

COAA April 2018 MINUTES

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

04/04/2018	Started at 6:08 PM	Frank D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs (2000 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009)	Office on African Affairs 6th Floor
Meeting called by	Chair Lydia Nylander		
Secretary	Interim Vice Chair Margaret Kamara		
Attendees	<u>Commissioners:</u> Chibu Anyanwu, Kedist Gerenaw, Margaret Kamara, Noel Karl, Johanna Leblanc, Lydia Nylander, and Ikenna Udejiofor; <u>Director:</u> Mamadou Samba; <u>Deputy Director:</u> Sori Kignaman; <u>Community Outreach Specialist:</u> Aly Kaba <u>Grant Management Specialist:</u> Sandy Campbell <u>Public:</u> Oyin Akinkagbe, Hellen Fissiliaie, Silvia Garrick, Marie Meka, Tokunbo Kujore, Theodore Ngatchou, Jackie Nagaws, Ify Anne Nwabukwu, Kassahun Sahilu, Yodit Shibru, Refilwe Tilo, and Rabiab _____. <u>MPD:</u> Officers Johnson and E.F. Loko		
OLD BUSINESS: March 2018 meeting was cancelled due to unavailability of commissioners.			
February 2018 Minutes	Review of February 2018 Meeting Minutes. No changes were made to the minutes.		
Introduction	Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the commissioners, public attendees, and commenting on the full packed agenda.		
STANDING BUSINESS			
MOAA Updates & Announcements	Director Samba first thanked the Commissioners who attended the budget and performance hearings and commented on the need for more funding for programming. He also brought up some housekeeping matters:		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The last minute cancellation of the March 2018 meeting due to both Chair Lylander and Secretary Kotheid Nicoue being on travel; 2. He stressed the need for better communication, commitment from other commissioners. He referenced complaint about his tone at February 2018 meeting and credited to the need for more commitment from the COAA. 3. He announced that there were some open seats for commissioners, and along with Deputy Kignaman stressed the required qualifications, and need for candidates from countries not currently represented on the COAA; 4. He announced the departure of Community Outreach Specialist Bezawit Mane, and promotion of Aly Kaba, Language Access Coordinator to Mane’s role; and 5. Vacant position for Language Access Coordinator. <p>Upcoming MOAA and other events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marvin Gaye Day; 2. MOAA Know Your Rights Town Hall, tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2018, which Interim Vice Chair Kamara has agreed to moderate and Commission is encouraged to attend and partake in.
<p>Chair Announcements</p>	<p>Chair Nylander echoed Director Samba in thanking the Commissioners for their in person and written testimonies at the budget and performance hearings. She extended a special thank you to Emira Woods for her guidance and assistance with helping Commissioners with their testimonies. Woods suggested that the COAA take their testimonies a step further and submit an opinion editorial to the Washington Post on the significance of representation on matters such as immigration, census, and citizenship.</p> <p>She agreed with Director Samba for the need for better communication but stated that she had proposed that the OAA provide the COAA with strategic priorities for the COAA to properly serve the office.</p> <p>Nylander’s announcements included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal for COAA/small business meetings with DC Council member and Mayor; 2. 1st Quarter Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy and Outreach ● Skills inventory ● Participation in Budget and Performance hearings 3. 2nd Quarter Plan:

- a. Quarterly submission to African Drum Beat on behalf of COAA but Director Samba suggested a monthly contribution instead;
 - b. She will circulate the first quarter review of submitted action plans and encouraged commissioners to review and consider next steps and actions, which will be the second quarter plan; and
 - c. Suggest a strategic planning meeting outside of the public meetings.
4. Mandela Washington/YALI Fellows:
- a. Chair Nylander said she would plan for a presentation from IREX/State Department/USAID to discuss the program;
 - b. This year's cohort will be arriving soon and preparation and outreach should be considered on how the COAA should engaged;
 - c. Commissioner Leblanc presented on her work as a YALI Peer Exchange Collaboration Program and her recent travel and work in Zimbabwe, which included workshops on education systems, professional development , and women empowerment.
 - d. Commissioner Leblanc encouraged public to create relationships with Fellows. Deadline for application to participate in Peer Exchange was today, April 4th.
 - e. Commissioner Udejiofor brought up the concern that the focus of the OAA and COAA was to DC residents. Interim Vice Chair Kamara and commented that as Africans we are ambassadors to Fellows and the program is a great link between the DC community and those on the African continent; Sahilu echoed this comment.
5. Age Friendly Initiative presented by Commissioner Gerenaw:
- a. Gerenaw is currently on the Mayor's task force on aging;
 - b. Wants the OAA/COAA to consider hosting a conference that will inform, engage and empower African seniors in the DC area;
 - i. Strategize ways to mobilize community
 - ii. Link young and senior, paying it forward
 - iii. Questions and comments from Commissioner: on accessibility of program and consider challenges seniors may face, and Udejiofor mentioned Aging in Place
 - iv. More information can be found at <https://agefriendly.dc.gov/>.
6. COAA Advocacy calls will resume next Tuesday, April 10 and

