Chairs of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Secretary Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Department of Transportation

Secretary Chao began with a summary of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (PAC-AAPI) four areas of focus including:

1. **Passing the Torch:** Secretary Chao encouraged members in the Asian Pacific American community who have succeeded, to mentor the next generation. Throughout her career, Secretary Chao has always tried to mentor others in the community to access opportunities in mainstream America.
2. **Breaking the Glass Ceiling:** This topic is important to ensure more Asian Pacific Americans are represented in leadership and management positions. Secretary Chao addressed this while at the Department of Labor and at the Department of Transportation. At the Department of Labor, she established a workshop that offered opportunities for federal employees to develop management skills and identify strategies to increase their qualifications for top leadership positions. As for AAPI owned businesses, she also hosted federal contracting workshops so that more Asian Pacific Americans could understand federal contracting. The Secretary recognized that this is an area that Chairman Hsu is very concerned about and expressed her support.
3. **Bridging the Income Gap:** Access to the right resources, information, and education remains critical to economic success, thus why the White House Initiative was established. The Trump Administration has affirmed the basic principle that access to higher education must respect merit and not diminish those who have sacrificed, invested in themselves, and achieved academic excellence. Secretary Chao noted how this is important for the AAPI community because of the importance placed on obtaining a quality-based education, which is still believed to be the best way to advance in society. She emphasized how AAPIs should not be held back from attending the college and university of their choice.
4. **AAPI Women in Leadership Positions:** Secretary Chao shared about her background of growing up in a family of six daughters and a set of parents who were very focused on empowering their daughters. Throughout her career, she has tried to help other women advance in their careers as well. While at the Department of Transportation, she backed the Women & Girls in Transportation Initiative, which offering internship opportunities to help future women leaders into the transportation sector. She also recently established a Women in Aviation Advisory Board, whose goal is to promote the education, mentorship, and recruitment of more women into the aviation industry.
5. **Interagency Working Group:** Secretary Chao also highlighted a letter signed by herself and Secretary Ross, to re-establish the White House Initiative Interagency Working Group. This group, composed mainly of career representatives from throughout the whole federal government, will advise the Initiative on the implementation and

coordination of federal programs as they relate to Asian Pacific American access to economic resources and opportunities.

6. COVID-19 Affects: Secretary Chao addressed how the AAPI community has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and steps to take. All states are taking steps toward a phased reopening of the economy while protecting the public health. The Asian Pacific American community has suffered disproportionately from this pandemic because so many within the AAPI community are small business owners. The unemployment rate of the community has increased from 2.5% in December 2019 to over 14.5% last month. Thus, the President has signed an unprecedented \$2.2 trillion economic assistance program on March 27th. The Secretary hopes that the AAPI community knows about these programs and is taking advantage of them.

Secretary Chao ended by thanking the Commissioners for serving the country and wished them and their families well.

Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Department of Commerce

Secretary Ross began with taking a moment to acknowledge the 90,000 Americans that have lost their lives in the pandemic. He thanked the hundreds of thousands of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are on the front lines of this battle, taking personal risks to save so many lives. He discussed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act and the Commission's key role in ensuring that the AAPI community has full access to economic programs. He also thanked the Commission for their advocacy and their work on behalf of more than 1.9 million AAPI-owned businesses and more than 22 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which during a pandemic, is more important than ever. He praised the agenda and the staff, including Executive Director Tina Wei Smith, for their work on advising himself, Secretary Chao, and the President, on how the U.S. government can best serve the vibrant and growing American community.

Secretary Ross discussed the instrumental role that the AAPI business community will play in rebuilding the domestic supply chain/industrial base, leading innovation, and advancing the country's prosperity. He ended by thanking the Commissioners for their civic engagement and commitment to advancing the livelihoods and minds of those in their community. He was hopeful and enthusiastic that Americans would rise to this challenge with their dedication and devotion. Both Secretaries expressed their appreciation for and a commitment to continue supporting the Commissioners in their work assisting the AAPI community.

