



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Meenakshi Bharath\*

### Vice Chairperson

Nate Bae Kupel\*

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Ekta Saksena\*

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Pralhad KC\*

Danielle Kim\*

Betty King\*

Mary KY Lee

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar\*

Haniya Syeda

### Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2022, 6:00 pm to 8:16 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

\*Please note this Meeting will be recorded

The Meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19.

Present Commissioners are marked with a \*.

Commissioners Present: Chair Meena Bharath, Vice Chair Nate Bae Kupel, Secretary Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Betty King, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Philjay Solar, Commissioner Pralhad KC, Commissioner Leo Hwang, Commissioner Sam Hyun, Commissioner Mary Chin

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Youth Coordinator Haseeb Hamza, Development & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen

Members of the public: None

The Meeting is recorded.

### Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: February 15, 2022
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 non-profit budget spreadsheet
- Executive/Staff reports
- Draft Appropriation Budget and narrative for VOTE
- Budget for Unity Gala 2019
- [AAPIC Calendar](#)
- Asian Women for Health

### 1. Introduction to AAPIC's CPA Erick Lampro CPA (6:00 - 6:30 pm)

Chair Bharath honors the moment of the 1st anniversary of the Atlanta shootings.

Executive Director Forbes introduces Erick Lampro, CPA. Erick is here to answer any questions, given that it is tax season. Executive Director Forbes opens it up to the full Commission to ask any questions of Erick. Erick introduces himself to the full Commission.

Several Commissioners ask questions about AAPIC's non-profit budget, tax deductions, number of trustees, and the non-profit is noted as a trust in the 501(c)(3) documents. The CPA states that the AAPIC non-profit arm is a 501(c)(3) and that donations received for the Unity Dinner are tax-deductible. The AAPIC is registered under the name "MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN AMERICAN COMMISSION" and has a non-profit designation that can be found on the Attorney General's non-profit/public charity search website:

<https://masscharities.force.com/FilingSearch/s/detail/a095e00009Hp5XAAS>



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AG Account Number: 062702. Federal EIN: 46-1063709

Tickets sold at the Unity gala are tax-deductible. The tax account advised sending sponsors a letter after receiving the donation with a breakdown of the donations. The CPA stated that the entire Commission could join as trustees if they desired. The CPA left the Meeting and is available to answer any further questions via email.

## **2. Call to order**

Chair Bharath calls the Meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

## **3. Introduction to the Youth Council (6:30 - 7:00 pm)**

Chair Bharath asks Youth Coordinator Haseeb to introduce the Youth Council Members. Executive Director Forbes shares that the Youth Council can only stay until 7 pm EST due to employment laws. Youth Council members introduced themselves, and several Commissioners gave encouraging remarks and tips to the Youth Council members

## **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – VOTE**

Executive Director Forbes did not receive any comments regarding the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Solar moves to approve the Meeting minutes from February 2022.  
Commissioner Chu seconds the motion.

**YES:** *Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath*

**NO:**

**Abstain:** *Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner King*

**7 votes in the affirmative and 3 abstentions. The motion passes.**

## **5. Executive & Staff Reports**

There were no questions on the Staff reports.

## **6. Draft Appropriation Budget and Narrative – VOTE**

Chair Bharath provides context to the agenda item of the draft appropriation budget and narrative. She clarifies that this is simply a discussion, and we welcome the thoughts and ideas of the full Commission.

Discussions followed on the merits and challenges related to the various budget items. the main points that were brought forward include

- Funding for new programs and increased funding for community groups
- New positions can include a Health and Education Coordinator with the Youth Council and help develop a program focused on the elderly.
- Increase in salaries



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- Hiring additional staff members and interns.
- Travel for commissioners and staff
- Resoting a Western Mass presence
- New full-time position focused on Outreach
- Program around intergenerational learning

### 7. Sub-Committee Updates

- Unity Gala Budget - VOTE (\$17,000 from NP account)

Commissioner Solar provided information on Unity Gala to be held on May 6. He requested \$17,000 from the non-profit budget.

Commissioner Hyun motions to approve the proposed budget of \$17,000 for the 2022 Unity Gala. Commissioner Chu seconds the motion.

*YES: Commissioner KC, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner King, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Bharath*

*NO:*

*Abstain:*

**11 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes unanimously.**

**Commissioner Hyun motions to extend the Meeting to 8:10 pm. Commissioner Solar seconds.**

*YES: Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner King, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner KC*

*NO:*

*Abstain:*

*No response was recorded from Commissioner Kupel or Commissioner Chin.*

**10 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes.**

### 8. AAPI Commission Retreat -VOTE

(request for \$4000 from State appropriations for AAPIC annual retreat)

Chair Bharath discusses the AAPIC retreat and invites Vice Chair Kupel to the floor. Vice Chair Kupel shares that the AAPIC will hold its in-person retreat to create an opportunity to get to know one another. For those unable to join, the Executive Committee will hold zoom options.

Chair Bharath seeks a motion to approve the proposal for the retreat as presented, including the approximately \$4,000 from state appropriations.

Commissioner King motions to approve the proposed budget of \$4,000 for the incoming retreat. Commissioner KC seconds the motion.



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*YES: Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner King, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Bharath*

*NO:*

*Abstain:*

*No response was recorded from Commissioner Chin.*

**11 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes.**

### 9. Old and New Business

*Public comment by Asian Women for Health*

Chair Bharath welcomes Kim Huynh from Asian Women for Health. Ms. Huynh gives some background on Asian Women for Health. Asian Women for Health is a peer-led, community-based network dedicated to advancing Asian women's health, education, advocacy, and support. Ms. Huynh requested commissioners to connect her if wanting additional information.

*Subcommittee assignments*

Chair Bharath encouraged Commissioners to sign up for the sub-committees and thanked Commissioners who had signed up. She shared that the EC would explore whether community members can join subcommittees.

*AAPIC Calendar*

Chair Bharath encouraged Commissioners to look at the AAPIC calendar to learn about upcoming events and meetings.

Commissioner Hyun motions to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

*YES: Vice Chair Kupel, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Chin*

*NO:*

*Abstain:*

**11 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes unanimously.**

**The Meeting is adjourned as of 8:16 pm.**

**10. Next Commission Meeting: April 19, 2022**