

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MUNICIPAL SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY,
AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

DO KOREAN AMERICAN STOREOWNERS IN
BALTIMORE GET EQUAL TREATMENT?

Holiday Inn
301 West Lambert Street
Baltimore, Maryland

July 23, 1998

BETA



Disclaimer

August 14, 1998

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Disclaimer, "In The Matter Of: *Do American Korean Store Owners In Baltimore Get Equal Treatment?*"

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1 PARTICIPANTS:

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3 EDWARD DARDEN

4 LEA GILMORE

5 K. PATRICK OKURA

6 KI-TAEK CHUN

7 DOUGLAS SANDS

8 ARTHUR NIERENBERG

9 JEANNA CHO

10 ROBERT KAUFMAN

11 KUN CHANG

12 ALVIN O. GILLARD

13 HERMAN WILLIAMS

14 ROBERT SMITH

15 DEBRA LEMKE

16 TONY PRESSLY

17 JACKIE CORNISH

18 KAP PARK

19 SOSHIK SEO

20 PYONG KUK PAK

21 HOUNG MAI TRAN

22 MARY LOUISE JONES

1 PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D):

2 IRMA NORTON

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5 HENRY C. MITCHUM

6 SIDNEY DANIELS

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8 DOUGLAS MILES

9 JOHN PARK

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12 THOMAS FRAZIER

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14 THE HONORABLE THOMAS E. PEREZ

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(9:30 a.m.)

1
2
3 DR. WICKWIRE: I'm calling you to
4 order. I think we will go ahead. It
5 is 9:30, and since we are going to be limited
6 in terms of time, I think that we ought to
7 get going immediately.

8 I want to say too that we're
9 pleased that you are here with us. You can
10 see our name tags. I guess you can see who
11 we are here, but we will try to move as
12 expeditiously as we can. We are going to try
13 to limit individuals to 10 minutes unless
14 there is some really necessary reason that we
15 should go beyond that, but we are going to
16 try to limit the speakers to this period of
17 time.

18 Before we go ahead, I do want to
19 say this, that there are persons that could
20 not be here and organizations that couldn't
21 be represented, especially the NAACP and
22 others that simply could not make it on this

1 occasion and some other people that are out
2 of the city that come from the public
3 officials that couldn't be here. So we
4 wanted to say this, and I think that you are
5 aware why we are doing it.

6 You know that about -- well, some
7 five years ago, the killing of Joel Lee took
8 place, and it was about a year and a half ago
9 in January that the U.S. District Attorney
10 made the decision that the case would not be
11 dealt with at the federal level.

12 Then there were a number of
13 shootings and killings of Korean American
14 grocers which really in a major -- sparked us
15 to say we have to take a look at this
16 situation in terms of Korean Americans,
17 citizens in the community. Has open season
18 been declared on them? What is the
19 situation?

20 So there was this short period of
21 time when a number of Korean American
22 merchants died ---- and here we are a year

1 and a half later making some measures. It's
2 good that there has been a time lag and to
3 see whether or not there still is the
4 perception that Korean American citizens in
5 this city, and especially the merchants,
6 don't always get equal treatment in terms of
7 the justice system, in terms of public
8 safety, in terms of city services.

9 So today we are trying to take a
10 look at this. I should say too that I've
11 found in talking with at least 40 different
12 grocers in the community as well as with
13 others that people are very reluctant to come
14 out and to speak publicly.

15 People take it for granted that
16 they are going to take a certain amount -- in
17 many areas, take a certain amount of
18 anti-Korean verbal abuse.

19 Others have grown accustomed to
20 teenage problems that constantly plague --
21 the lying and cheating, others have found
22 that there has been a pattern in some areas

1 where the African Americans police seem to
2 side with African Americans who are accused
3 with something and various things, and the
4 whole matter of whether there is political
5 will in the city to do something about the
6 problem that is very serious.

7 Now today, I'm not going to go
8 further because we want to -- I do want to
9 ask Mr. Edward Darden, a civil rights
10 analyst, to say a little bit about our
11 procedure for today and what we are going to
12 try to do in terms of limits and taking of
13 questions, so --

14 MR. DARDEN: I'm going to stand up
15 because you'll see me standing up and sitting
16 down and standing up and sitting down most of
17 the day. I'm the staff person working with
18 the committee, and before I go any further,
19 I'd like to introduce the director of the
20 Eastern Regional Office, Dr. Ki-Taek Chun.

21 DR. CHUN: Thank you.

22 MR. DARDEN: He'll also be standing

1 up and sitting down, standing up and sitting
2 down. We are going to try, the staff, to do
3 a number of things that will assist you.

4 First of all, everyone, if you
5 will, we would like you to sign in at the
6 registration area, so that we'll have way of
7 communicating with you the results of the
8 meeting.

9 In addition to that, those who are
10 particularly interested in having some
11 results mailed to them, we have a sheet which
12 I'm going to circulate throughout the day and
13 everyone who's listed here will get
14 something.

15 As you see, we are using a court
16 reporter today, so we'll have a transcript of
17 every one of the presentations that we can
18 use to make a summary, and you might be
19 interested in having that. Sign this and
20 you'll get a copy.

21 In addition to that -- oh, yes,
22 there are other materials on the table in the

1 back, which you probably already gotten and
2 several of them have our contact address and
3 telephone number. If there are any questions
4 or if there are any other -- if there's any
5 other need to contact us, please feel free to
6 do so.

7 As Chester mentioned -- as
8 Dr. Wickwire mentioned, today, we have a very
9 full schedule. We are going to try to get to
10 everyone. In order to be fair to everyone,
11 we will also attempt to keep to the
12 limitations that we have given to each one of
13 our speakers to stay within about 10 minutes
14 for your presentations.

15 That will not only give other
16 speakers an opportunity, but it will also
17 give the committee a chance to ask you
18 questions, and that dialogue is a very
19 important part of what we are going to do
20 today. So if you hear a buzzer, we have a
21 beeper here. That's the timer. Or if you
22 see me give you a signal, you'll know that

1 your time is nearly up or entirely up.

2 If there are any questions, as I
3 say, I'll be floating around. If you need
4 anything, ask me, and I'll take care of it
5 for you.

6 I think that's about all that I
7 wanted to say. If there are any -- are there
8 any questions now? Thank you.

9 DR. WICKWIRE: I think that what we
10 will do now is ask the members of the first
11 panel to come up and I see those present are
12 Ms. Jeanna Cho, Jeanna Cho who's here, Lee's
13 Market on ---- Street, if you will come up.
14 Mr. Kaufman of Baltimore. I think that we do
15 not have Mr. Kun Chang here yet from --

16 MS. CHO: Sit here?

17 DR. WICKWIRE: Yes, that's fine.
18 Before we start with them, maybe you would
19 like to know who we are. So maybe you'll
20 just say who you are and your name. Let's
21 run around the circle here.

22 MS. LEMKE: My name is Debra Lemke

1 of Westminster.

2 MS. GILMORE: I'm Lea Gilmore of
3 Baltimore.

4 MR. OKURA: Patrick Okura of
5 Bethesda, Maryland.

6 DR. CHUN: I'm Ki-Taek Chun of the
7 U.S. Commission of Civil Rights.

8 DR. WICKWIRE: I'm Chester
9 Wickwire, Baltimore.

10 DR. TRAN: I'm Hounng Mai Tran from
11 Potomac, Maryland.

12 REV. SANDS: I'm Doug Sands.

13 MR. NIERENBERG: I'm Art Nierenberg
14 from Randalstown.

15 DR. WICKWIRE: There are ---- and
16 again we appreciate them letting us come out.
17 I know it is not always easy to leave shops.
18 Ms. Cho, I understand that you are a senior
19 at the University of Maryland, that you're
20 trilingual.

21 By the way, I was going to ask, do
22 you intend to take over the store when your

1 father retires?

2 MS. CHO: Oh, no.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: You don't want to be
4 in that position?

5 MS. CHO: No way. No. No.

6 DR. WICKWIRE: I understand. I
7 think I understand. Having visited your
8 store, but we're very pleased that you're
9 able to be here.

10 Is your father going to be able to
11 come here?

12 MS. CHO: I don't think so.

13 DR. WICKWIRE: Why don't you go
14 ahead and give 10 minutes or so to give us
15 some idea of some of the things we talked
16 about in terms of police, in terms of the
17 justice system and the general atmosphere,
18 what you're subjected to daily, the language
19 problems, and if you will go ahead, we
20 appreciate that.

21 MS. CHO: I think first of all the
22 communication is the biggest thing. I mean,

1 because Korean people, of course, can't
2 speak.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Can you people in
4 the back hear?

5 SPEAKER: No.

6 MS. CHO: I'm sorry. I think the
7 communication is the biggest part because
8 it's a problem that we all have because we
9 can't communicate.

10 For example, if I'm in the store,
11 there's not that many fights because I can
12 understand what the customers are saying.
13 They know what I'm trying to say because we
14 can communicate better because we have a
15 better understanding of each other. But when
16 my parents are in the store; they have a lot
17 of miscommunications, so it leads to an
18 argument and things like that.

19 Second of all, the justice system,
20 especially the police, yes -- Baltimore City,
21 I think is very poor because I wouldn't just
22 say black police because by all means I'm

1 very diverse and all that, but a majority --
2 I guess because the majority of the stores --
3 Korean stores are in black neighborhoods, and
4 there are many black police out there.

5 When there's problems in the store,
6 like, you know, Korean owners, they call the
7 police, and police come to them and they
8 don't really listen to Korean -- the owners
9 who actually call the police. They listen to
10 the other people. Like, for example, I guess
11 the majority are black because like I said,
12 Korean stores are in black neighborhoods.

13 For example, my father had this --
14 I guess this black boy came to our store and
15 stole things, so he called the police. The
16 black police arrived and talked to this boy
17 on the corner. I wasn't there, but we have a
18 witness.

19 My father got locked up. He was
20 the one who called the police, and my father
21 got locked up. He was in jail for three
22 days, had \$50,000 bill, and he had no

1 records. He had never been locked up. He
2 had a \$50,000 bail. My father had to buy a
3 lawyer.

4 When he got to the court, the case
5 was dropped because the boy never showed up.
6 They postponed it, like, twice because the
7 boy never showed up. I mean, like that. I
8 was very angry at that because my father,
9 like I say, he doesn't have any record. You
10 know, he never been locked up and just
11 because he couldn't speak English, because I
12 wasn't there.

13 If I was there, I know that would
14 have never happened because that police --
15 police officer, and he's still out there.
16 He's still a police officer out there.
17 Things like this happen all the time, and I
18 just think that -- I mean, because many
19 police -- because I do have police friends.

20 Some of them think of police as
21 just being a job. They don't take pride in
22 being a police, so they just do whatever they

1 feel like doing.

2 They don't really listen to
3 Korean -- I guess the majority of the owners,
4 I guess because they can't speak English, and
5 they don't want to be bothered, so they
6 listen to the other -- customers or whatever.
7 They basically just judge -- I guess they are
8 just doing whatever they want to do and
9 that's really something that really the
10 Baltimore City need to look at.

11 Because if we call the police, they
12 should be listening to us first. That's my
13 opinion about that. Others things, of
14 course, you can always get into arguments
15 with customers and things like that. That's
16 like everyday thing. That's not even a big
17 deal anymore. Because they come in, cussing
18 and acting all crazy. That's like very small
19 thing.

20 I guess another problem that we
21 have lately because it's so hot outside, we
22 have the fire hydrant in front of us, and the

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1 kids are always opening it and because it's
2 right in front of our store and customers
3 can't come in. Things like that.

4 When the fire department, I guess
5 they come out and they lock it. As soon as
6 they leave, the kids open it again, and we
7 are having problems. They splash water all
8 over the store. It's just our biggest
9 problem that we have right now because it's
10 the summer and people just stop coming
11 up ---- because they know that as soon as
12 they leave, the kids are going to open it
13 again.

14 So I don't know, I think they
15 should put some kind of lock on it only where
16 they can open it. I guess that's all I can
17 say right now.

18 But I guess the biggest problem is
19 the police with miscommunication and things
20 like that, and they don't want to listen to
21 the Koreans. They already have idea that
22 Korean people are calling police just

1 because, you know, whatever the reason might
2 be. You know, but I don't know. I guess
3 that's all I have to say.

4 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you.

5 MS. CHO: You're welcome.

6 DR. WICKWIRE: We're going to have
7 an opportunity shortly to raise some
8 questions with you. Mr. Kaufman -- by the
9 way, let me say a word about you Mr. Kaufman,
10 a lot of people have, you know. Mr. Kaufman
11 has been in Baltimore a long time. I came
12 in 1953, and since that time, I've been
13 observing him livening the Baltimore scene.

14 His record in terms of his concern
15 for civil rights, for the poor, for justice
16 has been very genuine and very deep. There
17 isn't any question about that.

18 He has been quite close to the
19 situation regarding the boycotting of the
20 store over on Park Heights Avenue a few years
21 ago, which resulted in a closing down. So
22 we've asked him to say something about this

1 issue especially. So, Mr. Kaufman, if you
2 will go ahead, 10 minutes.

3 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you,
4 Dr. Wickwire. You can call me Bob. I
5 started about three hours putting together
6 some concise notes, and I hope I have a
7 chance to go through them.

8 About two years ago, I was driving
9 in my car and I turned on WOLB which
10 is ---- station and I heard ---- Miles who is
11 was kind of a black Rush Limbaugh, someone
12 called his show and said that a Korean store
13 was selling tainted meats to blacks.

14 Instead of him saying, well, have
15 you called the Health Department or have you
16 checked with the Health Department, he
17 immediately went into a hurraing about how
18 Koreans are taking advantage of us and
19 everything else which solicited more phone
20 calls of a similar thing.

21 I happen to know the fellow who was
22 beginning to lead the boycott, Bill Gooden,

1 because I happened to be working on a
2 committee with him, and I heard his side of
3 the story.

4 The Health Department by the next
5 day did check it out and there was no such
6 problem. They gave them a clean bill of
7 health.

8 This needs some explanation. The
9 claim was they were selling back dated meats.
10 Now the big meat factories, when they have
11 more meat that they can sell right off, they
12 put a sell by date on it and they freeze it.
13 The sell by date has no station in law; it is
14 just something that they do. A whole
15 industry has been built up on selling
16 discounted frozen meats.

17 Murry's meats does nothing like
18 that, although I've checked their store, and
19 they have taken the sell by dates off.

20 Mr. Lee, the owner of Canaan's Discount Food
21 Store did not take the sell by dates off.

22 The Health Department said there's

1 nothing wrong with the meats, but they
2 started picketing, even though they said
3 there's nothing wrong with the meats. They
4 picketed for pretty close than a month.

5 I'm told that every day they call
6 the Health Department with a complaint. By
7 law, the Health Department had to immediately
8 investigate. In each instance they
9 investigated, they found that there is no
10 reality to the complaint, but Mr. Lee, who
11 speaks very broken English, and is very --
12 always trying to accommodate, they will say,
13 well, can we inspect again, and he will say
14 yeah.

15 By law, he doesn't have to say
16 that. If he had a lawyer, he would say no.
17 And they would find something else. They had
18 the wrong kind of toilet seat on. Did you
19 know it's illegal to have a women's toilet
20 seat instead of a man's toilet seat in such
21 an establishment? They had ---- pans which
22 he threw out, but there is no law against

1 selling ---- pans.

2 I checked every single accusation
3 either was on the air that I heard or in the
4 paper or that I heard verbally, and every one
5 of them turned out to be fallacious.

6 I had a letter printed in the
7 *Baltimore Times*, I'll have copies for you
8 afterwards, stating just this, that I've been
9 fighting racial discrimination all my life
10 and this is a perfect case of racial
11 discrimination.

12 I had an occasion to go find Bill
13 Gooden in what I thought was his second hand
14 store. I had been there on two other
15 occasions. I drive up there, and this is the
16 Korean store that they are talking about.
17 This is the store that he used to have that's
18 a second hand store that he lost, and is
19 going out of business.

20 But I asked him about, isn't this
21 your store, he wouldn't talk to me about it.
22 I went into the store, and I expected to see

1 a typical ghetto store with high prices and
2 bullet proof glass, and instead of that I
3 found a very wide open neat, clean well
4 marked discount prices, very good prices. I
5 know my prices. I walk through. It was
6 clean.

7 The argument that finally closed
8 the store down it had nothing to do with the
9 original argument. The inspectors were in
10 there practically every day. As you know,
11 delicatessen meats, if you don't cut off the
12 ends either in your refrigerator or
13 delicatessen case starts turning dark. And
14 when you order some salami or bologna, the
15 delicatessen man will cut that part off,
16 throw it away and start slicing.

17 The inspector comes in and wants to
18 see his delicatessen meats. He puts them all
19 out. He cuts off the darkened meat which is
20 not intended to be sold as samples on Friday
21 which he was going to take into the office,
22 and on Monday have lab tested as being not

1 fit to eat.

2 Mr. Lee hears the inspector tell
3 him, does he have my bleach. Will you get
4 some bleach? Mr. Lee thinks he's been told
5 to pour bleach over the unsold meats from
6 which samples have already been taken which
7 he did, and of course, it ruins the meats. I
8 asked afterwards, why did you do it? He
9 says, it's only about \$35 of meats wholesale.

10 He's trying to accommodate at every
11 point. He's new to this country. Whatever
12 the authorities ask, but the worse spin in
13 the world was put to this.

14 It turned out that the way the
15 media reported it was that he purposely
16 poured bleach on it before they took the
17 samples, so they couldn't take the samples
18 reported which is a right out nonsense, a
19 lie. And the *Sun* paper in an editorial some
20 weeks later reported that as true.

21 Now from what I understand, the
22 Health Department was very much intimidated

1 by all this, everyday being called in. By
2 what I understand in the beginning, they were
3 sympathetic to the store, but the pressure
4 just built up. The reason why: They were
5 getting pressure from one side of the
6 community, but no defense from the other side
7 of the community.

8 The man needed a lawyer. He needed
9 someone to speak for him. There was no
10 institution or organization in the community
11 to do that, and I think there needs to be in
12 the Korean community.

13 Finally, the Health Department had
14 a hearing. It was like a kangaroo court. It
15 was a room much smaller than that. Cee Miles
16 had been agitating over the media for weeks
17 and weeks for people to go down there to
18 defend black people that were being poisoned
19 by Koreans.

20 I walk into the room, and there are
21 about 100 very tall, large black men
22 primarily, a few women. About 8 or 10 very

1 small Korean men and me.

2 It was very non -- unjudicious in
3 that people were yelling out and screaming
4 every time Mr. Lee's lawyer was asking a
5 question or trying to speak, some guy would
6 stand up and say lies, lies, lies and there
7 would be comments and derogatory remarks and
8 the person running the hearing did nothing to
9 stop that from happening.

10 I was subjected to anti-Jewish
11 remarks. The racism and the anti-Semitism is
12 just below the surface, and it came out.

13 What business could stand up to
14 such harassment? What small business in the
15 city ---- ? I tried to save the day by
16 addressing the public hearing, it was
17 supposed to be a nonpublic hearing, at the
18 Korean center. Unfortunately -- and Michael
19 Allester lester was there, and a couple of
20 weeks later he did positive report on it in
21 his column.

22 Unfortunately Bill Goodman and his

1 crew came. They sat in the front row of the
2 seats. I mostly asked the manager who was
3 born in this country, Caucasian, a
4 professional, all of the questions and
5 accusations which he answered.

6 The problem was he immediately
7 withdrew, wouldn't subject himself to
8 questions because he had been so much hurt by
9 the harassment from these folks previously.

10 I think he mispronouncing of the
11 Canaan's Food Store used the word Canine Food
12 Store and Dr. George, the vice president of
13 Baltimore County NAACP was heard to say to
14 the man sitting next to her, well, they are
15 all dogs anyway aren't they?

16 MR. DARDEN: Three minutes.

17 MR. KAUFMAN: The impression of the
18 Korean community is that Mr. Lee must have
19 done something wrong, and that he's an
20 embarrassment to them.

21 I think what needs to be done is
22 the Korean community needs a defense

1 committee like the Jewish community in the
2 Anti-defamation League. It should have been
3 there to advise Mr. Lee of his rights from
4 the very beginning. It should have been
5 there to investigate whether the accusations
6 were true at the very beginning, and by the
7 next day, they should have been countering if
8 the charges were not true.

9 They should have prevented the
10 Health Department from being so intimidated,
11 and they should have prevented the Health
12 Department from acting on that intimidation.
13 They could have gotten an injunction against
14 the boycott because the reasons given for it
15 had nothing to do with the reality. They
16 should have been able to reply to a very
17 nasty article in the *Afro* calling for a
18 boycott at Mr. Lee's other store.

19 Subsequently, both stores are
20 closed down. I don't know what has happened
21 to Mr. Lee. They should have been able to
22 stop the *Sun* from writing such editorial and

1 the City Council from introducing resolutions
2 supporting this, and answered with the ---- .

3 The Korean community should be
4 pulling its resources for that sort of thing
5 and to support another Korean store that is
6 unjustly being attacked by sharing the
7 expense of it.

8 I also think that it's necessary
9 for Korean stores to make a special effort to
10 understand black history and the psychology
11 which comes from that history.

12 One of the things that I'd like
13 very much to see is the Korean community
14 hopefully as a co-operative to buy a radio
15 station, an English speaking radio station in
16 which sympathetic people, I'm sure you could
17 get people like Wiley Hall who writes for the
18 *Afro* and R.B. Jones who writes for the
19 *Baltimore Times* ---- work real hard at, maybe
20 you could get ---- Kaufman. To present, not
21 only music and culture things, but talk radio
22 as an alternative to WOLB which is

1 mostly ---- .

2 Now the Jewish community has had a
3 lot of experience in this and I talked to
4 people in the Jewish community and they are
5 willing to help the Korean community to put
6 together such an effort.

7 Finally, the article in the *Sun*
8 today quoting Bill Gooden as saying, he said
9 blacks, he didn't say he, often complained
10 that many Korean merchants live in the
11 suburbs, that African Americans jobs will not
12 stay in community.

13 Well, this is pure ---- because
14 Bill Gooden is a very smart guy and he knows
15 that anybody that comes up in the inner city,
16 in the ghetto, and can make any money, they
17 make it to buy that better life for
18 themselves.

19 They buy a better a better life for
20 themselves by moving to the suburbs being
21 able to send their kids to better schools.

22 MR. DARDEN: One minute.

1 MR. KAUFMAN: The black
2 entrepreneur whose picture is all over the
3 place, on billboards pushing cholesterol,
4 salt, fat hidden hamburgers on black people
5 and growing rich off of it. There's no
6 argument that he doesn't live in the city.
7 Buys his \$500 suits out in the county, buys
8 his car out in the county, whatever.

9 People with money, if they want to
10 spend it, they can't spend it in the city
11 anyway. If they want to spend it on jewelry
12 and furs, they are not going to do that in
13 the city. If they want to spend it on yachts
14 or cars or vacations they aren't going to do
15 it in the city.

16 This is pure demagogue, and the
17 Korean community is standing up to this with
18 logic and say, this is pure demagogue. There
19 is a double standard, and that's what this
20 relation is all about. That's primarily what
21 I have to say.

22 MR. DARDEN: Thank you. Right on

1 time.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. You were
3 right on time, Mr. Kaufman, Bob. There are
4 questions from our panel up here on our
5 board, so I'm sure that they have some, so --

6 MS. GILMORE: ----

7 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder.

8 MS. GILMORE: I can do loud. Have
9 you made an effort to speak with --

10 DR. WICKWIRE: Who are speaking to?

11 MS. GILMORE: To Ms. Cho. I hope
12 I'm pronouncing your name correctly.

13 Have you made an effort to speak
14 with any of the community leaders, any of the
15 African American community leaders?

16 MS. CHO: No, I haven't and I think
17 that -- when I was listening to him, when he
18 said something like Korean people need to
19 learn about, like, black history, myself, I
20 have, many, many black friends, and by me
21 being engaged with them, hanging out with
22 them learned a lot about them.

1 I'm very diverse person, so I have
2 white friends, black friends. But I do have
3 to say that my parents are very prejudice,
4 and I think a lot of Korean people are
5 because they are basically living in ghetto,
6 in that bad neighborhood seeing just the bad,
7 supposedly the bad black ones, to me.

8 I think every race has a good side
9 and bad side to it. I myself had a chance to
10 see a good side and a bad side. Of course, I
11 was prejudice myself, but as I learned to
12 understand the different cultures and you
13 really get to know them, you know, I myself
14 am not really prejudice like I used to be,
15 but my parents are very prejudice because
16 they only see the bad black ones or whatever.

17 But I think it's very important for
18 us to learn about each other's cultures and
19 things like that. But no I haven't, I don't
20 know the way because I think it's really
21 important that we need to do something about
22 it because they are just complaining and

1 complaining and complaining.

2 Like you said, Korean people are
3 just complaining, complaining, complaining,
4 but they are not doing anything about it.
5 They are just really not. They feel like
6 they can't do anything because they can't
7 speak English.

8 Like the ones that are educated and
9 going to school, they are all students. They
10 don't want to get involved with their parents
11 and stuff like that. Sometimes I get
12 stressed because my parents try to get me
13 involved in a lot of stuff that's going on
14 with them and things like that.

15 But I think that a lot of Korean
16 people think that because think can't speak
17 English, they really don't know what to do
18 about it. We all know that we're having
19 stores in a bad neighborhood, which they are
20 all not educated. Majority of them are not
21 educated, majority of them are on drugs, have
22 five million kids.

1 It's not just blacks; it's whites
2 too. It doesn't matter what race you are.
3 If you are not educated, you're going to be
4 like that. You're going to be ignorant.
5 When I talk to the educated ones, whether
6 they are black or white, they have a good
7 understanding of the Korean people, where are
8 they coming from. So I think it has to do a
9 lot of they're not educated and things like
10 that.

11 DR. WICKWIRE: Are there other
12 questions? There must be other questions.

13 DR. CHUN: I have a couple of
14 questions that I'd like to pursue. First of
15 all, Mr. Kaufman, the newspaper article that
16 you were referring to that and you also
17 mentioned that you have a prepared statement,
18 would you be good enough to share them with
19 us? Thank you very much. The question
20 referrers to Ms. Cho, the incident you're
21 referring to --

22 MR. NIERENBERG: I can't hear you.

1 DR. CHUN: About the incident that
2 your father was locked up instead of somebody
3 else, did you talk to the police authority as
4 to what has happened and requested an
5 explanation as to why your father was locked
6 up rather than somebody else?

7 MS. CHO: Well, I didn't really
8 look at paper, when I talked to the lawyer, I
9 mean, I have to do all the translation all
10 the time when my father is involved in
11 anything.

12 It was basically because there was
13 a gun involved, they said that my father
14 pointed a gun at the boy and things like
15 that, but I know my father didn't because he
16 doesn't have a gun. He has his rifle in the
17 back of the store, and basically said that
18 the police pulled the boy up on the side and
19 said something to him somehow and on the
20 report said that, you know, my father pointed
21 a gun at him and things like that.

22 DR. CHUN: Did your father complain

1 by any chance against the city police?

2 MS. CHO: Well, I guess I wanted to
3 but at that time, I don't know why I didn't
4 do it. I didn't know how to go about doing
5 it. I didn't know the police officer's name.
6 I know his face, I still have his -- you
7 know, because he's around my neighborhood all
8 the time, but I haven't done anything. I
9 don't know how to go about doing it.

10 DR. CHUN: As far as official
11 record goes, you did not let the police
12 authority know what has happened what
13 happened your concerns were; is that correct?

14 MS. CHO: I'm sorry, say that
15 again.

16 DR. CHUN: As far as the police
17 concern, the higher up, the police command
18 did not know exactly what happened.

19 MS. CHO: Exactly and I think it's
20 not just with my father incident. I think
21 many times police officers rely on their
22 reports. It's just happened. It seems like

1 in this country you're supposed to be
2 innocent until you are found guilty, but you
3 are found guilty before you are found
4 innocent. That's how it seems.

5 DR. WICKWIRE: Reverend Sands?

6 REV. SANDS: What happened that
7 your father spent two or three days there?

8 MS. CHO: Because I think -- I
9 don't know the exact date that he got locked
10 up, but I think he was waiting to see
11 commissioner, and he spent about two or three
12 days in jail and ---- just nothing and the
13 case was dropped and he spent \$5,000. The
14 bail was \$50,000 and of course ---- bail
15 bond, and he had to pay \$5,000 so he
16 lost \$5,000, and then he had to pay the
17 lawyer fee.

18 So he just lost his time for no
19 reason, and the police officer is still out
20 there, and it happens all the time it's not
21 just with Koreans. I mean blacks on blacks.
22 I see this all the time. I'm in the -- I

1 grew up basically in the bad area, like,
2 where you call it ghetto for like 11 years
3 and I see this all the time and I have --
4 like, I talk to a lot of people around the
5 neighborhood and I see this.

6 It's so clear that police officers
7 lie on their reports, and a lot of them do
8 get locked up for no reason. I see this all
9 the time and I think a lot of white police
10 have things against blacks too.

11 Just because they have that power
12 them because they are being police, they do
13 lie on their police report and I know in
14 clearly. It happens, and they can't do
15 anything about it because the justice system
16 is going to believe the police officer is not
17 the person who -- instead of the person who
18 got locked up.

19 MR. DARDEN: When you said this
20 incident really started because your father
21 didn't speak English enough to communicate
22 with the police officer, and the police

1 officer responded negatively, what do you
2 think then for the whole community, not the
3 whole community, but for a number of other
4 Korean American store owners who are in
5 similar situations as yours?

