

COAA MEETING MINUTES 9/11

ATTENDANCE: Nana Seshibe, Lafayette Barnes, Ify Nwabukwu, Jean-Francis Varre, Goungou Teregbode, Loide Jorge, Chime Asonye, George Banks, Yunusa Yusuff, Mamadou Samba

OAA: Ngozi Nmezi, Winta Teferi, Tsedey Aragie

Public: Abdoulaye Aw, Okere Sylvester, Christopher Ojo, Carmen Fells

Call to order - 6:11 pm

-Jean-Francis Varre nominated temporary secretary by the chair. All COAA in favor

REPORTS:

Health & human Services Committee - Ify

- Requested one additional person to assist with preparations for Prostate Cancer Month.
- Approached Howard U. hospital for assistance and aid for a Urinology Workshop.
- No one used the cancer screening van at the Africa Fete festival; possibly due to a less than favorable placement on the grounds.
- Working on the Black History Month cancer workshop for men & women.
- * COAA chair suggested a meeting of male leaders at her house for an open conversation on prostate cancer
- Ify received an award from the Montgomery Co. OAA.
- * Director Nmezi suggested that Commissioner Achievements be published in the OAA newsletter.

Public Safety Committee - Loide

- Suggested reaching out to Mosques attended by the African immigrant community to prepare for possible upcoming reform. USEIS will possibly lead the workshop.
- Suggested including education on predatory attorneys as part of workshops.
- Sheriff suggested contacting the Mosque on Georgia ave. which has the largest attendance of Muslim Africans.

GUESTS:

DSLBD - Director Rob Subner & Patricia Harrison - 6:37 pm

- Overview of agency
- Initiatives presented -> Fast Track Initiative, Get Your Business Online, Bond Your Business, CBE Micro-loan Fund, Main St. Program, Connectech, Export DC (Belize, Ghana, SA, China, Singapore), CBE program.
- Emphasized abundant free training, opportunities and access to capital.

- Mamadou asked if there is an effort to recruit staff from differing cultural/ethnic communities. Dir. Subner promises to look into it.
- Director Nmezi asked if DSLBD is considering other African Countries for Export DC to be expanded to. Dir. Subner replied that he is open & willing but there isn't much interest being presented.
- Lafayette suggested that DSLBD attend Economic Development Sub-committee workshops.
- Winta asked how can more outreach be ensured. Dir. Subner referred to grants for community development centers and the Main St. program.

African Business & Entrepreneurship - 7:31 pm - Mamadou Samba

- Presented statistical information on the African immigrant population and Entrepreneurship in the US and the District.

MD Nigerian Chamber of Commerce - 7:47 pm - President Sylvester Okere

- President Okere introduced by Lafayette.
- Chamber started in 2012.
- Emphasized the importance of Africa and particularly Nigeria in international business.

Final Statement from Director Nmezi

- Event announcements for September.
- 4th Annual DC Africa Celebration awards will go to African community members in the District, only
- Introduction of Tseday Aragie - OAA Americorp VISTA business development specialist.
- * Chair raised an issue with the naming of the new OAU and ensuring that the correct history is highlighted when referencing OAU