

Charter for Subcommittee on Demographic Change

Background. The report of the Demographic Change Task Force (DCTF), issued in March of 2010, contained two sets of recommendations. One was aimed at developing a deeper understanding of the growth of population of Asian origin and increasing its participation in Town boards and committees; the other was concerned with trends in the Town's older population.

Since the report was issued, the 2020 Vision Committee has met with representatives of the Chinese American Association of Lexington and Indian Americans of Lexington and Town Department Managers have been asked to consider how to respond to the data and recommendations presented in the report. But no other steps have been taken in response to the recommendations.

The 2020 Vision Committee now wishes to set up a subcommittee to address the recommendations of the DCTF with respect to the Asian-American population in Lexington. Its charge, timeline and membership are presented below.

Charge. The subcommittee will:

1. Assess the steps taken by Town Departments to ensure that services, including emergency services, are effectively delivered to Town residents who do not speak English or speak it poorly.
2. Investigate the factors that attract Asian-Americans to Lexington; estimate the proportion of Asian Americans who move to Lexington with the intention of living here indefinitely and those who are temporary residents.
3. Identify any barriers that currently limit the participation of Town's Asian-American population in its government, boards, associations, and committees; propose and facilitate steps to making them welcome on these bodies and comfortable in participating on them.
4. Develop ideas regarding activities or events that will increase the community's inclusion of Asian-Americans residing here.
5. Assess steps taken by Massachusetts communities that have experienced significant demographic changes in recent years. Determine what worked and what did not, and what could be applied in Lexington.

Timeline. The work of the subcommittee is to be completed by December 31, 2013. Interim reports are to be presented to the 2020 Vision Committee at two-month intervals.

Subcommittee membership (total membership to be twelve)

- 3, including the chair, from the 2020 Vision Committee
- up to 6 from the Asian-American community
- up to 6 from the community at large

**Adopted by vote of the Lexington 2020 Vision Committee on February 10, 2012
Modified March 9, 2012 and August 24, 2012**