6 What do they need that the city
7 should know about in order to avoid some of
8 these problems happening again?

9 MS. CHO: First of all just to
10 correct you on what I said, it's not really
11 the communication, I think was the problem.
12 I think he was just straight up being racist
13 because he was a black boy, young boy
14 standing there with my father, and he was the
15 only police in and nobody was around.

16 The witness already had left, so he
17 felt like he could do anything about it. Him
18 being police. What my father was saying was
19 that police officer did not give my father a
20 chance to speak, and that was completely
21 wrong.

22 Like I said, I do have a few police

1 friends, and it seems like whenever there is
2 a problem in the neighborhood, and the Korean
3 people call the police, there is not enough
4 Korean police officers to come and translate
5 that for them. I've seen a few Korean police
6 officers, but I don't know how they utilize
7 them, you know what I mean? Go ahead.

8 MR. DARDEN: What's your feeling
9 now about what might happen if you were to
10 make a complaint about racism on the part of
11 a police officer? How do you think that
12 complaint would be treated?

13 MS. CHO: I don't think it's going
14 to go too far first of all. If that's what
15 you're asking me.

16 MR. DARDEN: Yes, what do you
17 think?

18 MS. CHO: Yes, like America is
19 supposed to be like freedom of speech and all
20 that stuff and justice and all that. No. To
21 me, it's not because Korean people are a
22 minority and it's like -- I don't know how to

1 explain it, but I don't think it's going to
2 go too far because they are going to be like,
3 oh, you know, whatever. It's just not. It's
4 not going to -- I don't think it's going to
5 go anywhere.

6 DR. CHUN: One question.
7 Mr. Kaufman, I seem to recall that there was
8 an allegation, implication that before
9 Mr. Olenski's (phonetic) correct -- more
10 positive reporting rendition of the canine
11 incident, *Baltimore Sun* ran a couple of
12 articles which are based on false
13 information.

14 Is that ordinary sort of inaccurate
15 reporting power for the cause, or what was
16 the situation? That's why it's so surprising
17 that *Baltimore Sun* would do that.

18 MR. KAUFMAN: Actually, perhaps
19 there are a couple of things. When I wrote
20 my article, it was mostly on my discussions
21 with Bill Gooden giving me his side, and a
22 very fair article that appeared in the

1 *Baltimore Sun*, a well researched clear
2 article.

3 But the problem was subsequent to
4 that, there were reports of accusations and
5 each time the inspector would go in and find
6 the accusations weren't true, ask if he could
7 inspect -- would find something else, the
8 door was open if it got to be closed
9 because -- so they closed the door.

10 They had a leak under trap so it
11 kicks out the next day. Next day they come
12 in, there's a leaky faucet. All this little
13 stuff which they fixed immediately, but
14 without any defense voiced from Mr. Lee or
15 the Korean community, it appeared as that
16 here is a filthy store with contempt for
17 black people, and the things that Bill Gooden
18 and the other demagogues were saying because
19 they have their own political agenda, he was
20 out running for office, he want's to be a
21 leader. He was ---- steppingstone
22 politically.

1 The things that they were saying
2 were being reported particularly on WOLD,
3 also in the *Afro* and the *Sun*, and they are
4 hearing only one side. This's what the
5 problem was. The other side wasn't heard.
6 You may not be aware that Cee Miles was later
7 quoted as saying, one down, we are going to
8 close 1,000 Korean stores in the city.

9 So that incident was a lose-lose
10 situation for everybody. Mr. Lee and his
11 family tragic. The black community doesn't
12 have a store nearly as good, with prices
13 nearly as low, or nearly or clean and neat as
14 the operation was before.

15 And the Korean community has -- the
16 message that it has given to these demagogues
17 is you can smack us around, and we'll just
18 run away. We won't fight back, so it's a
19 lost all around for good people.

20 DR. WICKWIRE: I have a question.
21 I want to ask you Ms. Cho, do you have a
22 feeling what might help in terms of police

1 behavior and the situation? What do you
2 think? Is it education? Is it more persons
3 that speak Korean language, what's the
4 answer?

5 MS. CHO: From what I think, they
6 need definitely more educated Korean
7 Americans to be out there, help Korean owners
8 because there is so many of them. I mean if
9 you go down city, I can definitely say that
10 store Korean people own. Because majority of
11 the stores in downtown Baltimore are owned by
12 Koreans.

13 I don't think they have enough
14 Korean translators and people that can help
15 Korean owners to get through problems, like
16 little problems like dealing with police and
17 dealing with a lot of people and things like
18 that.

19 They just don't have enough people.
20 It's really lacking that. You know what I
21 mean? If they asked me to volunteer or to do
22 things like that, I'd be glad to do it, but I

1 don't see it. The Korean people have their
2 little meetings, business association
3 meetings and things like that, but what do
4 they really do?

5 I mean I'm not downing Koreans
6 either. They go out, they get drunk, they
7 don't really do anything about it. I'm being
8 honest. They are adults, and I have to
9 respect them, but that's all they do. What
10 are they actually doing to help themselves?
11 You know, they are not actually doing
12 anything. That's my opinion.

13 DR. WICKWIRE: Would you say --
14 have the churches been an influence -- have
15 the pastors or churches come around to your
16 store and try to help you in problems or is
17 that --

18 MS. CHO: That I don't know. I
19 mean, I don't really know much about pastors
20 and things like that.

21 But like all I know, they don't
22 have educated Korean Americans and majority

1 of the time it's going to be young people
2 because grown-ups a lot of older people they
3 don't really speak English all that well and
4 they -- I guess like myself, you know, since
5 I've been here since I was 11. I can speak
6 English and Korean and very fluently, I can
7 understand both languages.

8 But there's not that many people
9 out there that can really translate and
10 really understand you know what's going --
11 you know both sides, what's happening to both
12 sides. You know what I mean? Me, like I can
13 understand because I know where the people,
14 black people, or white people, whatever
15 they're coming from.

16 And sometimes I'm on their side,
17 and my parents get mad, and they are like why
18 are you on their side, and I'm saying you
19 were wrong, but of course, they don't want to
20 listen to me.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Nierenberg?

22 MR. NIERENBERG: About six months

1 ago or seven months ago, I may be wrong on
2 the date. We had a preliminary hearing.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder, Art.

4 MR. NIERENBERG: We had a
5 preliminary hearing about six, seven months
6 ago where store owners and people in the
7 Korean American community came forth.

8 It's very obvious, and it's very
9 human that when somebody doesn't speak a
10 language well, it's embarrassing. It's
11 embarrassing to get up and talk when you know
12 your accent is wrong or your use of words is
13 wrong. But the Korean people showed up, and
14 they gave us a very explicit, fully
15 detailed -- they painted the whole scenario
16 of what they have experienced and what they
17 went through.

18 If I count the Korean membership in
19 this public meeting, about half of everybody
20 here is Korean. They have showed up again.
21 The reason I'm emphasizing that is when we
22 talk about the past or the incident in the

1 community, it goes no place.

2 But when we think about what's
3 taken place with this committee and opening
4 up an invitation to the Korean people are
5 here. That's a little bit of light. A
6 little positive thought that I have that I
7 wanted to share with you.

8 MS. CHO: I think the majority of
9 time like my father -- my father couldn't be
10 here because my father's friend came over,
11 but many of them are stuck in the store, they
12 can't come out. That's another thing too.

13 But because like you said, just
14 because they can't speak English, many times
15 I heard translators translating, and it seems
16 like they are not really translating right --
17 because when you're translating things, you
18 have to know the culture -- I don't know if
19 you understand what I'm saying.

20 I speak another language too, and
21 when you are translating you have to know the
22 culture, and sometimes they can't translate

1 thoroughly. I listen to the translator, and
2 I'm like that's not what this man is trying
3 to say. Like you said, it's hard when they
4 can't speak English, they want to say
5 something, but they can't.

6 MR. NIERENBERG: It's very
7 difficult.

8 DR. TRAN: I would like to follow
9 up on Ms. Cho's comment. I would like to
10 know if there were educated young Koreans out
11 there that are willing to serve in the
12 community, whether the parents would allow
13 that or would let that happen?

14 MS. CHO: Yes, I mean, I think so.
15 I mean, they don't have to be necessarily
16 young. The reason I said young is because I
17 feel as though the young ones, like my
18 friends, they both speak Korean and English
19 as well as. Like the grown-ups, they speak
20 broken English. It's hard when you have
21 people speaking broken languages and things.
22 You're saying um, um, all the time. That is

1 why I said young.

2 They don't have to be necessarily
3 young. That has nothing to do with it. As
4 long as they can communicate with other
5 people as well.

6 I think so, I mean, like if you go
7 to school, like I go to College Park.
8 There's many, many Koreans that speak English
9 and Korean, but some of them are probably
10 afraid to come out to a place like this like
11 I am. You know they're scared, maybe they're
12 nervous. They don't have the guts to go out
13 and do things like that. They have this
14 personality where they're just to themselves,
15 do you know what I mean?

16 It is kind of hard to find the ones
17 that would be willing to be out and open and
18 things like that. But I mean, if you try
19 hard enough, I think they will be. I don't
20 think I will be the only one who would be
21 willing to do things like that.

22 MR. OKURA: I found in many other

1 communities where there are Korean large
2 populations, the store owners and businessmen
3 have gotten together and have raised enough
4 money to hire a Korean person to be their
5 spokesperson.

6 Now I'm sure that in this city of
7 Baltimore there is enough power there, or at
8 least enough Korean merchants, that instead
9 of having dinners and getting drunk and all
10 of that, which is part of living; however,
11 there is the other aspect that you speak of
12 that needs to be taken care of and we don't
13 have to always depend on young people.

14 There are people that -- of older
15 age, 40s, 50s and 60s that are strong enough
16 to be hired to do that sort of work, and I
17 think Baltimore seems to be lacking that sort
18 of thing because I've seen -- I've been
19 around the country. I've lived for 70 years
20 in this country. I was born here.

21 I have gone through the same things
22 that you and your parents have gone

1 through, 30, 40, 60 years ago when I grew up
2 as a youngster and was given the same kind of
3 treatment.

4 But unless we take care of our own
5 needs, and I think the Korean population --
6 it's not a new population that just came here
7 last month or last year, they have been here
8 for 10, 20 years now, and there is no reason
9 why the city of Baltimore and the Korean
10 population can't get together to provide some
11 of the things that you are speaking of.

12 I think that needs to be shown and
13 that's where the power comes from, and if
14 someone stands up, we talk about rights and
15 all of that.

16 But unless we complain or unless we
17 state our case, nobody's going to listen.
18 They say, well, they're getting along well,
19 they are making money, they are doing fine so
20 there is no prejudice in Baltimore.

21 Well, from what we are learning
22 today, and what we have heard from before,

1 there seems to be a tremendous amount of
2 anti-Korean or anti-color prejudice in this
3 community, so I think it's up to the
4 community themselves.

5 Again I think as our chairman said,
6 the church group, there are a lot of Korean
7 churches. There are pastors there that
8 have -- that's their profession, and that's
9 their creed and so on. Now why can't the
10 Korean community call on the pastors of the
11 Korean community to bring together a
12 coalition of people to do something about it?

13 I think those are the steps Korean
14 community need to take, and I think with your
15 background and your ability to speak both
16 languages, you ought to encourage that sort
17 of thing and even explain to your father that
18 that's what needs to be done if we are going
19 to make any progress at all.

20 DR. CHUN: Can the public have any
21 voice in this?

22 DR. WICKWIRE: In a little while,

1 you can, yes. I think we're going to go
2 ahead and bring on the next panel so, thank
3 you very much for your testimony. It's
4 helpful.

5 What we are going to do now because
6 we have -- we are going to try to stick with
7 our time. We are going to take the next
8 panel is going to be a single person, Mr. Kun
9 Chang, who is owner of Chang's Market
10 on ---- who is he is here.

11 Then following that, we will have
12 representatives from some of the Korean
13 American associations in the city to speak,
14 and I notice there are a number of you that
15 are here, so Mr. Chang would you please come
16 up and sit up here and --

17 MR. DARDEN: While he's coming up,
18 I'd just like to remind everybody, if you
19 would, please sign in -- come on up,
20 Mr. Chang.

21 Sign in if you have not at the
22 registration table, and we are circulating

1 the other list.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Let me say one
3 thing. Yes, did you want to come up.
4 Mr. Park.

5 (Interruption)

6 DR. WICKWIRE: What we would like,
7 Mr. Park, I think -- you are going to have to
8 leave shortly, are you? We'll put you on
9 after this. Let him go on. We won't make
10 you sit up here now.

11 MR. DARDEN: Is this his attorney?

12 FEMALE SPEAKER: No, I'm not his
13 attorney. No, I'm his friend, and I manage
14 the store.

15 DR. WICKWIRE: Yes, you had a
16 question.

17 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, will I be given
18 the opportunity to voice our concerns or
19 exactly as the Korean's concerns? I'm
20 representing the community of Little Italy,
21 and we feel we have the same problems, all
22 right?

1 DR. WICKWIRE: Sir, just one
2 moment. We will at the end, we are going to
3 have an opportunity for questions such as you
4 have. Actually, this forum is set up to deal
5 with the Korean American problem.

6 SPEAKER: Yes, but I see it as, you
7 know, the Korean public are being used as a
8 sacrificial lamb because they are the
9 weakest, okay, and but the gravity -- this
10 dangerous precedent is a lot bigger than
11 this.

12 When we band together, like I just
13 heard saying to the Korean people, suddenly
14 they accuse us of being prejudice or racist
15 when we have to take matters to defend
16 ourselves or to succeed in business or
17 whatever or to gain this prosperity and
18 freedom, we are suddenly looked at --

19 DR. WICKWIRE: Sir, let me say
20 this, we are going to give you a chance at
21 the end of this session. Before we close,
22 you are going to have a chance. We

1 appreciate your presence, and your
2 willingness to speak.

3 SPEAKER: Fine, this is a lot
4 bigger than just --

5 DR. WICKWIRE: We are going to
6 talk -- we are going to do a slightly
7 different turn. We are going to get a
8 feeling for what a perceived to be racism,
9 whites against both Korean Americans and
10 against African Americans where African
11 Americans and Korean American store owner are
12 together in terms of trying to resist white
13 pressure in the area -- in the section not
14 too far from Park Avenue, from Bolten Hill
15 and moving towards Pennsylvania Avenue, very
16 different areas.

17 So that I understand that you're in
18 area which is probably 75 percent African
19 American, it's 25 percent white, and whites
20 wants you to get out, so Mr. Chang, it's your
21 time now, 10 minutes and you have a friend
22 who wants this to go ahead.

1 MR. CHANG: My name is Kun Chang,
2 and I have a store, 1701 ---- area, in 14
3 years and I don't have any crime record, not
4 even one. Two years ago, my place is high
5 income white neighborhood and low income
6 black neighborhood between middle, and I
7 don't have any trouble for 14 -- sorry, 10
8 years.

9 Two, three years ago, a high income
10 white neighborhood people call me, so I will
11 see them, they told me why don't you move
12 across the street to the Pennsylvania Avenue
13 side.

14 So I told them, I been in a low
15 income neighborhood for 14 years, I don't
16 have to move no place. I'm not going to
17 listen, and after that, they keep bothering
18 me. It's like every year. They are protest
19 my license.

20 They try to set up to send young
21 minors to try to get a case. I was trying to
22 cooperate with the white community, but it's

1 clean outside as much as I could to sort
2 of -- I'm sorry, I have a language problem,
3 so, but -- I don't see nothing bad around
4 clean and -- I'm sorry.

5 This community being 10 years of
6 what I saw --

7 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Chang, let me
8 ask you a question. Do you want to have an
9 interpreter? Mr. Ki-Taek Chun can interpret
10 for a minute, or do you prefer do prefer to
11 go ahead in English? I think you're doing
12 pretty well in English. But if you want to
13 speak in Korean, he can translate. What do
14 you want to do?

15 MR. CHANG: Well, my friends's
16 going to do translation or whatever.

17 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you.

18 MR. CHANG: It's been -- I've seen
19 at least eight, nine years. First year, they
20 taken the old bench. Second year, they taken
21 up all public ---- and if they got 10
22 tree ---- and next year that tree gone.

1 They just -- to keep, not even
2 dirty, saying dirty, dirty, and at this
3 point, I really don't know what I'm supposed
4 to do. We've been court on four times. We
5 won all four times, but we try to -- they
6 still told me to move across street.
7 Ms. Armor (phonetic) have been with me three
8 years, so she might want to say something.

9 MS. ARMOR: The community that
10 Mr. Chang is talking about is the Mount
11 Memorial Improvement Association, and the
12 years that I have been working with
13 Mr. Chang, it's been a pleasure working with
14 him.

15 The problem is that they came to
16 him, and they asked him to stop selling
17 products that the lower income people could
18 afford. Mr. Chang said, I can't do that. I
19 want to accommodate all of my customers.
20 After he refused to sell the products that
21 they asked him to stop selling like malt
22 liquor, miniatures whatever, they started the

1 smear campaign, which I really call it.

2 He has all the support of the black
3 community. No one in that community
4 complains about Mr. Chang. That's another
5 thing they do not like. They have sent
6 several letters to several council members
7 smearing his name and also involving anyone
8 in the community supports Mr. Chang. They
9 refer to them as derelicts, panhandlers,
10 prostitutes.

11 If you associate yourself with
12 Mr. Chang, then you're not a good person.
13 They have brought him up to the liquor board
14 four times. He has won each time. They
15 tried -- they couldn't win theirs, so they
16 took him to the zoning board.

17 They have sent letters blaming
18 Mr. Chang's establishment -- which he as been
19 there, I would like to say, longer than some
20 of these residents has even been in this
21 area, and they say he doesn't live in that
22 area. Mr. Chang is in that store

1 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. He lives in the
2 community.

3 He's friendly with everyone in the
4 community, African American and white, and
5 everyone loves him, but they are blaming the
6 prostitution in the area on him and getting
7 other people to support them. They are
8 blaming all the panhandlers on this
9 establishment, any loiterings, any crime, the
10 smallest crime is because Mr. Chang's
11 establishment is there.

12 His establish. Is with the
13 Marlboro Apartments which is a senior
14 citizens and handicapped people, who have no
15 complains. They love Mr. Chang. Mr. Chang
16 is one of the only merchants I know in 1998
17 that still gives credits to his local
18 community.

19 He knows it's a low-income area.
20 He tries to help them. He donates to them.
21 He supplies food when they give functions,
22 and this is in the whole community, not just

1 the lower income community, but this
2 particular association has stressed him out
3 so much that he's lost sleep.

4 He's called in support of his
5 congressman, his councilman and because of
6 some of the prestigious people that are in
7 this Association, he does not get the support
8 that he deserves. They shake his hand, and
9 they come and they give him some campaign
10 about we are going to support you, Mr. Chang,
11 and we are going to help you, Mr. Chang, but
12 when we go to the hearings, they are all on
13 this Association side, and it's like we are
14 not really on sides.

15 But it is clear whose side they're
16 on. They get letters from councilmen, from
17 the mayor's office supporting this community
18 without even hearing both sides.

19 Mr. Chang and I have noticed, and
20 we have noticed together because when I
21 saw -- when I worked with Mr. Chang, we
22 started to understand each other's culture a

1 lot better. We have made our own
2 stereotypes. We found out that we are both
3 loving and caring people that just want to
4 make it in this world.

5 And we have learned together that
6 not only are they discriminating against
7 Koreans, they are also discriminating against
8 African Americans, and if we unite, they are
9 really going to come out and get you because
10 they do not like that kind of support.

11 He really change his opinion, and
12 it's sad about the white community because he
13 really didn't see it until they came after
14 him, and he said, I don't understand why they
15 are doing this to me. I don't understand why
16 they are doing this to me.

17 Mr. Chang has spent so much money
18 and has cooperated so much. He has hired
19 extra staff, a security guard, he cleans the
20 front of his store too much and around. He
21 even cleans their area. He has -- he makes
22 sure there is no loitering, he tells people

1 they can't even stand across this street from
2 his store.

3 But yet this Association is not
4 satisfied, and he's like, why are they doing
5 this to me? And we have discovered he will
6 not do as they ask, and if you don't do as I
7 say, we're going to show you how powerful we
8 are, or we are going to make you come out
9 your pocket, and he has spent way too much
10 money.

11 He's a small merchant and people
12 have, so did I, the wrong impression, this is
13 a small merchant, a man that's trying to hold
14 his family together, raise two children and a
15 wife.

16 He doesn't have that kind of money
17 to hire lawyers every time he goes to a
18 hearing or -- he has to bring his lawyer
19 every time he goes to a hearing because his
20 language barrier, they refuse to talk to him
21 if I come, or any African American comes and
22 stands besides him. They refuse to talk to

1 him. They say, we don't want to talk to you
2 Mr. Chang as long as you have them with you.

3 They say it is not a black and
4 white issue. It is not a racial issue.
5 First I even put it off as economic issue. I
6 said it's an economic issue. It's about the
7 lower income people. I said it myself
8 because I was in denial, but when I really
9 got into this whole situation, this is a
10 racial issue, and they do not want this
11 Korean in this neighborhood.

12 We are going to turn down any low
13 income housing in this neighborhood because
14 we are going to build up these high rises,
15 and we don't want the rubbish in the area.

16 They even suggested that Mr. Chang
17 himself put a fence up between Utah and
18 Bolten Hill, and you need a key or a code to
19 get into their area, their area I mind you.
20 Because they even said they complained about
21 the Mount Royal Elementary School walking
22 through their neighborhood, they don't want

1 those kind of children walking through their
2 neighborhood.

3 But they go on and continue to say,
4 we are trying to keep our community clean.
5 Mr. Chang has been in because for 14 years.

6 MR. DARDEN: Two minutes.

7 MS. ARMOR: He loves the community,
8 he has no complaints until two years ago.
9 Everything Mr. Chang's done and everything
10 and everything they requested ---- above and
11 beyond the call of duty because he's a much
12 bigger man than I am. Because a lot of
13 things he doesn't have to do.

14 They called his landlord, and said,
15 well, we are going to protest against
16 Mr. Chang again. We just finished going to
17 the hearing in May, how do you even know.
18 You are not even giving him a chance. They
19 don't plan on giving him a chance.

20 They told him you talk your
21 business over to Pennsylvania Avenue where
22 they belong, and we don't mind. As a matter

1 of fact, they were so nice to find areas
2 where Mr. Chang could move and suggest to
3 him, well, we found some place for you to buy
4 on Pennsylvania Avenue.

5 The question that I've had was:
6 How much -- we talk about his freedom, how
7 much freedom does -- do you get until it
8 becomes harassment, and Mr. Chang is being
9 harassed. They come and they put trash and
10 rubbish in his store and take pictures to say
11 that it was there.

12 They admitted in hearings okay we
13 did dig it out of the trash. I mean how much
14 is too much? We have -- they have sent in
15 minors trying to entrap Mr. Chang. We have
16 found that this sting that they have where
17 they have sent minors into liquor store.

18 We have found that Mr. Chang on
19 several occasions has been the only store
20 that this sting was supposed -- it's supposed
21 to be in the whole community. But we have
22 found it has been only his store, and we have

1 also found that this Mount Royal Improvement
2 Association is very much, very much involved
3 with the Baltimore City police department.

4 They even have some of the
5 Baltimore City Police Department coming to
6 the hearings giving personal opinions on this
7 establishment, which I thought it was a
8 conflict of interest to work in the area, and
9 come on and speak on Mount Royal Improving
10 Association.

11 So now they have the Baltimore City
12 Police Department in their pocket, and any
13 crime that goes on in this area they have the
14 support of the Baltimore City Police
15 Department saying it's because of Mr. Chang's
16 little small convenient ma and pa kettle
17 store establishment.

18 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. I think
19 we are going to have to end. Maybe you can
20 say some more as you get questions. I'm sure
21 that there will be questions.

22 MR. CHANG: May I give you this

1 letter?

2 DR. WICKWIRE: That's already been
3 distributed up here.

4 MR. CHANG: Oh, I see.

5 DR. WICKWIRE: Actually, they have
6 that.

7 DR. CHUN: This document does not
8 quite identify the person that we can
9 contact. Could you give us the name of the
10 person of this association?

11 DR. WICKWIRE: We have all that.

12 MS. ARMOR: You have all that?

13 MR. DARDEN: Could you give it to
14 us for the record.

15 MS. ARMOR: 1702 Lyndon Avenue.
16 Debbie Biehl.

17 She's the past president, and she's
18 the one who's actually --

19 DR. CHUN: The name of the person.

20 MS. ARMOR: Debbie Biehl.

21 DR. CHUN: And guess we can get
22 your phone number later.

1 MS. ARMOR: Yes.

2 MR. CHANG: Yes.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Let me say just a
4 word, I visited the store, was there for
5 about 45 minutes two days ago, and I also
6 talked with some of the people who live
7 there, elderly people and some people,
8 handicapped persons that are in the Marlboro
9 Apartments.

10 His store is there at the corner of
11 Wilson Street and Utah Place, 230 Wilson,
12 1701 Utah Place.

13 Across the road there is a rather
14 large shopping mall which has a Rite Aid in
15 it and a number of stores there, and yet I
16 found a very steady stream, a very obviously
17 satisfied customers coming into the store; I
18 found that the place was clean, and one can
19 see that he is there on the border there
20 between the more upper class, white middle
21 class white Bolten Hill area, and going on
22 toward the east, toward the increasingly

1 depressed economic area, more African
2 American, towards Pennsylvania Avenue.

3 That is caught there in between,
4 and I'm sure that there are questions that
5 people want to raise.

6 MR. DARDEN: You mentioned that his
7 store was the only one that was under this
8 sting when it should have been throughout the
9 area would you tell me how you found out?

10 MS. ARMOR: We discovered this at
11 one of the hearings, and the officer who did
12 the sting -- they asked him well, how many
13 stings have you done? He said, well it was
14 just this one. They said, we find that odd
15 that it was just one. They didn't elaborate
16 on it, but they admitted it was just
17 Mr. Chang.

18 It was clearly that it was set up
19 to only be Mr. Chang, and there was another
20 officer there who we've seen several times.
21 I mean, we know that he is an undercover
22 officer. We've seen him come into the store.

1 We know there was sting to get the
2 prostitutes out the area. They had him also
3 on their panel, he kept insisting this they
4 only want to go to Mr. Chang's.

5 Trying to make the statement all
6 the prostitutes want to go to Mr. Chang's.
7 But he failed to say that because Mr. Chang
8 sells alcohol beverages, and the next place
9 that sells alcohol beverages is up on Utah
10 and North Avenue.

11 He was saying he was two blocks
12 from Mr. Chang, and because this prostitute
13 suggested well, let's go get a drink from
14 Mr. Chang's that he draws prostitutes, not
15 that they were close in the area or anything
16 like that. Like Mr. Chang brings out the
17 prostitutes. I've lived in Baltimore City
18 for 32 years and there have been prostitutes
19 up at North Avenue and Utah every since I can
20 remember.

21 And I don't think Mr. Chang has
22 been there for 32 years, so I don't see how

1 they can blame prostitutes and the drug
2 attics and the panhandlers on this
3 establishment, but they seem -- that's their
4 whole case.

5 MR. DARDEN: Did you file the
6 complaint about the officer and the sting?

7 MS. ARMOR: No, we did not. No.
8 No.

9 MR. DARDEN: If you have filed a
10 complaint, what do you think what have
11 happened.

12 MS. ARMOR: I think it would have
13 gotten lost in the system. And there
14 wouldn't have been a big deal about it.

15 DR. CHUN: Is that why you have not
16 filed the complaint.

17 MS. ARMOR: Yes. I don't want to
18 speak for Mr. Chang, but do you think if you
19 filed the complaint, anything would have
20 happened.

21 MR. CHANG: I didn't.

22 MS. ARMOR: But what do you think

1 would have happened if you filed it?

2 MR. CHANG: Even a complaint, it's
3 not going the work, it's not going to help to
4 me. The community when they talk to --
5 complain to city, people, like, complain
6 white people to white people, and they send
7 white policemen to look around my store for a
8 while, and just make me -- drive me crazy.
9 Just to try to make -- I see only make white
10 circle, they make white circle and --

11 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Chang, I
12 understand that you have been in the area 14
13 years; is that right?

14 MR. CHANG: Yes, sir.

15 DR. WICKWIRE: The two white women
16 that have been leading the Mount Vernon
17 Improvement Association campaign, one of them
18 is a lawyer who has been in the area maybe 10
19 years.

20 MR. CHANG: Yes.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: I think you also
22 indicated to me that within a few blocks

1 there are several other stores that sell
2 liquor that are opened until 12:00 and 2:00
3 even in the morning and you close at 10:00
4 every night.

5 But you feel that you're being
6 blamed for what is happening as a result of
7 the activities of others, and when you
8 mentioned about the benches and the
9 telephones. I understand from what you said
10 that it was clear in the area that the
11 benches have all been removed from the area,
12 public telephones have been taken out of the
13 area too. That is a part of the campaign.

14 DR. CHUN: That is a very
15 interesting question. Do you know the race
16 or the ethnicity of the owners of the
17 neighboring liquor stores which are open much
18 later than your store?

19 MS. ARMOR: The ---- .

20 MR. CHANG: It's around other --

21 DR. CHUN: Are they Asian
22 Americans, Caucasians or?

1 MR. CHANG: Yes, another Korean
2 business person, but it really doesn't bother
3 me because I'm close to that neighborhood.
4 And the -- stay stopped ---- just heard they
5 tried to ---- stop area and 10 minutes --
6 thousands apartments is senior citizen
7 people, no car, no -- a lot of people no
8 phone either, and they have to walk up to
9 three, four blocks up to North Avenue, catch
10 bus.

11 I mean, they didn't did it yet, but
12 they going to. They are going to try -- and
13 it's like -- they try to keep people outside.

