

# Governor Polis visits with Asian businesses during Heritage Month to discuss funding and resource needs



## Governor Polis and his son Caspian visit the businesses at the Far East Center in Denver on May 26.

On May 26, Colorado Governor Jared Polis visited the Far East Center meeting the local business owners with his son Caspian. They spoke with community leaders about how the Little Saigon District is not only a retail space but a cultural and community destination.

"Having a good relationship with our Governor will help bridge the gap for AAPI businesses in the Little Saigon District," said Mimi Luong, owner of Truong An Gifts.

"As a small business owner, I feel it is essential that the city continuously offer resources and funding to help family-owned businesses in the area. We hope that the Far East Center and other businesses along the corridor will grow and prosper for many years to come."

Polis met with the owners of Viet's Restaurant, Saigon Bowl, and Truong An Gifts, enjoyed Asian fruits and bubble tea, and sat down for an outdoor meal at Saigon Bowl.

"I really enjoyed visiting the Far East Center in Denver to meet with entrepreneurs and small business owners who support jobs and Colorado's rapidly growing econ-

omy and share how our administration is focused on saving people and small businesses money, cutting property taxes, and sending \$500 out in tax rebates to Coloradans this summer," said Governor Jared Polis. "We enjoyed it so much we brought our kids back the next day to experience all the amazing food and culture."

Fran Campbell, President of Asian Chamber of Commerce, also greeted the Governor and discussed the current needs of the business community.

"We spoke to the Governor about the importance of making sure that the information for funding opportunities from the State be culturally competent and respectful of the AAPI immigrant and refugee small business owners," said Campbell.

"There are many great programs available from the State for small business relief, recovery and growth – we have to work together to make sure our community can access these programs."

A week prior, the Governor, along with Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera, also visited with the diverse business own-

ers in Aurora at Tous les Jours, a Korean bakery, on May 18. Chance Horiuchi, Executive Director of Havana Business Improvement District, explained that challenges for minority-owned businesses included workforce shortages and barriers to accessing grant funding.

Andrés Carrera, Deputy Director of Community Engagement for the Governor's Office said the office "aims to be accessible and approachable," and encouraged the community and businesses to reach out with community news and policy ideas.



## Polis and Lieutenant Governor Primavera met with Aurora business owners on May 18.

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