II. Open Remarks from Chair of the Commission, Dr. Paul Hsu

Dr. Hsu began by noting the jarring difference between the five million jobs and the lowest unemployment in 50 years in the years of 2018 and 2019, compared to the worse economic disruption since WWII being experienced in 2020. He cited that parallel between the coronavirus and the 1918 Spanish Flu. Specifically, he pointed out the economic consequences of the pandemic including the rise in unemployment rates from 3 to 15% in just 40 days and the 2.1%

to -4.8% decrease in GDP. Nonetheless, Dr. Hsu remained positive, saying that “there is nothing [fundamentally] wrong in our economy today”. He highlighted the strong coronavirus testing systems being built, a nearby vaccine, and a return to American manufacturing in the medical and technological field. Dr. Hsu then pointed out how before the pandemic, AAPI-owned businesses generated over \$700 billion in annual revenue and held more than \$990 billion in buying power. He ended by summarizing the goal of the President’s Advisory Commission on AAPI, which is to ensure that the AAPI community is part of the mainstream American economic engine.

III. Review of Authorization Documents & Financial Report by Tina Wei Smith, DFO

As the designated federal officer (DFO) of this Commission, Tina Wei Smith outlined the key points of the Executive Order that established WHIAAPI, starting with Section 1, which states the purpose of the President's Advisory Commission and WHIAAPI. The purpose of the Commission and Initiative is to “broaden access by AAPI employers and communities to economic resources and opportunities, thus empowering AAPI to improve the quality of their lives, raise the standard of living of their families and communities, and more fully participate in the economy. Additionally, each will work to advance relevant policy, evidence-based research, data collection and analysis for AAPI populations, subpopulations, and businesses.” She then moved on to Section 2, pointing out the leadership of the Commission under Secretary Ross and Secretary Chao and the 9 points of focus for the Commission including:

- The development of monitoring and coordinating of executive branch efforts to broaden access by AAPI employers and communities.
- Strategies for increasing federal procurement opportunities for AAPI enterprises.
- Strategies for increasing participation of AAPI enterprises and partnerships between the public and private sectors.
- Economic strategies for AAPI enterprises and communities to employ existing knowledge and relationships to pursue trade and investment opportunities in the Pacific/Asia Pacific region.
- Opportunities to empower students and families with the freedom to pursue the educational opportunities that best prepare them for success in life and work.
- Strategies for increasing the diversity of the workforce with greater inclusion of AAPI employees to better recruitment training, educational workshops, etc.
- Analysis of research and data related to AAPI populations and businesses.
- Analysis of the economic conditions of the U.S. Pacific Island Territories and freely associated states to devise strategies for helping each island develop and maintain a strong and diverse economy that supports its residents.

Ms. Smith also discussed the Commission’s charter, pointing out Point 7, which establishes the Commission under the U.S. Department of Commerce, as administratively and financially supported by the Minority Business Development Agency. She noted that, per Point 8, the budget of the Commission is \$500,000, which covers staff, travel expenses, and other

Commission operating expenses. Per Point 9, the Commission shall meet every quarter. Thus, this meeting served as the first, followed by meetings in the next and fourth quarter as well. As per point 10, the Commission shall terminate on September 23, 2021, unless renewed by the President before that date. Membership designation is also appointed by the President. Ms. Smith also cited Point 13, which states that the DFO will have the authority to create subcommittees (led by Dr. Hsu) and that recordkeeping would be done by her office.

Financial Report: A third staff member will be joining the WHIAAPI team next week. Ms. Smith will spend some time updating the status of the funds and will report back to the Commission.

IV. Establishment of the Subcommittees & Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Michelle Steel moved to discuss the five subcommittees, Mr. Prem Parameswaran seconded it. Dr. Hsu informed the Commission of his assignments of the Commissioners to topics based on their areas of expertise.

1. Passing the Torch: Grace Lee, Chiling Tong, Paul Hsu
2. Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Helen Van Etten, Jennifer Carnahan, Jan-Ie Low
3. Bridging the Income Gap: George Leing, Prem Parameswaran, Herman Martir, Govender Eddie Calvo, Michelle Steel
4. Women in Leadership: Amata Radewagen, Doris Brooks, Michelle Steel, Keiko Orrall
5. Impact of COVID-19 on Small Businesses & Communities

Dr. Hsu noted that a forthcoming email would discuss the details. Next, Dr. Hsu moved onto the topic of COVID-19, thanking Ms. Jan-Ie Low, Mr. Perm Parameswaran, Gov. Eddie Calvo, and Ms. Chiling Tong for their work.