14 MS. ARMOR: I would like to say
15 that the benches that's been removed in the
16 area are not all the benches that are in the
17 park, just the benches that were like -- it's
18 like a four block ratio, it's just the lower
19 income section that they took the benches
20 out.

21 You go, some it's benches here,
22 then it's like four blocks, there's no

1 benches, then you go, then there's benches.
2 They complained about loitering in front of
3 the store, and the people were complaining
4 about the elderly people in the summertime,
5 they got to bring their -- they don't have
6 any bunches, so we let them bring their
7 chairs, but they are elderly people.

8 Some are even in wheelchairs, but
9 they say they are loitering in the front of
10 the store, so they don't want that either.

11 MR. CHANG: I know they have a
12 reason for moving the telephone and bench,
13 but I don't agree about drug dealer use for
14 telephone and --

15 MR. NIERENBERG: Mr. Chang, let me
16 ask the both of you a question, let us say,
17 for the sake of this meeting, and the
18 question I want to ask, that everything you
19 have said is absolutely true, let us say
20 that.

21 How would you describe -- I'm going
22 to describe to you what I hear you saying,

1 that you're being racially harassed by a
2 local civic association.

3 Now suppose the community was a
4 different community. Suppose it was out in
5 Randalstown, I also did a survey, and some
6 civic association got together and wanted to
7 drive some businessman out of there.

8 What would they do, in Randalstown,
9 what would they do in Catonsville, what would
10 they do any place else in the city? What
11 would be your protection? What would another
12 community person or store or business who is
13 being harassed, what can he do, where can he
14 go? How would he defend himself?

15 MS. ARMOR: I'd like to say that's
16 a good question, and we would like to know
17 because we tried the councilman, we tried --

18 MR. NIERENBERG: There is a lot of
19 smart people in here, lawyers in here. There
20 are all kinds of very, very intelligent
21 people in here, and some of them don't live
22 in Baltimore, and they do live in suburbs, we

1 have suburbs all over the place.

2 What do you do if somebody wants to
3 come after you, harass you, it could be
4 racially, et cetera. Where would my defense
5 be? How would I go about defending myself?
6 What would I do?

7 MS. ARMOR: Well, I can tell you
8 what Mr. Chang has done. First he called on
9 his local councilman, and they told him that
10 they had every right to do this, and, you
11 know, so he decided that he's going to stand
12 up for what he believes in, and if it cost
13 him a lot, then he's going to stand up and
14 say I have the right to be here.

15 So what you can do is say that I'm
16 an American citizen, and I have a right, this
17 is a freedom land, and I have the right to
18 fight you, and you're not going to frighten
19 me. That's what he's been doing, and it's
20 been costing him a lot, but not only costing
21 him a lot financially.

22 This smear letter that they sent

1 out to every councilman, I don't know if you
2 have a copy of that. Not only have they
3 smeared him, they smeared my name, they are
4 smearing anyone that is associated with him.

5 When I say smear, I say slander. I
6 have been accused of being a prostitute;
7 people do not know me. I have been accused
8 being obviously an alcoholic because they say
9 every time we go to one of these hearings
10 they have an open bar, and everyone that
11 lives in the Marlboro Apartments are drunks
12 because they support Mr. Chang, and Mr. Chang
13 pays people off to come with him.

14 MR. NIERENBERG: How would you
15 fight them?

16 MS. ARMOR: The only way I can
17 fight them is to stand up to them, hold my
18 head up and show them that there is laws
19 here, I have a legal right, I have freedom of
20 speech, and so far the war is going to
21 continue. But won every battle. We have won
22 every battle.

1 And winning to me and seeing the
2 looks on their face when they realize that I
3 don't care how much prestige you have -- you
4 think you have in the city. I know who I can
5 contact, and when if we stand together, and
6 when I say we stand together, there is
7 like 70 of use compared 10 of them.

8 We are going to stand together in
9 this community and we're going to show you
10 that you may think that African Americans and
11 Koreans do not unite. But as far as we're
12 concerned, this is part of our community, and
13 we are not going to let you -- because they
14 really thought, they really thought from the
15 beginning it was just going to be Mr. Chang.

16 And what I've noticed Koreans do,
17 they get intimidated, they get frightened,
18 and they run, so I told Mr. Chang, the
19 community loves you. Let's show the
20 community what they are doing.

21 So we have done is brought the
22 community together. That is the positive

1 thing out of all of this. This community is
2 now aware of what's going on in their area,
3 and they are fighting back, and it's scaring
4 them senseless.

5 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. I think
6 we are going to have to move to the next
7 panel. By the way, I understand, Mr. Chang,
8 that in the last two years spent
9 about \$15,000 fighting.

10 That's what ---- thank you for your
11 presentation. Now is Mr. Jay Clark here?

12 MS. ARMOR: Thank you.

13 MR. CHANG: Thank you.

14 DR. WICKWIRE: All right, we would
15 like for the next panel to come up, and
16 Mr. Jong Park to come up and is Mr. Pyong Kuk
17 Pak, president of the Korean society of
18 Maryland. Would you please come up and what
19 about Mr. Soshik Seo seal, yes.

20 We appreciate your willingness to
21 come out and help us inform the public about
22 what's happening and bring another kind of

1 perception, and I don't know who wants to go
2 first, which one of you gentlemen wants to go
3 first? Mr. ---- Park, since you're
4 representing the ---- ; is that correct.

5 MR. PARK: I am representing Korean
6 American Trust Association in Maryland. I'm
7 glad I'm here to express my feeling to your
8 committee because we need it at a time like
9 this.

10 Previously, Ms. Cho expressed
11 something about her feeling about Koreans
12 being associations and Korean society, I was
13 so sad, we are not there just having dinner
14 and drinking. I've been involved every
15 since '87, I never drank.

16 Even though ---- drink, we have
17 telephone numbers, Korean Society Telephone
18 Numbers are open for them. If they do have
19 problems, they can call any time they need
20 it, and also we have a couple of ---- one of
21 them from the city's mayor's office, one of
22 them from police department, the telephone

1 number is open for those who need help.

2 They can call, they can get help.
3 Language problem, provide language problem,
4 translate it and --

5 DR. WICKWIRE: Are they all aware
6 of this? All the merchants aware of that?

7 MR. PARK: Maybe not because they
8 don't pay much attention of what's going on
9 and normal circumstance -- nobody showed up
10 they are interested because they don't need
11 it, but when they need it, they don't know
12 where they should go, and I'm not saying all
13 of them, but a lot of merchants having
14 similar problem, okay.

15 Because as Mr. Okura say, we should
16 pool our resource together before something
17 happens, but unfortunately, we are not.

18 They don't pay enough attention for
19 something, and things come up. This is
20 afraid and well, I have nowhere to go. It's
21 not. We have a Korean church, ministry
22 association over the metropolitan area. They

1 have telephone numbers, and anybody can call,
2 ask them to help, okay.

3 That's my feeling, I should say it
4 depends on our -- depending on our
5 associations and one -- a couple of things
6 ask especially Dr. Wickwire, the chairman,
7 because -- since we have so many Korean
8 American merchants in Baltimore City, and
9 it's a large population, we deserve some
10 better service from Baltimore City.

11 Meaning that I heard in Virginia
12 they have fund comings to the Korean
13 Society -- fund -- provide by state or local
14 government for the job training, there is a
15 language class, but I don't know. They have
16 a grant.

17 But if we have some sort of grant
18 to the Korean Society, we can provide same
19 kind of service they do over in Virginia, and
20 language problems I've seen and heard so many
21 times, but that can be overcome by human
22 beings.

1 But one thing I want to suggest the
2 police department, when they come to the
3 merchants, they should pay little bit extra
4 time, attention when they try to write the
5 report because all things happen because they
6 are rushed, they want to make a report fast
7 and quick and leave.

8 So that if you have language
9 problem, somewhat misunderstanding about this
10 society, your opinion is eliminated. Your
11 side of story is not part of the accident
12 report. We received a phone call from police
13 department, merchants after it happens, but
14 once the police lock somebody up, then there
15 nothing we can do until commissioner say --
16 court commissioner decide what to do.
17 Nothing but we have to wait.

18 So we want to know before something
19 happens. When police there that we want to
20 know, not after finish the record, not after
21 locked up in the central booking center.

22 As I said the past 11 years, as any

1 member of our association tried our best, but
2 nevertheless, it's impossible to both provide
3 same kind of service for everybody.

4 And one more thing is that if I may
5 say about the community relationship. That
6 can be overcome so many different ways, the
7 problem is be patient. Try to learn from the
8 other side.

9 And I'm in the business 11 years.
10 Yes, I do have problem time to time, but I
11 tried to overcome almost every times. When I
12 face difficulty, then bring up the church and
13 pray as well as talk to the community leader
14 and talk to the police officer. But that
15 doesn't work.

16 I called Dr. ---- who worked at
17 mayor's office, and sometimes I have to call
18 Detective Kim who work at the police
19 department.

20 99 percent can be done but getting
21 those resource together, and I've been here
22 since 1981, two of my best friend is not

1 Korean American. It's African American who
2 sit right there, Jackie Cornish and Tony.
3 They know how to respect, and they know how
4 to respond.

5 The problem is that are you really
6 honest each other, to the community or to the
7 officer. And at 1998, today, I think our
8 community is succeed lot of different ways to
9 provide life in this country.

10 Next 21 century, we should focus
11 renovating in the city speech power. That
12 cannot be done by one side. We need team
13 work, and we ask the same thing to city
14 government and police department, all the
15 church all over Baltimore City, I mean, I
16 know there so many people, so many
17 congregation in the church, they are willing
18 to do it, but they are looking for each
19 other. Who's going to do it first?

20 I believe this is about time to do
21 it especially that you as the civil right
22 committee now to step in, that we have

1 problem, they want to solve the problem. We
2 should focus as the same goal.

3 MR. PAK: Thank you. My name is
4 Pyong Kuk Pak, new elect ---- Maryland.
5 Thank you for inviting me today to this kind
6 of conference.

7 DR. WICKWIRE: We are glad you're
8 here.

9 MR. PAK: I am ---- we are now 1.5
10 and second generation we have now here. So
11 first generation I'm starting not here. I
12 not ---- so my English not very well, not
13 much, so maybe I will speak Korean so
14 Mr. Chun translate for me. Thank you.

15 DR. CHUN: I'd be happy to.

16 (Interruption)

17 MR. PAK: First of all I would like
18 to thank the Chairman Wickwire and members of
19 the committee for arranging this together.
20 We wish that there will be a monthly meeting,
21 meetings of this nature almost every month.
22 I came to Baltimore in 1977.

1 DR. WICKWIRE: Jeanna, how is he
2 doing?

3 MS. CHO: Very good.

4 MR. PAK: When I came to
5 Washington, to be candid with you, I did not
6 have such a good impression of the City of
7 Baltimore.

8 There was a time when many Korean
9 Americans began to pour into this area. I
10 think we should recall as historical fact
11 that it was from around that time that many
12 Korean American immigrants began to renovate
13 and to restore the downtown area particularly
14 in terms of corner stores, almost every
15 corner.

16 As a result of that, there are now
17 over 1,000 mom and pop type of stores in
18 Baltimore. In spite of this large number of
19 mom and pop type of stores, I should say that
20 in my view, there has not been too many
21 interracial instances of conflict.

22 As the City of Baltimore

1 deteriorates, or as it began to and as it
2 does, I feel that members of the African
3 American community began to ----, as he says,
4 Korean American stores around Korean American
5 communities in his view largely because the
6 funds and resources from the city government
7 are being directed to them.

8 We realize that we do work in the
9 black African American neighborhoods and we
10 have been doing our utmost to be of
11 assistance and to give help to the
12 neighboring black communities. The financial
13 and economic situation to the small Korean
14 American who owns a business in the city has
15 really taken a drastic downturn and it is my
16 view that in the next 3 to 4 years, maybe
17 even half of them, up to 500 businesses may
18 have to close down.

19 When we close our stores of
20 economic necessity, then it is foreseeable
21 that those close downed stores in no time
22 would be torn up and it will contribute to

1 the deterioration of the neighborhood. We
2 have been tax paying, dues paying members of
3 the city of Baltimore as we anticipate the
4 closing down of the stores, we feel the
5 pressure from city government that we have to
6 renovate the stores, we have improved the
7 neighborhood.

8 Sometimes we offer the building up
9 like the city government, the city government
10 instead of accepting the free donation of
11 buildings. They say, why then pay us to tear
12 it down? Which means that we, the owners of
13 the small business, not only have to
14 contribute to the building to the city
15 without compensation, on top of that, we have
16 the pay the cost of tearing it down.

17 The Korean American business
18 community is at a crossroads now. It is in
19 one sense gratifying that many of the one and
20 half and second generation young Korean
21 Americans are venturing into other, more
22 prosperous fields in business, but many of

1 us, the immigrant generation persons, are in
2 one sense stopped and we do not have much
3 career options other than just make a living
4 out of the small stores we bought and
5 renovated and established.

6 I hope it goes without saying that
7 there was huge need for the city government
8 to recognize this dire situation and then
9 render some assistance.

10 If half of the Korean American
11 owned small businesses close down, then it is
12 obvious there will be a huge economic lost in
13 terms of tax revenue business for the city
14 government and this is going to be just
15 unavoidable fact of life and we hope that
16 city government would recognize this and
17 somewhat help us so that we can sustain
18 business in the city of the downtown area.

19 I'm saying this not simply out of
20 self-interest as city governments helps us to
21 sustain us so that we can prosperous
22 business, we are prepared to do far more than

1 what we have been doing and rebuilding and
2 contributing to the neighboring black
3 communities.

4 I have been making these comments
5 to city officials, but I always felt somehow
6 that some are in and out without any thought
7 and reflection upon but today I feel I'm
8 given an opportunity where I can be candid
9 and I feel like I'm being heard, so I
10 appreciate this opportunity. Thank you.
11 Sounds good.

12 DR. WICKWIRE: One moment. Is
13 Toran Robinson. You're here. There's
14 something here for you.

15 MR. ROBINSON: Excuse me.

16 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you sir. How
17 do you pronounce your name, by the way?

18 MR. SEO: My name is Soshik Seo.
19 I'm president of the Korean Business League.
20 I need also interpreter.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: How's he been doing.

22 DR. TRAN: He's doing really good.

1 MR. SEO: Since I came to this
2 country, I started out owning a small
3 carryout business. It started from
4 about 1999. I owned a business in Lafayette
5 market.

6 DR. WICKWIRE: 1988.

7 SPEAKER: 1999?

8 MR. SEO: 1988. I'm sorry about
9 the confusion, I'm glad you're alert.

10 As you know, around 1988, Lafayette
11 market was on the verge of closing down and I
12 was a chairman of the business owners in the
13 Lafayette market around that time. At that
14 the time, the seed of plan of investing about
15 three and a half million dollars to
16 renovating, improving the area of the
17 markets.

18 There were good many of the
19 business owners there were Korean Americans,
20 but many of them have left. Many of them
21 have returned and reopened their business,
22 but they are not benefiting in proportion to

1 the invest they have made.

2 The Korean American store owners
3 who left the market around then, as a result
4 of the departure, have endured economic
5 hardship and loss. In addition to Lafayette
6 market situation, about 24 business owners
7 left Bel Air market as well.

8 Some of you may be aware of this,
9 many small business owners are in economic
10 hardship, business hardship. That is largely
11 because big stores have invaded the city and
12 they have come in and as a result and small
13 businesses are suffering.

14 My personal wish would be that
15 these small corner stores are in the
16 convenient stores very much needed to buy
17 those people who live in the neighborhoods.
18 And I hope that these small corner stores
19 will be allowed to sustain as business
20 entities and then, eventually, be taken over
21 or bought over by African American residents
22 who, I think, are more than capable of owning

1 and running them as business.

2 It is my belief, as well as the
3 belief of my colleagues and the association
4 with me, that both we, Korean American
5 business owners and as well as African
6 American colleagues and friends, we all are
7 minority members and as such there is a need
8 for us to unite and if we do unite, I believe
9 that there is a future and prospect from
10 which we can call benefit.

11 One of the problems, in my
12 observation, is the fact that many of the
13 youngsters, young people in the neighborhood
14 of the small mom and pop owner stores are
15 unemployed. And because of the situation, I
16 just described, it is helping our policy and
17 our intent that some will unite with those
18 unemployed black African. -- black youth so
19 that we can work together, that is to say,
20 we've tried to hire them so that we can
21 perhaps prosper together.

22 Just a few days ago I visited

1 Mr. Chang's store, the gentleman who was here
2 at this table before me. It is painful and I
3 think tragic to say -- even to speculate the
4 possibility that a business has to go out
5 of existence, not because of business
6 failure, as such, but because of the
7 community pressure. That I think is tragic.

8 I think it's a prime case of social
9 injustice when business or small owners of a
10 small business invest their hard earned
11 capital and make a goal out of that, then at
12 certain time, involuntarily pressures from
13 the city government or neighborhoods and so
14 on that they are even out of existence. That
15 to me is a case of -- prime case of social
16 injustice in that blemished American society.

17 From the civil or human rights
18 perspective, I think it is a -- it's awful
19 that in face to the situation with conflicts
20 that instead of getting together and finding
21 a common solution, as a group, we allow it to
22 escalate in a negative action and fail to

1 bring together positive forces in our
2 society. And that ongoing misfortunate of
3 this community I think has been recognized as
4 such and something has been to be down by our
5 civic leaders and political leaders.

6 Many of us immigrant generation
7 persons came do this country, if not
8 primarily, largely because of our concern for
9 providing good education to our offsprings
10 and children. Yet, in spite of hard work and
11 in spite of best efforts, we as owners of a
12 small business, are driven out of these
13 common source of our livlihoods.

14 That, I think, will have a dire,
15 long-term consequence on immigration policy
16 and the future of our society.

17 We have ---- an opportunity of this
18 nature and we're appreciative of the fact
19 that the civil rights commission and the
20 Maryland Advisor Committee has provided the
21 opportunity for all us. Thank you.

22 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. May I

1 ask a question of you gentleman? Are the
2 three of you going to be to stay a while
3 longer? Can you stay awhile?

4 We would like, if it's agreeable to
5 you, to postpone the questions to give an
6 opportunity for two of our friends from the
7 Interdenomination Ministerial Alliance to
8 respond as African American clergy, to what's
9 been said, their perception of the Korean
10 American plight and their own treatment in
11 terms of the justice system, police and city
12 services.

13 So if you're willing to maybe go
14 sit back and we'll come back in a few minutes
15 and Rev. Douglas Miles and Rev. Sydney
16 Daniels if you would come up and take your
17 places and then we'll ask you gentlemen to
18 come back.

19 REV. DANIELS: Dr. Wickwire, I
20 always respect the youth, so I'm going to let
21 Doug Miles, my treasurer, make his statement.

22 DR. WICKWIRE: Before Rev. Miles

1 speaks, can I just say that Rev. Miles was
2 once one of my students, so you better watch
3 it today, Doug. So he was one of my students
4 at Hopkins and I'm very proud of what he's
5 done.

6 He is the present president of
7 the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
8 and Rev. Sydney Daniels is the past president
9 of the Alliance and I am a past president of
10 the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance,
11 so we're pleased to be here. Thank you. So,
12 Rev. Doug it's in your hands.

13 Now you're pastor of the Koinonia
14 Baptist Church.

15 REV. MILES: Yes, pastor of the
16 Koinonia Baptist Church on Greenmount Avenue
17 in the Barkley\Midway community.

18 MR. WICKIWIRE: I know you can
19 speak loudly and so can Sydney. I know that,
20 I've heard you. Thank you Dr. Wickwire and
21 the commission for allowing us to address
22 you. I want to begin with framing it in

1 written remarks.

2 It would be ridiculous to deny that
3 there exist some prejudice against Korean
4 people in the African American community, but
5 it is my earnest opinion that that bias has
6 been blown out of proportion by both the
7 slant of media coverage of events involving
8 African Americans and Koreans and by
9 misrepresentation of what, in fact, occurs in
10 criminal acts and urban communities.

11 To be short, Korean business people
12 have suffered terribly from crimes of
13 violence and much of this, in my opinion, has
14 less to do with the ethnicity than with the
15 fact that almost all the small businesses
16 presently operated in the African American
17 community, particularly in high crime areas
18 of the city, are Korean owned and operated.

19 Thus, the crimes tend not to be
20 racially motivated as much as they are crimes
21 of opportunity driven by the drug culture and
22 poverty of the city. The same stores would

1 be targeted no matter who owned them. Yes,
2 there is some bias against Koreans which
3 comes mostly from cultural differences which
4 lend themselves to misinterpretation.

5 The fact that Korean business
6 people tend not to hire African American
7 people to work in neighborhood stores, that
8 there are language barriers and differences
9 in how people address one another in
10 different cultures lend to the levels of
11 distrust that exist on both sides.

12 Some of the bias has to do with
13 African American's history in this country, a
14 history that has allowed every immigrant
15 group to come into our communities, reap the
16 benefit, and then pass us on both economic
17 scale and social acceptability scale that
18 biases further fuel by rumor that Koreans and
19 other Asian people have received preferential
20 treatment from government in starting
21 businesses, treatment that African Americans
22 find it difficult to receive.

1 Yet, overall, Korean people are
2 more readily accepted in the African American
3 community than African Americans would be in
4 either the Korean or white community.

5 Reverse the scenario with African Americans
6 attempting to do business in large numbers in
7 either predominantly Asian or white and see
8 how well African Americans will be received.

9 I would venture to suggest that the
10 violence inflicted on African Americans would
11 be both with greater intensity and more
12 clearly targeted, racially. It's ironic that
13 we meet to discuss this issue on the
14 anniversary of one of the bloodiest race
15 riots in history. One that occurred in
16 Detroit and resulted in the deaths of 43
17 people, most of whom were African Americans.

18 I know of no major effort on the
19 part of African Americans who attempt to run
20 Koreans from our communities. I know a few
21 instances where Korean business people were
22 targeted for robbery just because they were

1 Korean. In fact, what I've seen is in
2 instances of deaths that it's African
3 Americans that are stood with Koreans to
4 protest the senseless violence.

5 In the area of equal protection
6 under the law Korean business people may find
7 themselves the victims of neighborhoods in
8 which they do business, neighbors notorious
9 for poor police protection, not only for
10 business people, but for residents, as well.

11 Where I live in the 1900 of McQueen
12 Avenue in west Baltimore, I know that I don't
13 nor will I ever receive the response time to
14 my call, as do residents of Home Little
15 Gilford. I know that we do not get the same
16 level of patrol as do the residents of Bolton
17 Hill. I know the suspicious dark are not
18 stopped with the same frequency in my
19 community as they are in downtown Baltimore.

20 But if you ask me for African
21 Americans, for the most part, can be fair in
22 dispensing justice in cases involving people

1 of other racial and ethnic groups, my answer
2 is yes. History has shown that African
3 Americans tend to be as anti-crime and
4 anti-criminal or more so than people of other
5 ethnic groups.

6 The mere fact that one must point
7 to exceptions like the O.J. Simpson trial or
8 the trial involving the death of Joel Lee
9 demonstrates that African Americans are able
10 to put race and ethnicity to the side more
11 frequently than people of other communities.

12 The number of cases involving
13 Korean business people and African American
14 suspects and jurors that result in conviction
15 of African American suspects, vastly outweigh
16 those instance when would one feel that
17 justice was not served.

18 To be sure, there is need between
19 dialogue between the community, dialogue that
20 is both open and honest, if we are to move
21 forward as a nation. But to say that Korean
22 people are any more the target of hate crimes

1 than others than African Americans is
2 stretching the reality.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. Reverend
4 Daniels.

5 REV. DANIELS: I'll be very
6 brief because I think my president has said
7 it very eloquently. It is not just racial,
8 Blacks hating Koreans. It is a cultural
9 matter, an unemployed.

10 And about the inner city and small
11 businesses, at one time when I was young or
12 younger, it was largely Jewish shop owners.
13 And what is your leadership style. There is
14 no way that Mr. Miles, Mr. Miles or myself or
15 any leader, so called or leader in the black
16 community can change the leadership style of
17 many. I think we tried for consensus in
18 dealing with people as a matter of justice,
19 in spite of race and diversity.

20 There are many leaders, there are
21 some leaders, you here are experts, you might
22 know the numbers, who thrive on divide and

1 conquer and you know that one of the
2 leadership styles is scapegoating and I've
3 never engaged in it and there are many who
4 are indifferent to priority and this has
5 been, Dr. Wickwire, you have done some good
6 things and, I, occasionally ---- .

7 Inviting us has been, and my
8 listening here and arriving, hearing the
9 testimony of about young Koreans, I wish I
10 could muster the energy for civil rights and
11 things of this matter of young Blacks that
12 was prevalent during the 60s, 70s, 80s.

13 The fact that I'm here today is
14 because I'm trying to make up for that gap
15 and if any younger clergy wants to do it, I'm
16 willing to get behind that. That's why I
17 support Rev. Miles and that is a problem
18 because it's not a priority.

19 Then the other thing is, when I was
20 president, Dr. Bower, I met with the Korean
21 churches and, as a matter of fact, we
22 worshipped out on St. John's Lane. And that

1 was --a couple came a couple times and paid
2 their dues. We had a prohibited fee of \$25 a
3 year. We paid that and came a couple times
4 and didn't come back.

5 And also I discovered that, as in
6 the black community, religious emphasis is
7 not the same. ---- to say that. My motto
8 is still, Dr. King and persons of that
9 stature where as, the TV evangelist whose
10 ready to die or something, go to Heaven, they
11 get all the money.

12 I come down here, I came down on
13 the subway. One of those guys, they would
14 come down in a sofa driven car and whatever.
15 So what I'm saying is that that need is still
16 there and we're going to do everything we can
17 to melerate the situation.

18 Then the language barrier! My
19 brothers and sisters there's a language
20 barrier because Koreans cannot speak English.
21 And there's a language barrier I have
22 sometimes with young people and others who

1 have been in this country all their lives. I
2 speak standard English and some of them don't
3 speak it. I have difficulty communicating
4 with them.

5 Then the other thing is, about the
6 young blacks, they are somewhat like most
7 young people, disengaged and trying to find
8 themselves. And I have found myself ----
9 and let us understand that when we work
10 together on things that builds up the
11 community and educate people and do away with
12 this selfishness that is prevalent among
13 politicians and other people and leaders in
14 power that we can work together.

15 And I don't believe it's entirely
16 racial because if there is a violence in the
17 community -- Blacks, black on black crime is,
18 it's horrendous. And so the Korean community
19 must get itself together because if you're
20 not together, we're trying to get ourselves
21 together, but there is a mutuality of
22 concern ---- crisis and the criminal justice

1 system has always been a problem in the black
2 community.

3 Joe Howard, remember the jurys, was
4 hounded until the Ministerial Alliance came
5 to his rescue, sparing between the raping of
6 a white woman and a black woman. Black man
7 rapes a white woman, they throw the book at
8 it. He rapes a black women, well, that's
9 just -- you know, that's just too bad. Then
10 the white man with the black woman and this
11 kind of junk is always been sparing.

12 And then there has been lack of
13 concern often historically on black on black
14 crime. I've known communities where if a
15 black killed a black and he knew a white man
16 in power, he didn't even go to trial, so the
17 Lee trial did go to trial. Now as far as O.J
18 Simpson, you talked about that.

19 But I talked about it, if I
20 hit ---- on the head, I don't have a half of
21 million dollars to get lawyers. If I had
22 million dollars, I could get a lawyer and

1 almost what is going to happen to this --
2 what is this Dupont, he's -- he ain't goin'
3 serve -- he's not going to serve any time.
4 He's mentally. So money and power are always
5 factors that we have to deal with.

6 Living wage, we talk about
7 unemployment, city and other business bend,
8 not the small businessman, but others are
9 fighting for the living wage, work. Work 40
10 hourings a week. Now I'm gonna be quiet.

11 I was in the hospital in 1990 and
12 my bill was \$13,000. I was talking to
13 somebody here yesterday, they were in the
14 hospital for 7 to 8 days, it was \$23,000. If
15 you don't have, I won't call the insurance
16 that I have, but it's one of the best in the
17 country. If you don't have that, they don't
18 even treat at the hospital.

19 So unemployment, we're working on
20 that in the Alliance and we are saying to the
21 Korean community, if you'll work with us, not
22 spasmodically, but on a consistent basis, as

1 far as Rev. Miles and I are concerned and
2 persons of our yolk and color, in emphasis of
3 ministry, we'll work with you.

4 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. Maybe, if
5 we have time for just a few questions, does
6 anybody want to question these gentlemen?

7 SPEAKER: I have a quick question.
8 Thank you very much for those distinguished
9 comments.

10 SPEAKER: Louder.

11 SPEAKER: Oh yeah, I have to be
12 loud again, I can do that. I think that we
13 often talk about young people. I haven't
14 been a young person for a while, I think,
15 being relative, but I think it's our
16 responsibility and your responsibility as
17 being the gentlemen that you are that young
18 people have to have a passion ignited in them
19 and it's our responsibility because there
20 is -- the fight for justice is never won.

21 I think there is a certain type
22 of leverage you get both of our communities

1 and I would just and seeing Ms. Cho here, is
2 such a great thing because this is a young
3 person who evidently had that passion
4 ignited. With that being said, that was just
5 a statement.

6 I have a question. There was once,
7 not in the too recent past, a coalition of
8 churches that traveled to Korea to talk about
9 these issues that we're having in the urban
10 environments, what is the status of that,
11 now?

12 REV. MILES: I was not one who was
13 a part of that mission, but it was my
14 understanding that there is some dialogue
15 still going on between those churches, but
16 again, I think what's missing is that by and
17 large many of the churches that participated
18 in that venture are not churches that are
19 socially responsible, that is socially
20 committed to creating positive change in the
21 community.

