



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA Morrissey supports QARI in new safety initiative

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QARI CEO Philip Chong, at right, accepts \$5,000 in support from Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey to integrate public safety and law enforcement sections into their English language lessons for immigrants. From left are QARI's Qi Qin, Jean Mendoza, DA Morrissey, Ray Luo, Stefany Munoz, Joanne Kelly and Chong.

Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey has given Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., a \$5,000 grant to develop and include a public safety and law enforcement component in its expanding English as a Second Language program.

"People need to know how to ask for help, and when," District Attorney Morrissey said after presenting QARI's CEO, Philip Chong, with the grant funds.

"We know that immigrant populations can be at particular risk for domestic violence, fraud and other dangers," Morrissey said. "These ESL lessons should address both linguistic barriers and some of the conceptual barriers as well. Whatever their view of law enforcement in their former countries, we need people to know that law enforcement is here to help and make them safe."

CEO Philip Chong said his organization served more than 300 adult ESL students every year, largely from Asia, the Middle East, Brazil and Eastern Europe. QARI has more than 400 youth involved in their mentoring programs and provides help with 18,000 to 20,000 transactions a year at their two main and two satellite locations in Quincy and Randolph.

"We want to be preventative, we want to be proactive to our community – especially to those who are new to the country – who are most vulnerable," Chong said.

The ESL program already had components on how to interact in healthcare settings, financial settings and in digital communication, he said. They will develop a pilot on the vocabulary and facts associated with scam Robo-calls, Massachusetts domestic violence laws and protections, and even what to say and how to act if pulled over by police.

"QARI has grown into an important part of the fabric of the South Shore," Morrissey said. "They will soon be offering services at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center in addition to their established locations. If you know someone who could benefit, let them know."

For more information, see www.quincyasianresources.org