Jan-Ie Low provided an update from the COVID-19 Subcommittee Meetings. Ms. Low started by applauding President Trump for providing programs that support small businesses. Like all new programs, this one requires adjustments to bridge the government's good intentions with community needs. Upon hearing that AAPI small businesses were facing obstacles applying for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan, the Commission created the Small Business Committee to investigate these challenges. In this process, the Commission has been tracking the Small Business Administration Federal Disaster Relief Assistance, the work of AAPI Chambers and nonprofits, as well as local SBA offices that have offered PPP webinars, to help the public learn more about the application process. Through the course of multiple webinars, the Commission learned two things:

1. Big banks are not the best sources for assistance because they were overwhelmed. Key insight: apply with a local community bank.
2. You must be aggressive and persistent when applying for PPP. Many members were grateful for being permitted to be aggressive and persistent, especially since the AAPI culture teaches people to be quiet and patient.
 - a. Commissioners quickly helped spread the word and amplified the message to business owners from Washington state to California, Illinois, and even Guam.

On a lighter note, Ms. Low also noted several success stories within the AAPI small business community, many who were funded in Phase 2 of the CARES Act. The most important takeaway is that there is a crucial need to bridge the gap between government and AAPI communities. She pointed out 2 ideas would be helpful to the Commission in the future process:

1. Information is vital. Commissioners must over-communicate with urgency to the community. Commissioners must ensure that they continue to have the most up-to-date information in Asian languages and that the info is shared immediately and repeatedly. How the information is shared is crucial, so information needs to be translated (especially in a pandemic) in real-time.
2. Over the past 2 months, the Commission learned more about SBA, MBDA, and other government agencies. Long before COVID-19, these agencies have had a multitude of funding programs, including many resources that the AAPI community has never truly tapped into. To change this, the Commission needs to continue to learn more about these programs and ensure that information is shared with the AAPI community.

Next, Commissioner Parameswaran also gave a briefing of his economic ideas as it relates to the economic challenges of the pandemic. He shared a list of implementable ideas that was created with the White House, Treasury, Commerce, Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC).

1. Payroll Tax cuts (which President Trump is already working on) should be for a minimum of two years or permanent.
2. Effective Federal Tax Cuts. Tax rates should be lowered to 18% as the highest level. This will have a stimulus effect on GDP and is suggested for a minimum of 1-2 years.
3. SALT (state and local taxes). The deduction cap of \$10,000 should be lifted to \$60,000 at a minimum. This currently hurts mostly middle-class owners, but with this adjustment, this can be a stimulus to both the housing market and GDP. This should be permanent.
4. The SEC should act on short sell. Many countries around the world do not allow short selling on your exchanges. At a minimum, we should have a moratorium on shorting stocks for the rest of the year. The impact will be less pressure on companies, especially as businesses have been shut down during this time. The SEC can lift this moratorium after a year. The stock market is important for U.S. companies, as well as a symbolic signal that it can send to the world. Shorting only adds downward pressure on companies.
5. The SEC should relax margin requirements to more than 50% as this will have less selling pressure in the market for people's individual portfolios and allow for them to hold stocks and not be forced to sell because of margin calls in the market at the present time. As the market may see volatility, this is another arsenal that will help alleviate downward pressure on stocks and companies. Additionally, we give loans like PPP to

small businesses. This margin relaxation of restrictions can help many folks and the economy immediately at virtually little cost.