22 And so the discussion has stayed

1 more on a level of Evangelicalism than it has
2 on social ministry and I think that's where
3 we miss it. And in line of what you were
4 saying about motivating African American
5 youth, I think that is an indication that
6 there is no concerted effort to rid our
7 community of Koreans because if there were,
8 there would be a passion to do so.

9 And I don't know the passion in the
10 African American community among our youth to
11 do anything. Then there is no passion.
12 That's one of the things that's killing us as
13 a community.

14 SPEAKER: Thank you.

15 REV. DANIELS: Another response to
16 that would be this.

17 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder.

18 REV. DANIELS: Excuse me. When I
19 was president but I was, I was president. So
20 when I was president, we worked with many of
21 the Korean churches and I found that they
22 were divided among religious emphasis. Some

1 were more Evangelical, they were closer to
2 Jesus than some of the others. So they
3 didn't -- we invited all of them to come to a
4 meeting and they divided along that line.

5 We found that we couldn't overcome
6 that. So that division, unity and pulling
7 people together is a difficult task, but it's
8 still challenging task but we mustn't give
9 up. And how to ignite young people, what is
10 it?

11 Socrates was accused of corrupting
12 the youth of Athens and I say and I say and,
13 you can hear me now. Our society corrupts
14 the minds of young people. Then they wonder
15 why their minds are corrupted, with
16 materialism and money and power and
17 television, yes. The last picture I saw
18 Danny Glover, Lethal Weapon 4, I, I, you
19 know, I'm not -- I've heard say hell and
20 damn, but -- that movie is horrible. The
21 cussing and going on, that's the model.

22 MR. NIERENBERG: Rev. Daniels. I

1 want to make sure that I follow your eloquent
2 them --

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder Art.

4 MR. NIERENBERG: Really? Okay, I'm
5 sorry. I want to make sure that I have
6 followed your really powerful eloquent vision
7 as you've spelled it out. And I want to do
8 it maybe a little different way than usual,
9 if you don't mind.

10 It's clear from your words that
11 everything black Americans have suffered,
12 it's very real and I'm familiar with that.
13 Now we listened all morning to another group
14 of Americans, Korean Americans and they're
15 suffering in their own situations. Now
16 you've had many years of leadership as a
17 coach, I use that word advisedly, but if you
18 think ability, very good coaches are very
19 powerful teachers.

20 What would you tell the Korean
21 American community out of your experience to
22 fill this gap that I'm listening to all day

1 long between the issues they live with, which
2 are unlivable and a way of being heard?
3 Could you say just a few words? You've been
4 there. You have organizations that have
5 already began working towards what you
6 want -- what you see in the future, what
7 would you say to them as a group? What kind
8 of coaching would you give them?

9 REV. DANIELS: Well, I did give a
10 partial answer and I'll just emphasize that
11 partial answer, again.

12 MR. NIERENBERG: Thank you.

13 REV. DANIELS: That is, we should
14 not just come together on crisis, we should
15 try to get to know each other and work
16 together on a fairly consistent basis.

17 And the other thing is, to
18 understand that there are many forces working
19 against us and when we realize that many
20 forces are working against us, that enables
21 you to work more diligently because I'm aware
22 of the fact of if the Ministerial Alliance

1 was able to cultivate and be a part of the
2 power brokers of any place, we don't do that.

3 We try to call the shots as we see
4 them on the shot of justice. We have done a
5 lot in spite of that, but understand that
6 those people in power are not going to
7 concede unless you organize and divide and
8 conquer.

9 I'm not trying to address General
10 Motors strike, but at least those workers
11 realize that it's not white and black, that
12 the poor man in this country has been divided
13 along race and the other guy goes on to the
14 bank, downsizing and all of that and how can
15 you eliminate jobs and not give benefits to
16 people and, yet, you get richer and so forth
17 and so on.

18 DR. WICKWIRE: Rev. Daniels. Can
19 we stop? Let's give her a break.

20 (Recess)

21 DR. WICKWIRE: We would like to go
22 ahead and I'm sorry that we have not been

1 able to keep up to the time that we
2 indicated, but we are going to make a slight
3 change before we continue some of the others
4 and because some persons have to leave, I
5 wanted to ask that those persons that
6 present -- Jackie Cornish, Executive Director
7 of Union Heights Development Corporation and
8 I guess is Tony coming with you? Is Kap, Mr.
9 Capler coming back up?

10 MS. CORNISH: Yes.

11 DR. WICKWIRE: Who else do we have?
12 Is David Hahn here now?

13 MR. PAK: He left already.

14 DR. WICKWIRE: He's gone.

15 DR. WICKWIRE: John Park is not
16 here, he's not here.

17 We know that you have to go and do
18 some good things because you have your camp;
19 is that correct?

20 MS. CORNISH: Yes.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: I'm going to ask
22 you -- I know who you are, but up you to

1 introduce yourself and say it loudly enough
2 so everyone knows what you're doing. Let's
3 begin with Kap Park and go down the row. Kap
4 in terms of your connection, let's begin with
5 your Jackie Cornish.

6 MS. CORNISH: My name is Jackie
7 Cornish and I'm the Executive Director at
8 Druid Heights Development Corporation. Among
9 other things, Druid Heights sponsors an
10 annual, actually it's all year round, but
11 annual summer fun camp, cultural exchange
12 summer fun camp.

13 The camp is in its sixth year that
14 we have been operating as a cross cultural
15 camp where the whole goal is to sponsor
16 relationships between African and Korean
17 American children and, thereby, even their
18 parents, the adults, bridge the gap, the
19 communication gap between the two. And also
20 to teach and encourage the children to
21 appreciate differences, that there is
22 actually strength in differences.

1 That's what the camp is about. As
2 I said, we are in our sixth year. It's a
3 very successful camp. We've been asked to
4 duplicate the camp throughout the city of
5 Baltimore as well as far away as California.

6 MR. PRESSLY: Great. I'm Tony
7 Pressly, I work with Ms. Cornish at Druid
8 Heights Community Development Corporation.
9 I'm the community organization. The camp
10 falls under one of my programs and Kap Park
11 is our Korean language teacher at the camp.

12 We have 60 African American
13 children, 60 Korean American children. We
14 have 8 weeks. They're in camp right now.
15 They have a very exciting summer. It's free.
16 We have taken them to Adventure World, we're
17 taking them to Kings Dominion, boat rides.

18 The kids this week, last week went
19 to Adventure World, the zoo and a Korean
20 restaurant all in one week. Three days in a
21 row, so we have a very exciting camp and I'm
22 listening to some of the bad news that came

1 up before us and I just only wish you know
2 what we're doing in Druid Heights extending
3 to the churches and extending our program to
4 especially the children in the community.

5 Having 120 kids in a camp, it's not
6 that difficult to do. And I think some good
7 news can come out of the other communities if
8 they were to try some of these programs.

9 MS. CORNISH: Our children really
10 and the curriculum and there was curriculum,
11 it is -- curriculum, it is focused on
12 fostering better relationships and
13 understanding and appreciating the
14 differences in culture, understanding all the
15 likenesses and sameness in cultures.

16 We find and we have found in many
17 years in dealing with this program that our
18 children and our adults come out with a
19 better understanding of each other and we
20 come to find out that we have more likenesses
21 than we have differences. We have about our
22 children. We are about safety. We are about

1 nurturing the environment, having a ----
2 nurturing environment that our children are
3 in. That's what African Americans are about.

4 Guess what, so is the Korean
5 American. ---- the best four chirp. We
6 want the best for our children. We want our
7 children to get along. We want their
8 children to get along with us. For we saw
9 years that if we did not address our problem
10 ourselves, that it was going to get worse.

11 We had a tremendous problem in the
12 community of Druid Heights with the African
13 Americans and the Korean Americans. The
14 merchants, they were actually resented by
15 many of us African Americans. There was a
16 large amount of people who are under the
17 misconception, a lot of misconceptions about
18 the Korean Americans where they got their
19 money from, how the government had to support
20 them to bring them into our community to tear
21 us down.

22 All kinds of things and on the

1 other hand, the Korean Americans had the big
2 misconceptions about African Americans. We
3 all carry knives, all we want to do is be on
4 welfare, we don't want to thing about
5 ourselves, but rob and kill Koreans. Total
6 misconception and the reason why it was out
7 there for so long is because nobody took one
8 step towards each other to talk and
9 communicate.

10 And people were so busy saying on
11 the Korean American side, I can't understand
12 English. And the African American side, I
13 don't understand Korean. But guess what, we
14 have one sharp tool, as we call it, and that
15 is the children. We noticed that when the
16 adults would go into the stores and they
17 would take their children in there, the
18 children played.

19 They talked to each other. They
20 had no prejudice. They didn't care if my son
21 had a toy that his son wanted, they shared or
22 played with that toy. It had nothing to do

1 with color. We realized that just as those
2 children were being taught to hate one
3 another, they needed to be taught to love and
4 respect one another and to cherish each
5 other.

6 And that's what our children,
7 that's what the camp is about. Each one of
8 those children have to pick a pal. It has to
9 be of the other culture and that pal is their
10 friend all eight of those weeks. They learn
11 everything about each other.

12 They learn not only about -- the
13 African American children learn about their
14 heritage and culture and the Swahili
15 language, but the Korean American children
16 language learn their heritage and culture and
17 Korean language because believe it or not
18 there are many Korean children who do not
19 speak the language and who have problems at
20 home with their parents because of the
21 language barrier.

22 They are left at home, during the

1 day when their parents are at school, with a
2 grandmom or granddad who does not speak the
3 culture and here you have a child who is
4 raised in an American culture. There is a
5 tremendous clash there that Kap, himself, can
6 tell you about.

7 We take those children and put them
8 in an environment where they are culturally
9 encouraged and that is what why that program
10 today is a success. We wanted to come here
11 today and say and I'm sure Dr. Wickwire
12 wanted us to say to you that it's not all
13 negative and regardless of what people say,
14 yes, there is truly, there are some people
15 who will always hate.

16 They will always find a reason to
17 hate someone else. They will always want
18 that to go on, but there are many of us who
19 do not. On the African American and Korean
20 American side. Yes, there have been Korean
21 Americans who have tragically have been
22 injured, been killed, but on the same side,

1 so have there been African Americans.

2 The same thing is happening the
3 reason why the -- Korean Americans are the
4 ones that, actually, you see a prevalence is
5 because guess what, someone said it earlier,
6 that's the prevalent merchant in our
7 community. It's not about being a Korean,
8 it's about being there.

9 That's what it's about. It's about
10 somebody who doesn't have something who has
11 an anger in him that doesn't belong there who
12 strikes out at somebody. He doesn't care
13 what color you are or what race you are, if
14 you have what he wants at that time, he's
15 coming to get it.

16 It doesn't matter. And if you
17 stand in his way, he will kill you. It
18 doesn't matter if you're in Bolton Hill,
19 Druid Heights or anywhere else, it's not
20 about that. And when you hear supreme saying
21 that it is, they are wrong. We live it every
22 day. Every sing day on the grass roots

1 level. I see it, everyday.

2 I'm talking to the merchants. In
3 the Druid Heights community, talk to our
4 merchants. They will tell you they feel
5 loved, respected and protected. We will not
6 tolerate anybody coming from the outside or
7 the inside of our community disrespecting any
8 one of our merchants. On the other hand, we
9 will not tolerate the merchants disrespecting
10 any of the residences of the community.

11 We made that plain and clear long
12 ago and that's the way it is today. Our
13 merchants feel protected, they are protected.
14 You can't -- I don't care -- when you walk
15 into our stores, in the liquor stores you
16 hear somebody disrespect one of the
17 merchants, you will hear just as quickly
18 another person, say, who you talking to?
19 You're not talking to him like that because
20 that's the way we want our community to be.
21 It is up to the residents.

22 It's not up to the police all the

1 time. It's not up to city government. It is
2 up to us because the police doesn't live in
3 neighborhood, city government doesn't live in
4 my neighborhood, I do. It's incumbent upon
5 me and him to make my community better.

6 Sure there are going to be people
7 who are going to do the wrong thing. That's
8 always going to be, but I believe the greater
9 of those are us. The people who really and
10 truly want to live in a wonderful clean,
11 democratic society or a -- or what is it a
12 liberal, republican society.

13 A society where we can actually
14 make a difference, a positive difference in
15 each other's lives. We can and our children
16 are showing that. When you see our children
17 and you see the Korean American grandmothers
18 interacting with some of our African American
19 children who, they don't have grandmothers,
20 they don't have that kind of person in their
21 lives to take the kind of patience that even
22 though -- you know, that African American

1 grandmothers have, these kids don't care.

2 They care less whether she is Korean
3 or African. She is someone that is holding
4 them and nurturing and caring about them.
5 That's what they care about. Now, the
6 children have it made. They know where
7 they're going. You and I have got to get it
8 together. And that's all I have to say.

9 MR. PRESSLY: Just to add what Ms.
10 Cornish said about these children and you've
11 seen some of the pictures of them at camp, we
12 have a lot more pictures. These kids --

13 SPEAKER: They're here in the back.

14 MR. PRESSLY: These kids are
15 loving, they're absolutely loving this
16 experience and Kap has been there for us six
17 to seven years now teaching the language and
18 all the children learn sign language, which
19 is a mutual language for them and then
20 Swahili and Korean and Magic math and lot of
21 fun exercises.

22 So we found through bringing the

1 children together and myths busting sessions
2 and all of that that the parents are now
3 getting involved. This program that
4 Ms. Cornish has mentioned, has been extended
5 to a year around program. Now every year for
6 three years we've brought together the Korean
7 Methodist church and Pain Memorial African
8 Methodist Church in the community.

9 These two churches, every black
10 history month, they worship at Pain Memorial,
11 then we have a feast of soul food after the
12 service. And then after that, we all go to
13 the Korean Methodist Church a couple of
14 months later and we have great Korean food
15 for dinner after the services. This has been
16 going on for three years and the program
17 extended from the culture exchange summer
18 camp program. It's called, Young
19 Hot ---- which is unity in both languages.

20 I just wanted to -- I guess hearing
21 the bad news it sort of surprised me because
22 we work with our merchants in providing them

1 translator if they need something and the
2 community organization needs to know about
3 it. We have a translator who can make us
4 understand exactly what they need.

5 In our community newsletter have
6 articles written in Korean for these
7 merchants so they can be updated with what's
8 going on in the community and we got Kap. We
9 use Kap a lot, all right, but it's been a big
10 progress and I just -- it can be duplicated
11 and the sad stories -- one good story like
12 this I think should erase those negative
13 stories I heard earlier. They did disturb
14 me.

15 MR. OKURA: Who funds the
16 children's program?

17 MS. CORNISH: Actually, we have
18 various sources of funding. We get fundings
19 from, like, the Gold Sickle Foundation, the
20 Wineburg Foundation, the Governor's office on
21 crime prevention, some of the Korean
22 merchants, the Annie Casey Foundation. It's

1 a whole bunch of -- the Korean Association.
2 It's a whole bunch of people who really care
3 and want to see it progress.

4 DR. WICKWIRE: Art, did you have a
5 question?

6 MR. NIERENBERG: Yes.

7 DR. WICKWIRE: Go ahead.

8 MR. NIERENBERG: First, I would
9 like to congratulate you on ---- that you
10 took place here. The children and the
11 possibilities, really laid that out
12 positively. But I want to go back to Kap
13 because there is still a lot of suffering
14 going on, which is what the whole morning was
15 about.

16 I saw crystal clear your
17 organization has lawyers, has interpreters,
18 has sensitivity and wants to support the
19 community. You made that clear for me. I
20 have heard this morning that that's not clear
21 for many of your associates, the Korean
22 American. It's not clear for them. So I got

1 a very simple question for you, if you can
2 take yourself out a minute and look at this
3 view. Are you with me?

4 MR. PAK: Yes.

5 MR. NIERENBERG: What's missing?
6 What's missing? And maybe we can't answer
7 that today, but take shot at it. What's
8 missing?

9 MR. PAK: The big part of -- the
10 big missing that we have here is that our
11 society is focusing negative things, okay?

12 DR. WICKWIRE: Can you hear him?

13 SPEAKER: No.

14 MR. PAK: We are annually awarding
15 scholarships or Thanksgiving baskets in the
16 city for needy families. That's it. Maybe
17 some of them didn't pay attention, okay. But
18 when things happen, they are all talking
19 about it. Here are the instance about
20 African Americans to us Korean northwestern
21 merchants, negative things.

22 Our association as well as the

1 Korean society or any other organizations try
2 our best, but nobody pay attention until some
3 negative things come up. For me, as Jackie
4 and Tony said, it's been six years, okay, we
5 worked so quiet and silent. I promised
6 Jackie, Jackie, please, don't tell anybody
7 until we prove what we have been achieving.

8 The problem is that, I think, whole
9 society, one year, actually, both year, we
10 are looking for something is a problem, is
11 negative things or anybody hurt?

12 MR. NIERENBERG: But there is a
13 gap, Kap. There is a gap between the Cho
14 family, who was locked up for three days, and
15 your phone number and a lawyer to be down
16 there in his cell. There is a gap. What's
17 missing? You have people to help your own
18 community. And they're not being used. So I
19 leave you with this question. What's
20 missing?

21 MR. PAK: We will bring those
22 issues to our association or any other

1 organization, but that has been to be a two
2 ways communication. We cannot go grab
3 somebody's hand all the time, okay. They
4 have to come up, their problem to our
5 association. Show us what's in there. What
6 happens? Then, either the associations or
7 the city -- the government or police
8 department can give them answers.

9 DR. WICKWIRE: Here's a question.

10 MR. DARDEN: Your positive examples
11 are very inspiring. I want to know a little
12 more about how your contributions stacks up
13 against the need for the kind of work you do.
14 Is the need overwhelming? We had some sense
15 that there was a large need. Can you give us
16 some insight on just what it is.

17 MS. CORNISH: Well, I would say
18 that, I wouldn't necessarily -- I would say
19 that, yes, first of all, there is a large
20 need for what we are doing to be done between
21 the African and the Korean American. Since
22 we are specifically targeting the African and

1 Korean -- the Korean American today because I
2 couldn't say that there is a need for
3 communication in all -- between all of the
4 races in Baltimore.

5 However, I do see a need for
6 more -- better communication and
7 understanding and tolerance, racial tolerance
8 between the African and Korean American. I
9 also know for fact that it can be
10 accomplished, but I also know that there are
11 certain factions in our society that do not
12 want to see that happen, plain and simple.
13 They don't.

14 MR. DARDEN: Let me follow up a
15 little bit. I want to get a better sense of
16 some of the, what's called physical needs
17 from your perspective, you are close to a
18 Korean American community. Describe what you
19 see for us. What are some of the needs that
20 are a part of that that should be addressed
21 in that community?

22 MS. CORNISH: Well, for instance,

1 in our community or in the -- most of the
2 majority, I guess, of the inner city
3 communities, I would say that we need, in the
4 physical sense, for the Korean American
5 merchants to consider living more in their
6 communities. There is a lack of that and, of
7 course, that creates a perception of, here
8 they come in the community getting the money
9 and going.

10 Until the Korean Americans
11 merchants get more involved in the community
12 and what's going on in the community, be
13 living in their communities and helping to
14 build those communities up or be it
15 participating in community activities,
16 involving themselves moreso in the community
17 associations, even if they choose not to live
18 in the communities.

19 I think it's very important because
20 it really breaks down that barrier -- that
21 barrier that says they are not here like we
22 are overnight, 24/7 as the saying goes, they

1 just come in and do this and leave. And that
2 is one of the biggest barrier that we have to
3 overcome and we still work hard to overcome
4 that in Druid Heights, and so in the physical
5 sense, they need to be there beyond as a
6 merchant, beyond the merchant capacity.

7 They need to be there as
8 participants, members of the community and we
9 encourage that a lot. We encourage our
10 merchants to attend the community association
11 monthly meetings and those who cannot,
12 because they do work long hours in the stores
13 all the time.

14 They will send a representative or
15 they will participate by -- you know, they
16 send a couple of cases of soda and we'll say
17 well, Mr. Park up at such and such sends this
18 down and he can't make it. That kind of
19 stuff. So in the physical sense, they need
20 to really be more involved in the community.
21 On the other hand, though, I think that it is
22 also incumbent upon the community to reach

1 out to the merchants. It's not a one-way
2 street.

3 You can't expect -- this is what
4 happened to us. People complained all the
5 time about the merchants not participating in
6 the community. When I first went to the
7 first merchant, the first thing he said to me
8 was, nobody asked me. So how can you expect
9 people to participate when you don't ask.
10 Nobody asked me and so that got the ball
11 rolling in our community.

12 Oh, nobody asked you, well, guess
13 what, you know, you're going to get a little
14 sick of this and that's -- it just started
15 it. It justed the -- started the ball
16 rolling.

17 MR. DARDEN: Thank you very much.

18 DR. WICKWIRE: I think that we are
19 going to have to move on to another panel.
20 We very much appreciate you. Thank you very
21 much. I would just like to say, what they
22 are doing is for real. I had the privilege

1 of being there for a short time about two
2 weeks ago. This program is for real and it
3 certainly suggests the hope that there is in
4 terms of the future and especially for the
5 younger generation. Thank you, Panel.

6 MR. DARDEN: Now we're moving into
7 the 12:30 time slot for citizens questions
8 and comments. Would you please come forward,
9 Kenneth Lee, Keith Kim. Roxanne ---- and
10 Julie Park.

11 If you would -- I called you in the
12 order that I received the names, so if that's
13 all right with you, perhaps you can speak in
14 that same order. That would be number one
15 Mr. Lee, number two, Mr. Keith Kim, number
16 three, Ms. ---- , and number four, Ms. Park.
17 We have, still, our time frame of just half
18 an hour for this session, which means that's
19 pretty slim pickings for four of you, so if
20 you would just bear that in mind. Thank you.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Lee.

22 MR. LEE: Thank you. Thank you

1 chairman, Dr. Wickwire and the committee
2 member. Actually, I was not coming here this
3 meeting, after then, finally, I came here.
4 The reason is, whenever I speak here is not
5 going to materialize, don't waste my time.
6 Every time whenever I come here, I --
7 whatever speak by myself, I have pain, okay.

8 Next time I'm warning you, if
9 you're not doing anything action, I need
10 action, don't call me anymore. No action
11 meaning nothing because paperwork, if you got
12 \$100,000 paperwork do, ---- useless to me.

13 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Lee, I wonder if
14 everybody understands that you're here
15 because of the tragic murder of your son
16 about five years ago and the fact that there
17 has been a mischaracter of judgment, go
18 ahead.

19 MR. LEE: My name is Kenneth Lee.
20 I'm father of Joel Lee. My son was slain
21 1975, he was the Towson State --he was
22 student of Towson State University. Probably

1 you know last member at the times some people
2 told me. I wasn't one of the advocate, PR
3 man through the whole media, that's why I'm
4 popular. But I'm telling you that's why it's
5 not popular because my son was slain with
6 innocent way, but people right now die in
7 innocent way, but there is no justice.

8 That's why at the -- but not
9 Korean, just people, a lot of people die
10 right now, but no power, no groups have
11 suffered, they just disappeared. But
12 fortunately, I have courage and somewhere
13 using like a media that's why I wanted to
14 have justice. My son was slain
15 September '95. Like a murder June '94.

16 The later one year, trial starts
17 July '95, nine days trial, they acquit him.
18 Even I have five witness within five feet,
19 jury composed of 11 black and one Pakistani,
20 okay. Reason is suspicious and the police
21 report wrong. Simple. Whenever you go to
22 the city, if you're not black, if you're

1 white, like a juror, you're out.

2 This is Baltimore city's trial. I
3 don't know. People say it is fair. As I
4 know, it is a lot of people just not like a
5 lot of people, black people to ---- tell
6 anybody in the jail just -- just get out.
7 The problem is right now is the jury system,
8 a lot of people, whoever has like the ability
9 to the judges is there's no sitting in the
10 juror system.

11 Whatever system, welfare system,
12 ---- they don't have any judgment but they
13 judge people, okay. So, I trained U.S. civil
14 rights, like, civil U.S. --civil right
15 section at the Justice Department.

16 MR. DARDEN: Can you wind it up?

17 DR. WICKWIRE: You understand that
18 this afternoon we are going to deal with this
19 at greater lengths so I think if we can
20 conclude this now and we'll pick up this
21 afternoon.

22 MR. DARDEN: We want to give the

1 other panelists a chance to speak. Is there
2 something else you want to say in conclusion?

3 MR. LEE: Conclusion is right now,
4 we are -- one of the system right now | is we
5 think America has fair justice. We don't
6 have any fair justice here. Who controls the
7 society, they belongs to their justice. It's
8 happened like 17th century when the British
9 controlled American, lot of militants
10 violate. Not violate against the British,
11 okay, but not like fair, but they at the time
12 lot of people. That's like quitter, jurors.

13 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you, Mr. Lee.
14 Let's go ahead now.

15 MR. DARDEN: Keith Kim.

16 MR. KIM: My name is Keith Kim.
17 Thank you for inviting me here.

18 MR. DARDEN: Would you give your
19 affiliation, the group you represent?

20 MR. KIM: I'm a retired chemist.
21 I'm helping Korean Society of Maryland in
22 terms of what they should plan and so forth.

1 Want to talk as an individual, not as a
2 member of the association and from my
3 perspective, I like Korean community to get
4 equal treatment under the law. Equal
5 treatment meaning treated the same in every
6 way, such as, funding from the mayor's office
7 on down to city government services, but we
8 are not getting that as I see it.

9 All the other communities such as
10 blacks, whites and Jewish, they have support
11 from the -- support from the city government
12 in terms of community, organizations, they
13 set up building. They set up from time
14 directed to operate facility, but Korean
15 community don't get anything. There is no
16 investment that protects Korean community to
17 make sure that the true stories are heard.

18 That's my feeling as a personal
19 Korean. Also when there are problems arise,
20 when you try to get in touch with higher
21 authority, there is always someway to shun it
22 back and nothing to be heard from. I want to

1 talk about hypothetical question here because
2 this is not courtroom, so I'm going to talk
3 in hypothetical, okay.

4 There was a case -- there was a
5 case that certain organization wanted to get
6 rid of owner person, and therefore, that
7 person didn't have the guts to do it, so
8 asked somebody in Mayor Schmoke's office.
9 Came -- invited that person to the dinner and
10 the reason for they don't want you to work
11 anymore in that particular place is your age.

12 When that particular person told
13 him you violated the law, don't you know the
14 American law? But he said -- he said nothing
15 in response because he's not even aware of
16 the law, but he commits that violation law
17 anyway. When that person wrote to the
18 mayor's office numerous times, faxed, mail,
19 wanted to resolve this and mayor's office
20 don't respond at all.

21 I'm sorry, nobody really here from
22 mayor's office this morning. But that's kind

1 of an indifference and attitude is really as
2 a person bugs me, you know, it touches deep
3 in my heart. That kind city management is
4 responsible for a lot of those problems that
5 we have in Baltimore, I think. And they
6 should do something about that, you know, I
7 mean, they should with concerned about this.

8 This meeting's important enough,
9 they should come over here and observe what
10 we have to say. It seems like nobody here
11 and I'm really upset about that.

12 DR. WICKWIRE: Nobody here, you
13 mean from the government? That's true. They
14 ought to be here this afternoon. Just to go
15 to record.

16 MR. KIM: And lastly, Ms. Lea,
17 you're from Baltimore, I want you to let
18 Mayor Schmoke know what I just said here
19 today, would you please?

20 MS. GILMORE: Good evening I will
21 make sure. I have heard a lot of pain from
22 Korean people, I have heard a lot of

1 resentment. I'm a director for Asian Support
2 Association and I's a very small organization
3 which only works on a volunteer basis and
4 mostly we work with the Indian Pakistani
5 people but sometimes we do work other
6 salvations and even black which is my
7 neighbors and near my ---- .

8 But I feel like I have heard a lot
9 of pain, but I haven't heard what the
10 government and they are not here, what they
11 are doing. There are a lot of organizations.
12 There is a lot of associates, but are we
13 monitoring all these things. We have a
14 police, we go make a report. If we could not
15 communicate to them, they ignore us.

16 I had a volunteer yesterday. His
17 car was taken away from -- at Lexing State.
18 He was standing right there. I don't know if
19 his key was there or night. He called me and
20 he said I had the ski and I was running
21 behind him and I could not catch him and I
22 called the police. The police never came.

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1 They took the report, a citizen
2 came and said the car was parked there,
3 please go and pick up your card. So he went
4 there, he saw a lot of -- wires out. Was
5 there any money, he said had the money in the
6 glove compartment. Everything was taken out
7 and the car was damaged. He approached the
8 nearest police officer, Ms. Williams and said
9 Ms. Williams, I found my car and said do you
10 have the key? He says I'm confused, what are
11 you asking because he cannot communicate very
12 well. You had the key in this thing, that's
13 right because I don't see any -- so I'm
14 giving you a \$50 ticket.

15 So it is insult to the injury, has
16 car was broken because he doesn't see a
17 proper -- are if you don't sign this
18 citation, I'll arrest you. Are you signing
19 this or not? I called, they called me right
20 away because there was some work that he was
21 doing it for our organization, I called the
22 office and the office said, okay there is no

1 sergeant available and this and that and
2 another person came and said somebody's going
3 to call you. Nobody has called, yet. He got
4 a \$50 ticket and a broken car and the police
5 officer hasn't made any kind of
6 investigation. Are you going to say because
7 he could not communicate properly or because
8 he was Indian or Pakistani and they think, so
9 what, it's \$50. And this person is not going
10 to go defend himself in a judge's face
11 because he could not communicate very well,
12 he could not afford attorney and the \$50 gone
13 and everything is okay. This was yesterday's
14 case.

15 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you, Mrs. You
16 sheer.

