

**COAA January 2017 MINUTES**

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

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| <b>1/4/2016</b>   | <b>6:10 PM</b>   | <b>OFFICE ON<br/>AFRICAN<br/>AFFAIRS</b> | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Floor</b> |
| <b>Meeting called by</b>  | Vice Chair Lydia Nylander  |  |                             |
| <b>Secretary</b>  | Commissioner Kotheid Nicoue  |  |                             |
| <b>Attendees</b>  | <u>Commissioners:</u> Kedist Geremaw, Willair St.Vil, Ikenna Udejiofor, Abdel Maliky, Lydia Nylander, Lafayette Barnes, Kotheid Nicoue<br><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<br><u>Public:</u> Mercy Erhiawarien, John W Jackson, Taru Taylor  |  |                             |
| <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>   |  |  |                             |
| <b>December Minutes</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were accepted with minor corrections.</li> </ul>  |  |                             |
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees.</li> </ul>   |  |                             |
| <b>STANDING BUSINESS</b>  |  |  |                             |
| <b>MOAA Updates &amp; Announcements:</b><br>ISSUE 1:<br>Deputy Director Sereke-Brhan and Community Outreach Specialist Mane<br>ISSUE 2:<br><br>ISSUE 3:<br><br><br>ISSUE 4: | Deputy Director Sereke-Brhan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOAA’s grant is moving in the right direction, the office is working closely to bring grant processes in place.</li> <li>All grantees’ information is available on the MOAA website.</li> </ul> Community Outreach Specialist Mane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black History Month planning is underway. MOAA will be working with MOLA and MOAAA on this initiative.</li> <li>Cab drivers in the community are experiencing a substantial amount of car break-ins, over 90 break-ins reported. The break-ins are mainly happening in the housing area on Sheridan Street.</li> <li>Sub-committee on Housing will be working with the MOAA office to dig deeper on this issue and create plan to work on this.</li> <li>There is also an alleged rape case and the person ended up contracting the HIV virus after testing.</li> <li>Commissioners St.Vil, Maliky, Udejiofor and Community Outreach Specialist Bezawit will come together and work on a plan to discuss with PD in order to tackle this issue.</li> </ul> |  |                             |

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| <p>ISSUE 5:</p>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an effort from the Mayor’s office to propose a grant to work with Community Based organizations, NGOs, and Private Sector organizations working with immigrant communities.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Vice Chair Nylander:<br/>ISSUE 6:</p> | <p>COAA Email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are still issues with commissioners getting access to COAA’s email.</li> <li>• Commissioner St.Vil proposed a temporary fix would be to use private email address while the issue is getting resolved.</li> <li>• Commissioner Geremaw announced that she is now using COAA’s email. Future communication should be addressed to her COAA’s email address.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>ISSUE 7:</p>                          | <p>COAA Training Manual:</p> <p>Vice Chair Nylander: All commissioners need to look at the training manual more closely that Commissioner Asare put together and provide feedback. Vice Chair Nylander will email it out.</p>   |
| <p>Issue 8</p>                           | <p>African Business Directory: an app to serve African businesses in the district. Deputy Director Heran: a lot of DC government rules to consider, the issue being that information changes so fast.</p>   |
| <p>Issue 9</p>                           | <p>COAA Executive Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair Nylander stated we need to resolve vacancies issues for executive positions.</li> <li>• Commissioner St.Vil proposed Commissioner Udejiofor for Vice Chair.</li> <li>• Vice Chair Nylander announced her bid for the Chair position</li> <li>• Commissioner Maliky announced his bid for the Vice Chair position.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nicoue announced his bid for Secretary position.</li> <li>• Commissioners casted their votes to the bids noted above and Commissioners Nylander, Maliky and Nicoue accepted respectively.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Issue 10</p>                          | <p>Sub-Committee Discussion and Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Nylander proposed that we should re-organize some of the sub-committees.</li> <li>• Commissioner Maliky suggested should have more than one person in sub-committees.</li> <li>• Commissioner St.Vil suggested that we should re-organize.</li> <li>• Deputy Director Sereke-Brhan mentioned the needs of having bigger community engagement.</li> <li>• Community Outreach Specialist Mane suggested that we should use</li> </ul>   |

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| <p>Issue 11</p>  | <p>information collected from 2016 forums to re-organize sub-committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Nylander implored for other seasoned Commissioners to look back and reflect back on issues that were brought up.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nylander asked how we could better represent Africans in the district.</li> <li>• Commissioner St.Vil suggested we set up data points.</li> <li>• Commissioner Maliky suggested we should get statisticians involved within the office especially when hiring interns.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Issue 12<br/><b>COAA Sub-Committee/Project Reports</b></p> <p>Issue 13<br/><b>Community input/Public Discussion</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education, Jobs &amp; Economic Development – Commissioners St.Vil and Nicoue: Commissioner St.Vil stated that the Economic Forum planning is currently on hold. Currently following up on Education Forum that took place back in September. Commissioner St.Vil will work with Deputy Director to move forward with plans. Commissioner St.Vil to get DCPS to work with him in order to do outreach. Deputy Director and Comm. St.Vil will collaborate on this together.</li> <li>• Public Safety &amp; Housing – Commissioner St.Vil: Commissioner Maliky will be joining Public Safety &amp; Housing Committee.</li> <li>• Transportation and Environment – Commissioner Udejiofor: Safe Track is still on.</li> <li>• Health, Wellness &amp; the Arts – Commissioners Geremaw, Anyanwu, Afari-Dwamena: N/A</li> <li>• Civic and Community Engagement – Commissioner Udejiofor: No updates.</li> <li>• Regional Advisory Board – Commissioner Barnes: No updates.</li> <li>• Public attendee: introduced themselves and their affiliation.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Upcoming events</b></p>  | <p>Performance Hearing taking place in February<br/>Budget Hearing taking place in March</p>  |

Ended: 8: 05pm