6. SBA loans. the SEC should relax margin requirements to more than 50% as this will have less selling pressure in the market for people's individual portfolios and allow for them to hold stocks and not be forced to sell because of margin calls in the market at the present time. As the market may see volatility, this is another arsenal that will help alleviate downward pressure on stocks and companies. Additionally, we give loans like PPP to small businesses. This relaxation of restrictions can help many folks and the economy immediately at virtually little cost.
7. Bank debt revolver facility. This can create revolvers for both large and small businesses backed by the government for one year up to \$30 million depending on the size of the company. Most investment banks will have a program that will support this.
8. The President has talked about business reduction for dinners, for entertainment. In addition, a hybrid to that policy that should be pushed is to have a tax deduction of up to \$30,000 for individuals for both dinner and entertainment and sports for the next two years. This will be great for restaurants, sporting events, theaters, and the entertainment sector and will ultimately help to stimulate GDP.
9. Like the current stimulus check to individuals, which is based on the 1040 Tax Return, the Treasury can issue checks to businesses based on Form 941, which is Quarterly Payroll Taxes, in the next phase. The return consists of info on gross wages and we can use this to help the number of employees, and Treasuries can derive a formula for funding the amount based on the return. This will help Asian businesses.
10. The government should set up a side part for the next phase of the real small businesses (50-100 employees). This would ensure that that these small businesses would not have to compete with bigger businesses who may receive preferential treatment from local banks in the earlier process. Most AAPI businesses probably fit more into this category and are in dire need of this cash infusion.

Ms. Michelle Steel, a member from California, suggests that the SALT mortgages be removed completely. Dr. Hsu noted that it was a good suggestion and would take it into consideration with feedback in a few days.

Mr. Eddie Calvo also presented on the COVID-19 crisis as it relates to the Pacific Islander: After thanking Secretary Chao, Secretary Ross, the Chairman, and Ms. Smith, he noted that as of now, they had received about \$500 million in differing support funds, both for the stimulus money and individual support for furloughed and terminated employees. At the town hall, updated information on SBA loans were also given. Governor Calvo noted that the AAPI community had close to \$200 million in loans but transferring funds for individual citizens had been delayed until now. He also noted the special relationship that American territories including Guam, the

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the American Samoa as well as nations such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau (who always vote our way in the UN), have with the U.S.

However, unfortunately, the gross annual income for most of the island communities is between \$100-500 million annually. Guam is the biggest (at about \$6.5 billion dollars annually). Thus, every business in the islands is a small business. Most island economies are also not diverse, tending to be either single-dimensional or at most, a two-pillar economy. For places such as the American Samoa and the Marshall Islands, fisheries are the main drivers of the economy. In Guam, it is the tourist industry and the U.S. military. For some island economies, particularly some of the sovereign nations, their economies are driven by their government spending. That government spending and support often come from U.S. taxpayer subsidies.

Guam specifically has been hit extremely hard by the pandemic due to its dependence on tourism. Thus, over 30,000 employees tied to the hotel industry and tourism services have been furloughed or terminated. Although money is coming in thanks to forgivable loans championed by the Trump Administration, many small businesses have closed. As a Pacific Islander, Governor Calvo noted that the main issue is how to improve the economic conditions of the U.S. Pacific islands, both the territories and the independent nations, in a way that brings long term stability in the region. The success of the Pacific Islands is crucial to the long-term benefit of the United States given the islands stable and very close connection to the U.S.

Dr. Hsu took input from the rest of the Commission regarding the subcommittee groups, and Rev. Martir noted that moving forward, it would be wise to strategize and put a plan together. He also pointed out the importance of mentorship in making sure there was AAPI representation in the federal government, given that currently only 5% of AAPI's are involved. Dr. Hsu agreed, adding that AAPI's make up 7% of the population in Fortune 500 firms, but only 1.5% of the upper management, according to a recent report. Ms. Steel also suggested bringing in Ms. Low to the bridging the income gap group as an asset. Ms. Tong brought up the point of making a clearer distinction between "passing the torch" and "breaking the glass ceiling" since both are dealing with AAPI leadership. She noted that the latter deals, however more prevalently with workforce development. Rev. Martir volunteered for the first area of focus (passing the torch) and Dr. Hsu ended this section of the agenda by noting that it would be likely that all the focus groups become collaborative between Commissioners.

V. Special Reports

Ms. Chiling Tong and Ms. Grace Lee provided updates on the Business Roundtable Listening Sessions (January – March) and the AAPI Business Town Hall from May 19, 2020.

Ms. Tong reported on the Roundtable Discussions that were held in Silicon Valley, Las Vegas, and Houston in the last year with Secretary Chao. Secretary Chao discussed the contribution of AAPI business, the national economy, and the Department's priorities with almost 200 business community leaders representing about a hundred organizations at those events. From these Roundtable discussions, the Commission has been able to listen to the concerns of many

community leaders as well as many small and medium-sized business owners and their diverse industries. Some of the top issues include

1. The importance of AAPI leadership roles in the public and private sectors.
2. How AAPI small businesses can get more federal resources and the support to get into economic recovery.