17 MS. GILMORE: No, I'm going to give
18 another example. I was in one of the
19 dispute, somebody hit me, I went out and this
20 is my only example, I'm not giving all the
21 other complaints which came. I went to the
22 state's attorneys office, I asked me to go

1 make a complaint, I made the complaint. The
2 summons was issued. The lady got again
3 another summon, she decide the day she
4 received the summon to make another
5 complaint. So she made the complaint. I
6 went to the state attorney said please
7 interview my witnesses that were there. He
8 refused that. He say we have combined the
9 cases, we have gone everywhere so there. I
10 went in front of the judge. The lady said I
11 want it dismiss. I said no I don't want to
12 dismiss today and the state attorney is
13 saying she is very, she is giving bodily
14 language that she is nowhere. I said I have
15 some dates I cannot give a first September,
16 she's giving body Los Angeles wand add not
17 going to investigate it.

18 MR. DARDEN: Can row wrap it up
19 with that, please.

20 MS. GILMORE: I think Mr. Lee made
21 a very good point, if African American
22 committee is going to cry, and if the city is

1 not going to do, the crime is going to be
2 higher and higher. Where we are? Are we
3 going to be hurt ever, ever? I know it's 15
4 minutes so I'm going to wrap it here, but I
5 wanted to know please, please, hear us and
6 give some time and the
7 minority ---- Americans know and plus I also
8 wanted all these ESOP programs are there, but
9 I have seen them. People are here in '77,
10 from '88, they could not communicate. If we
11 could not communicate, we cannot solve if
12 problem. There is I mean, no matter how many
13 action.

14 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. We
15 appreciate that. There Julie.

16 MS. PARK: Thank you very much. My
17 name is Julie Park. I work for the Korean
18 Society, but today I am just here. I also --
19 I am active with an organization in Virginia
20 called Korean American Alliance. I came out
21 to today's meeting as an individual observant
22 and with all due respect, I'd like to just

1 point out some of my observation. I walked
2 in here at a little before 10:30 starting
3 with, I believe Mr. Change's testimony before
4 the committee members here.

5 As I hear his concern with his
6 colleague, African American colleague, and I
7 constantly looked at today's forum, just
8 throughout the last two hours, a little more
9 than two hours. Today's forum is
10 about municipal services, public safety and
11 the justice system. Do Korean American store
12 owners in Baltimore get equal treatment?
13 Again, I say this with all due respect, but
14 I'd like to point out to you, Dr. Wickwire,
15 as a chairperson, I felt that there was a
16 sort of discrimination towards the Korean
17 American store owners.

18 DR. WICKWIRE: Toward what?

19 MS. PARK: Toward the Korean
20 American store owners complaints, their
21 concerns. For and I verified that Mr. Chang
22 and his colleague right before I came up

1 there, I thought we were going according to
2 the schedule and it's very unconscious, very
3 subtle, but I remember specifically you
4 telling them that they have two more minutes
5 to speak and hearing and I am thinking, well,
6 they're trying to be right on time, that's
7 great, but at the same time I realized you
8 were not following the schedule and that
9 there was subtle favorite towards friends,
10 from your friends from the African American
11 community.

12 Again, this is just an -- third
13 person observation. We're here today, I
14 believe, you are all here today to hear about
15 concerns of Korean American store owners,
16 whether or not they are getting the right
17 services from the government. For the last
18 one hour we sat here and talked about what
19 other communities feel and it's great that we
20 heard about Ms. Jackie Cornish's Druid
21 Heights work.

22 She was given a full 30 minutes

1 without, excuse me, but without chairperson's
2 timing of, excuse me, you have two more
3 minutes left. This is the kind of subtle, I
4 believe, Korean Americans without having the
5 voice, subtle unconscious, I hate to use the
6 word discrimination, but this is, you know,
7 and I'm sure Dr. Wickwire that you were not
8 intending to do so, but this is the treatment
9 that Korean American store owners or even
10 minority people general are receiving from
11 the government.

12 As soon as there is hardship with
13 language, impatience. People don't have
14 patience for language disparity. Yet, we
15 don't have store owners, and this is -- and
16 from the audience's testimony, the general
17 consensus is, yes it's not racial problem, it
18 is a problem of the economic problem of those
19 who have and have not corner store mom and
20 pop store owners versus established
21 corporations coming into the city.

22 Who do the government give more

1 favorite to? Do Korean American corner store
2 owners get any service compared to the
3 large -- the large corporations that's coming
4 to the city? Isn't that the question that we
5 are trying to address today?

6 Mr. Arthur Nierenberg, I,
7 personally, when you were addressing
8 questions and I paid very much attention to
9 the questions that you were addressing,
10 today's meeting is not about what the thought
11 of the Korean American community
12 organizations are not doing. Sure, they are
13 Korean American organizations.

14 They have gaps, not just Korean
15 American community organizations, but all
16 community organizations. Coming from a
17 nonprofit organization background
18 organizations have gaps, communities have
19 gaps with communication.

20 But right now, today, at this
21 moment, we are all here to hear about the
22 concerns of Korean American store owners or

1 even rather take up the Korean ethnicity, mom
2 and pop store owners who have contributed
3 since 1977 in building, renovating this
4 Baltimore City and now that as you've already
5 heard from the testimony of store owners that
6 they have to pay to the city government to
7 close down their business. Have we heard
8 enough about that? I don't have any
9 questions.

10 Again, with all due respect. I
11 just wanted to share with you the
12 observations that I had just coming in and
13 I'm not -- and I do recognize I did not come
14 in at 9:30 to hear what you had to say about
15 the timing, but there was certainly
16 discrimination about the way you're running
17 today's schedule and I've been constantly
18 looking at my time saying there is subtle
19 discrimination. Thank you.

20 MR. DARDEN: I don't know if we
21 dare to do that. But before you do just take
22 off.

1 MR. LEE: Before I came here,
2 actually I thought all -- the whole thing is
3 discrimination. Right now. It's not -- what
4 is going to focus. What you ask to us? I
5 ask you what kind of discrimination I have?
6 I said I have discrimination, okay because
7 like the Baltimore City --

8 MR. DARDEN: Excuse me, Mr. Lee, we
9 have just a few minutes for the committee's
10 questions before we --

11 MR. LEE: Hold on. My question is
12 today what is thin, what is topic, what are
13 you talking about here? Okay? As I know,
14 you called me, I said our topic is
15 discrimination because you're civil rights
16 commission. What is the rule of the civil
17 rights commission is whether or not -- that's
18 your function.

19 What you ask of us community
20 relationship, community relationship guys
21 over there was Mr. Mitch, okay. You are not
22 civil rights commission. What you doing

1 here?

2 DR. TRAN: I think it would be
3 helpful and Dr. -- I think it would be
4 helpful Dr. Wickwire if you could clarify our
5 task.

6 MR. LEE: No your function --

7 DR. TRAN: No what the task of the
8 advisory committee is, we are not an
9 enforcement committee, please.

10 MR. DARDEN: In the interest of
11 time, I don't want to be insensitive, but we
12 do have material on the table in the back
13 which summarizes, I think, somewhat concisely
14 the answers to your questions. There is one
15 in particular that says about today's forum,
16 it gives a very clear explanation of the
17 community's role and function and what we are
18 doing here today.

19 So if you don't mind, I would like
20 you to refer you to that so that the
21 committee can use what time is left here in
22 case they should have some questions of the

1 other speakers.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Let me say something
3 to Ms. Park. I understand you're critique
4 and I would like to say this, that it took us
5 some time even to decide what kind of subject
6 we would deal with and how to deal with it
7 fairly and to concentrate only on the Korean
8 American situation.

9 We felt that we should also give a
10 little bit of balance in terms of the
11 perception of African Americans in terms of
12 their perception of the Korean American
13 experience and their own experience with the
14 justice system and with public safety and
15 with city services.

16 So that is the occasion for this
17 having -- apart from being -- we tried to get
18 a little bit of balance, although we though
19 we were trying to concentrate with Korean
20 American stores. One thing I should say,
21 too, it's extremely difficult to get -- I
22 went, personally, to a lot of people, as well

1 as made all kinds of telephone calls so that
2 we have tried and again as I said, -- say, I
3 appreciate your comments and job whether
4 others feel as you do, but --

5 MR. KIM: I think that, you know,
6 you have been looking for sort of like
7 excuses and I don't think we want the
8 excuses. We want the explanation to what can
9 be done about it in the future.

10 You know, not -- like reverend here
11 said, any society has its problem it's not a
12 good thing and so forth. In general, it fits
13 any society. But what I'm talking about what
14 happened, what kind of unfair treatment these
15 people receive and therefore this should not
16 happen.

17 This kind of approach would be much
18 better than just saying the society --
19 overall it's okay, therefore, you know,
20 really we don't have any problem, blah, blah,
21 blah. I think it's nonsense.

22 MR. NIERENBERG: Who said that?

1 Who said that? This committee didn't say
2 that. Yes, but that's not the committee.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: That was not us, do
4 you understand?

5 MR. NIERENBERG: We don't
6 necessarily agree with them. They had a
7 chance to speak so you could hear them as
8 well. Maybe that's why we're here, to get
9 this thing on the table.

10 MS. GILMORE: Well, I think there
11 is a lot of just -- this is the subject, the
12 subject matter is frustrating and justice
13 frustrating a lack of action is frustrating.
14 But a lot of times we have to be pro active
15 in our actions also. I say that and I
16 understand and I empathize completely with
17 what you're saying. It ain't a black and
18 white world.

19 It is difficult, when you live in a
20 country where that is -- when we hear race
21 discrimination and racial discrimination, the
22 first thing we think about is a black and

1 white world, so, but because we, as the
2 commission, are very sensitive to this, this
3 is why this is organized.

4 To me it's a precedent set that
5 this is established and our biggest thing and
6 what really stresses me and what really
7 stagnates us and really going ahead is that
8 we play my pain is your pain and it gets us
9 in a position of disenfranchising each other
10 and that's not what we mean to do and I am so
11 empathetic to this, but I any we don't attack
12 each other and we listen to each other and
13 your point is so well taken, Mr. Lee, I am
14 empathetic to your pain also, even though I
15 haven't experienced it, but a dialogue should
16 just be that, a day log and those are my
17 comments.

18 MS. CHO: Every day somebody gets
19 slain in this community, and the state's
20 attorney does not intervene. Somebody get
21 hurt. Every day a pizza delivery person gets
22 hurt.

1 SPEAKER: It is the most
2 frustrating thing.

3 MS. CHO: And those state attorney
4 felt, like you go and make another complaint,
5 go make justice. There is no justice in this
6 way. Both of them -- I represent both of
7 you. Just to dismiss the case, that is not
8 fair. That's where we start. We start from
9 the Police Department.

10 SPEAKER: Just a minute. Ki-Taek,
11 you want to say something?

12 MR. CHUN: I would just like to
13 make an observation, hoping that it will
14 place the whole, just, dialogue perhaps in a
15 more constructive perspective.

16 One thing's obvious. It's a high
17 level of frustration, and almost an anger. I
18 can hear it and I can feel it.

19 I think it's unfortunate that the
20 Civil Rights Commission's advisory committee
21 is placed, unwillingly or involuntarily, in
22 the role of a magician with the enforcement

1 power and all of the City officials and all
2 the sources of the alleged complaints. Now,
3 this society, you and I know too well, does
4 not work that way. U.S. Civil Rights
5 Commission Agency is a fact-finding agency.
6 What in our legal capacity -- I'm not being
7 facetious. It is a very legal agency, and
8 the smallest, by definition, in the Federal
9 Triangle now. What we are trying to do is
10 hear the concerns of the communities and then
11 bring about an opportunity for dialogue, for
12 the City officials to hear it. And we'll
13 hope ---- whether they have ---- your
14 concerns. If they have, what have they tried
15 to do. If they haven't, why they haven't.
16 If they have heard you in the past, what they
17 plan to do.

18 This is a form of a mutual
19 education, interactive education, and also a
20 small step in the process of creating a
21 public pressure, which is a highly legitimate
22 and perhaps the only legitimate way how

1 society can resolve conflicts.

2 Now, as you know very well -- and
3 if you didn't, pay attention, full
4 attention -- this afternoon, we have three
5 higher City officials to hear your responses
6 or concerns, and hoping that they will
7 respond to them in some constructive fashion.
8 After the segment, we have two officials,
9 U.S. attorneys from the District of Maryland,
10 and a deputy assistant Attorney General for
11 Civil Rights from the Justice Department in
12 Washington.

13 You could not get higher-ranking
14 officials whose jurisdiction or duty is civil
15 rights. And we have went through great pain,
16 and with great cooperation of the U.S.
17 Attorney's Office, these representatives are
18 coming. Why are they coming? Because they
19 have the power, sure (phonetic) and readiness
20 to hear your concerns and see if they can
21 explain something. If they haven't been
22 aware of, they are willing to be made aware

1 of.

2 This I any is a very small step,
3 very frustrating and painfully so. But it is
4 a first step. We can bring about hope. We
5 can hope to bring about some possible
6 changes. Now, I just want you to be aware,
7 that is to say, to say that what are you
8 going to do? I'm fed up. This is the kind
9 of complaint I hear in 14 states across the
10 country and all over the coast, and I hear
11 this every committee. This is a reflection
12 of the level of discontent of our society.
13 I'm sorry to say that, but I think that --
14 and it's not that you're wrong there.

15 But I think we have to also
16 recognize that any small federal agency has a
17 highly limited capacity at best. So I hope
18 we can provide to keep -- take things in some
19 logical perspective. And we like to be
20 understood in terms of a best intention of
21 coming here to hear you.

22 We have a court reporter. It will

1 be made official, and from this point on,
2 ---- no public official can say, "Gee, I wish
3 I had known that. Had I known that, we could
4 have done something." They can no longer say
5 that, because this report will be made,
6 distributed very widely.

7 So it is a small step, but I think
8 we have to exercise that level of patience as
9 a citizen of a democratic society. So I --
10 please, your patience and understanding,
11 rather than blaming the members here who are
12 here as private citizens, unpaid. I happen
13 to be a federal official, and I get paid for
14 this, and I feel bad about my colleagues,
15 they can make \$500, \$1,000 even, some of
16 them; the lawyers, you know how much they are
17 paid.

18 But they are here without a single
19 penny compensation. Why? Because they
20 believe in doing something about it, doing
21 something about it, hoping that something may
22 accumulate into something tangible, and our

1 next generation of tomorrow will benefit from
2 it.

3 So I'm urging you and pleading that
4 we share the mutual appreciation, and because
5 we are working together. I don't think we
6 are working against each other. That's my
7 end of the spiel. Sorry about that.

8 DR. WICKWIRE: Let me conclude
9 this. We are going to close in just a
10 moment. We will, that way, be able to be
11 back here to begin on time at 2:00. And
12 we'll try to stick as close as we can to our
13 schedule. And there will be an opportunity
14 then for comments from persons here in the
15 audience, and those who haven't had a chance.

16 I want to say something. You have
17 a request, but I want to say something before
18 we conclude.

19 MR. CHUN: Mr. Kim, you mentioned
20 two things, two topics: Unequal funding from
21 City governments and indifference by City
22 officials to Korean American and Asian

1 American --

2 Could you later on provide us with
3 specific examples, at least one from each
4 category, so we can pursue it? You made an
5 allegation that you have treated unfairly and
6 unequally. And I hear you very, very
7 clearly, and it may be the case. But what we
8 need is at least reference to one specific
9 example, so that we can call the City
10 officials. Right now -- not right now, but
11 later on, can you do that?

12 DR. WICKWIRE: One thing, let me
13 say in closing, that I, first, am very much
14 of an activist. I've been very frustrated,
15 because we couldn't have had this hearing six
16 months ago and then tried to do something.
17 All along, I have stressed that what we want
18 to do is put things out on the table and take
19 a look at them from points of view of both
20 Korean and African American communities, as
21 well as the white community, Caucasians, and
22 to see whether or not there are things that

1 can be done. What I want to see is us move
2 ahead from this small step to something
3 that's very positive, that's been suggested
4 with some of the things that's gone on today.

5 I think things have to be put out
6 on the table. I think it's unfortunate that
7 people from some of the -- some of the
8 officials couldn't be here this morning to
9 hear this. This hopefully could give them
10 some sense of what happened this morning.
11 But in any case, this is where we are all in
12 terms of frustration, but wanting to move
13 ahead and feeling that this has been a
14 worthwhile event that we think in the future
15 can bear some fruit.

16 So we are going to conclude now,
17 and be back at 2 o'clock, and we look forward
18 to seeing you then.

19 Thank you for participating.

20 (Whereupon, at 1:09 p.m., a
21 luncheon recess was taken.)
22

1 safety, and the justice system. Do Korean
2 American store owners in Baltimore get equal
3 treatment? That's really the kind of thing
4 that we are trying to deal with this morning.
5 At times we've strayed a little bit with it.

6 But I think one of the reasons why
7 we are here, also, is that we were prompted
8 to this by the attention to Korean American
9 businesses in Baltimore in early 1997: The
10 string of armed robberies and some deaths and
11 fatal shootings. And we want to use the time
12 that remains today to see what you have to
13 say about what -- to what extent do Korean
14 American owners have equal access to
15 municipal services, police protection, and
16 the justice system, including the controversy
17 surrounding the federal agencies handling of
18 the Joel Lee murder case. And there will be
19 somebody later, of course, to deal with it.

20 But I think now we would like to
21 have Mr. Darden and Mr. Ki-Taek to say
22 something about our procedure.

1 Mr. Darden?

2 MR. DARDEN: I would just like to
3 remind the audience, we have a sign-in sheet
4 at the registration area. And if you would,
5 if you have not already, please fill that in.
6 If anyone would like to have the results of
7 this meeting nailed to them, there is another
8 separate sheet that you need to sign in order
9 to let us know that, and we will respond in
10 time.

11 Later on, near the end of the day,
12 there will be a session for questions and
13 answers from citizens. Anyone who would like
14 to make an unscheduled presentation, please
15 see me.

16 I think that's all I have to say.

17 DR. WICKWIRE: Ki-Taek?

18 MR. CHUN: No, I don't have
19 anything to say.

20 DR. WICKWIRE: Well, I guess we are
21 ready to go ahead, and I think all of our
22 board members are here.

1 And, Mr. Gillard, are you willing
2 to go ahead and give us your presentation,
3 and then we'll have a chance -- after the
4 three of you have spoken, give us a chance
5 to ask some questions.

6 MR. GILLARD: In the interest of
7 time, I did take the opportunity to put my
8 thoughts down in writing, so if it's okay,
9 I'm just go to read from a statement.

10 I would like to say good afternoon
11 to the members of the Maryland Advisory
12 Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil
13 Rights. It's an honor for me to have the
14 opportunity to address the members of this
15 prestigious partisan advisory committee. The
16 work on U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has
17 been very much respected over the years. And
18 locally, Dr. Wickwire, your energy and
19 commitment to furthering the issues of civil
20 rights has been impressive. As a director of
21 the Baltimore Community Relations Commission,
22 the fair employment practice arm of City

1 government as well as the agency to mandate
2 and improve group relations throughout the
3 City, I truly do appreciate the opportunity
4 to participate in this forum.

5 I have to be honest and share with
6 you that I am concerned with the stated
7 reasons for convening this forum, however. A
8 letter that I received from the Maryland
9 advisory committee stated that the committee
10 was prompted to direct its attention to
11 Korean American businesses in Baltimore,
12 because early in 1997, there was a string of
13 armed robberies and fatal shootings against
14 them.

15 I suggest to you, whether intended
16 or not, and I do not know whether it was
17 intended or not, but this statement suggests
18 to me that this body is of the opinion that
19 Korean American businesses were singled out
20 or targeted for robberies and shootings. I
21 believe this premise is a reflection of the
22 unfair hyperbole used by local media to

1 irresponsibly suggest that there was some
2 type of conspiracy at play in the African
3 American community against Korean American
4 businesses. This approach made for great
5 T.V., local news at its best, playing on our
6 fears and emotions and driving us further
7 apart, while claiming to be on our side and a
8 friend you can turn to. And perhaps as a
9 result of this approach, a few more papers
10 were sold.

11 I believe, however, there did not
12 consist a conspiracy then, nor does there
13 consist a conspiracy now, against Korean
14 American businesses or Korean Americans in
15 general by African Americans. And I don't
16 believe there exists any widespread bias
17 against Korean Americans by City government,
18 including police, fire and et cetera.

19 There does exist, however, tension
20 between the two communities, which appear to
21 be primarily rooted within the context of the
22 African American consumer, Korean American

1 entrepreneur relationship. There continues
2 to be questions within the African American
3 community as a whole as to how and why Korean
4 Americans are so prevalent within the African
5 American community, owning and operating
6 businesses in those communities. The
7 explanations offered, particularly coming
8 from those in government at all levels,
9 federal, state and local, have not altered
10 the beliefs of many in the community who
11 believe that Korean immigrants receive unfair
12 assistance, unfair government assistance, in
13 establishing their lives and livelihoods
14 throughout African American communities.

15 Whether factually based or not,
16 this belief has created a tremendous amount
17 of frustration, resentment, and anger within
18 the African American community toward Korean
19 Americans. It has also fueled the belief
20 that Korean American businesses receive
21 favored treatment from government, as opposed
22 to less-than-equal treatment from government.

1 As Baltimore's population has
2 become more diverse, the present
3 administration has moved proactively to reach
4 out to those growing communities. The
5 administration has encouraged all agencies to
6 produce language-sensitive literature to
7 explain City services to nonEnglish-speaking
8 residents. The administration has assigned
9 liaisons to those growing communities in
10 order to provide access to City Hall and City
11 services.

12 With the support of the
13 administration, the Community Relations
14 Commission convened a summit on race
15 relations in 1990 to create opportunities for
16 dialogue among all City residents. More
17 recently, the Community Relations Commission
18 convened a series of African American-Korean
19 American crosscultural exchanges to promote
20 communication, harmony, and understanding.
21 This administration has appointed a Korean
22 American to the board of commissioners of the

1 Community Relations Commission.

2 So I believe that City government
3 has demonstrated a commitment to being
4 inclusive and responsive.

5 Let me share another aspect of the
6 premise of this forum that I find somewhat
7 troubling. The question has been posed, do
8 Korean American store owners in Baltimore get
9 equal treatment? I have not seen any
10 supportive data, nor heard a preponderance of
11 anecdotal evidence from anyone in the Korean
12 American community would suggest that Korean
13 American store owners are not extended the
14 full benefit of City services.

15 As a matter of fact, I am somewhat
16 surprised that Korean Americans perceive that
17 Korean Americans lag in receiving City
18 services and administration of justice in
19 relation to Korean American-owned businesses.
20 I have been at the community relations
21 commission off and on for the past 18 years,
22 and I have met with many Korean Americans,

1 and I have not heard this view repeatedly
2 expressed as to be an issue.

3 In late fall of 1997, I was told by
4 a group of assembled Korean Americans that
5 the Baltimore Police Department was being
6 very responsive in making attempts to reach
7 out to Korean American merchants as a result
8 of recent incidents involving Korean American
9 merchants.

10 I find the question of whether
11 guilty crime perpetrators escape justice
12 because Baltimore jurors are biased against
13 Korean Americans to be insulting. Who are
14 these juries being talked about here? Who
15 are the people who make up these juries? Is
16 the real question being asked, are black
17 juries being allowed black criminals to
18 commit crimes against Korean American
19 merchants and allowing them to go unpunished
20 simply because the merchant is Korean? The
21 answer is no, period.

22 One of the most sensitive issues

1 presently being debated within the African
2 American community is whether Korean American
3 store owners receive preferential treatment,
4 not less-than-equal treatment. Further, the
5 community is asking whether merchants and
6 their families are members of the communities
7 in which they earn a living, or are they
8 interlopers taking from the community and not
9 putting anything back into the community?

10 I think it shows that there is a
11 tremendous amount of work that needs to be
12 done, and that the perceptions within the two
13 communities can be so far apart.

14 Let me also suggest that during the
15 same period in 1997, in which several Korean
16 American merchants were the victims of
17 violent acts, that there were robberies,
18 armed and otherwise, and fatal shootings
19 occurring in the same neighborhoods in which
20 Korean Americans were victims, but these
21 victims were African Americans.

22 In correspondence I received from

1 the Maryland advisory committee, reference
2 was made to a *Baltimore Sun* editorial, and it
3 was said that the editorial was in response
4 to apparent anti-Korean American violence.
5 The violence involving Korean Americans
6 happen in grocery and convenience stores, I
7 suspect by individuals with some connection
8 to illegal drugs. And in each case, the
9 African American community in which the
10 incident took place expressed outrage and
11 anger that another act of violence had taken
12 place in their communities. These people
13 expressed collective sorrow, collective
14 frustration and collective fear. This
15 repeated scenario hardly sounds like the
16 makings for a conspiracy or a pointed
17 anti-Korean American campaign.

18 In conclusion, and I mean this as
19 no disrespect, but I am not certain that
20 enough balanced information-gathering was
21 done prior to calling for a public forum on
22 the issues you've identified. From my

1 perspective, there are issues which beg to be
2 addressed which impact the total community.
3 I simply do not believe, however, the ones
4 you identified are the ones that need to be
5 addressed.

6 I believe disseminating factual
7 information on the lingering questions
8 relating to alleged startup assistance
9 provided by government to Korean American
10 immigrants need to be shared so that that
11 issue can be put to rest. I believe the
12 issue of whether Korean American store owners
13 have an easier time obtaining insurance,
14 loans and credit lines versus that of African
15 Americans needs to be addressed, and the
16 issue of why the African American community
17 is not yet moving beyond where it has been in
18 terms of overall economic development needs
19 to be addressed.

20 I see the pertinent issues being
21 relationship-oriented between communities,
22 not the level of services Korean American

1 businesses are receiving from City
2 government. I would not dare minimize the
3 concerns of the Korean American community,
4 but based on my experiences and understanding
5 of where we are in the City, I believe Korean
6 American store owners are being afforded all
7 civil rights protections and have forged a
8 strong relationship with municipal
9 government.

10 The poignant issues are between the
11 people, the Korean American people and the
12 African American people, and the issues
13 within those respective communities.

14 And again, I thank you for the
15 opportunity to address this assembly.

16 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you,
17 Mr. Gillard.

18 Fire Chief Williams?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, I certainly,
20 at this time ----. But, however, since we're
21 was not doing that issue, I would say that
22 this is the first time that I've had the

1 opportunity to address any problems at all
2 with the Korean community. Certainly, the
3 Fire Department's dealings with the Korean
4 community as well as the community in general
5 is the same. That is my only dealings with
6 you, with the community, is when we have to
7 inspect the building or a business for
8 compliance. But I hate to deal with you on
9 these bases when I have to dispatch an
10 ambulance to the scene of an injury or a ----
11 or what have you, and in dealing with
12 extinguishing of fire.

13 Now, I know that in the past, there
14 was -- or a couple of years ago, there was a
15 problem with -- a perceived problem with
16 ambulance dispatch, in that it was perceived
17 that it took the ambulance longer to respond
18 to an incident than it should have. Well, I
19 can assure that our responses are the same
20 for all people of Baltimore City, regardless
21 of whether they're Korean, black or whatever.
22 And in order to ensure that we do have the

1 best response and people are not sitting
2 around waiting and saying that the ambulance
3 is not coming, because it is our policy to
4 send the closest ambulance to a scene of an
5 incident when there is one. We have just
6 installed a new 800 megahertz communication
7 system with a vehicle locator system, whereby
8 we will know at a given moment where every
9 ambulance in the City of Baltimore is at any
10 given time, so that, in the case of an
11 incident, we will just -- instead of
12 dispatching the nearest ambulance from the
13 nearest firehouse, we can pick up that piece
14 of equipment on the street wherever it is and
15 dispatch it in time.

16 So as I said earlier, our dealings
17 with the community in general is the same.
18 Inspections, fires, ambulances, emergencies,
19 what have you. And of course, if there are
20 any problems that I'm not aware of, then
21 today is the day that we can bring them to
22 light, and I'm sure that they will be taken

1 care of.

2 Thank you.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you.

4 Mr. Frazier?

5 MR. SMITH: Colonel Robert Smith
6 standing in for Mr. Frazier, who is out of
7 town at the present time. I am the fuel
8 operations unit chief in control, which
9 primary deals with the Korean community as
10 far as calls and service and what have you.

11 As you mentioned in your letter,
12 you were concerned with two fatal shootings
13 that occurred in 1997 involving Korean
14 American businessmen. I wish to report,
15 number one, those cases have been solved --

16 SPEAKER: Could you keep your voice
17 up?

18 MR. SMITH: Do you want me to start
19 from the beginning?

20 SPEAKER: No.

21 MR. SMITH: I wish to report on --
22 I'm pleased to report that in both cases

1 there was fatal shooting involving the Korean
2 businessman, the cases were solved very fast.
3 Several robberies have occurred within the
4 Korean community, not more so than they have
5 occurred in other communities, and we respond
6 to those in the same effort. Sometimes we
7 respond, probably, even more faster -- well,
8 not faster, but with more effort which would
9 have appeared with the Korean community,
10 because we want to continue to bridge the
11 gaps that once were. All our responses to
12 any shooting, any incident within the City,
13 are immediate.

14 Since the shootings, we have
15 ordered patrol officers to make constant
16 visits to the Korean-owned establishments,
17 more so than they were doing before. They
18 have to make four of those visits on their
19 daily activity sheets, and the officers are
20 doing that. Because of a communications
21 problem we had with the American community
22 and the Korean community, we have established

1 a Korean liaisons officer, Officer Kim, who
2 is in the audience today. We have provided
3 him with a take-home car. He's on call 24
4 hours a day, 7 days a week. He responds to
5 all problems within the Korean community,
6 which involves shootings, holdups, or
7 anything dealing with communication problems
8 with the post officer.

