

COAA OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

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

		OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6th Floor
Meeting called by	Chair Lydia Nylander		
Secretary	Chair Lydia Nylander		
Attendees	<p><u>Commissioners:</u> Commissioners: Lydia Nylander, Abeba Taddese, Abdel Maliky, Kedist Geremaw, Lafayette Barnes, Omaru Arouna</p> <p>Director Mamadou Samba, Deputy Director: Soro Kignaman, Outreach Specialist Bezewit Mane, Language Access Coordinator: Aly Kaba, Sandy Campbell, Grant Management Specialist</p> <p>Public: Donnette Cooper, DHCD; Emira Wood, Institute for Policy Studies, Yodit Shirbu, Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, Johanna Leblanc, Pending Commissioner</p>		
August Minutes	Meeting minutes were reviewed with corrections to be made to ensure correct spelling of names		
Introduction	Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees.		
STANDING BUSINESS			
MOAA Updates and Announcements	<p><u>MOAA New Team Members</u> Director Samba introduced new MOAA staff, Deputy Director Soro Kignaman and Grant Management Specialist Sandy Campbell.</p> <p><u>African Heritage Month Celebration</u> Director Samba gave feedback on the African Heritage Month</p>		

COAA Updates and Announcements

Celebration. On the whole there was consensus that the event was well executed, however numbers were a little depressed due to the day of the week. Commissioner Geremaw asked why food and drink couldn't be served and was informed that the venue had strict rules on food in the venue. Additional collaboration and alignment within the Office and COAA would be of benefit for future events.

FY18 African Community Grant

Director Samba provided an update on FY 18 African Community Grant on Hepatitis services and outreach. A one time \$25,000 grant is available for up to 3 DC based organizations serving the African community. Deadline is October 6, 2017.

The Immigrant Justice Grant applications have been reviewed and it appears that 3 of the awardees are African organizations.

Training Manual

Final inputs have been provided to the Training Manual and has been sent to Director Samba for inputs. Commissioner Nylander renewed her call for Commissioners to continue to upload files into the repository provided.

Data and Analysis on the DC African Immigrant Community

Data and Research is being collected and Commissioner Taddese has volunteered to spearhead the effort of using the data collected to craft talking points and position summaries for advocacy and public engagement efforts.

Small Business Engagement

Commissioner Maliky referenced that a number of DC agencies working on small business have classes that would be of use to the African Community. Commissioners will work with Outreach Specialist Mane to devise and approach of ensuring utilization of these classes.

Presentation from Emira Wood

Emira Wood from the Institute of Policy Studies provided a presentation on advocacy and public engagement efforts that

	<p>can be undertaken by COAA. Emira provided a number of strategies were introduced for consideration, including data, social media engagement and use of technology on advocacy efforts. Emira committed long term to assist Commissioners develop an approach.</p>
Public Comments	Members of the general public provided introductions and described ways they wish to partner/network and engage with the Commission.

Ended: 8.10pm