Ms. Tong discussed how each city and area have their own focus. For example, Silicon Valley is interested in innovation and technology, Vegas was concerned about the unity of AAPI groups, and given the timing of the Houston discussion, Houston discussed the devastation of COVID-19 on AAPI businesses. Due to COVID-19, after March 9th, all events including the Roundtable Meetings in Cleveland, Ohio and in Austin, Texas, as well as the listening session at the White House where WHIAAPI invited a Midwest delegation, had to be cancelled. Ms. Tong noted how these listening discussions provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear directly from the public. She is confident that once it is safe to travel, the Commission should welcome opportunities to meet with the AAPI community and business representatives across the country, to be able to listen in person, to the concerns of the community. In ending, Ms. Tong thanked the Secretaries, the Chairman, and Ms. Smith.

Ms. Lee provided a briefing on the AAPI Business Town Hall hosted by the Commission that happened just the day prior. She shared about the U.S. Census Bureau presentation that was given during the Town Hall. The U.S. Small Business Administration rescheduled to provide a more comprehensive report in June on how SBA has been supporting AAPI businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Town Hall, Nick Orsini presented on the U.S. Census Bureau on the Small Business Pulse Survey. The Survey measures the changes in business conditions from small businesses during the coronavirus pandemics. The Business Pulse complements existing U.S. Census Bureau data collection by providing high-frequency, detailed information on small businesses specific initiatives such as the PPP. These results provide useful information for policymakers addressing COVID-19 relate challenges. They plan to publish the Survey by sectors in states, and for the 50 more populous metropolitan areas. Business Pulse includes information on location closings, changes in employment, disruptions in the supply chain, the use of federal assistance programs, and expectations concerning future operations. Ms. Lee informed the Commission that reports would be available at <https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data>.

Also, at the Town Hall, was a presentation by Ms. Karen Kerrigan, CEO of the Small Business Roundtable. So far, they have surveyed (the exact word was inaudible) 86,000 small and medium sized businesses and concluded that more businesses are closing their doors and facing uncertain futures. Small and Midsize Business' (SMB) biggest challenge is access to capital and customer behavior. To adapt to the ongoing crisis, Ms. Lee noted how small businesses are turning to internet resources but struggling to balance running their businesses and caring for their households. SMB owners and managers remain optimistic and resilient. A majority of the Town Hall public comments addressed the current impacts and challenges from COVID-19. Ms. Lee provided a top line overview broken down into three areas:

1. Financial: The virus has been devastating to AAPI business since vast numbers of the AAPI businesses tend to own services, retailers, and hospitality industries. Most of the businesses only have about two months of cash reserves and a significant amount of AAPI businesses have not received PPP loan approvals due to the lack of relationship with banks and the size of their businesses (which place them at low priority). The Language barrier and the first process for the PPP loan is another issue. Because AAPI's tend to be more cautious of federal programs, it takes longer for the community to trust and understand the program and act, thus delaying the submission of their applications. Due to the low cash reserves of a lot of AAPI businesses, if the business is not back up to at least 80-90% of revenue prior to the crisis, many will have to close in 6 months.
2. Health: Dr. Raynald Samoa of California reported a high death rate among Pacific Islanders in California. It's about 12 times death rate compared to white, 7 times to Hispanic, and 5% to African Americans. Because of the high death rates, the community had--are experiencing backlash and blame for the virus towards Pacific Islanders in California. Also, there are many AAPI are essential workers during the crisis. As a result, many of them have been exposed to the virus. Their health is a major concern for the community.
3. Ms. Lee separated her report on Pacific Islander representatives from other Asian American because their situation is unique. There were three community leaders from the Pacific Islanders that addressed the Town Hall Meeting yesterday.

