

Hmong American Community
Thursday August 7th, 2014

Question 1

“How do city leader work better with neighborhood and community organizations to make access to decision making opportunities more equitable and accessible to all residents?”

- To have Hmong involve in the decision making process by having a Hmong staff at the Mayor’s office – Hmong elders and leaders must also support the hiring of this individuals (who must know and value the Hmong culture and the elders)
- Have Hmong individuals serve in the Boards and Commissions of the City
- Establish and maintain a Hmong advisory committee to the Office of the Mayor
- City must establish and maintain an on-going dialogue with Hmong leaders (bimonthly or quarterly)
- Allow the Hmong access to information about city policy changes, and give it the opportunity to be heard
- City work with the Hmong elders and leaders for an outreach effort to the Hmong community to join neighborhood groups
- City provides funding to train Hmong on the political process and skills necessary to participate effectively with government entities
- City needs to work with “true” Hmong leaders who are making decisions in the community, and not Hmong professionals who work for the government. Hmong leaders are appointed by their respective families, and not by election and or job positions.
- City departments need to be trained on Hmong culture and traditions
- Law-enforcement must utilize the Hmong elders and leadership structures like the family chairmanship structure to assist in all situations involving Hmong families, especially in the event of domestic violence calls – Cultural appropriate approaches!

Question 2

“What can city and neighborhood leaders do to help ensure that neighborhood organizations and all city boards and committees better reflect our communities?”

- Having Hmong individuals serve on the boards and committees
- Disappointed that Hmong are not equal representation in broad and commissions and staff
- Neighborhood organizations never serves Hmong community
- City must designate a portion of the neighborhood organization’s funding to the specific ethnic community-based organizations.

- City leaders, neighborhood leaders, and neighborhood organizations must create opportunity for the Hmong community to be heard regardless of the issues.
- The Police Department must be trained on Hmong culture and tradition
- The Police Department must hire more Hmong officers who speak and know the Hmong culture and tradition.
- The Police Department must promote at least one Hmong police officer to a management position (Sergeant) immediately
- community
- After school programs/activities for youth/students
 - Lowing crimes
 - Learning opportunities
 - College prep/training
- Ongoing community training regarding law enforcements
 - Domestic conflict between ethic couples should be address with Hmong leadership and in partnership with police officers
 - Better understanding and training for officers

Question 3

What would get you/others more involved in the community/neighborhood organizations and in the civic life of our city?

- Mayor Betsy Hodges must make herself available to attend special Hmong events.
- City should value Hmong veterans by building a monument to honor General Vang Pao
- In partnership with the Hmong elders and leaders, establish a Hmong community Center
- City should support a Hmong American New Year event in the City of Minneapolis (possible location at the Convention Center)
- City to partner with the Hmong elders and leaders to establish a culturally appropriate funeral home to serve the Hmong community.
- City to sponsor a Hmong American Farmers Market in the City of Minneapolis
- Setting priorities for ethic city contractors
 - Public bidding for housing
- City to establish Hmong leadership council to have ongoing dialog about public policies
- Zero tolerance for racial discriminations when it comes to city contracts for services
- Establishing Hmong MOU to work with the city government
- Some are questioning city credibility
 - If city will move forward with opportunities
 - Would like opportunities to actuality happen
 - City should follow up with opportunities
 - Establish that relationship building and trust with the Hmong community
 - City need to move forward with training sessions for Hmong community

- Would like city to do strategic recruiting in Hmong community for more opportunities