**Mayor’s Interfaith Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 27, 2017

10:00 AM – 12 Noon

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Room 509

Present: Dr. Sidney D. Fowler (Co-Chair)

Rev. Thomas Bowen (MORA Director)

Rabbi Gerry Serotta, Commissioner

Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, Commissioner

Pastor Gabriel Sobarzo, Create Church

Chris Karakul, Anacostia Waterfront Trust

The meeting was called to order by Director Bowen. Dr. Fowler offered up prayer. (A quorum was not met)

Introductions were made. Director Bowen acknowledged the presence of Chris Karakul, RainPay Program Manager for the Anacostia Waterfront Trust.

Director Bowen shared with the group that an unusual number of commissioners were unable to attend the meeting and that a few of the commissioners have a conflict with the Thursday meeting date. One commissioner mentioned that the location and parking may be an issue. Another commissioner said that the meeting had been moved to the Wilson building to give commissioners a sense of connectedness. The decision was made to keep the day and location.

Chris Karakul of the Anacostia Waterfront Trust shared information about the RainPay program and asked for help with identifying places of worship within the Anacostia Watershed area that may be interested in participating. RainPay focuses on DC’s stormwater problem. The Trust partners with landowners to build green stormwater infrastructure projects in key areas of the Anacostia Watershed. Commissioners were invited to attend the ribbon cutting event for the project at the Progressive National Baptist Convention headquarters in Ward 7 located at 601 50th Street NE.

Commissioners discussed the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for May 25. It was decided that the focus be on mental health. A presentation will be given by commission member Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness. Dr. Holness is the Faith Based Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Behavioral Health.

The meeting was adjourned by Director Bowen.