



For Immediate Release

HOMEOWNERSHIP EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP FOR ASIAN AMERICANS A SUCCESS

The Asian-American Homeownership Counseling Inc. (AAHC) hosted a successful workshop, "Homeownership Matters in AAPI Communities," on Saturday July 14 at John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, Maryland in partnership with the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) DC Metro Chapter and Voice of Vietnamese Americans (VVA). The workshop was intended to educate the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community on a wide variety of housing related issues, including mortgage debt forgiveness, Making Home Affordable programs, fair housing laws and loan modification scams. The event also featured translators of seven different languages to facilitate better understanding of the content. The early morning rain did not deter more than 60 members of the Asian American community and 30 volunteers from attending this informative workshop.

Ike Leggett, the Montgomery County Executive, gave the opening remarks. Mr. Leggett highlighted the Asian minority myth, that is, that all Asian Americans are "well-off" and do not need assistance in homeownership education, and that they do not experience problems including misinformation and fraud due to language barriers and discrimination. That point was later echoed by HUD Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, John Trasviña. Mr. Trasviña stated that one in five AAPI families experience housing discrimination, yet only 1% of HUD's Fair Housing complaints are from AAPI community.

County Executive Leggett and Assistant Secretary of FHEO Trasviña confirmed the need for this unique workshop to educate AAPI communities about housing related issues. Presenters included Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Acting Director of Lender Relations Donna Mitchel and Bill Milko, Wells Fargo Mortgage Consultant Grace Choi, Tax- Masters Inc. President, Linda De Marlor, Asian Real Estate Association of America DC Metro Chapter Chairman Genie Nguyen, and AAHC President, Song Hutchins.

The event closed with Maryland Attorney General, Douglas Gansler, who provided information on Maryland's \$957 Million Settlement with the nation's five largest mortgage servicers. Funds from the settlement will go to relieve distressed Maryland homeowners. For detail information, visit [www. http://www.oag.state.md.us/](http://www.oag.state.md.us/) or contact AAHC by writing at counseling@aa-hc.org.

Ms. Minh Truong, a Vietnamese-American attendee, remarked: "This event was very informative. A lot of this information is not available to the Asian community and I really appreciate the organizers [AAHC] for putting together this event."

AAHC, AREAA and VVA look forward to bringing the same imperative information to Virginia's residents on August 11th, Saturday, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale Campus.



For more information, please visit www.aa-hc.org or contact at 301-760-7636, or email at counseling@aa-hc.org.