



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Executive Director
Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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Minutes

Thursday, Sept 9 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83954906804>

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

Commissioners present: Chair Sam Hyun, Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Pralhad KC, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Nate Bae Kupel, Commissioner Vira Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Haniya Syeda

Staff present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

Members of the public: None

The meeting is recorded.

Attachments:

Draft FY 2022 State Appropriation Budget Recommendations

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Hyun calls the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He states that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on the FY22 state budget. He opens the floor for discussion.

2. FY 22 State Appropriation Budget Recommendations - VOTE

Commissioner Bae Kupel asks for a brief overview and context for the budget. Chair Hyun responds that the state has allocated \$250K to the Commission for FY22. He summarizes the proposed budget. Chair Hyun explains that the Program Director's role is expanding to supervise another intern, and the Communications Manager will be taking on significantly more responsibilities this year. He notes that the budget proposes bringing on new intern positions to oversee the Youth Council, advocacy, communications/development work, and compensating the Youth Council members. Under Programming, Chair Hyun notes that the FY22 budget proposes a standard funding level for each AAC subcommittee. He explains that the Treasury recommended that the AAC maintain a buffer of approximately \$2,000 in our budget.

Commissioner Bae Kupel asks if the liability insurance is inclusive of covering youth serving on the Youth Council. Yasmin responds that she will explore this and ensure that it covers the youth members.



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Commissioner Vira Douangmany Cage states that the AAC should not pay less than \$15 for Youth Council members. Executive Director says that the Treasury pays \$10 an hour for high school students. Executive Director also clarifies that we would be paying these young people a stipend, so it's not a salaried wage.

Commissioner Bharath agrees with increasing their salary to \$15. Commissioner Kim expresses support for this proposal and highlights that if we make this change, we should also consider looking at the salary level of the Youth Coordinator who will oversee and support the young people. Commissioner Kim states that if we increase the Youth Coordinator salary, we should make sure we have parity across roles and do so for the other Coordinator positions.

Commissioner Bharath asks why staff and intern travel reimbursement is separate from personnel salaries. Executive Director responds that the Treasury stated that we should list this separately. Commissioner Kim adds that the salaries are cut from the Payroll office of the Treasury, while travel costs if expended, would need to be submitted as a reimbursement.

Commissioner Cage states that she supports increasing the coordinator's salaries to \$20 an hour. She asks if the Coordinator roles are benefited. Executive Director says no because they are undergraduate or graduate students. Commissioner Cage states that we must be an example to show we are providing a living wage.

Commissioner Cage recommends decreasing the Community Resources Fund to account for these increases.

Commissioner Bae Kupel proposes setting aside funds for professional development for staff since it's an integral part of staff growth.

Chair Hyun states that as this is state funds, it would be better to use NP funds for staff training. Commissioner Bae Kupel offered to help in fundraising to provide opportunities for the staff to grow.

Commissioner Bharath says that it would be \$840 to lift the Youth Council members to \$15 an hour. For the 3 Coordinator positions, it would be \$800 per coordinator to raise the salaries to \$20 an hour. Chair Hyun states that we're proposing to increase wages by \$3,240 and decrease the Community Resources Fund to \$12,000 to compensate for this change.

Commissioner Bharath states that she supports this proposal and recommends that the AAC consider using nonprofit funds to help support and supplement the Community Resources Fund. Commissioner Kim agrees with this proposal.



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Commissioner Bae Kupel also expresses support.

Commissioner Bharath motions. Commissioner Kim seconds.

Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Pralhad KC,

Commissioner Bharath, Ekta, Vira, Commissioner Syeda, Chair Hyun

Motion is approved to increase the salaries of the coordinator and reduce the community development fund.

Commissioner Bharath expresses appreciation to Commissioners for supporting the Youth Council and the AAC's staff. The AAPI community pays millions of dollars in taxes, and we need to provide youth an opportunity to participate in the Youth Council.

Commissioner Kim congratulated Commissioner Bharath for her leadership.

Commissioner Kim motions to approve the budget as amended. Commissioner Bharath seconds.

Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Pralhad KC,

Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage,

Commissioner Syeda, Chair Hyun

Congratulations to the AAC for passing the budget.

3. Other community updates & meetings adjourned

Commissioner Bae Kupel motions to adjourn. Commissioner Bharath seconds.

Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Pralhad KC,

Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage,

Commissioner Syeda, Chair Hyun.

The meeting is adjourned as of 7:01 pm.