	will take place on Tuesdays with Woods.
<p>Special Guests: MPD</p>	<p>Officers Johnson and E.F. Loko (Eric.loko@dc.gov) presented on their work with the OAA in ensuring they maintain relationship with the African and Islamic community through various ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every other Tuesday Ride Along initiative to build community with public and law enforcements, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM; 2. Johnson has a 30-day rotation and introduction of new officers to the community- African officers are introduced to OAA during this period; 3. African officers help with better understanding of cultures, customs, but safety for individual’s welfare is not compromised; 4. Officers have found a workaround with addressing the issues of medical costs and immigration when residents are involved in situation in which they may need medical assistance; they inform them up front that it is cost-free and that as law enforcement officers they do not tackle immigration issues; and 5. They talk to businesses about concerns such as fraud. 6. Questions from attendees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many officers are African? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Answer: Stats not available on crimes committed on specific groups such as foreigners or Africans but area stats exists. b. Does an African liaison unit exists similar to that of other cultural groups? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Answer: all outreach divisions are in the same building. The non-emergency number to call is (202) 506-0714.
PRESENTATIONS	
<p>African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association</p> <p>Website: awcaa.org</p>	<p>Presentation by Ify Anne Nwabukw, RN, BSN and Jackie Nagaws (patient navigator). The organization is an OAA grant recipient and the founder is a former Commissioner.</p> <p>AWCAA is committed to improving the healthcare delivery services and access to quality healthcare for African immigrants. It offers services to the public and partners with other organizations for referrals and to provide full service to patients regardless of whether insured or on-insured.</p>

	<p>DC Office is located at 2105 Rhode Island Avenue NE.</p>
<p>The Good Company thegoodcompany.org</p>	<p>Nonprofit empowering architects of change in the U.S. and Africa (Nigeria). Initiatives include the Good, Girl Gang, My Good Africa, prom dress drive. Working with infants and high school children in the Washington DC area. Planning on working on a sustainable development goal education event with highschool students in May and a Mandela Day event in July 2018.</p> <p>Email: Hello@thegoodcompany.org Social: @thegoodcoorg</p>
<p>Public Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kassahun Sahilu: Executive Director of Peace and Justice for Africa, is organizing an African athletic event in September peaceafrica16@gmail.com; ● Yodit Shibru from AEDC; ● Sylvia Garrick from Office of the People’s Counsel discussed issues and services pertaining to assistance with paying utility bills and knowing your rights when selecting your gas and electric companies. Call OPC if you have questions or concerns at (202) 727-3071. ● Oyin Akinkagbe, owner of Zion Kitchen; ● Hellen Fissihaie F-3 Global upcoming event-April 12, 6-8pm WeWork Wonder Bread Factory location of 641 S St. NW (for more info email hellen@f3global.com). ● Marie Meka Embassy Community Outreach: Has a question on whether the City has shelters for African women and wants to know more about the housing options. Please call her with information at (202) 790-2838; ● South African Student looking for access to grants; ● Emira Woods: research writing and communication; ● Commissioner Chibu Anyanwu announced that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education will be hosting its 2018 Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program and Resource Fair on Thursday, April 19th. Please see announcement below: The Healthy Schools and Wellness Programs team within the Division of Health and Wellness will be hosting a training on the Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP) and a Health and Wellness Resource Fair on Thursday, April 19, 2018. The training and resource fair aim to offer Early Care and Education Facilities, DC public and public charter schools the opportunity to receive high-quality professional development, physical activity equipment, and health education

classroom resources to support and enhance health and wellness programming.

As described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a CSPAP is a multi-component approach by which school districts and schools use all opportunities for students to be physically active, meet the nationally-recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day, and develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be physically active for a lifetime. Participants in this training opportunity will learn to implement a CSPAP in their school to address and encourage synergy among the following components: quality physical education; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement. The Health and Wellness Resource Fair will be an opportunity for Early Care and Education facilities, DC public and public charter schools to select from a variety of **free** play equipment, materials, and resources to support health and wellness initiatives. Please note that the training is an **all-day** event while the resource fair is a **drop-in** opportunity.

Audience: School Administrator, Head of School, Principal, Assistant Principal, Health education teacher, Classroom teacher/ Educator, Parent or other family member, Community-based health care and social services provider, Community-based organization (CBO)/ Non-governmental organization (NGO), District Agencies, Student, Grantee(s)

Both events will take place at the new OSSE location at 1050 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20002. Those interested can register to attend one or both of the events, which will take place as follows:

CSPAP Training: Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Room 109

Resource Fair: Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., Room 108

Please register here no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2018. If you have any questions, please email OSSE.HYDT@dc.gov.

- Theodore Ngatchou Renaissance Center for Culture and Education, held event March 17th that cultural celebration event for Francophone Africans to promote inclusion

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM	