



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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## MAPLEWOOD CITY OFFICIALS AND CONSUL GENERAL JAMORALIN LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ROBUST RELATIONS



*Councilwoman-elect Nikki Villavicencio-Tollison (left), Mayor Nora Slawik (center) and Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin exchange views over breakfast at the Philippine Center of Minnesota in Maplewood, MN.*

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago continued its efforts to promote closer cooperation between the US Midwest and the Philippines with the latest meeting arranged between Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin and Mayor Nora Slawik and Councilwoman-elect Nikki Villavicencio-Tollison of Maplewood, Minnesota.

Coinciding with the consular outreach held at the Philippine Center of Minnesota (PCM), the meeting allowed members of the Filipino community to join the Consul General in congratulating Mayor Slawik on her re-election and Councilwoman-elect Villavicencio-Tollison on her first successful bid for political office. The granddaughter of a Filipino OBGYN doctor actually ended up with exactly the same number of votes as an incumbent candidate, but she won the coin toss to be declared the winner.

Consul General Jamoralin took the opportunity to propose a Sister City agreement between Maplewood and a Philippine counterpart, noting the presence of the Philippine Center of Minnesota in Maplewood, the increasing diversity in its population that includes Filipinos, and the promise of facilitating cultural and economic exchanges through this framework that can benefit both in the long run. She also invited the Maplewood officials to join the VIP (Very Important Pinoy) Tour in July next year.

The consular team that conducted an outreach service at PCM on Nov. 17-18 was able to render a total of 310 service units, including 186 passport applications, 42 dual citizenship petitions and 79 documents for legalization. **END**

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***Clockwise from left:*** Consul General Jamoralin poses with Mayor Slawik of Maplewood. Consul General Jamoralin greets Councilwoman Nikki Villavicencio-Tollison. The Consul General, the Mayor and Councilwoman, the consular team of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago and members of the Filipino community, who volunteered to assist in the outreach service on Nov. 17-18, gather together for a photo opportunity. A short program at the start of the outreach highlighted presentations on the VIP tour and YouLead Immersion Program conducted by the Consul General and remarks given by the Maplewood officials.