9 A lot of that was done because we
10 had got complaints about three years ago that
11 officers were responding to Korean businesses
12 who had called initially because of a
13 complaint, and the officer would get there
14 because he did not understand the person who
15 made the call -- he listened to the person
16 the call was made on, and made a made a
17 judgment in that nature. So we have
18 addressed that problem.

19 All supervisors and officers have
20 been instructed to call communications
21 whenever there is a problem. We would
22 immediately contact Officer Kim, who responds

1 in from his home or responds while on duty to
2 take care of the language problems.

3 So additionally, all officer and
4 supervisors have gone through -- that's from
5 officer all the up through the police
6 commissioner -- have gone through eight hours
7 of training in cultural diversity, so they
8 could be more aware and more sensitive to
9 other community needs. And that's not just
10 the Korean community; that's also the Spanish
11 community and so forth.

12 In the past, we have also given
13 several crime prevention seminars and are
14 planning more in the future. We have also
15 distributed a Korean incident reporting guide
16 and safety tips translated in Korean, and I
17 understand you all have been given that by
18 Officer Kim. I feel, in my years of service
19 within the agency, the relationship between
20 Korean community and other nonAmerican
21 communities have improved tremendously. I'm
22 not saying there is not more steps we have to

1 take, and those steps we are willing to take.

2 And that is the Police Department's
3 response.

4 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you. I'm sure
5 that we have some questions.

6 MR. NIERENBERG: I have a question
7 for the Colonel.

8 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder, Art.

9 MR. NIERENBERG: There is one
10 police officer who speaks Korean,
11 specializing in communications with the
12 Korean American group, Mr. Kim; correct? I
13 understand that there's --

14 MR. SMITH: First off, there's more
15 than one officer that speaks Korean, but he
16 is the designated liaison officer.

17 MR. NIERENBERG: Do you have any
18 idea how many officers can speak Korean in
19 the force?

20 MR. SMITH: I couldn't give you an
21 exact figure. I know when I was commander of
22 the western district, both of which I thought

1 spoke Korean, and found that only one spoke
2 Korean.

3 MR. NIERENBERG: One of the things
4 I'm thinking of in your comment stimulates
5 this thought. There is 1,000 corner stores,
6 according to the figures of the Neighborhood
7 Businessmen Association. And with some of
8 the activity in Baltimore, it would be pretty
9 hard to have Patrolman Kim, you know, attend.
10 And you also said that it's the patrolman who
11 answers the call who will call him if he
12 thinks it's necessary.

13 MR. SMITH: He will call him if
14 there is a language problem. He will call
15 him -- in Baltimore City, we have experienced
16 incidents where a Korean was involved in an
17 incident who, for some reason, was fearful of
18 giving information, and the fear was relative
19 to the area in which they were in. If the
20 incident involved a holdup, and it happened
21 to be somebody that hung in that area, and
22 some case it was probably a drug dealer or

1 one of his people, the Korean was very
2 frightened and would not give this
3 information.

4 Officer Kim is not called that
5 often. Some Koreans do step forward, and
6 these Koreans are, in most cases, the ones
7 that have gotten involved in the communities
8 in which they serve. Our community relation
9 officers, who attend all community meetings
10 within the City, take great effort in
11 enrolling the community -- the Koreans who
12 are serving that community to join those
13 groups, and they willingly join those groups.

14 And of those Koreans, none of them
15 seem to be a problem, because when they don't
16 turn to Officer Kim or just turn to us, they
17 turn to a community leader, in most cases, it
18 solves the problem.

19 MR. NIERENBERG: Colonel Smith,
20 just let me follow through with one or two
21 more short questions.

22 We are here to talk about a racial

1 discrimination issue. You could have
2 policies in your department which are very
3 appropriate and very clear.

4 You cannot manage, micromanage,
5 every officer who reports another situation.
6 So it sounds to me it is possible that, if a
7 particular officer had a bent or a personal
8 issue with Korean Americans or people who are
9 not Americans or of his color, you could have
10 discrimination taking place, and you don't
11 know about it unless somebody reports it,
12 makes a special issue of reporting it to you.

13 Here is my general concern,
14 gentlemen. We have spent another full day,
15 six seven months ago, all morning, taking
16 testimony, listening very carefully to the
17 Neighborhood Businessmen Association and the
18 Korean American -- all these different
19 groups. And your report, in particular,
20 is 180 degrees opposed to the information we
21 have received. It's as if we are in another
22 world. We just flew to another country, not

1 the same city.

2 Now, somebody is either making up a
3 massive scenario of testimony, or somebody
4 doesn't really know what he's talking about,
5 in very plain language. 180 degrees opposed
6 to what you say.

7 MR. SMITH: Do you want a response?

8 MR. NIERENBERG: Sure.

9 MR. SMITH: My response is simply
10 this. I can only go by my experiences. And
11 I'm sure the folks that you've talked to can
12 only go by theirs. Now, it's quite possible
13 that we are both telling the truth, but we
14 just haven't crossed each other's path.

15 MR. NIERENBERG: Perfect. This
16 committee -- at least my role on the
17 committee, as I interpret the committee -- is
18 to be able to generate some actions so that
19 this gap gets filled.

20 You mentioned gaps. There are
21 gaps. There are even gaps within their
22 community and the other community, but it's

1 not a -- I don't think it's a healthy
2 situation to really be so far apart.

3 Forgive me, but I listened to some
4 very sincere people tell their experiences,
5 and there were things about these experiences
6 that were not good to listen to. The whole
7 issue here is on service, is on protection,
8 and is on the justice system.

9 We have people who live in
10 Baltimore who don't trust you. And I know
11 there are people in Baltimore who don't trust
12 them. And a lot of robberies took place and
13 murders took place, and some of the things
14 that occurred don't make any sense to
15 anybody.

16 MR. SMITH: Can I address your
17 comment as to robberies?

18 MR. NIERENBERG: Absolutely.

19 MR. SMITH: I didn't bring the
20 figures with me today, but I had the
21 opportunity to read every robbery report that
22 comes through the operations bureau.

1 And I would venture to say on a
2 daily basis, I do not see robberies in Korean
3 owned businesses. I see robberies in other
4 businesses, and mostly black and Jewish
5 businesses, and they far outnumber the
6 incidents that occur in the Korean community.
7 So I don't know where you're getting your
8 figure from, or your consensus.

9 MR. CHUN: Starting with Mr.
10 Gillard, I understand that you're
11 representing Mayor Schmoke. Does it mean
12 that we are seeing -- your prepared speech
13 has cleared the Mayor's office?

14 MR. GILLARD: No, the mayor asked
15 me to come representing the Community
16 Relations Committee in his stead.

17 MR. CHUN: Which means, then, your
18 presentation this afternoon is your
19 presentation, even though you are in one
20 sense representing him.

21 MR. GILLARD: Exactly.

22 MR. CHUN: I just want to clarify.

1 MS. GILMORE: No. Actually, it's
2 my professional view as a the director of the
3 Community Relations Commission.

4 MR. CHUN: Thanks for the
5 correction.

6 It's refreshing to hear that
7 reminder that you're speaking based on your
8 professional experience, and other persons we
9 have talked to have naturally been speaking
10 based on their experience. And is it
11 possible that there are some -- we are seeing
12 different ----.

13 And as a colleague, Art said that
14 it's simply a question of just talking to
15 each other, sharing the store owner's
16 experiences with you and your experiences
17 with them.

18 That being the case, how would you
19 feel that if we share the transcripts of this
20 morning's testimony and presentations which
21 have very sordid, gruesome details of a
22 variety of incidents -- we can make a copy

1 available to you and have you respond to
2 that. Would you be willing to do that?

3 MR. GILLARD: I would be more than
4 willing. I would have no problem with that
5 at all.

6 MR. CHUN: Great. Thank you very
7 much.

8 Getting back to Colonel. It's
9 interesting and encouraging to hear that the
10 crime statistics or reports that you view on
11 a daily basis really doesn't show any sign of
12 disparity. And I'm glad to hear that. So is
13 it possible, do you think, some time we can
14 have some access to that crime data, the
15 breakdowns?

16 MR. SMITH: Give me a second. Let
17 me have a second.

18 Officer Kim, do you still maintain
19 those reports?

20 OFFICER KIM: I do, sir.

21 MR. SMITH: We can supply them.

22 MR. CHUN: Great. Thank you very

1 much.

2 And one question to Mr. Williams.
3 It's unfortunate that Mr. Harry Kim is not
4 with us today. But the last time we did
5 this, which was, I think, some time late last
6 year, Mr. Harry Kim was with us, and all of
7 us are greatly pained to hear his account.

8 Now, this may not be as factual as
9 it could be, and maybe it's possibly in
10 error, but what we heard was that his brother
11 was shot in the course of a robbery. A
12 rescue squad came, but there were some
13 explainable delays in his brother being
14 picked up and given prompt medical attention.
15 And he believed, or he and his family members
16 believe, that the ultimate death of his
17 brother was due in part, but in large part,
18 due to this delay.

19 We're asking you about that. It
20 was a tragedy. But did you ask the fire
21 departments as to why the delay, the accident
22 reports? And if I recall right -- correct me

1 if I am not remembering correctly -- but what
2 we are told is, yes, we did make that
3 request, but no response was forthcoming.
4 Which meant, because a meeting took place
5 some time in July or so, at least at five or
6 six months past since the accident itself, we
7 have reason to believe ---- hoping that he
8 could come and make his story public. He had
9 some unavoidable personal conflict and could
10 not be with us.

11 He told us, though, or our
12 chairperson, that he did receive an account,
13 an explanation from the office, and that was
14 satisfactory. I think that was --

15 MR. WILLIAMS: He told us that he
16 had received an explanation, and -- well, he
17 said that he turned it over to Dr. ----, but
18 he did get an explanation.

19 You know the case that we are
20 talking about?

21 MR. CHUN: What that means, then,
22 is ultimately an explanation was offered.

1 You made a response, an explanation was
2 provided, and it seems they were satisfied.
3 It's a nice story.

4 But, still, there is a question
5 that is troubling to us. I'm taking about
6 the delay. There was a death, allegedly due
7 to, say, lack of prompt service, inadequate
8 professional services and so on. Then I
9 think we public officials, I would say, owe
10 as prompt a response as possible to the
11 victims. What is a fact is, at least that
12 response was not forthcoming within the
13 period of five or six months.

14 So my question then is, is that
15 delay ordinary for fire departments?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: No. Let's address
17 one at a time. Now, you speak of the delay
18 in response. Are you referring to a delay of
19 the time that it took the apparatus to get to
20 the scene, or for this gentleman to be worked
21 on? Is that the delay? Or what delay are
22 you speaking of? A delay in getting back a

1 response from my office as to what occurred?

2 MR. CHUN: I think that's a very
3 fair question. Let me try to respond to that
4 as specifically as I can.

5 But I'm not really clear about
6 that. It's something that happened some time
7 ago. But my recollection was this. In one
8 sense, rescue squad came to the scene, and I
9 think there was an implication that that
10 arrival was somewhat delayed. But more
11 importantly, the allegation was the personnel
12 who arrived on the scene, some of, did not
13 pay prompt attention to the -- to what was
14 needed. Rather they -- some stayed in the
15 truck, and they carried on some
16 conversations, something, and it was
17 unexplainable, incomprehensible for starters.
18 That's what I meant by --

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Let me give you just
20 a very brief description of how we operate.

21 First of all, Baltimore City has
22 only 18 ambulances, that's the first thing.

1 Last year alone, we responded to 111,000
2 incidents. Now, just 111,000.

3 MR. GILLARD: You initially said
4 you have 18?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: We have 18
6 ambulances. So I just want to point that
7 out, because for a city the size of
8 Baltimore, with what we have and the amount
9 of incidents that appear in the City in a
10 given year, I think that's even more than New
11 York City, okay?

12 So now even with that, even with
13 those statistics, we generally respond to an
14 emergency with an ambulance anywhere within
15 one to eight minutes, which also a
16 phenomenal -- it's a record for a city the
17 size of Baltimore.

18 Now I say that because at any given
19 time, you can walk by any fire station and
20 you will not see the ambulance sitting there,
21 waiting for a call. It's on the street. And
22 lots of times, an ambulance -- the ambulances

1 will be respond to -- you can ride past John
2 Hopkins Hospital any afternoon and just take
3 a look at the emergency room, and you'll see
4 three or four or half a dozen ambulances
5 backed into Johns Hopkins emergency room.
6 Before you get to Johns Hopkins, you ride
7 past Church Home, and you'll see three or
8 four ambulances sitting there, and the same
9 thing with the ----. So that's the first
10 thing.

11 Now, the second thing I want to
12 make is, once the paramedic arrives on the
13 scene of an incident, we are responsible by
14 state laws and protocols to do certain -- to
15 perform certain operations on a patient
16 before we remove them from the scene. That
17 person has to be stabilized. Oftentimes,
18 it's been mistaken that because the paramedic
19 is talking on the phone or talking with
20 someone else, that he is wasting time or
21 whatever.

22 But in most incidents, especially

1 the incident that this happened, the
2 paramedic is in contact with the hospital,
3 receiving instructions from a doctor as to
4 what he's supposed to do. Now, if we don't
5 do these protocols, and lots of times I've
6 heard people call and say, "You know, they
7 left the person laying -- the person was
8 laying there 20 minutes, and these guys were
9 just standing over them, you know." But not
10 knowing what they are doing, the paramedics
11 have to do what we call protocols.

12 Now, back to this same incident
13 that you're talking about. And the reason
14 why I spoke earlier, I said that we just
15 instituted a new radio communication system
16 that a vehicle -- a vehicle locator system.

17 We have also gone one step further.
18 We are within one minute's contact, indeed,
19 24 hours a day, an 800 number that we can
20 contact an interpreter for any language
21 that's spoken, Korean language or foreign
22 language or whatever. So if we have a call

1 come in communications and it's Korean, I
2 have no one at the communications that speaks
3 Korean, but within less than a minute, I can
4 have someone on the other line speaking to
5 the person that needs the help.

6 What happened in the past -- and
7 I'll admit, we have received -- we received a
8 call from an incident that a Korean was
9 involved, and we did not know anything at all
10 what they were saying, not one thing. I
11 think my dispatcher mistook what was said on
12 the other end. Instead I think the person
13 was saying "He's been shot." The language
14 was not -- so the only thing we could do was
15 from the address, we automatically know the
16 moment you dial from the headquarters, we
17 know the telephone number. Whether it's from
18 a cell phone, pay phone or whatever, once you
19 dial, I have your number immediately. So
20 what we did the moment: We looked at the
21 phone number to immediately dispatch the
22 apparatus to that scene.

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1 DR. WICKWIRE: I don't know if
2 you're completed or not.

3 No, I'm not finished, and I'm doing
4 this in a manner, because this is just not
5 something that Koreans don't understand, but
6 blacks don't understand it, Jews. Nobody
7 understands the operations, really, of a fire
8 department, especially when it comes -- you
9 know, if you're sitting waiting for an
10 ambulance and you're waiting five minutes,
11 that can seem like five hours. If you have a
12 fire, that fire is raging, and you have
13 called the fire department, what seems too
14 many times -- we have been accused, "It took
15 them 20 minutes to get there."

16 Well, my stars, you can -- with
17 ambulances, with red lights and sirens going,
18 I can go from one end of Baltimore City
19 completely to the other in 10 minutes. So it
20 just doesn't happen. But I just wanted to
21 make those points.

22 And as far as now, and in the

1 future, we can talk to you. I'm going to
2 inspect the buildings, and if there are
3 violations, I'm going to write you up. If
4 you need help, I'm going to give you help,
5 the same as we do all the citizens of
6 Baltimore. And even if there were some
7 misunderstandings, even on the violations or
8 inspections or what have you, we have -- we
9 can call the proper people.

10 I have no one in the fire
11 department that speaks Korean. As a matter
12 of fact, I have no Korean firefighters which
13 is also a concern.

14 MR. CHUN: I found your explanation
15 very persuasive, and knew there would be an
16 answer like that. What I found somewhat, I
17 guess, a matter of concern was the fact that
18 such a readily comprehensible answer an
19 account or explanation was not provided in a
20 timely manner.

21 I say it because as of, say,
22 mid-1997, when we had a meeting with the

1 community representatives and so on, their
2 concern was, "See? We question an answer, an
3 explanation. Nothing's coming. This is
4 another proof that something's going on."

5 It is a totally unnecessary
6 counterproduct, which is speculation. And we
7 could have done a whole lot to squelch it.
8 ----. That is, as soon as a department
9 received a request of information of that
10 nature, if we could have responded promptly,
11 I think we have would have taken care of lots
12 and lots of unnecessary tension, and that I
13 find rather --

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, I'm somewhat
15 confused. I really can't speak to specifics
16 on how long it took to get the ambulance out
17 there. But I can assure you that it's not
18 the policy of the Fire Department to
19 deliberately not to give information.

20 So if that happened, I can assure
21 you it won't happen in the future.

22 MR. CHUN: Would you be willing --

1 any of you be willing to have an interview
2 with Korean language newspaper reporters to
3 repeat what you're saying? I think that will
4 go a long way in persuading and convincing
5 the Americans of the Korean community of what
6 your policies are, what your contentions are
7 in the future.

8 MR. SMITH: Certainly. I wouldn't
9 be opposed. The Police Department already
10 does that.

11 MR. CHUN: Great. I wasn't aware
12 of that.

13 MR. SMITH: We also meet with
14 regularly with the ---- Society. We also use
15 interpreters at various incidents when we
16 can't get Kim there immediately.

17 MR. CHUN: I subscribe to Korean
18 language newspapers. I do not read this kind
19 of periodic meetings you are having. And
20 what's said, I think, is -- perhaps you may
21 like to consider insisting on some coverage
22 of the meetings that you have, so that

1 members of the Korean American community at
2 large can understand.

3 MR. SMITH: I was always told at
4 that the meetings I went to that the
5 representative was there for that media, that
6 it was being reported. And the information
7 we gave, such as the last meeting I attended,
8 the Korean merchants wanted to know what
9 items should they not sell that attracted the
10 drug dealers. And we gave them that
11 information, and they were supposed to be
12 putting it in the paper.

13 Now, if they didn't get their ----,
14 my fault.

15 We will continue our efforts. .
16 Thank you.

17 DR. WICKWIRE: I have a question I
18 wanted to ask of you, Mr. Smith.

19 This morning, a number of people
20 that spoke who were Korean Americans seemed
21 to indicate that it went with the turf that
22 they would get a certain amount of

1 anti-Korean verbal assault on occasion,
2 depending upon what part of the city they
3 were in. Also, that they have to be
4 bulletproof glass, for instance, in their
5 windows to avoid ----.

6 But one of the things that I think
7 was troubling to all of us is the fact that a
8 number of persons have reported -- Korean
9 Americans, and I've talked to a lot of people
10 ---- in the last two or three weeks -- have
11 spoken about the fact that African American
12 officers, when they come and there is a
13 dispute or a problem of somebody being
14 restrained because of theft, that the African
15 American officers tend to identify with the
16 person that is accused or identified; do not
17 listen to the story of the Korean Americans;
18 that they tend to take the story of the
19 individual.

20 It's very easy to understand that a
21 part of that is a language thing. But this
22 is the thing that, at least to me, was

1 troubling to hear that that continues to
2 happen.

3 And also, you get to hear about the
4 problems with teenagers, whether they -- like
5 on Mosier (phonetic) Street, they turn on a
6 fire hydrant out in front of Levitt Run
7 (phonetic), and that's -- the people can't go
8 in the store. Or whether they make fun of
9 the language of the people, the Korean
10 Americans. But in some instances, I gather
11 that officers themselves have been complicit
12 in some of this kind of thing, in terms of
13 their relationships with Korean American
14 store owners.

15 MR. SMITH: I think that addressed
16 that in my initial comments, that we have had
17 reports that officers -- not just black
18 officers, officers who are responding to
19 calls for service at Korean businesses --
20 where the officer who could not understand
21 the Korean person's language listened to the
22 person that the Korean called on and only

1 took that information to service the call,
2 and in most cases, let the person go.

3 And that's why we have created
4 these sensitivity training courses in order
5 to advise the officers, if you don't
6 understand what this person is saying, you
7 have somebody available to help you
8 understand what this person is saying.

9 I think that has improved in the
10 last couple of years. You also mentioned
11 something about bulletproof glass. Now, I
12 almost started laughing, but I thought it
13 wasn't proper in this forum to start
14 laughing. But you need to know, not only do
15 the Korean Society in Baltimore City have
16 bulletproof glass, every Mom and Pop store in
17 this city has bulletproof glass, including
18 every large -- just about several large
19 liquor store, banks and so forth. So please
20 don't use this bulletproof glass as an issue.

21 The second thing you talked about
22 was the children making fun of their

1 languages, them being harassed. Well, yes,
2 in most cases, in most locations where the
3 Korean business is located, there is also a
4 drug affiliation, I guess you would call it,
5 that intimidates the Koreans because they can
6 get away with it. They go into the stores
7 and they make them sell the cigarette paper,
8 which I ain't seen nobody rolling cigarettes
9 in years. They make them sell the
10 paraphernalia for which the drugs are
11 supplied in. But until we told them, "This
12 is what's drawing these people to your
13 stores," they continue selling them. The
14 ones that we got the message to stopped
15 selling them and they stopped being
16 intimidated by the individuals around the
17 store.

18 So it's an education process, not
19 just for us, but also for themselves. And
20 we're continuing to do that.

21 MR. GILLARD: I don't want to
22 disagree with the Colonel, but I have some

1 concern that we seem to be making members of
2 the Korean American community the victims at
3 the expense of the African American
4 community, because I simply don't think
5 that's reflective of reality.

6 I think if there are officers who
7 are responding this way, they are not doing
8 it in a vacuum. I don't want to validate any
9 wrong behavior on the part of the officers.
10 But if you are talking about officers who
11 grew up in Baltimore City and who now serve
12 in Baltimore City, you're talking about
13 officers who view the Korean American
14 merchants in these neighborhoods as
15 outsiders, because that's the neighborhood
16 they grew up in. If you are talking about
17 Korean American merchants who only come in to
18 operate businesses and establish no ties to
19 the community other than that entrepreneur
20 nature, then you are going to have problems,
21 whether that individual is a police officer,
22 a factory worker, or whatever that person is.

1 So we have problems that are rooted
2 in the nature of the relationship and has
3 very little to do with the type of services
4 that merchants are receiving from city
5 government. That's not the true nature of
6 the problem.

7 SPEAKER: I have a question for
8 Mr. Gillard, please. Could I?

9 DR. WICKWIRE: Go ahead.

10 MS. GILMORE: This comment
11 disturbed me a bit, and I would like to just
12 address a question to you.

13 It seems to me, and I live out in
14 Westminster, which is a whole another world,
15 but I think what I think I'm hearing is that
16 we are holding city merchants to a bit of a
17 higher standard than we do merchants in the
18 'burbs where I'm living. I mean, most of the
19 businesses in my community that are
20 community-oriented are drying up and going
21 away, because the chains are strangling them
22 out, and we don't require these kinds of

1 businesses to put that kind of input in the
2 community.

3 While I'm sensitive to what you're
4 saying, I do think there is a bit of a double
5 standard here. We require African American
6 businesses, Korean American businesses,
7 businesses in the city to be
8 community-oriented, where that's not the
9 model for the rest of the country, and do you
10 believe that's quite fair?

11 While I agree with you that that
12 would be a solution, I'm not sure that it's
13 going to be an overall solution, because
14 that's not the model we are going to in
15 business anyway.

16 MR. GILLARD: But I don't believe
17 your assessment is necessarily accurate,
18 because I think the reality is, in the
19 suburbs, generally speaking, those smaller
20 businesses are operated by folks that
21 generally live in that community, so they
22 have natural ties to the community.

1 I think the larger chains that come
2 in are held accountable by strong community
3 organizations in those areas that they come
4 into. As a matter of fact, if you look at
5 recent behavior, you've seen that several
6 communities have actually stopped some of
7 these larger chains from coming into certain
8 areas, so I think the accountability is
9 there.

10 If there is a double standard, I
11 think it's the fact that there are some folks
12 who would promote or suggest that these
13 smaller Mom and Pop operations operated by
14 Korean Americans should not be held to those
15 type standards. And I think it's problematic
16 that, when the African American community
17 asked for these type of standards, then the
18 suggestion is made that there is a different
19 degree of credibility here.

20 I think it's just the reverse of
21 what you've suggested.

22 MS. CHO: I have a question for

1 Mr. Gillard.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder, please.

3 MS. CHO: You mentioned that
4 in 1990, you held a summit on race relations?

5 MR. GILLARD: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. CHO: And that you had several
7 activities since then.

8 MR. GILLARD: Yes.

9 MS. CHO: But 1990 is almost a
10 decade ago, and the population has changed a
11 lot. Do you have any plans for the future,
12 or are there ongoing --

13 MR. GILLARD: Certainly. Within
14 the last three months, we have held -- well,
15 actually, since January of '98, we have held
16 three community forums involving African
17 Americans and Korean Americans.

18 In January, we held an initial
19 forum at the Polywestern (phonetic) complex.
20 Some time I believe in early May, we held a
21 forum in east Baltimore. And then just about
22 a month or two ago, we held a forum in Cherry

1 Hill in southwest Baltimore, trying to bring
2 members of the Korean American community and
3 the African American community out to talk
4 about the issues that seem to keep them
5 apart.

6 And I don't want to sort of beat
7 this horse to death, but you're talking about
8 a very difficult situation when the Korean
9 Americans that come out are unified, in that
10 they are merchants and they operate
11 businesses in African American communities.
12 The African Americans are just people,
13 community people. They are not operating
14 businesses.

15 That in itself, oftentimes, creates
16 barriers. And that's why you continue to
17 hear the call to have some connection to the
18 community, other than the fact that you're
19 operating this business. Is there any
20 investment in the schools? Is there any
21 investment in recreation? Is there any
22 investment in public safety, other than what

1 that public safety can do for me as a
2 merchant? So these are issues that have to
3 be addressed.

4 MR. NIERENBERG: Have you suggested
5 that at these meetings you've had in the
6 last --

7 MR. GILLARD: No, I haven't
8 suggested it. The community has suggested
9 it.

10 MR. NIERENBERG: That the Korean
11 Americans come out and join them and
12 participate?

13 MR. GILLARD: Absolutely. One
14 suggestion was even that Baltimore City
15 government move out of this business, and
16 that the community and the merchants
17 themselves come together and create these
18 forums themselves.

19 MR. DARDEN: I found it very
20 provocative, your description of the
21 favoritism that -- or at least the perception
22 of the favoritism for Korean American

1 businesses, and then your -- the perspective
2 that you have on it as a result of your
3 professional position.

4 So I wanted to ask whether there is
5 a complaints process to channel these
6 complaints into. And if so, have there been
7 complaints? And if you don't have that kind
8 of information from your professional
9 perspective, what is your view? Do you think
10 that these allegations have merit?

11 MR. GILLARD: I'll hold off
12 addressing the last question as to whether or
13 not they have merit. But there is a
14 complaint process in place.

15 At the community relations
16 commission, anyone can come to us and express
17 their concerns, or, if you want, in a more
18 informal fashion, file a complaint. We have
19 a conflict resolution process, a community
20 mediation program, where we have trained
21 mediators who will go out to the community
22 and try to work with the individuals involved

1 to bring some resolution to the issue.

2 Over the years, we have not had a
3 lot of community-based complaints coming from
4 Korean American merchants. The majority of
5 complaints that we have received have been
6 from members from the community, complaining
7 about some behavior of that Korean American
8 merchant.

9 MR. DARDEN: I understand. How
10 many of those?

11 MR. GILLARD: I don't have exact
12 figures, and I would --

13 MR. DARDEN: But, I mean, just give
14 me some sense.

15 MR. GILLARD: I would imagine that
16 we probably get maybe less than 20 a year,
17 total.

18 MR. DARDEN: This is about the
19 favoritism or some --

20 MR. GILLARD: Right. From either
21 community, I would guess probably 20 or less
22 per year. Either from the Korean American

1 community expressing concern or the African
2 American community expressing some type of
3 concern.

4 Generally, the discussion about
5 preferential treatment would occur when we
6 have forums when you have both communities
7 together.

8 MR. DARDEN: So in comparison with
9 other kinds of issues that come to your
10 attention, does this figure of 20 -- how does
11 that stack up? Is it a large problem, or --

12 MR. GILLARD: No, it would not
13 be -- by us, it would not be considered a
14 large problem.

15 The danger is, though, that the
16 history has been if a problem has somehow
17 worked its way to the media, it becomes
18 greatly exaggerated, and then it's a large
19 problem. But consistently to have 20 cases
20 or less per year would not be considered a
21 major problem.

22 MR. DARDEN: I don't mean to put

1 you on the spot, but I do want to get some
2 response to whether you think these views
3 that there is a network supporting the Korean
4 American businesses is one that should be
5 examined, because there is some reason to
6 think that it's true?

7 MR. GILLARD: Okay. I'm not clear
8 on your question. Are you saying --

9 MR. DARDEN: I understood that
10 there is a perception that loans are easier
11 to get, and a wide range of other advantages
12 that make these businesses possible --

13 MR. GILLARD: Right, uh-huh.

14 MR. DARDEN: -- that are not
15 available to African Americans. And that,
16 somehow, these advantages are provided in a
17 way that would not otherwise be legitimate.
18 I'm trying to get some sense of whether
19 that's a fair assessment.

20 MR. GILLARD: That's a fair
21 assessment of the perception.

22 MR. DARDEN: Yes. Well, do you

1 think that the perception has merit?

2 MR. GILLARD: From everything that
3 I have heard, the reality is that that's not
4 the case: That the Korean immigrants, when
5 they come over, they sort of pool resources,
6 and they borrow from each other, and they
7 form keys to sort of get their businesses off
8 the ground.

