

**COAA January 2018 MINUTES**

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

<b>1/3/2018</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>	<u>Commissioners:</u> Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou, Margaret Kamara, Johanna Leblanc, Kedist Gerenaw, Omar Arouna, Ikenna Udejiofor, Abeba Taddese, Chibu Anyanwu, Abdoul Niang, Lydia Nylander <u>Deputy Director:</u> Soro Kignaman <u>Community Outreach Specialist:</u> Bezawit Mane <u>Public:</u> Marie Meka, Laura Catania, Dissi Tatoa, Silvia Garrick, Mohamed Kamara, John-Ubong Silas, Beater Jacobs, Charity Nwaneri, Darren Spence,		
<b>Old Business</b>			
<b>October Minutes</b>	No changes		
<b>Introduction</b>	Chair Nylander opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees		
<b>STANDING BUSINESS</b>			
<b>MOAA Updates &amp; Announcements</b> Deputy Director Kignaman	Deputy Director Kignaman: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanked and welcomed new commissioners</li><li>• <b>Transition Plan Accountability Report Update Year 3:</b> Presence of the commissioners will be highly appreciated. The meeting will take place at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Auditorium. The Mayor will assess where she is on her initiatives. The meeting will take place on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5pm.</li><li>• <b>New Rules regarding Commission:</b> the new rules will be shared soon by MOAA soon and we will make a final decision on the frequency of meetings.</li><li>• There was question regarding meeting time, there will be further discussion and vote on this.</li></ul>		

Chair Nylander

Chair Nylander Announcements:

**a. Welcome:** Chair Nylander welcomed new commissioners, congratulated and welcomed new commissioners, Margaret, Johanna and Omar.

**b. Workplan submissions:**

- Chair Nylander commented on a wonderful job done by Commissioners looking at priorities for this year.
- **Strategic and Public Engagement teams provided briefings:**  
-Briefed on the branding plan and need for visibility of the commission, inquired regarding business cards, name title as commissioners, need of social media page, critical that we differentiate ourselves, Need to update bios and photos. Meet & Greet: quarterly events for people know that we exist, Need for Public meetings to be more goal oriented and strategic, who do we invite and the type of presentations we need to have. Have a presenter at each of our public meeting.

• **Outreach and Events Briefing:**

-Reaching out to businesses in the area and working with small businesses as a conduit to go about additional resources that might be pertinent to our community. Have contacted about 2 businesses people.

**Next Steps on workplans:** Ensure that we share this with other commissioners, give people time to think it through and use the priorities as our accountability system.

**c. End of Year Report:**

- Thanks for everyone who provided inputs and pictures. Need your help to get it to the finish line. Please add any contents that needs to be persistent. We should be proud of events and participation in the community. If there is anything that's missing, please add in track changes. Especially information regarding the Know Your Rights event.

**Action items:** Please review and revise, as soon as possible by **January 17<sup>th</sup> the latest.**

**d. Advocacy calls with Emira:**

- Typical meetings have been conference calls on Monday, higher education, small business, plans of action items are typically discussed. Chair Nylander inquired if everyone still want to move forward with it? There are some challenges of me being the only point person with Emira. Ensure that these meetings take place, especially if we want to move forward with this. Need to get a volunteer to ensure that it keeps the ball rolling. **Decision:** We will continue with the meetings and Commissioner LeBlanc volunteers to lead when needed.

**e. Open Vice Chair Position:** Please email Commissioner Nicoue and Chair Nyland if you are interested.

	<p><b>f. Skills Inventory Presentation:</b> Please email Commissioner Nicoue if you have any questions or comments. <b>Action Item:</b> Please complete by January 29<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Presentation of InvoCares – Mohamed Kamara</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comments</b></p>	<p>Members of the public provided comments and opportunities for upcoming events:</p> <p><b>Laura Catania from Ayuda:</b> Free immigration consultation clinic, language access, interpretation services in African languages, French speakers on staff,</p> <p><b>Office of the People’s Counsel:</b> Issues with utilities, what’s going on in neighborhood, utilities lawyers</p> <p><b>Marie Meka:</b> Committee Organizer – Embassy of Cameroon working on Youth, Black Month History – contact <a href="mailto:meke_cm@yahoo.fr">meke_cm@yahoo.fr</a></p>

Ended: 8:25 P.M.