In summary, although there are no COVID-19 cases in American Samoa, the island's business has been detrimental by the crisis. Less than 3% of the business received PPP approval. There are two banks on the island, but only one is willing to loan the business. Thus, although the business has been approved, they still have problems receiving funds. The Pacific Islands also have different federal local policies-- grocery stores and gasoline stations are not considered essential business but are very important. Mr. Eddie Calvo also provided comments, citing that many transportation vehicles have been shut down due to the crisis and it has been difficult to get essential groceries and goods to the Islanders. The Pacific Islands are requesting establishing programs for territorial needs in normal time and not just during the crisis. Ms. Lee ended by thanking Dr. Hsu and noting the future town hall meetings to hear from the community, specifically one in partnership with SBA, which would give AAPI businesses and communities leaders information on how federal government disaster relief funds are and continue to reach AAPI businesses.

VI. New Business & Open Discussions

Dr. Hsu opened the floor to an open conversation regarding solutions. Given that 50-70% of the small restaurants are not coming back, largely due to the unemployment status which allows a worker to receive \$4000 a month. Due to the two Conventions being held in the month of August, Hsu encouraged the Commissioners to make a collaborative decision regarding when the Commission's next meeting would be. He said that final reports should be completed before

September and that an email would follow to solidify the time of the next meeting happening sometime in August.

Ms. Smith noted that it's best to avoid conflicting with both political conventions occurring in mid-to-late August. She expressed her hope that the Commission would be able to gather in person in D.C., if local and federal advisor on travel and meeting in person as well as personal safety, health, and comfortability, permits.

Commissioners all agreed to have a meeting in August. Mr. George Leing and Ms. Keiko Orrall praised the meetings progress and Ms. Doris Brooks applauded Ms. Smith, Secretary Chao, and Secretary Ross. She noted that she is going to follow up with an email to Mr. Parameswaran and Dr. Hsu about cutting down the [inaudible] even for smaller businesses because, as Governor Calvo mentioned, Guam and American Samoa are small and according to the Chamber of Commerce, it goes to businesses with 10 employees and below that are struggling because they don't always have the expertise. Ms. Brooks suggests bringing it down even smaller and creating a category for smaller businesses. Ms. Steel also thanked everyone, saying that she hopes they can all get together in one room next time.

Dr. Hsu noted again that he and Ms. Smith would send out a follow up email, briefly bringing up the idea of making the 5 focus areas a whole Commission effort. Ms. Amata Radewagen added her thanks to the Secretaries, all the Commissioners, Ms. Smith. She particularly enjoyed Mr. Calvo's presentation and applauded the progress that had been made in the last 60 days to stabilize the country, the Pacific region, and the world economy. She also thanked President Trump and his Administration for moving quickly to implement Congresses' passage of the CARES Act. She shared the President's enthusiasm in reviving the economy and moving towards a positive future.

VII. Public Comment Period

Ms. Smith moved the meeting onto the public comment period beginning immediately following the adjournment of the Open Meeting. She said that it would not exceed 30 minutes and that members of the public could comment on any item or subject listed on the agenda for the Open Session above. The operator allowed people share their public comments over the phone.

- 1) The first question came from a small business leader from Minnesota. He asked about funding access for small businesses, inquiring if small groups have access to the Census fund. The caller asked if there was a way to work with the Asian Pacific Council in each state to access grants or funds in some way. Ms. Smith responded, saying that she would reach out to the caller to give more details and gave the caller WHIAAPI's email address () to help point the caller to the proper resources.
- 2) The second question came from Peter Lee Hamilton, a recent graduate of Georgetown University. He expressed his sentiment of hoping that work is being done to include younger voices on the Commission as well. Although the younger generation may have less experience, he is hopeful that with their optimism and young energy, they could also contribute to bringing back and strengthening the nation. He ended with his thanks. Ms.

Smith responded, saying that the Commission is very supportive of serving the next generation and that as a millennial herself, she agreed with him.

With no further public comments, the public comment period was closed.

VIII. Next Steps and Adjournment

Dr. Hsu thanked the Commissioners and announced that the next meeting of the Commission would be in August.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m. (EDT).

IX. Materials Provided to the Commission Members

The following materials were provided to the Commission members at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Discussion Slides
3. Charter for the Advisory Board
4. Executive Order 13872

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Dr. Paul Hsu, Chair
President's Advisory Commission on Asian
Americans and Pacific Islanders
Minority Business Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce



Date

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Tina Wei Smith, Designated Federal Official
White House Initiative on Asian Americans and
Pacific Islanders
Minority Business Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce

Date