9 I think it's necessary that the
10 factual information continue to be
11 disseminated to the larger community, because
12 there still is a belief within the community
13 that there has been some type of unfair
14 assistance provided to Korean immigrants
15 which resulted in them being in their
16 communities.

17 So I think we have responsibility
18 to get the factual information out there.

19 MR. DARDEN: My last comment, and I
20 really am through, but it does seem to me
21 that your last statement is something that
22 the Korean American merchants would also

1 know: That they are being misperceived.

2 MR. GILLARD: I would hope that
3 they know, because we have tried to tell them
4 that. When I say "we," I mean the community
5 relations commission and those folks in the
6 community, when we create these forums.

7 MR. DARDEN: So therefore, I'm a
8 little confused about your earlier comment on
9 criticism of our holding these meetings,
10 since the Korean Americans know that they are
11 being misperceived, you see that they are
12 being misperceived.

13 We are trying to, I think, expose
14 some of that misperception. It seems to be a
15 natural progression in my mind.

16 MR. GILLARD: Well, I guess, then
17 if, in fact, that's the case, I'm not clear,
18 then, on why the premise of this forum would
19 be based on the issues that have been
20 articulated. If the Korean American
21 community understands that, and from my
22 perspective, I understand it, then I think

1 the natural progression would be that you
2 don't understand it, because if you
3 understood it, you wouldn't have formed --
4 you wouldn't have held this forum based on
5 those issues. The issues would have been the
6 relationships between the two communities and
7 not the issue of whether or not the Korean
8 American community is receiving services in a
9 fair fashion from local government.

10 MS. GILMORE: But I think because
11 they feel they're misperceived, they also may
12 perceive a lack of services, which may be a
13 city-wide resource issue, as being
14 particularly targeted toward them, because
15 they do feel that they are being
16 misrepresented and misperceived. While it
17 not be an issue, and that's what they're
18 hearing --

19 MR. GILLARD: But the issue wasn't
20 whether or not they were misperceived by City
21 government. I thought it was the African
22 American community.

1 So now are you making the leap that
2 if, in fact, the African American community
3 has the wrong perception, then City
4 government also has that same wrong
5 perception?

6 MR. NIERENBERG: It's possible.

7 MR. GILLARD: Well, then that's
8 what you have done.

9 MR. NIERENBERG: In fact, the three
10 points that you both made, you and Ed, can be
11 reversed on any leg, any of the three legs.
12 You can be the one that's totally off base in
13 your perception. The Korean American
14 community could be the one that's totally off
15 base in that perception. And the Civil
16 Rights Action Committee of Maryland could be
17 totally off base.

18 So far, on your scorecard, you hit
19 the bull's eye every time.

20 MR. GILLARD: Right. And I
21 guess -- well, I'll leave that --

22 MS. GILMORE: Well, I just have --

1 Chester, I just have a quick comment.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder.

3 MS. GILMORE: Louder? Okay.

4 I just have a real quick comment.

5 I think we are dealing here with -- the key
6 is the perceptions. We are dealing with
7 perceptions. And perception, although it is
8 our reality, is still a perception. And I
9 believe that this forum was put together so
10 that we could find out what everyone is
11 perceiving, and find out what the realities
12 are, and all three of you so eloquently
13 articulated your positions.

14 And if the perception in the Korean
15 community is that they are getting denied
16 services, then we should be -- we have
17 created this forum in order for us to listen
18 to that perception. And it's up to you to
19 tell us differently if that's not --

20 I have a quick question for you,
21 Mr. Gillard. I wanted to know what happens
22 once the time lag -- or not lag, but the time

1 that is taken once you receive a complaint
2 and that complaint is addressed.

3 MR. GILLARD: Generally, we try to
4 follow up within two working days. Our
5 printed brochures indicate within 48 hours.
6 So we try to follow up within two working
7 days.

8 MR. CHUN: I, just for one, would
9 like to have a clarification.

10 In partially disagreeing with
11 Colonel Smith, I think you said something to
12 the effect that while if a police officer was
13 called to the scene of an alleged incident,
14 crime, that for that African American police
15 officer to be listening to this black youth
16 rather than to the store owner or to the
17 police, that it is very understandable.

18 I think you've already
19 characterized this, if I'm not mistaken. I
20 could be mistaken, in which case, I'd like
21 you to correct me. If you went on to say
22 that ---- that you expected that police

1 officer grew up in that very neighborhood,
2 perceiving that these Korean American store
3 owners are intruders to the community,
4 without any payback to the community and so
5 on.

6 And that characterization seems to
7 me -- and I say "seems" on this point --
8 that, perhaps it is understandable, first,
9 that while certain police officers may be
10 "siding" with, say, black youth, but it also
11 seems that it is -- because it is
12 understandable, it is condonable.

13 Did I misperceive you?

14 SPEAKER: I happen to agree with
15 him. It's not understandable.

16 MR. GILLARD: Well, you did
17 misunderstand me.

18 MR. SMITH: It would be --

19 MR. GILLARD: Yeah. Because I
20 didn't say it was understandable. I said it
21 should not be surprising. And I think that's
22 a difference.

1 MR. CHUN: It is not surprising?
2 Is it lawful conduct?

3 MR. GILLARD: Exactly. And I --

4 MR. CHUN: It is?

5 MR. GILLARD: No, it's not. I said
6 I would not attempt to validate improper
7 behavior on the part of the police officers.

8 MR. CHUN: It is not lawful for the
9 officer?

10 MR. GILLARD: Right. They have
11 rules, standards that they have to adhere to
12 as an officer. And I would in no way suggest
13 that those rules and standards should be
14 dismissed simply because of the relationship
15 between the two communities. What I said was
16 it should not be surprising. Those folks
17 don't grow up in a vacuum.

18 Now, it's up to the department to
19 deal with them if they are exhibiting the
20 biases that they have. But it shouldn't be
21 surprising that they have these biases.

22 MR. CHUN: I think I shall refrain

1 from asking any further questions.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: One thing. In terms
3 of your forums that you have held, would you
4 say a little bit more how you measured the
5 success of them. Do you feel like they have
6 been successful, and how do you measure?

7 MR. GILLARD: I feel they have been
8 successful because they have created
9 opportunity for dialogue. And going into the
10 forums, that's what we hoped to achieve, that
11 we would create forums for members of the two
12 communities to converse. And that's exactly
13 what has happened.

14 Now, we feel that there has been a
15 even greater payoff, in that there has been
16 continued dialogue between some individuals
17 who have attended these forums.

18 DR. WICKWIRE: Are there other
19 questions that anybody wishes?

20 All right, well, let me just say
21 this. We're going to have time for people
22 who didn't -- we want you to sign up, if you

1 wanted to sign up and ask some questions.

2 And we're going to have one more panel, and
3 for those who have questions, we will handle
4 them.

5 Do you want them to sign up with
6 you, Mr. Darden?

7 MR. DARDEN: Yes. Is it because
8 you have a question?

9 DR. WICKWIRE: Well, then, we thank
10 you gentlemen for this and appreciate you
11 coming out, and we feel it's been beneficial.

12 MR. GILLARD: Thank you.

13 (Pause)

14 DR. WICKWIRE: I think we would
15 like to begin. Let's see, where is
16 Mr. Darden? Oh, Mr. Darden, we can't begin
17 without you.

18 We'll go ahead with our last panel,
19 and we would like to say there have been some
20 people who have signed up to speak, citizens'
21 questions and comments. If you'd like to
22 make some remarks and you have signed in with

1 Mr. Darden, and we have had a couple of
2 persons that have done that. Is that right?
3 We had this gentleman.

4 So we are pleased that we do have
5 with us today the Honorable Lynn Battaglia
6 (phonetic), who is the U.S. Attorney for the
7 district of Maryland and the Honorable Thomas
8 D. Perez, the deputy assistant Attorney
9 General of the United States, here to talk to
10 us about the federal handling of the Lee
11 case. This has been discussed somewhat this
12 morning, and I don't think we need to --
13 there's no need for me to say anything more
14 about it, except that we are going to turn it
15 over to you and raise some questions with
16 you.

17 MS. BATTAGLIA: Thank you.

18 As you introduced me, I am Lynn
19 Battaglia, and I'm the United States attorney
20 for the District of Maryland. I've been the
21 United States Attorney since August of 1993.

22 What I would first like to direct

1 your attention to is what we passed out to
2 you, because I think it's important to
3 understand the federal handling of federal
4 civil rights investigations, because the Lee
5 case for us is in that context. So by way of
6 background, Mr. Perez and I would like to
7 introduce that to you.

8 The first handout is the
9 departmental identification of the various
10 entities that are within the ---- of the
11 Attorney General of the United States,
12 Ms. Janet Reno. You'll see that the chart is
13 as current as February of 1998, and on this
14 chart, you will see that the civil rights
15 division, of which Mr. Perez is a part, is on
16 the chart as well as the United States
17 Attorney's offices.

18 Now, the civil rights division is
19 under the Associate Attorney General, and
20 that's for purposes of reporting. And the
21 United States Attorneys are under the Deputy
22 Attorney General, and that, again, is for

1 purposes of reporting.

2 In terms of civil rights
3 investigations and prosecutions, we are
4 coextensive, meaning -- and Mr. Perez will go
5 into that a little bit more from his
6 viewpoint, or the civil rights division
7 viewpoint -- is that according to what we
8 operate under, we participate in
9 investigations independently and
10 cooperatively, meaning that we are both
11 dependent upon the Federal Bureau of
12 Investigation, as are investigators. Civil
13 rights matters are investigated federally by
14 the FBI. The FBI agents do a preliminary
15 look-see civil rights matters. The FBI
16 agents then produce various reports, as well
17 as interview notes, and those reports are
18 distributed to both the civil rights division
19 as well as the U.S. Attorney's offices.

20 We independently review and we meet
21 together with the FBI agent to determine the
22 course of an investigation. And in the

1 determination of whether to go forward with a
2 prosecution, the civil rights division makes
3 a determination; the U.S. Attorney's office
4 make a determination. Oftentimes, we agree,
5 and we go forward or we do not go forward.
6 If we disagree, then we go through our
7 reporting entities to determine whether it
8 should be prosecuted -- a case should be
9 prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office or
10 the civil rights division. So that's by way
11 of background in terms of our relationship.
12 Mr. Perez, again, will speak from the civil
13 rights division in terms of that entity.

14 But let me take you to the United
15 States Attorney's office, so you can
16 understand basically what we do, and then I
17 can put it within the framework.

18 The next handout is what we call
19 our office overview, as well our office
20 contact list.

21 SPEAKER: Are there any more
22 handouts?

1 MS. BATTAGLIA: Marcy, I have one
2 more of this, but I don't have any more of
3 the overviews.

4 (Discussion off the record)

5 MS. BATTAGLIA: Just by way of
6 information, whenever I meet with
7 communities -- and under this administration,
8 the United States Attorney's office has been
9 charged with meeting with communities to
10 address issues such as civil rights issues,
11 as well as other community issues. And
12 during the time I have been at the United
13 States Attorney's office, we have had a
14 number of meetings throughout the state to
15 ask about people's view of crime, as well as
16 what they see the federal government doing
17 about that. But that's by way of asides.

18 We used these overviews, as well as
19 our contact list, to give people within the
20 communities the opportunity to have access to
21 the people at the U.S. Attorney's office.
22 There are 93 U.S. Attorneys throughout the

1 United States. We are all presidentially
2 appointed and we are confirmed by the Senate.
3 In each state, the U.S. Attorney's office
4 defines their prosecutive guidelines. In
5 each state, the U.S. Attorney's office had
6 identified civil rights investigations and
7 prosecutions as a main priority. This is
8 under the tutelage of Janet Reno, the
9 Attorney General. This has been a major
10 focus of this administration, so that when I
11 came in in 1993, we identified this as a
12 priority in the state of Maryland.

13 The rest of the overview talks
14 about the mission of the United States
15 Attorney's office, one of which, again, is
16 the civil rights prosecutions. We have two
17 different offices in the state of Maryland.
18 We have the Baltimore office as well as the
19 Greenbelt office, at which assistant United
20 States Attorneys engage in the investigation
21 with representatives of our investigative
22 agencies and prosecution of violations of

1 federal criminal law. And that's what we are
2 tasked to do. We have no authority in terms
3 of the investigation and prosecution of
4 violations of state law. So when we are
5 talking about that, we have to limit it to
6 any type of violation on federal and criminal
7 law.

8 Why don't I turn it over to
9 Mr. Perez, and he can talk about the civil
10 rights, and then we'll get back to the
11 specific case.

12 MR. PEREZ: Good afternoon. It's a
13 pleasure to be here.

14 Again, my name is Tom Perez and I'm
15 a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the
16 civil rights division. As you probably know,
17 Bill Lann Lee is the acting Assistant
18 Attorney General for civil rights, and then
19 there are three Deputy Assistant Attorneys
20 General for civil rights, and I am one of
21 those three.

22 For six years, from 89 to 95, I was

1 a prosecutor in the civil rights division,
2 prosecuting civil rights violations. So I
3 went around the country prosecuting cases
4 involving allegations of police
5 misconduct, racial violence, involuntary
6 servitude, and a number of civil rights
7 matter.

8 The civil rights division
9 celebrated its 40th year anniversary last
10 year, and it was created by President
11 Eisenhower. And there is a unique
12 relationship that the civil rights division
13 has with U.S. Attorney offices, in that there
14 was a policy decision made -- and I think it
15 was a good decision -- that a central unit in
16 Washington should have a role in civil rights
17 prosecution, so that there is uniformity in
18 the enforcement of civil rights laws.

19 As a result, Ms. Battaglia has
20 defined and described the partnership that we
21 have with U.S. Attorney offices in the
22 investigation and prosecution of civil rights

1 cases.

2 And that partnership entails, as
3 she described, working with investigative
4 agencies during the investigation. But it
5 also entails a level of independence, in that
6 we are expected independently -- and we do --
7 to come to a judgment in any given case as to
8 whether or not we should prosecute. Where we
9 can agree, we do, and where we don't agree,
10 we have an internal process for taking up
11 those disagreements.

12 Over the last five years, just to
13 give you little built of national
14 perspective, in the hate crimes context, we
15 have prosecuted 150 cases involving
16 approximately 260, 265 defendants nationwide.
17 Some of the defendants are members of hate
18 groups. A study last year, or a recent
19 study, by the Southern HAR Poverty Law
20 Center, indicates that there are now 474
21 active hate groups across the United States,
22 and the number is growing, according to that

1 study. And in my own anecdotal experience, I
2 think that study is accurate.

3 So hate crimes remain a persistent
4 problem. And because of that, as Ms.
5 Battaglia mentioned earlier, the Attorney
6 General has put the highest priority on civil
7 rights. And as a result, she has directed
8 all of the U.S. Attorney's offices to form
9 hate crimes working groups, which are groups
10 that will consist of law enforcement, members
11 of the community, and everyone who can come
12 together in the prevention and prosecution of
13 hate crimes. So this has been a very high
14 priority of this administration.

15 Let me move to one specific
16 statute, because it's the statute that is
17 relevant to the case of Mr. Lee. I had an
18 opportunity to meet with Mr. Lee's father --
19 I thought I saw him here before -- about a
20 year and a half ago, and I believe we met as
21 well, and there was a group of about 10 of
22 us, including Ms. Battaglia. And one thing I

1 should note is, I guess I have had an
2 opportunity to go across the country
3 prosecuting these cases, from California, to
4 Alabama, to Georgia, to Tennessee. And one
5 clear impression I have had in my own
6 experience is one of being remarkably
7 impressed at the commitment not only of this
8 Attorney General, but of this U.S. Attorney
9 General of civil rights enforcement. Under
10 her leadership, Maryland has been one of the
11 most aggressive states in the United States
12 in the investigation and prosecution of all
13 civil rights violations. It hasn't always
14 made Ms. Battaglia the most popular law
15 enforcement officer in the state of Maryland,
16 but I think it's the right thing to do, and I
17 do commend her for the great work that you
18 have done.

19 18 United States code, section 245,
20 is one of the principle federal statutes that
21 we use in the prosecution of hate crimes.
22 And when we received this case, it was the

1 statute that we looked to. And the question
2 you always have to ask is, do the facts
3 support a prosecution under the statute? And
4 let me talk about the statute, and then turn
5 to Ms. Battaglia for a discussion of our
6 decision making process.

7 The statute states that anyone who
8 uses force or threat of force to intimidate
9 another person because of his race, color,
10 national origin or religion and -- and I
11 emphasize "and," and I'll get back to this in
12 a moment -- and because that person is
13 exercising what we call a federally protected
14 right, that person is guilty of a crime.

15 Now, what does that mean in plain
16 English? What that means is that, if one of
17 you assault me because I am a Latino, that in
18 and of itself is not enough to establish a
19 federal crime. There is a two-tiered
20 standard or threshold of proof that we have
21 to make. The government would also have to
22 prove that you intended in your actions to

1 interfere with a federally protected right.

2 Those rights are specifically set
3 out in the statute, and they are very, very
4 limited. They include the right to pursue
5 employment, the right to travel in interstate
6 commerce, the right to pursue education.
7 This was passed in April of '68, shortly
8 after the murder of Dr. King. And what was
9 happening, as you well know, in the United
10 States was, people were trying to get into
11 universities, and they're being -- people of
12 color, I mean -- are being forcibly
13 prohibited from entering these campuses.

14 And the statute was, in essence, a
15 compromise. There were some who wanted much
16 broader federal authority. They didn't want
17 to have limitations. They wanted the federal
18 government to be able to pursue hate crimes
19 to the fullest extent of the law. There were
20 others who were more skeptical, and didn't
21 want the federal government to have what they
22 perceived as unfettered authority.

1 As a result, and this often happens
2 and as Ms. Battaglia knows from her days on
3 Capitol Hill, a compromise ensued. And
4 that's why you have this two-tiered intent
5 requirement, where you have to prove that not
6 only was the crime in this case racially
7 motivated, but there was also an intent to
8 interfere with the use, with the exercise, of
9 a federally protected right.

10 And in this case, the right would
11 have been to use a facility. And this is
12 statutory language, "the right to enjoy a
13 facility administered by the state of
14 Maryland or a subdivision thereof." In this
15 case -- well, we'll get into the facts in our
16 analysis right now, but you all know the end
17 of the story, which is that we made a
18 determination jointly that the case -- that
19 there was not -- the facts did not support
20 prosecution according to the statute.

21 With that in mind, I turn it to
22 you.

1 MS. BATTAGLIA: Let me describe
2 some of the facts. Some of the issues, I
3 can't get into in terms of the testimony
4 before any grand jury, because that is
5 prohibited from disclosure based upon
6 statutes. So neither of us, although we may
7 have knowledge of what happened before a
8 grand jury, cannot disclose that because we
9 are prohibited by law.

10 But let me go through the facts
11 that we can discuss. I know that you are
12 aware that in September of 1993 in the
13 evening, Joel Lee, who was a Towson State
14 University student, was killed. And the
15 person who is believed to have killed him is
16 a Devon Neverdon (phonetic).

17 Now, the killing took place in
18 northeast Baltimore City, in an apartment
19 complex called Dutch Village. It appears
20 that young Mr. Lee had gotten lost in that
21 area of town while he was looking for a
22 friend of his. According to what we believe,

1 Mr. Lee was the victim of a robbery, where
2 they were trying to get money from him in
3 order to get something to eat. It appears
4 that he did offer money -- this is Mr. Lee --
5 to the individuals who were asking for the
6 money -- with more specificity, Mr. Neverdon,
7 and something happened -- that happening, we
8 do not know -- that precipitated the killing.
9 But young Mr. Lee was killed at gunpoint.

10 What ensued thereafter -- that's
11 in 1993 -- thereafter, what happened was
12 Mr. Neverdon was charged in the Baltimore
13 City Circuit Court, and there was a trial
14 that occurred on the state level. The trial
15 involved the murder. It did not involve hate
16 crimes. And if you recall, in the state of
17 Maryland, we do have a hate crime statute.

18 In any event, if you'll put that
19 aside, it was for the on the basis of the
20 killing. The case was tried fully, as I
21 understand it, although I was not present and
22 cannot comment on anything that happened

1 during the course of the trial. But as I
2 understood it, it was, and the jury came back
3 with a not guilty verdict with respect to
4 Mr. Neverdon.

5 Just ---- that, I bring this chart
6 up. I brought this chart, which is put out
7 by the Department of Justice, which really
8 describes the Department of Justice system.
9 I have no intent in going through all this,
10 but I know that sometimes people are not
11 familiar with all the aspects of the criminal
12 justice system. This can show its
13 complexity. But you can see in there that an
14 acquittal generally stops any further action.
15 That's normally what happens. When an
16 individual is acquitted in any court, that
17 stops. There are no appeal rights on the
18 part of the state in the form of an
19 acquittal. It's over, generally.

20 MS. BATTAGLIA: However, after the
21 acquittal ---- time when Mr. Lee's father
22 asked to see me to ask us to review the case

1 to determine whether the civil rights
2 division, although I'm not sure that he or
3 anyone knew about this partnership between
4 the civil rights division and the U.S.
5 attorney's office, could review the case and
6 see if there had been a hate crimes basis.

7 That occurred, I believe in the
8 summer of 1995. At that time, I met with
9 Mr. Lee personally, which is what I try to do
10 with people who have been victims, especially
11 in a civil rights area, and we had a
12 discussion of the case in which his son had
13 been killed. I told him at that time on the
14 basis of the civil rights statutes and what
15 Mr. Perez has defined for you, that our
16 burden is very high using these statutes.

17 And that the likelihood of being
18 able to redress the injury that he had
19 experienced might be slightly because of the
20 difficulty of the dual burden, especially
21 since the circumstances were such that the
22 issue of the exercise of a federal civil

1 right is always an issue, as well as the
2 identification of the fact that the young
3 Mr. Lee had been killed because he was a
4 Korean American.

5 An investigation ensued during the
6 next year. The FBI, with agents who have
7 been trained and focused in the civil rights
8 arena went out, interviewed a number of
9 witnesses and a grand jury process ensued.

10 So that people were called before
11 the grand jury to give testimony to deal
12 basically with the two prongs, whether, you
13 know, there was violation of civil rights as
14 well as this was a hate crime. On the basis
15 of that investigation, which took over a
16 year, a concerted effort and I might add that
17 the person who led the effort in my office
18 was the supervisor of our priority crimes
19 group which includes a civil rights
20 jurisdiction.

21 We really did take the request very
22 seriously as I know the civil rights group

1 did. I met and talked about the issues that
2 arose during the course of the grand jury
3 investigation as well as the investigation
4 and talked to the people from the FBI and
5 concluded that we could not go forward
6 because we did not have credible evidence,
7 and when I say credible evidence, we always
8 evaluate evidence.

9 When evidence comes in and in all
10 sorts of way, it can be incredible and it can
11 be credible and we do make a determination
12 because under our federal guidelines, we have
13 to determine whether we can put on a case
14 that we can basically stand for, that we can
15 present, not only to convince the trier of a
16 fact beyond a reasonable doubt, but also that
17 we believe is credible.

18 We came to a decision that we did
19 not have credible evidence, that there was a
20 violation of the federal civil rights
21 statute, with particularity in terms of the
22 hate crimes statute. The civil rights

1 division, you might want to talk about that.

2 MR. PEREZ: The person we had is
3 someone who is now one the acting deputy
4 chiefs in our section and he was the person
5 involved along with Hughes from the office
6 and again, our inquiry focused on those two
7 prongs that I described.

8 Was there sufficient evidence
9 that he was killed because of his race and
10 was there sufficient evidence that he was
11 killed because he was exercising a federally
12 protected right to use a facility
13 administered by the state of Maryland or a
14 subdivision thereof. Those were the two
15 questions that formed our entire analysis.
16 That's what we were trying to find.

17 This case, it goes without saying
18 is a tragedy and it is especially frustrating
19 for a prosecutor and unfortunately, I wish I
20 could say that Mr. Lee's father -- Mr. Lee is
21 the only person I ever have had to meet with
22 as we did back in '96 to explain the

1 decision. Unfortunately, I had to meet with
2 all too many family members of victims to
3 explain decisions and I've never expected
4 Mr. Lee's family to agree or comprehend
5 because your son is dead and as a parent, I
6 know that that's the only thing I will ever
7 be thinking about.

8 Unfortunately, there is nothing we
9 can do to change that. Our role, however, as
10 prosecutors is to conduct a thorough analysis
11 of the facts and apply the facts to the law
12 and in this case, it was our judgment and it
13 was our unanimous judgment. There was not
14 one person involved in this case that
15 expressed any disagreement with that judgment
16 that we did not have the evidence to meet the
17 high burden that we carry in this case.

18 And so the decision was made, to
19 close the case at which point we met again.
20 It was on or around November or December
21 of 1996, I believe is when I met you and
22 others for the first time to explain our

1 decision.

2 MS. BATTAGLIA: And I think one of
3 the things is that it's very difficult any
4 time you have a circumstance where we tell
5 people that we can't prosecute a case because
6 I think there is a perception that all cases
7 if they are brought are going to be
8 prosecuted and in federal criminal system, it
9 isn't.

10 We are not the same as the state
11 system. We are obligated to evaluate the
12 evidence and determine whether we can go
13 forward. That is an obligation that we have
14 undertaken under all of the attorneys
15 general, but certainly under this Attorney
16 General, so that in any circumstance cases
17 will come into the federal criminal system
18 and this is not different than other
19 experiences that we have had, both Mr. Perez
20 and myself.

21 This is not the only case that we
22 have not been able to prosecute because we

1 have not been able to meet the elements of
2 the statute and know that we can present a
3 case with evidence to support it, so I would
4 leave it up to you if you have questions of
5 us, we both understand our obligations in
6 terms of what we can and cannot disclose, so
7 please feel free to ask us questions.

8 DR. WICKWIRE: I would like to ask
9 a question. Does this suggest in any way
10 then that there is no recourse then for
11 Mr. Lee if he wants to try to get some kind
12 of closure to this and does this suggest too
13 that the statute is faulty, that this is bad.
14 That it doesn't cover this kind of tragedy,
15 even though your hands seem to be tied.

16 Is there any recourse for him?

17 MS. BATTAGLIA: Well, Dr. Wickwire,
18 one of the problems is when we have an
19 acquittal in the state court, that signals
20 closure in a sense of closure in a way that
21 may not seem like justice, but in the federal
22 criminal system a conviction or an acquittal

1 is closure. Now if you're asking whether in
2 terms of closure with respect to prosecution
3 federally, that closure is in the
4 determination that we cannot go further
5 federally and itch to say that I have been
6 informed that the state did look to see
7 whether this case could be prosecuted under
8 the state hate crime statute and they
9 determined it could not be either, so those
10 are closure points.

11 If you're asking me whether justice
12 could be served with a more flexible statute,
13 I think that -- if you lighten the burden on
14 the government, yes, you know, I mean,
15 that -- because you have almost not an
16 insurmountable burden, but you have a very
17 high burden.

18 MR. PEREZ: Actually, I appreciate
19 Dr. Wickwire your asking that question
20 because it's a very timely question and I
21 agree with everything that Ms. Battaglia has
22 said here, which is that federally in terms

1 of the prospects for criminal prosecution,
2 they are zero. There is nothing we can do
3 criminally to help Mr. Lee -- Mr. Lee's
4 family and I don't want to mislead you in any
5 way on that and that's because we have to
6 deal with the statutory tools that are given
7 us.

8 All too frequently, federal
9 prosecutors are fighting the battle against
10 state crimes with one hand tied behind their
11 back. Before I came back in position in
12 January of last year, I worked on Capitol
13 Hill for senator Kennedy, and one of the
14 things that senator Kennedy was working on at
15 the time was hate crimes statute -- which he
16 introduced and was joined by partisan
17 support.

18 Yesterday in the House of
19 Representatives, there was a hearing on the
20 bill. Two weeks ago in the Senate, there was
21 a hearing on that same bill and there is
22 substantial interest in this Congress on a

1 bipartisan level, because combatting hate
2 crimes has always been a bipartisan issue.

3 This is violence and we should be
4 able to agree as a nation that combatting
5 violence ought to be something that we should
6 take on, and in 1996 when we had the church
7 arson epidemic, Congress passed a bill that
8 gave prosecutors new tools to fight hate
9 crimes --

10 DR. WICKWIRE: You are suggesting
11 that this new legislation would do that, give
12 you new tools.

13 MR. PEREZ: This legislation would
14 do the following, it would do two things. In
15 the cases involving racial and religious
16 violence, it would eliminate that second
17 prong I described. Wouldn't have to do it
18 anymore. Wouldn't have to search for an
19 intent to interfere with a federally
20 protected right.

21 Secondly, it would add three new
22 protected categories that aren't in current

1 law, which would be sexual orientation,
2 gender and disability. All too frequently in
3 my experience, I have discovered that the
4 same people who burn crosses and burn
5 churches are beating up people because they
6 are gay or lesbian and attacking women and
7 doing all sorts of things that are motivated
8 by hate, hate and nothing else but hate.

9 So this statute would do those two
10 things. The department strongly supports it.
11 President Clinton endorsed it. The bill has
12 been going around the nation who has had
13 great support from the U.S. attorneys and I
14 encourage you to throw your support because
15 it is one thing you could do in the future to
16 address what we perceive to be a real problem
17 in the United States.

18 MS. BATTAGLIA: During the next
19 year, we are going to be putting together a
20 hate crime summit which comes from our task
21 force and I have already met with
22 representatives from the state to talk about

1 how to frame that because it's not only the
2 statutes which are probably the biggest part
3 of the problem, but also the reporting
4 because often times in terms of hate crimes,
5 they are reported as, you know, an assault or
6 a battery when it's really a hate crime and
7 it's very difficult then to get an adequate
8 identification of what we are really
9 experiencing as a nation.

