

**COAA MARCH 2017 MINUTES**

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

<b>3/1/2017</b>	<b>6:05 PM</b>	<b>OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>
<b>Meeting called by</b>	Chair Lydia Nylander		
<b>Secretary</b>	Commissioner Kotheid Nicoue		
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><u>Commissioners:</u> Kedist Geremaw, Lafayette Barnes, Akua Asare, Abdel Maliky, Lydia Nylander, Lafayette Barnes, Chibu Anyanwu, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Willair St. Vil</p> <p><u>Director:</u> Mamadou Samba, <u>Community Outreach Specialist:</u> Bezawit Mane, <u>Language Access Coordinator:</u> Aly Kaba, <u>Communications Intern:</u> Donald Ndebeka,</p> <p><u>Public:</u> Shurland Oliver, Noel Karl, Abeba Taddesse, John Jackson, Moussa Traore, Amelia Missieladies, Randall Olade, Charlotte Flournoy Program Analyst Executive Office of the Mayor.</p>		
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>			
<b>February Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes were adopted with minimum changes.</li> </ul>		
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees. Minutes were adopted with minimum changes.</li> </ul>		
<b>STANDING BUSINESS</b>			
<b>MOAA Updates &amp; Announcements</b> Director Samba	<p><b>Director Samba:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance Hearing took place February 24. Chair Nylander testified.</li> <li>Council Member Brandon Todd spoke about our community outreach.</li> <li><b>Other upcoming events:</b> 1. Council Member Nadeau will host a Community Forum on Immigrants' Rights. 2. Council Member Todd is hosting office hours in his Ward.</li> <li>Act4Accountability Immigration Townhall on March 11 in Silver Spring</li> <li>State of the District   March 30, 2017</li> <li>State of the District   March 30, 2017</li> <li>MOAA-COAA Know Your Rights Town Hall – <b>Tentative Date: April 5<sup>th</sup></b>. It will be about how DC is a sanctuary city, the event is currently a work in progress. We would like to see how the Commission wants to</li> </ul>		

<p>Chair Nylander:</p>	<p>get involved. We have the date and time and a few speakers identified. Commissioner Asare advised on how the event should be promoted. Commissioners Anyanwu and St. Vil will assist with planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FY 18 Budget Hearing at 10 am on April 11 – Council #412</li> <li>● DC Immigrant Legal Service Grant: Chair Nylander inquired about DC Immigrant Legal Grant, about 18 organizations applied finalists to be announced.</li> <li>● Black History Events- MOAA participated in a successful event at the Lincoln Theatre. There were three events overall that MOAA participated in.</li> <li>● 4<sup>th</sup> African Diaspora EKO Training: Feb 25th was the first orientation. Chair Nylander was present to welcome attendees. EKO training is every Saturday 10am to 12:30pm. Chair Nylander recommended Commissioners to attend one of the sessions.</li> </ul> <p>Chair Announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Commission Vacancy:</b> Director Samba is looking to fill 6 vacant spots. New commissioner Taddesse will be joining. Commissioner Anyanwu asked about the vetting process. Director Samba is looking for people who can advocate and have time for us. They have to go through MOTA for the vetting process.</li> <li>b. <b>Public Safety:</b> Meeting with CM Brandon Todd. March 6<sup>th</sup> Council Member open house. This is a great opportunity to discuss where we are and how we can move forward. There was a strategy meeting. Feedback on Ward 4 Meeting: Chair Nylander went to the ward 4 meeting on Ward 4 Community Meeting Police Department is running 10 hours overlapping shifts. A number of arrests has also been made that they think were linked to the spate of thefts and contributing to the crimes. The sticking point at this time is the camera. The police is committed to continue patrolling. Yonas and the community are saying now that installing the camera is the main issue. <b>Vice Chair Maliky:</b> Yonas is concerned about the police keeping up with the over-lapping shifts. Council Member Todd and his staff are hearing more from the commissioners than the community and they prefer to hear more from the community. We are proposing a follow-up meeting. All sides are willing to go along for this ride in the neighborhood and see where we are, and what can be done to resolve the issue. <b>Commissioner Afari-Dwamena:</b> we need to consider the implications of putting up camera on streets or apartments. <b>Community Outreach Specialist Mane:</b> It's essential that we go on this drive with Council Member Todd. We should still</li> </ol>
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push for what the community is asking for. **Commissioner Asare** reported that she called and they mentioned there would be a follow up meeting. She also suggests that community members to send emails instead of calling. We should put forward for those specific ask regardless of the outcome. **Chair Nylander** asked regarding the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting who will be in attendance. 6pm to 7:30pm. A number of commissioners meeting will be in attendance. **Commissioner St. Vil** advised how we need to be mindful about our engagement and approach.

- c. **Francophone Africans in DC Event:** Opportunities for Francophone residents are somewhat unique, thinking about language access that we want to make D.C. residents aware about. A convening that connects resources that Francophone might be in need of. Vice Chair Maliky: Embassy of France is having an event. Commissioner Lafayette: are there other events that are happening? Commissioner Asare will do a search on what's happening during the month. Commissioner Barnes asked about the other two events and next steps. Commissioner Asare and Nicoue will work together. Commissioner Afari-Dwamena is available to help with graphics.
  - d. **Health Fair Planning:** Commissioners Afari-Dwamena and Anyanwu provided updates. Commissioner Anyanwu mentioned that they need recommendations and vendors. Potential Date: June 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. **DC Demographic data update:** Director Samba: We are waiting for official approval from the Mayor. We are waiting on a final copy to get it out. We want to release around an event.
  - f. **Request from TV Continental:** They would like to have a show on the commission.
  - g. **The Daniel Leadership Institute:** a team of 3-4 consultants working on discrete projects pro bono that can benefit a particular organization.
  - h. Institute on Migration: Opportunity to have dinner with people who considered themselves immigrants. The objective is to connect people with what immigration looks like.
  - i. Internship programs for the summer go online on the DCHR website.
  - j. Sub-Committees: Project focused-approach is working well at the moment.
- Public attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations.
  - Amelia Missieledies from the Person Center announced that March 8,

<p>Community Input/Public Discussion</p>	<p>International Women’s day. In the past 4 days, she received 4 crisis calls from battered and homeless African women with no support system. Domestic violence is really happening, there is a tremendous amount of trauma African women experience yet the subject is taboo. We need to have an active support system created for those people. We need safe space for people. Need to create awareness about domestic violence in the community</p> <p><b><u>Action Items</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Get to Know Your rights Event on April 5<sup>th</sup>:</b> Commissioners Anyanwu and St. Wil Air will assist with planning.</p> <p><b>2. 4<sup>th</sup> African Diaspora EKO Training:</b> Commissioners should attend a sessions and/or graduation, please let Director Samba know ahead of time.</p> <p><b>3. Office hours with Council Member Todd: March 6<sup>th</sup>: 6p to 7:30pm</b></p> <p><b>4. Make sure the Person Center contributes to Know your Rights and the Health Fair to better educate community on domestic violence.</b></p> <p><b>5. Francophone DC Event:</b> Commissioner Asare and Nicoue will work together. Commissioner Afari-Dwamena is available to help with graphics</p> <p><b>6. International Women’s Day is on March 8<sup>th</sup>.</b></p>
<p><b>Upcoming events</b></p>	<p>Ride Along with Council Member Todd on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Budget Hearing at 10 am on April 11 – Council #412</p>

Ended: 8: 05 PM.