

COAA January 2016 MINUTES

1/6/2016	6:15PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	4 th Floor
Meeting Called By	Vice Chairwoman/ Commissioner Loide Jorge		
Secretary	Vice Chairwoman/ Commissioner Loide Jorge		
Attendees	<p>Commissioners: Loide Jorge, Lafayette Barnes, Willair St. Vil, Chibu Anyannu, Kotheid Nicoue</p> <p>OAA Dir: Mamadou Samba</p> <p>Gov. Agencies: Gloria Williams-Brevard (DHS)</p> <p>Community: John W. Jackson</p>		
OLD BUSINESS			
December minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Commission was on holiday break in December, there were no minutes to review 		
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Williams-Brevard (DHS) and John W. Jackson (community member) introduced themselves, reserving time in the meeting to later speak on their particular agendas. 		
STANDING BUSINESS			
MOAA REPORT – Director Mamadou Samba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2/10/2016 Performance Hearing, requesting that COAA strategize on how to report MOAA's needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed that grantees will be testifying MOAA will provide COAA with details on the hearing Suggested that COAA invite Barnes office to come to February COAA meeting prior to Performance hearing COAA should begin testimonial prep for the April (should be amended to March) Budget hearing (date TBA) EKO: African Coding Academy report out: the program was a success; there were 30 student participants; 2 types of certificates were distributed to 25 of the students; the types of completed projects included apps for business and a “market place” type app.; next EKO session will start 1/25/2016, and will include coding, web development and mobile apps for the African Business Directory completed under previous director Ngozi Nmezi. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Nicoue commented that he attended the first EKO academy graduation, reiterating its success, how impressive it was and the diversity of students. MOAA efforts to resolve community housing issue at the Sheridan apartment building: The Sheridan is a 75-unit complex with majority African tenants who complained of the landlord's refusal to maintain the building. Some units have no hot or cold water, leaking gas and bed bug infestations. MOAA teamed up with a student legal group to engage tenants and galvanize DCRA to inspect all units. MOAA conducted two town hall meetings with tenants in November and December, and through this collaborative effort, they were successful in getting DCRA to inspect all 75 units on January 13, 14 and 16, 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Barnes suggested that MOAA encourage tenants to capture footage of conditions so that it could be forwarded to NBC4 prior to his meeting with them on 1/14/2016. MOAA and COAA discussed that this issue could be a focal point of upcoming performance and budget hearings. Grant Process update: All proposals have been reviewed at this time and have been forwarded to the Mayor's office for final approval through the GARB system. Reminded COAA to complete survey from retreat. MOAA's Public Safety initiative includes a recent walk through with MPD along the U Street and 9th Street NW corridor, visiting all African-owned businesses to solicit issues 		

	and complaints and to provide general safety guidelines and tips. MOAA also plans for cultural awareness training for MPD.
COAA REPORT – Vice Chairwoman/Commissioner Loide Jorge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 7 open seats on the commission at this time, which include the pending confirmation of the reappointment of Commissioners Asare, Kidist and Ify. • Director Samba informed all that there are 4 candidates being vetted by the Mayor’s office. The candidates include a nurse, former intern Abdel, a referral made by former commissioner Luisa, and a Mr. Pap Cisse, who teaches at Georgetown. There are no current expected dates for completion of the vetting process. • Discussion on how COAA needs to be guided on how to use and implement the Six Sigma process in improving methodology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COAA suggested that Director Samba could conduct a 45-60 min Six Sigma workshop ○ Chairwoman Asare will be tasked on deciding how to implement Six Sigma
COAA Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Nicoue – Community Engagement: Discussed the past “Know Your Rights” town hall forum conducted with student legal group, where tenants were detailed their rights under DC/Landlord tenant laws. • Commissioner Barnes –Regional Advisory Board: Barnes discussed identifying support for a community center, stressed the need for us to reciprocate intraregional support (with MD and VA) of other commissions. Proposed that COAA discuss ways to support Africa Day on May 25 throughout the DMV region, but also look to engaging congressional support through Cong. Norton and Bath, to raise awareness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next regional meeting is scheduled for 1/23/2016. Discussed that this meeting could be held at MOAA. • Commissioners Jorge and St. Vil-Public Safety: Discussed supporting MOAA’s Public Safety efforts with MPD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COAA unanimously voted have a “Know your Rights” town hall – Proposed date for forum is February 24 6-8P. Discussed inviting the law students, MPD and various DC agencies. Commissioners St. Vil and Nicoue are to discuss and plan list of agencies to invite. ○ MOAA and Commissioners Jorge and St. Vil - are to meet and discuss the invitees and the agenda for the “Know Your Rights” town hall. Proposed issues for town hall include housing, public safety, and/or immigration issues.
AGENCY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria Williams-Brevard (DHS): Discussed DHS new e-verify community outreach initiatives and how the MLK Library is a newly appointed (by the Dept. of State) U.S. passport support agency. Williams-Brevard provided handouts for all attendees. • John W. Jackson (community member): Discussed the issue of “brain drain” run off from the continent and seeking ways to engage the African Union during COAA upcoming meeting in March.

End of meeting 8PM