10 So in Maryland, we have one of the
11 better reporting systems which makes us look
12 as though we have more per capita than other
13 states, which is not accurate. I mean, I'm
14 sure this is a shared phenomenon, but we do
15 tend to capture the statistics better, but we
16 are going to be looking at this issue and
17 hopefully give support to enactment of better
18 legislation.

19 DR. WICKWIRE: If this legislation
20 is passed, would this mean that Mr. Lee would
21 have recourse in a new way? It's not going
22 to help him?

1 MS. BATTAGLIA: No.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: There's nothing that
3 can help him?

4 MR. PEREZ: Right.

5 MR. CHUN: Can I ask a question.

6 DR. WICKWIRE: Go ahead.

7 MR. CHUN: I have an exercise, but
8 before I start on that, before I note the
9 exercise, I just can't help making this
10 observation that your presentation, your
11 joint presentation is indeed one of the most
12 articulate explanation of what the federal
13 legislation is and in what fashion you handle
14 it and I have to thank you for that and we
15 will certainly try our best to sort of
16 provide the summary of the gist so it will --
17 now my exercise, I can appreciate in what
18 fashion your hands are really tied and --
19 that is in particular the second element,
20 the -- that is because of the practice or
21 exercise of the federal protected rights.

22 Now could you think about sort of

1 imagine the tragedy that took place, in the
2 parking lot, some robberies, something like
3 robbery and then gunshot and so on. Is it
4 possible to change it, if you are sort of
5 playing imaginative creative writer, what
6 kind of a circumstances, what variation in
7 those particular tragedies might enable you
8 to think about, hey, this is actual?

9 MR. PEREZ: Sure. Why don't I give
10 you examples of cases that I've done and this
11 is what we look for. I prosecuted a case
12 for 1995 in Lovett, Texas involving three
13 white supremacists who decided that they
14 wanted to start a race war and so within a 20
15 minute span of time in Lovett, they drove
16 around the streets of Lovett hunting for
17 African American men and within that period
18 of time shot three people at point blank
19 range -- one fatally, two lived miraculously.

20 In that case, what we were looking
21 for in terms of evidence of racial motive and
22 this is what we look for in every potential

1 hate crime cases are statements, for instance
2 in that case we were able to get statement
3 from people who saw them immediately before
4 the incident talking about how they wanted to
5 start a race war, their hatred of African
6 Americans. We got statements, we executed a
7 search warrant.

8 That was picture of Hitler on the
9 mantel of their home, a Nazi flag on the
10 wall, paraphernalia of a similar nature,
11 those sorts of evidence. One of them was a
12 member of an organization called the South
13 Bay Nazi Youth. Had a number of tattoos on
14 his arm. One of the people who ended up
15 being cooperative was a skin head who gave us
16 a lot of information.

17 Those are the sorts of things you
18 look for, statements, other indicia that will
19 show racial animosity in a particular case.
20 That's what we look for in every hate crimes
21 investigation that we conduct.

22 MR. CHUN: Is that sufficient, the

1 information that supports the premise that
2 there was racial animosity, is that
3 sufficient?

4 MR. PEREZ: No, I mean in that
5 case, as in this, we had to meet that second
6 hurdle and in that case we were able to
7 meet --

8 MR. CHUN: How did you meet the
9 second hurdle?

10 MR. PEREZ: Well, we also had
11 evidence that they were -- they wanted to get
12 all African Americans off the streets of
13 Lovett and we had statements from our
14 cooperative witnesses to that effect and so
15 it enabled us to show that their intent
16 was -- racially motivated and designed to
17 drive all blacks off the streets of Lovett.

18 We don't want blacks on the streets
19 of Lovett is effectively what they were
20 saying and we have witnesses who can show
21 that and that was when was relevant.

22 MR. CHUN: By extrapolation of that

1 case, if somebody goes around and say
2 something like I'm going to get rid of X Y Z,
3 would that be an action under the federal
4 statute. Say I am going to get rid of.
5 Something of that.

6 MR. PEREZ: I would want to conduct
7 additional investigation and frankly if it
8 was just that, the answer is probably not.
9 But I would search --

10 MR. CHUN: How is that different
11 from the first case that you were --

12 MR. PEREZ: Well, I would want to
13 get more information that really gets at what
14 their motive was and there it's still
15 ambiguous.

16 MR. CHUN: I think you can do a
17 great deal of public service if probably you
18 can provide some clarification, now -- we
19 really didn't dwell on this case exclusively
20 for any length of time, but on and off as we
21 join talk.

22 The community concern seems to

1 be -- they didn't quite comprehend in what
2 fashion it is done -- so if we can provide
3 some concrete example to that, yes, there are
4 two problems to be met. One is met, but the
5 other is not. Then provide an explanation in
6 what fashion the second criteria, the two
7 elements, was not met.

8 MS. BATTAGLIA: There was both.
9 Let me just interrupt by saying to you that
10 this is not the first time that I have met
11 with people about this case. After the
12 decision was made, I had occasion to meet
13 with Mr. Lee as well as people within the
14 Korean American community to discuss it.

15 Because both elements were a
16 problem. It wasn't only the hate crimes
17 issue, it was also the exercise of the
18 federally protected right and in my
19 experience, I have to say I understand the
20 issue about the concreteness, I also had
21 occasion to respond to a letter to
22 Ed ---- about this case and we have offered

1 to write you know more about the case within
2 the parameters but the issue, and with all
3 due respect and I understand the question,
4 the issue really is the decision not to go
5 forward because in every time that there is a
6 decision that is made not to prosecute,
7 people who are not in our position can
8 evaluate it and say that you're wrong.

9 I mean and I have to say that
10 based -- there was no prosecutor in any forum
11 in this situation based upon credible years
12 of experience, I have been at the bar
13 since 1974, I started very young. In any
14 event -- but, no, in any event, who believed
15 even after a year and some of really
16 ambitious inquiry that we could meet the
17 criterion and so I understand the question
18 that you have and certainly if we -- if there
19 is a need to have further discussion about
20 it, we will.

21 The question is I think really
22 about not going forward is all due respect.

1 I think that's the real issue and I think
2 that's true if anybody here had a child who
3 had been injured that if the parent does not
4 feel that he or she has gotten justice, that
5 is the issue and unfortunately, with the
6 acquittal in the state court that stops it.

7 DR. WICKWIRE: We have agreed to
8 allow some other questions, I guess. Are
9 there questions from the panel. The panel
10 before we come to you, sir.

11 MR. OKURA: Just a brief question.
12 From the research that has been done by the
13 Asian American legal office -- there is about
14 18 percent increase in crimes against Asians,
15 not just Koreans, but all Asians.

16 Now is that an acceptable figure as
17 far as -- or is it -- do you feel that it's
18 not correct?

19 MR. PEREZ: I think that one hate
20 crime is one hate crime too many and I know
21 the report you're referring to that was
22 prepared by the Asian Pacific American legal

1 consortium and I talked to Karen Nagasaki
2 after it came out who is the head of the
3 group.

4 We have taken that very seriously.
5 I have no reason to doubt its accuracy and
6 there are a lot of private organizations who
7 have been very helpful reporting under the
8 Hate Crimes Statistic Act which under the
9 federal law is voluntary. As a result, not
10 all municipalities report hate crimes and we
11 have noticed that before.

12 Now the numbers may create the
13 impression that Maryland is a hot bed of hate
14 crime activity when it's a function in part
15 of the fact that other municipalities don't
16 report and so private organizations can play
17 very important role and my own anecdotal
18 experience that -- it is a problem in the
19 Asian community. It's a problem in the
20 Latino community with immigrant bashing
21 around you see it -- you saw it in Jasper and
22 I've already been down there and it's

1 chilling.

2 I think it's a growing problem in
3 every community, and that is very troubling
4 to me. I would have thought that we would
5 have gone on --

6 MR. OKURA: With the demographics
7 growing and so on, we are going to see more
8 of that and I think that's just the tip of
9 the iceberg right now. I personally feel
10 that we are going back to the days when I
11 grew up in the 30s, 20s and 30s.

12 DR. WICKWIRE: You were going to
13 speak.

14 MR. PEREZ: I would have said 50s,
15 but --

16 MR. OKURA: I was already an adult
17 in the 50s.

18 MR. DARDEN: My question is
19 speculative really about -- the Joel Lee case
20 is an example.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: Louder.

22 MR. DARDEN: The Joel Lee case is

1 an example, or the Lee case is example where
2 either the perpetrator did something that may
3 have had racial overtones but didn't reach
4 the level of a hate crime and so therefore
5 the law worked as it should or the
6 perpetrator did something that was a hate
7 crime, but you didn't have enough evidence to
8 show it. In my mind, it seems to be that
9 way.

10 I mean, do you see how ill I'm
11 forming it? If you do formulate it that way,
12 then here is what comes to -- if the new law
13 which you described that's being currently
14 considered drops off that second tier and
15 makes it much easier, then where do you --
16 where do you -- how do you -- how will the
17 law then begin to differentiate real, real,
18 real hate crimes from what we sort of know
19 from the kind of thing that might involve an
20 epithet or you know the kind of thing that
21 almost happens every day?

22 MS. BATTAGLIA: I can just

1 interrupt you there is also the aspect of --
2 there's not an either or in this case. There
3 is also the issue about the fact that there
4 was an issue about the fact that it could
5 have been a street crime and that it was
6 prosecuted but the result of the prosecution,
7 the acquittal was -- was there. Now neither
8 of us stand for that acquittal.

9 However, we can't forget that there
10 was a state process that went through in the
11 typical criminal justice system and in our
12 system there are only two things that a jury
13 can do, except hang -- but eventually either
14 acquit or convict. So I just want to say
15 that I mean there is this third that you know
16 it either work from your viewpoint --

17 MR. DARDEN: I see your point.

18 MR. PEREZ: If this bill becomes
19 law, we will continue to conduct much of the
20 same analysis that we conduct. We will have
21 to a look at every case on its own facts and
22 ask the question, was race or sexual

1 orientation or whatever the animosity that
2 what was behind this crime? One reason why
3 when we investigate hate crimes we do so in
4 partnership with state and local governments
5 is because more often than not, in fact, the
6 overwhelming percentage of the time, we end
7 up including for a number of reasons that
8 it's prudent for the state to go forward.

9 Because if you're faced with a
10 situation where on the one hand you have a
11 jurisdiction state that has to prove that he
12 has done it and you have the federal
13 government who has to prove that he has done
14 it and why did he do it, it makes sense as a
15 prosecutive matter for the state to proceed
16 which has that lower threshold of proof and
17 so that's one reason.

18 That's a main reason why when we
19 are investigating hate crimes and we haven't
20 really brought that into the analysis, we
21 worked very closely with the district
22 attorney's office in that case and we felt

1 confident that we could meet our threshold.

2 Otherwise we wouldn't have gone
3 federally, but that question will still be
4 there. The criminal justice system, it's not
5 perfect, but I'm still -- I still think it's
6 far better than whatever is second best out
7 there and I know that's little consolation
8 for Mr. Lee's family but that has been my own
9 experience.

10 MR. DARDEN: Just one follow-up and
11 then I'm done. We noticed and referenced
12 that there were what seemed to be a string of
13 shootings, robberies, robbing of Korean
14 Americans in Baltimore. It was the subject
15 of a *Sun* editorial and the speculation in the
16 *Sun* editorial was that there might be a
17 connection, more violence in evidence when it
18 comes to Korean American victims, even though
19 there are robberies all across the board, but
20 there might have been a racial aspect to it.

21 If that sort of thing were to
22 happen again, and if this new law goes

1 through, would that then fall into the area
2 of investigation? Would that be something to
3 pursue?

4 MR. PEREZ: Well, it's very
5 speculative so it's very difficult to comment
6 on that.

7 MR. DARDEN: I'm trying to make
8 some sense of what the new world would look
9 like under the new law.

10 MS. BATTAGLIA: That's a difficult
11 thing for us to speculate about because we
12 would have to know the perpetrators, what
13 they said and the purpose of the crime and it
14 would be nice if we could be more specific.
15 I have never been able to other than in law
16 school be able to address hypotheticals with
17 any degree of assurance and even then, I
18 can't say I did either, so --

19 MR. DARDEN: You support the
20 proposed legislation?

21 MR. PEREZ: Oh, actively
22 and ---- was up there yesterday testifying.

1 Eric Holder was in the senate a few weeks
2 ago. President Clinton has endorsed it and
3 we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure
4 its passage this year.

5 FEMALE SPEAKER: Since we are
6 dealing with hypotheticals let me pose just
7 one for you. Let's put aside the issue of
8 the hate crime for a moment and consider the
9 fact that in the criminal justice system as
10 it currently is constructed and exists and
11 operates, many groups are not given what they
12 see as equal treatment.

13 We have data that indicate that you
14 get harsher sentences if you are of a certain
15 minority group than get others for the same
16 crimes, and other things. What recourse
17 would I have, say as a victim, a family
18 member of a victim, who I really believe this
19 case was handled differently either my loved
20 one was given a harsher sentence because of
21 their race or the crime was acquitted because
22 of the race. What recourse might I have

1 within the justice system?

2 I mean, it sounds light's possible
3 for me to prosecute or try to get this
4 prosecuted as a hate crime. Is there any
5 recourse that I might have to try to get the
6 system to look at the process by which
7 certain groups are not given what we consider
8 fair justice.

9 MS. BATTAGLIA: Well, let me first
10 say that that issue has been brought up.
11 That issue has been brought up with respect
12 to the death penalty and can tell you what
13 the Attorney General has done in terms of the
14 last five years in order to insure that the
15 implementation of the death penalty is
16 without regard to race, creed, gender or
17 whatever.

18 We have a specific protocol that we
19 have to go through with recommendations from
20 a death penalty committee from the U.S.
21 attorney and I have to do that and the
22 Attorney General has another committee and

1 she looks at every single recommendation for
2 life without parole or the death penalty in
3 order to ensure that the distinctions that
4 are made are without regard to any racial or
5 sexual animosity.

6 That was a specific concern that
7 people had, so I think there was hearing as
8 what I'm saying. There is all sorts of
9 scenarios though from your discussion. I
10 mean, I can speak about what we have done in
11 terms of the death penalty. I can say that
12 in terms of our prosecutions, we are without
13 regard to -- we don't capture racial
14 statistics. I mean, when we get a
15 prosecution, we don't look at it in terms of
16 it's racial frame work.

17 Now if you're asking me if
18 someone thinks that defendant has been
19 treated differently than another defendant
20 because of race, obviously there are systems
21 in place like the community relations service
22 and other human relations commission that

1 operate as well.

2 Not only that the availability of
3 the Attorney General to these concerns and
4 she has been personally involved in hearing
5 these things that are available to people are
6 concerned about this.

7 MR. PEREZ: I know this has been a
8 real concern of the Attorney General. She's
9 addressed it in a number of ways. I know
10 that she -- we have to strive for justice and
11 really for the appearance of justice and when
12 people do not perceive that justice is being
13 done, that is often problem.

14 We cannot allow decisions to be
15 governed simply by perceptions, but we should
16 always be mindful of what we do and we
17 recognize that and to that end, the Attorney
18 General has been -- has directed the creation
19 for instance of a working group that is
20 dealing with image and representation. She's
21 very concerned.

22 She wants to make sure -- she is a

1 jealous prosecutor and she's a fair
2 prosecutor but she wants to make sure that
3 the criminal justice system is fair and she
4 believes in the system and the right to
5 counsel.

6 And so she has actually had an
7 on-going dialogue with public offenders to
8 address the issue of the quality of
9 representation and they are trying to come up
10 with proposals that will deal with that
11 problem. You know, there are some states
12 where there was \$1,000 cash on fees
13 and \$1,000 isn't going to get you very far.
14 So we are mindful of those issues.

15 One other issue if you're looking
16 how to deal with that, a lot of times jury
17 pools are drawn from either driver's licenses
18 or voter polls. People aren't registered,
19 they are not going to get on the jury and so
20 if you look statistically, most minority
21 populations do not register to vote in the
22 same numbers that nonminorities do. So if

1 you are not registering to vote. If you
2 don't have a driver's license, that can often
3 have ramifications so those are some of the
4 ways at which the AG is addressing the
5 problem and some ways in which this issue can
6 be addressed.

7 And things that you can do to get
8 people out to register to vote, get people
9 out there so that they will become part of
10 the jury role.

11 MR. CHUN: Am I correct in
12 understanding that once a decision is made by
13 a U.S. attorney and jointly or the U.S.
14 Department of Justice, can there be any
15 situation or circumstances that might lead to
16 rescinding that decision to reopen the case.
17 What's the statute?

18 MS. BATTAGLIA: Okay. The U.S.
19 attorney's office and the civil rights
20 division are the litigators in terms of the
21 civil rights statutes. We represent the
22 Attorney General in the United States in that

1 regard. I expect that she could say we were
2 wrong and that we should -- that we should go
3 forward nevertheless, but the chances of that
4 based upon the experience, the trust she puts
5 in us to make the evaluation and because of
6 the fact that these types of cases go to the
7 assistant Attorney General in charge of the
8 civil rights division and personally to the
9 U.S. attorney.

10 And we are both reporting to her, I
11 have never seen a circumstance when we have
12 been overruled by the Attorney General of the
13 United States and she is the only person in
14 that regard, except the president, because
15 ultimately we report to him, but there is no
16 other body that can do that independently.

17 MS. GILMORE: How much bipartisans
18 supported that bill?

19 MR. PEREZ: In the Senate, senators
20 Specter, D'Amato and Jeff Fords are the
21 republicans who supported it and then a host
22 of democrats. In the house, the original

1 cosponsors are ---- from Florida, ---- and
2 ---- I believe there are a total of 116
3 cosponsors in the house including I think
4 maybe 15 republicans, something like that.

5 DR. WICKWIRE: What happened at the
6 state level, an example of jury nullification
7 case, is that what it is and if so, is this
8 common or?

9 MS. BATTAGLIA: It's very difficult
10 for us to determine what the jury did in this
11 case because we didn't have an opportunity to
12 speak to the jury and that's normally what
13 happens. I do not know whether any state
14 prosecutor if he or she were here could tell
15 you what the basis of the jury decision was
16 so I can't speculate with you whether jury
17 nullification was the basis.

18 I think people have speculated on
19 that, but no one knows the reason. As to
20 whether jury nullification is a possibility
21 throughout the country, any time we go before
22 a jury, jury nullification is an issue,

1 whether or not it's a civil rights statute.

2 So we have experienced that.

3 DR. WICKWIRE: We appreciate. We
4 have a question from here. Did you want to
5 direct a question to them or to us or to
6 whom?

7 MR. OKURA: Well, after waiting
8 about eight hours I don't know whether it's a
9 question or however you want to put it, can I
10 voice --

11 MR. DARDEN: Excuse me, can you
12 give your name.

13 MR. OKURA: Sure, can I sit down
14 here. My name is Robert --

15 MR. DARDEN: Is your comment
16 directed toward the panelists?

17 MR. OKURA: My comment is directed
18 to all the things that I have heard -- not
19 all the things, I have heard some disturbing
20 statements made by the city
21 representatives --

22 MR. DARDEN: We want to give you

1 adequate time, but if it's not directed
2 towards the panelists, we would like to let
3 them go.

4 MR. OKURA: Well, not really, it's
5 not directed to the panelists.

6 MS. MAQSOOD: I have a question for
7 Mr. Lee -- my name is Roxanne by the way and
8 I'm -- I have a question, you have described
9 very well how Mr. Lee was stabbed -- is in
10 and you don't know, you never asked the
11 question to the jury, are we going to -- and
12 I don't know Mr. Lee is here too. Is Mr. Lee
13 satisfied. The state attorney has provided
14 all the evidence over there and was it -- you
15 said there was a hate crime investigation was
16 also there but you didn't have enough
17 evidence to put the defendant on the line.
18 But is it -- and you keep saying because it
19 was acquittal or the state did not
20 prosecute -- I mean -- jury has given them
21 equitable or whatever, I mean, he went free,
22 if it was not happened, if the jury was right

1 or the state attorney has made some mistake
2 or did not put according to Mr. Lee all the
3 satisfaction on something, wouldn't it be
4 because that state attorney has not presented
5 Mr. Lee properly, that's why it was
6 acquitted. Is it that? That's what I'm
7 hearing.

8 MS. BATTAGLIA: The states attorney
9 is the local prosecutorial entity and the
10 state's attorney represents the state. The
11 victim is obviously a part of that, but it's
12 not -- they don't -- the states attorney
13 doesn't represent an individual. I have no
14 reason to believe that the states attorney
15 office presented this case in a fashion -- in
16 any way other than what they do normally.
17 There was no racial animosity as far as we
18 could see that would have led them to present
19 this case in less professional fashion that
20 they present the hundreds and thousands of
21 cases that they present every year.

22 FEMALE SPEAKER: Have you ever

1 looked into this thing because just recently
2 I thought the state attorney is not
3 representing the way they were supposed to
4 be, especially the Asians, they were supposed
5 to be because sometimes the states attorney
6 has problems with communication.

7 Sometimes they feel like, okay the
8 crime is not enough, let's make a dismiss and
9 they go toward the dismissal and the crime
10 keep going and what is the --

11 DR. WICKWIRE: We are going to have
12 to conclude your question. Is there anybody
13 else in the audience wanted to raise a
14 question. Two guests now. Judge Baylor do
15 you want to say anything to them.

16 JUDGE BAYLOR: No questions.

17 DR. WICKWIRE: Then we can --
18 Mr. Lee, did you want to say something?

19 MR. LEE: Yes, I think as you said,
20 like a parent who lost his son, they have a
21 right to justice, okay, based on my --
22 like -- based on my common sense, okay,

1 whoever -- like violate crime, they have a
2 penalty, they have to get the penalty, okay,
3 you said bring us, take your stuff, only case
4 everything comes out, okay, free. Problem
5 is, problem is, someone did wrong, someone
6 did wrong at the beginning.

7 Right now it's based on law, nobody
8 responsible. What the heck is this society?
9 Something wrong. We have to find something
10 wrong to correct instead of this is law we
11 have to go through. You blame only --
12 according to the law this way. State say
13 according to the law this is that way. I
14 lost my son.

15 Someone, if we live in this
16 society, government protect personal life
17 that's why they collect tax. If they not
18 protect our safe, why we have to pay tax?
19 But you said according to the law we deal
20 correct, according to law correct. If I kill
21 person, okay, it's okay because according to
22 law. We have to find who's wrong and why is

1 it wrong. Even I cannot ---- it, let me know
2 who did wrong. That's I wanted to know
3 because I want to close my son's case. If
4 leave me alone this way, next month that guys
5 come out, what do I do? You said I got to
6 follow the law, okay.

7 Same thing, next month, sometimes
8 tomorrow, whether or not you have that
9 happen, nobody know, I had the same thing, I
10 live in suburb, I thought I live in safe
11 place, I didn't worry about something happen,
12 or kind of crime, but sometimes one of you
13 maybe happen tomorrow, next year some time at
14 the times, no matter you try to --

15 DR. WICKWIRE: Mr. Lee, I think
16 probably we are going to have to conclude. I
17 know that this has been very difficult for
18 you and we appreciate the two of you coming
19 in and you sir wanted to say something. If
20 you want to -- thank you very much.

21 MS. BATTAGLIA: Thanks.

22 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

1 MR. PEREZ: Thank you.

2 MR. OKURA: I was going to leave
3 but I was encouraged by --

4 DR. WICKWIRE: You have five
5 minutes.

6 MR. MUNSEYLY: I believe this panel
7 is going to serve a quick purpose. Look, we
8 are looking for solutions to prevent hate
9 crimes. I have heard some disturbing
10 statements by public relations spokesman for
11 the city. He has admitted as Mr. Edward he has
12 admitted that people believe that Koreans are
13 receiving favoritism, people with all these
14 rumors, right.

15 However, the city has not taken
16 steps or precautions to correct these rumors
17 which are very inflammatory. Now they could
18 be against Koreans, they can be against
19 blacks, whites or Italians, the point is here
20 that the city has been negligent, okay. That
21 knowing that these kind of rumors, inside
22 problems, feed the fuel of hate. But yet

1 he's done nothing of it, nothing about it.
2 The city has continually spent millions and I
3 got proof of it.

4 Millions in public relations to
5 promote their political agendas, their
6 political careers at the expense of, yes, the
7 poor blacks. We have been all used as pawns.
8 I'm sick to my stomach. You know, I was in
9 Korea 1951, lucky to survive, all right.
10 What touches me when I hear about these
11 abuses on these Koreans, it's the same as the
12 abuse on a black person, but however, I was
13 brought to Korea in 1951 to defend America's
14 ally.

15 I don't know these people and you
16 mean to tell me that they live here in this
17 city with me and I'm going to allow or just
18 set aside and don't nothing about it. I
19 can't do that. Now Mr. Lee's son will never
20 come back. I know Mr. Lee has got a lot of
21 pain and suffering. I lost my son 23 years
22 old to an automobile accident. Just imagine

1 if it was to a crime like this, perhaps I
2 would have got something and took care of
3 this bum. I don't know, all right.

4 But I know one thing we had better
5 hurry up and work together and let's stop
6 making excuses about the community, the
7 Korean merchant or whether he's Jewish or
8 Italian merchant, doesn't have to give back
9 to no community. He doesn't have to give
10 back anything. He hasn't taken anything.
11 He's rendered service.

12 What are we a bunch of racketeers
13 now to say hay, you got to give me something
14 back. You know, what do you mean give me
15 something back. You know, these
16 opportunities and these programs were out
17 there for everybody to take advantage of. We
18 should actually salute these people that have
19 put themselves on the line and attempted to
20 earn a living in America and provide some
21 services of what other people have abandoned
22 and left for suburb, have left for green

1 pastures and left us behind. I'm living in
2 the city. I'm living in DeLanny Valley.
3 DeLanny valley is number one, right. But
4 what's the difference, DeLanny Valley or
5 Little Italy, or Pennsylvania avenue.

6 It's the people. You can make it
7 whatever the hell you want and I'm going to
8 leave now and I hope, I hope we a find some
9 kind of solution and I hope you target,
10 target and I mean target with a big bull's
11 eye, okay, our government is responsible
12 to -- not the Korean to try to educate the
13 community.

14 The poor Korean or Italian or Jew
15 comes from a foreign country. He's got a
16 language barrier. They say why don't he
17 improve his language. Well, why don't the
18 community attempt to speak or learn the other
19 person's language which is educational. You
20 know, so it works both ways. I've waited a
21 long time. I hope I didn't make a complete
22 fool out of myself but I love America and

1 that's why I'm here.

2 DR. WICKWIRE: Thank you
3 Mr. Munseyly. Thank you.

4 Well, we have come to the end of
5 the day and I think Mr. Okura who is the vice
6 chair of this committee is going to say
7 something and I'm going to say just a couple
8 of words.

9 MR. OKURA: I'd like to express the
10 advisory committee's thanks for all of the
11 people who appeared today. We have
12 differences of opinion. We have differences
13 of solutions, but we did at least bring you
14 to the table and have you explain your
15 personal feelings and your individual ways of
16 looking at this entire problem. Again, we
17 appreciate the opportunity to listen to
18 what's happening in the community.

19 I, for one, who have been through
20 this for many, many years and have seen this
21 phenomenon of racial integration and so on,
22 but we are seeing a new face of it since the

1 demographics have been changed -- have
2 changed over the last so, 12 years. We are
3 seeing more immigrants coming to this country
4 and as I sit in Washington and listen to
5 Congress say shut off all immigration, we
6 have enough immigrants in this country.

7 Sometimes I wonder where our
8 country is going and I think we all have to
9 sit down and give it some real serious
10 thought and listen to what others have to
11 say, not what we think, but have an
12 opportunity to open discussion, we tried it
13 today.

14 Some of it worked, some of it
15 didn't and we see complete opposite views,
16 but again there seems to be some
17 misunderstanding what people perceive of one
18 group versus another group, so but the only
19 way we are ever going to get anywhere is to
20 sit down and talk about it where open minds,
21 but unfortunately, that's the ideal situation
22 which does not seem to exist here in

1 Baltimore, or Washington, D.C. or any other
2 community.

3 But we need to keep open the
4 opportunity to at least sit down and talk
5 about it and I appreciate the opportunity
6 today this committee had the chance to listen
7 to what some of the citizens of Baltimore
8 City had to say as well as some of the other
9 officials representing the city.

10 It's unfortunate that the mayor of
11 the city of Baltimore was not here and some
12 of his representatives were here, but I don't
13 think they were speaking for the mayor
14 himself and I was in the hopes that we would
15 listen or at least hear from the mayor and it
16 was unfortunate he, for one reason or
17 another, was not able to be here. But I want
18 to again thank the audience as well as
19 members of the panel for giving their time to
20 be here in Baltimore.

21 DR. WICKWIRE: Let me say just a
22 word of conclusion. In T.S. Eliot work there

1 are some words "as we go older, the world
2 becomes stranger, the pattern more
3 complicated than dead or living" and I think
4 that we have seen that. Some of us who have
5 been around a long time that this is a
6 difficult time and also some lines in him
7 that we are the music while the music lasts
8 and I like to any in terms of opportunities
9 that we have as people, as citizens to make
10 some kind of music that helps make in a
11 better world and I think that it's possible
12 and I think we have made a beginning here, a
13 step who I hope is a step forward, a dialogue
14 which we trust will be useful to you and I
15 would say finally that also in T.S. Eliot,
16 some words that "we are undefeated because we
17 have gone on trying."

18 Let's go on trying. Thank you for
19 being here and for being a part of this day.
20 Thank you. The time is 4:45 p.m.

21 (Whereupon, at 4:45 p.m., the
22 PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)