

## August 3, 2020 Monthly Meeting

Special thanks to Aurora Paik, Krystal Ka'ai, Steven Wong, Russell Jeung, Haipei Shue, Gisela Kusakawa, Jessica Chen, and H.C. Chang for their reports and all the participants for their active engagement. As we prepare clips and a meeting summary, we highlight in this message the Houston community's urgent appeal for help and respond to some of the questions raised in the meeting.

### Houston Community Needs Help

China's Consulate in Houston was shut down on July 24, after being accused of a "spy center" to conduct spying activities with local medical center or universities. Within the past week, FBI agents have begun to knock on doors to demand interviews with persons of Chinese descent, creating fear and anguish.

On July 26, the Intercept published an article on: [Was The Chinese Consulate in Houston Really a Hotbed of Economic Espionage?](#) According to the article, "people close to China-related investigations in Houston say the decision to close the consulate may be more about politics than spy threats."

During the August 3 APA Justice meeting, community leaders led by H.C. Chang, a litigation attorney and President of the OCA-Greater Houston Chapter, and Jessica Chen, an immigration lawyer in Houston, provided on-the-ground reports on "Houston: After the closure of Chinese Consulate General." They expressed concerns about a "witch hunt for spies" by the FBI to use Chinese Americans as "scapegoat" to justify the political claim, for which the U.S. government has provided few supporting evidences.

They and other local community leaders appealed to Congress to de-escalate the situation, rein in the rhetoric and irresponsible actions, and provide oversight to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans.

OCA, UCA, the Asian American Justice Center, and the Asian American Bar Association of Houston will co-host a "Know Your Rights" webinar on August 6 to address the urgent question, "What to do if you are questioned by the FBI or police?"

Please help to spread the word. Learn more and attend the webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3ewoNGD>. The link includes English and Chinese versions of Know-Your-Rights from ACLU and the need for lawyer by Queens College President Frank Wu.

### Steven Wong's Response to Questions on 1990 Institute

1. The 1990 Institute welcomes any donations! [Donation page](#). Tax ID number is 94-3112912
2. The 1990 video programs are still in development, and we are very excited about sharing them when they are ready. Do you have any suggestions for what you would like to see covered in these videos?
3. Yes, I believe it is correct that 1990 Institute was formed at the same time as Committee of 100. And we also help C100 to promote their activities.
4. Dan Chao, Chair of the 1990 Institute, can be reached at [dan.chao@1990institute.org](mailto:dan.chao@1990institute.org). Steven Wong can be reached at [steven.wong@1990institute.org](mailto:steven.wong@1990institute.org)

## **Krystal Ka'ai and Aurora Paik's Response to Questions on Accessing Congress**

1. This is a non-traditional year due to the pandemic. There are not as many in-person events as in the past.
2. Your congressional representatives are eager to hear from you about legislation to support, call to action, your views and stories such as hate crimes during the pandemic. Write them, call them, email them.
3. Upon request, CAPAC members can also participate and speak out in community events and panel discussions, especially in activities with multiple stakeholders such as ADL.
4. It is common practice for you to ask your representatives to issue a public statement or a message in social media if they agree with the messages. Call and ask.

## **Andy Kim's Response to High Risks in the Houston Community**

1. Unannounced visits by FBI agents pose high risks that they are trying to catch people unprepared without the presence of an attorney.
2. As recent cases show, responding to FBI questions may expose you to the risks of, for example, making false statements, that may lead to prison for five years as the FBI may be looking for people to prosecute at this time.

3. The immediate advice is to know your rights. You do not have to talk to the FBI. Get an attorney. Spread this message broadly to the community.

## **Gisela Kusakawa's Response to Questions on Anti-Racial Profiling Project and Contact**

1. Totally agree with Andy's advice about the right not to talk to the FBI without the presence of an attorney.

2. Please feel free to contact Gisela for any individuals who are in need of an attorney or any Chinese scientists or researchers contacted by the FBI or under investigation by NIH, NSF, or their university. My contact information is [gkusakawa@advancingjustice-aajc.org](mailto:gkusakawa@advancingjustice-aajc.org)

3. Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) welcomes individuals who had the FBI knock on their door and had talked to the media or the public to share their stories about what happened.

4. AAJC has hired a new program coordinator to manage a hot line and the intake process. She is bilingual in English and Chinese. AAJC will make a soft launch of the Anti-Racial Profiling Project soon in the near future.

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