

COAA February 2017 MINUTES**The following minutes are taken as the COAA/ MOAA and the public input was reported.**

2/1/2017	6:07 PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6th Floor
Meeting called by	Chair Lydia Nylander		
Secretary	Commissioner Kotheid Nicoue		
Attendees	<u>Commissioners:</u> Lafayette Barnes, Akua Asare, Ikenna Udejiofor, Abdel Maliky, Lydia Nylander, Lafayette Barnes, Chibu Anyanwu, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Kotheid Nicoue <u>Director:</u> Mamadou Samba, <u>Deputy Director:</u> Heran Sereke-Brhan, <u>Community Outreach Specialist:</u> Bezawit Mane, <u>Language Access Coordinator:</u> Aly Kaba, <u>Communications Intern:</u> Donald Ndebeka <u>Public:</u> Desta, Tenelde Abai, Sade Anderson, Yilla Wilson, Henok Alemayehu, Yodit Shibr, Negussie Eshete, John Jackson		
OLD BUSINESS			
January Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting minutes were accepted as distributed 		
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees. 		
STANDING BUSINESS			
MOAA Updates & Announcements: Director Samba Deputy Director Sereke-Brhan ISSUE 1: ISSUE 2: ISSUE 3:	Director Mamadou: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will try to have a guest speaker at each commission meeting. Vacant Commission Seats: COAA is working to fill a couple vacant positions. Director Mamadou is looking to have a diverse commission, preferably from North, East and Southern Africa. Director Sereke-Brhan stated that we are looking into building links with faith-based organizations. Deputy Director Sereke-Brhan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Fund is out and deadline is February 21st. The total of \$500,000 will be distributed up to 20 grants. Black History Event is scheduled for February 16th. MOAA is working with the Mayor's Office on African American Affairs and the Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs. The theme of the event is 		

<p>ISSUE 4:</p>	<p>“Honoring African American, African and Afro-Latino History, Arts and Culture. It’s a free event, please invite folks that might be interested.</p> <p>Director Samba:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Hearing is February 24th at 10am. Please put this on your calendar and come out and support. • Director Mamadou, Deputy Director Hereke Brhan, and Commissioners personally thank former Commissioner Loide Jorge for her service and dedication to the commi and African immigrants issues.
<p>ISSUE 5</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Ernest Chrappah, Director of Department of For-Hire Vehicles:</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Cab Taxi Commission does not longer exist. • Agencies are formally designed to commission vehicles; we can’t do anything if the law doesn’t exist. The • The department has a limited set of framework to operate in. There is a tremendous opportunity to level the plain field for taxi drives. Over the last 18 months, the spent a million dollars in small businesses. The vast majority of people move around in private vehicles. The agency is focused on preparing people to change and cross the digital divide. You can file a complaint on our website. The agency is also creating an ambassador program. • Two things, there is a history of perception of what the industry is like and what is really happening. Come to our website and check our data. The data is telling a different story. • Over the last 18 months, we change the regulations such as the maximum fine a taxi cab driver can get down to \$500 USD. • There is an E-learning portal for drivers to take lessons. Our commitment is to support the drivers so that is not going to change.
<p>Chair Nylander: ISSUE 6</p>	<p>Chair Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Updates: 1. Meeting with CM Brandon Todd. Updates by Vice Chair Maliky. The community was looking for a response regarding the issue in the Sheridan Apartments. It’s important to get our voice heard. CM Todd was diligent in giving a personal number to the community members in case they need help. Vice Chair Maliky gave the floor to guests to speak about the situation. • Community member who represent the taxi cab driver group talked about the issue extensively. A few incidents recently took place again: Saturday night, a car just got smashed in the afternoon. There is a concern about family safety; a man got robbed at gunpoint at 14th street and Aspen, last Wednesday.

Issue 7

Yesterday night, three vehicles smashed around Peabody Street. It looks like the violence is increasing. We want to exhaust our opportunities. Taxi companies are getting targeted. It looks like they are getting targeted and someone needs to pay attention.

- President of Cab Company spoke about the issue as well: since last three months, we've been struggling with taxi break-ins, but also tablets are being stolen. The taxicab industry is struggling; income is already reduced to 14%. 8 cars windows have been smashed.
- Other commissioners provided input regarding the issue and how to best move forward.
- Commissioners have committed to four things: 1. Media/Communications: Commissioners Asare and Barnes 2. Meeting with Police Chief Department: MOAA will communicate the logistics to Commissioners. 3. Vice Chair Abdel will follow up with phone contact information of CM Todd. The deadline to make phone calls within one week. 4. Chair Nylander and Commissioner Udejiofor will follow up on respective contacts. – Chair Nylander will follow up within a week regarding next steps.
- Keep the main contacts in the loop.

Immigration Focus Town Hall:

Commissioner Udejiofor:

- Discussed immigration town hall meeting and how many DC residents are affected.
- Chair Nylander discussed how we want to move forward, there are several things happening on this issue. What approach do we want to take?
- Commissioner Lafayette, there is a community forum happening on Thursday, February 2nd. It's best to collaborate with other groups.
- Deputy Director Heran: there are community groups talking about this issue, one of them is one of MOAA's grantees, there are also grantees that are on the group working with communities that we can support or take guidance from.
- Vice Chair Maliky: how can we better share updates or opportunities to help people?
- Commissioner Afari-Dwamena it will be helpful to talk about people that are also not online.
- Deputy Director Sereke Brhan stated that we are taking our guidance from the executive office.
- Community Outreach Specialist Mane: We need reach out to faith-based organizations to assist them.

Action item on Issue:

ISSUE 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities and establish successful partners training series. a. Vice Chair Maliky has several contacts that we can use. Abdel will provide a list of contacts. b. DC Bar association can also help.
ISSUE 9	<p>COAA Training Manual –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have new commissioners coming on board and we need to give them some advice. We need to add some additional aspects to the draft. • Chair Nylander will send out a Google doc and will provide a deadline. • Commissioner Barnes asked to include stakeholders into the process. • Vice chair Maliky: the by-laws are important and everyone should read it and we should do better to follow it and enforce the rules.
ISSUE 10	<p>Communications and Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of events happening and we need to strategically get involved in events. Chair Nylander asked how does the commission receive information on events • Commissioners Nana and Kotheid will create a WhatsApp group and Google calendar to notify commissioners about events.
ISSUE	<p>Sub-Committee Structuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More updates to come. <p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Sade Anderson from African Heritage & Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African diaspora food program is looking to have 5 intentional organizations to host a cooking program. It's part of a nutrition program that focuses on health and heritage. • There is also a media campaign this week. • Health Week is also happening. Anyone interested being an instructor will be great. There are opportunities for anyone interested to volunteer as instructor, and organizations that want to hold the cooking class, the week is about exposure. <p>John Jackson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The African Union has put a new ambassador to DC. • This is a chance to get involved. The purpose of the AU in the America is to advise them to get them out of the mess. <p>Action Item: Community Outreach Specialist Bez will be meeting with Miriam Wenda, Executive Secretary to connect with her</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has arrived, she is from Zimbabwe, she had dual citizenship. She renounced her U.S.Citizenship. She is not familiar with the Diaspora organizations quite yet. This is a chance to get involved. The purpose of the AU in the America is to advise them to get them out of the mess.
Upcoming events	<p>Thursday, February 16: Black History Month Celebration: “Honoring African American, African and Afro-Lation History, Arts and Culture.</p> <p>Performance Hearing: February 24th</p>

Ended: 8:23 PM.