Local Groups Organize Clarkston Candidate Forum

Atlanta, GA, October 5, 2013 — Tomorrow, Sunday October 6th, Asian American Legal Advocacy Center, Inc. (AALAC) is organizing a Candidate Forum in the City of Clarkston, Georgia. The Candidate Forum will be held between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm at the Clarkston Community Center. AALAC has also reached out to local partners to co-host the event including:

Asian American Legal Advocacy Center; Burmese Chin Community of Atlanta; City of Clarkston; Clarkston Community Center; Clarkston First Baptist Church; Ethio-American Business Association; and Refugee Women’s Network. Eight candidates are vying for mayor and City Council seats in Clarkston. All candidates will be present at this forum. After a 30-minute registration period, the forum kicks off at 3:30 p.m. with the one-hour Mayor’s Panel featuring incumbent Mayor Emanuel Ransom and challengers Edward “Ted” Terry and Ibrahim Awow Sufi. The five candidates seeking three council seats are incumbent council member Dean Moore, Ahmed Hassan, Birendra Dhakal, Christopher Busing, and Robert Hogan. They will face off at 4:30 p.m.

More than 100 residents are anticipated to attend representing diverse ethnic groups including the following refugee communities (interpreters will be provided); Somali, Nepali, Burmese, Bhutanese, Amharic, Arabic, and Tigrinya.

“Clarkston is one of the most diverse cities in Georgia, and much of the diversity is due to the settlement of refugees from different Asian countries,” said Helen Ho AALAC’s Executive Director. Nearly 22% of Clarkston City’s residents are Asian according to the Census. “This year’s Mayoral and City Council races are historic because three refugee Americans are running," said Ho.

The Candidate Forum will be moderated and have a panel Q&A between Mayoral candidates, followed by a separate Q&A for City Council candidates. Audience members will be given time to ask questions directly, and the event will be followed by food, refreshments and networking. AALAC will also conduct voter registration on that day for new voters.

WHAT: Clarkston Candidate Forum WHEN: Sunday, October 6th, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm WHERE: Clarkston Community Center, 3701 College Avenue, Clarkston, GA 30021 RSVP or QUESTIONS: Alice Kim, alice@aalegal.org or 404.585.8446

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.