

## COAA JULY 2016 MINUTES

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

8/3/2016	6:10PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Meeting Called By	Chairwoman Akua Asare		
Secretary	Commissioner Kedist Geremaw		
Attendees	<p><b>Commissioners:</b> Chibu Anyanwu, Akua Asare, Page Cissi, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Lafayette Barnes, Kedist Geremaw, Loide Jorge, Abdel Malily, Kotheid Nicoue, Lydia Nylander, Ify Nwabukwu, Willair St. Vil, Ikenna Udejiofor</p> <p><b>Director:</b> Mamadou Samba, <b>Intern:</b> Donald Ndebeka</p> <p><b>Public:</b> Diana Konte, Ly Oumau, Orshi Buzas, David Laurel, Jim witte</p>		
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>			
June Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were accepted with minor correction</li> </ul>		
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission's Chair Asare opened the meeting by welcoming the commissioners and public attendees.</li> </ul>		
<b>STANDING BUSINESS</b>			
<p>COAA/MOAA</p> <p>Issue 1: Director: Mamadou Samba</p> <p>Deputy Dir: Heran Sereke- Berhan</p> <p>Chair Asare</p>	<p><b>MOAA Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informed the approval of MOAA FY'17 budget for a new staff to be hired which will be used to further language access and outreach.</li> <li>Debriefed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Young African ConneXions Summit and Mandela day of service. Commissioners Anyanwu, Asare, Dwamena, Geremaw, and Nylander participated in the event.</li> <li>Commissioners Barnes and Geremaw volunteered for the Day of Service, at which the Mayors proclamation was read.</li> <li>African Heritage Month will conduct Community Leadership Awards, 5 awardees will be chosen who have contributed to the Diaspora in business, community advocacy, youth activism, cultural education and the arts, and public service. Director Samba requested a recommendation from COAA.</li> <li>Introduced the George Mason University team which will host a focus group session in connection with the research they are conducting.</li> <li>Reported on FY 2017 African Community Grant: There were 43 reviewers who showed interest, of those 36 were chosen, 21 applicants submitted for the grant in the upcoming fourth cycle.</li> <li>Chairwoman Asare offered her congratulations on the summit and Commissioner Dwamena for performing well as a moderator at the ceremony</li> </ul>		

Issue 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairwoman Asare and Commissioner Geremaw were sworn in for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, as well as new Commissioners Abdel, Nylander, and Page.</li> </ul>
Issue 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer collaborator event was conducted, with Commissioners Asare, Geremaw, and St. Vil serving as collaborators.</li> </ul>
Issue 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairwoman Asare emphasized the need to coordinate any effort between COAA and MOAA to avoid any redundancy e.g. Embassy connection.</li> </ul>
COAA Sub-Committee/ Project Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education, jobs and economic development subcommittee member Commissioner St. Vil is working on a plan. The idea is to have a forum for parents about their advocacy and the role they play in the educational system. Considering the event to be the first or second week of September. Commissioner St. Vil will send out a proposal by the end of the month.</li> <li>• Public Safety &amp; Housing: Report N/A</li> <li>• Transportation and Environment: Report N/A</li> <li>• Health, Wellness &amp; the Arts Commissioner Geremaw reported on a meeting conducted by the subcommittee members including Commissioners Nwabuku, Anyanwu, and Afari-Dswamena: There will be an event planned for April 2017, with a theme focused on “Health Care for the African diaspora in DC”. The format will be a panel discussion and educational session which will focus on chronic diseases and health maintenance.</li> <li>• Civic and Community Engagement: no updates</li> </ul>
Community input/ Public Discussion	<p>Both the public attendees -Diana Konte and , Ly Oumau, who are tasked in engaging and organizing people of African Diaspora -with congressional members of Bicameral, bipartisan stressed the need to forge a relationship with MOAA/COAA. Commissioners -St. -Vil and Jorge have volunteered to be the group’s representatives.</p>
<b>Ended: 8:30pm</b>	