



## PHL Consul General Calls on Bakersfield's First Asian-American City Mayor



*(R) Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz briefs Mayor Karen Goh of the plight of Filipino community in Bakersfield. (L) The Consul General presents a box of Malagos Chocolates to the Mayor.*

Los Angeles, 29 August 2019 – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz called on the 26<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Bakersfield City, Karen Goh, on 29 August 2019 at the Bakersfield City Hall along Truxton Avenue.

The Republican Mayor is the first Asian-American to be elected to the post and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> female to hold the office of mayor since the City began electing its Mayor in 1957.

During the meeting, Mayor Goh informed the Consul General that Bakersfield is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest and most populous city in California, being the most populous city in Kern County. According to the Mayor, most recent estimates puts the population count at over 386,000. Given the rate of population increase, Bakersfield could soon become the 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state.

The Consul General took the opportunity to highlight the fact that Filipinos are part of the Asian demographic that are seeing success both in local and national politics. He also mentioned that the Filipino-American community in Bakersfield is united and Filipinos are increasingly beginning to vote as a block.

They two discussed a number of bright prospects for cooperation in agriculture between educational institutions in the Philippines and Bakersfield and, as well, as the hiring of special education teachers from the Philippines to fill in the city's need for professionals in said field.



*(Photo left) Mayor Goh (center) with Consul Rea Oreta and Information Officer Mary Grace Leaño.*

Consul General Cruz presented the Mayor with a box of *Malagos Chocolates*, an award-winning Filipino brand of chocolates, as a token of appreciation.

Filipinos in Bakersfield number 8,193, comprising 2.2% of the City's total population, which is at 372,680 based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Agriculture and petroleum-based industries are the main drivers of the City's economic growth.

Also present during the meeting was Consul Rea G. Oreta and Information Officer, Mary Grace Leaño. END.