

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2011-110
June 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Establishment – The Mayor's Interfaith Council

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia by section 422(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. No. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(2) (2010 Supp.), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby established in the Executive Branch of the Government of the District of Columbia the Mayor's Interfaith Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council").

II. PURPOSE

The Council shall advise the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Mayor's Director for Religious Affairs, and the Mayor's Cabinet, on various matters, especially and including those that affect the spiritual, faith and religious well-being of all the residents of the District of Columbia.

III. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Council shall include:

- A. Serving as a liaison between the Mayor and the faith community;
- B. Making recommendations on developing, expanding, or fostering public-private partnerships and linkages between the District and faith-related organizations using grant, District, federal, foundation, or private funding sources;
- C. Advising on the methods of identifying and meeting social service needs within defined populations;
- D. Serving as a forum from which members of the public can express comments and views on existing and planned proposals for faith community policies, programs, resources and activities;

- E. Promoting spirituality, accountability and integrity among the faith and governmental leadership in the District;
- F. Exchanging information and resources to promote the common good among the faith community;
- G. Promoting respect, cooperation and tolerance between and among the religious communities and the general public in the District;
- H. Offering public prayers of intercession for justice, healing and unity in the community;
- I. Advocating on behalf of people who are poor and disenfranchised;
- J. Advising the Mayor in creating and maintaining a spiritual perspective when setting goals and casting the vision for the District; and
- K. Performing other functions as requested by the Mayor.

IV. COMPOSITION

- A. The Council shall be comprised of not more than 30 voting members, appointed by the Mayor.
- B. The voting members appointed to the Council shall include a broad cross-section of the religious communities residing in the District, including ordained pastors, ministers, rabbis, imams, priests, consecrated bishops, and other leaders of faith.
- C. Members of the Council shall be residents of the District, or shall represent a faith or religious institution or organization located in the District.
- D. District residents shall constitute at least a simple majority of the members of the Council.
- E. The Director for Religious Affairs shall serve as an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of the Council, and as the liaison between the Mayor and the Council.

V. TERMS

- A. The Mayor shall appoint members to terms of three (3) years.
- B. Except that, of the first 30 voting members appointed, ten (10) shall be appointed to one (1) year terms, ten (10) shall be appointed to two (2) year terms, and ten (10) shall be appointed to three (3) year terms.

- C. The date that the first members are appointed and sworn-in shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments.
- D. The Chairperson may excuse a member from a meeting for an emergency reason or for other good cause.
- E. Any member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive, unexcused meetings shall be deemed to be removed from the Council, and a vacancy created.
- F. The Mayor shall appoint members to fill vacancies in an unexpired term only for the remainder of the unexpired time of the term.
- G. A member shall serve for no more than two (2) consecutive, full terms.
- H. A member may serve beyond the end of his or her term until reappointed, or replaced, by the Mayor.

VI. COMPENSATION

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, except that a member may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the authorized execution of official Council duties, if approved in advance by the Director, Office of Community Affairs, Executive Office of the Mayor, and subject to available appropriation.

VII. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Mayor shall appoint a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among the appointed voting members of the Council.
- B. The Council may elect such other officers as may be required, or its members deem appropriate.
- C. All officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year that shall be renewable up to a total of three (3) one (1) year terms, or three (3) years.
- D. The Council shall convene at least two (2) meetings in a calendar year.
- E. The Council may establish interfaith advisory subcommittees as needed. The Council interfaith committees may include persons who are not members of the full Council, provided that each interfaith advisory subcommittee is chaired by a Council member.
- F. The Council may establish its own bylaws and rules of procedure, subject to the approval of the Mayor, or his designee.

- G. There shall be no proxy voting at meetings of the Council.
- H. All meetings of the Council at which official action is taken shall be open to the general public. Except that, the Council may hold an executive, or closed-door session, to discuss personnel or confidential matters.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Director for Religious Affairs shall coordinate and provide administrative and staff support for the work of the Council.
- B. The Council may utilize District public space without charge to sponsor, or hold, meetings and events pre-approved by the Council, through the Director for Religious Affairs, in accordance with District law and regulations.

IX. SUNSET

The Council shall sunset on June 30, 2021.

X. RESCISSIONS


Mayor's Order 2008-126, dated September 19, 2008, is superseded and rescinded in its entirety.

XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This order shall become effective immediately.



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

ATTEST: 

CYNTHIA BROCK-SMITH
SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA