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Contact: John Santos, [kayadc@kayagrassroots.org](mailto:kayadc@kayagrassroots.org)

**Kaya: Filipino Americans for Progress Endorses Gregory Cendana for DC Democratic State Committee At-Large Committeeman and the Rent is Too Darn High Slate**

March 31, 2014 | Press Release

Washington, D.C. - Kaya: Filipino Americans for Progress proudly endorses Gregory Cendana for DC Democratic State Committee, At-Large Committeeman and his fellow community advocates on the Rent is Too Darn High slate. As Washington undergoes dramatic changes, we believe that Gregory and his running mates have the extensive experience, passion and ingenuity to ensure that our city government remains open and accountable and that economic prosperity is enjoyed by all of the city's residents.

If elected, Gregory would become Washington's first Asian American official elected to city-wide office. Although that would be ground-breaking, it would be difficult to expect anything but pioneering work from Gregory. As the first openly gay and youngest-ever Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement, he has become one of the most influential voices representing Washington's AAPI community. He used his position to successfully advocate for legislation that provided driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants residing in the city and in advocating the Department of Homeland Security to grant Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines in the wake of last year's Typhoon Haiyan.

Gregory and his tenacity and unwavering conviction represents the kind of new blood our city needs to dislodge the political class that have been running our local government for too long. But if his ability to break through the city's entrenched politics is ever in doubt, consider that in 2012, he outpolled City Councilman Jack Evans and Ward 8 Councilman and former Mayor Marion Barry to become one of the city's delegates to the Democratic National Convention. With his creative approach to organizing, he set the blueprint for Washingtonians, newcomers and old-timers alike, on how to effectively get involved in local politics.

As a coalition that represents the vitality of Washington's communities, the Rent is Too Darn High slate echoes the kind of politics that Gregory would bring to our city. Committed to social justice, the candidates of the Rent is Too Darn High slate are our best hope in ensuring that Washington's increasing affluence could be used as a tool to address issues such as affordable housing, unemployment and a living wage in the district. Growing economic disparity is a sad reality that affects far too many residents of our city. We need local politicians who will make economic opportunity a priority for all Washingtonians so that all of us can enjoy the continued prosperity of our city.

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ESTABLISHED IN 2009, KAYA'S MISSION IS TO MOBILIZE THE FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND BUILD PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE OUR ELECTORAL POWER. ADVOCATE POLITICS THAT AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY AND DEVELOP LEADERS TO REPRESENT US AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.