



## COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS (CAAA)

### JUNE MEETING MINUTES

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Meeting Date: June 17, 2020

Webex Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Chair, Dr. Kimberly Jeffries Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Quorum was established. Quorum is established when there is a presence of one third of the Commission (voting and non-voting Ex-Officio). There were 14 Commissioners present, 9 Public Members and 5 Ex-Officio.

#### Commissioners Present:

- Salim Adofo, Public Member, Ward 8
- Akela Crawford, Public Member, Ward 7
- Vivian Derryck, Public Member, Ward 4
- Anthony Diallo, Ex- Officio Member, DCRA, Ward 7
- Spencer Gopaul, Public Member, Ward 5
- Delano Hunter, Ex- Officio Member, DPR, Ward 5
- Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Public Member, Ward 4 (Chair)
- Charles Jones, Ex- Officio Member, DOES, Ward 2
- Ronald King, Ex- Officio Member, DC Health, Ward 7
- Deneira Owens, Ex- Officio Member, DHCD, Ward 7
- Prentice Parrish, Public Member, Ward 5
- Lolita Ratchford, Public Member, Ward 1
- Kristin Shymoniak, Public Member, Ward 8
- Melanee Woodard, Public Member, Ward 5

#### Commissioners Absent:

- Kimberly Dickerson, Ex- Officio Member, MPD, Ward 7
- Sondra Phillips Gilbert, Public Member, Ward 6
- Latasha Gunnels, Public Member, Ward 8
- Ryan Jones, Public Member, Ward 4
- Lauren Vaughan, Public Member, Ward 6

3. **Approval and Correction of Minutes:** Commissioner Anthony Diallo made a motion to accept and approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Shymoniak seconded the motion. Dr. Jeffries Leonard (CAAA Chair) called a vote on the motion and the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

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4. **MOAAA Update**: MOAAA Director Ashley Emerson provided an update from MOAAA explaining that Mayor Bowser released the FY 2021 Budget and that MOAAA testified at the Budget Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Government Operations, and provided information about MOAAA's grantees. Director Emerson shared information on the DC Hope Community Grant, DC Small Business Grants, MOAAA's Financially Fit DC Workshop Series on Black Generational Wealth Building, and COVID-19 testing sites and resources.
5. **Black Coalition Against COVID (BCAC)**: Dr. Reed Tuckson of the Black Coalition Against COVID discussed BCAC events and initiatives (e.g. survey, poetry slams, public service announcements, health ministries). Dr. Tuckson explained that the pandemic is not over and that many are not practicing social distancing because they've become tired of staying at home. He explained that the community participation is important in ensuring that new cases decrease and for the safety and health of the community. BCAC has been engaging the faith community, returning citizens, the labor community, musicians and the creative community. He shared that Howard University is working with BCAC's funded church health ministries. The ministries have trained parishioners that query their fellow church members about how they are doing in complying with COVID guidance. Also, BCAC has credible messengers for their Public Service Announcements to encourage the community to comply with COVID-19 official guidance. The PSA's are airing on WPFW, WPGC, WHUR, and WPGC; specifically informing and asking the public participation in the District's Contact Tracing Initiative. BCAC sponsored Poetry Slam events that provide a platform for youth to encourage the community to comply with COVID-19 official guidance and recommendations. Dr. Tuckson encouraged everyone to visit [blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org](http://blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org) for more information.
6. **Commission Business**: The Commission had several items on the agenda: ratifying the CAAA Bylaws, Election of Executive Officers, voting on the Commission's (Public Meetings and Meeting Time, and Committees). There were 9 Public Members of the Commission present at the meeting that voted on the following items:
  - **Commission Bylaws**: Dr. Jeffries Leonard (CAAA Chair) made a motion to approve the CAAA Bylaws. Commissioner Diallo seconded the motion. The Chair called a vote on the motion and the Commission unanimously approved the CAAA Bylaws.
  - **Executive Officers**: Dr. Jeffries Leonard (CAAA Chair) opened nominations from the floor for the CAAA Executive Officer vacancies (e.g. Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and Parliamentarian).
    - **Vice Chair**: Commissioner Gopaul nominated Commissioner Gilbert and she was not present to accept the nomination. Commissioner Adofu nominated Commissioner Shymoniak, and she declined. Commissioner Derryck nominated Commissioner Gopaul and he accepted the nomination. Commissioner Diallo made a motion to close nominations for Vice Chair and Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion to close nominations. The Chair called for a vote and the Commission unanimously voted for Commissioner Gopaul as CAAA Vice Chair.

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- Recording Secretary: Commissioner Gopaul nominated Commissioner Shymoniak and she accepted the nomination. Commissioner Diallo made a motion to close nominations for Recording Secretary and Commissioner Woodard seconded the motion to close nominations. The Chair called for a vote and the Commission unanimously voted for Commissioner Shymoniak as CAAA Recording Secretary.
- Parliamentarian: Commissioner Shymoniak nominated Commissioner Adofo and he accepted the nomination. Commissioner Shymoniak made a motion to close nominations for Parliamentarian and Commissioner Diallo seconded the motion to close nominations. The Chair called for a vote and the Commission unanimously voted for Commissioner Adofo as CAAA Parliamentarian.
- **Public Meetings Schedule and Time**: Commissioners previously voted for their preferences for the frequency of Public Meetings, Meeting Months, and Meeting Times in the CAAA Profile Summary and Survey: 6 Public Meetings, Meeting Months (January, February, March, September October, and November), and the Meeting Time at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Dr. Jeffries Leonard (CAAA Chair) made a motion to ratify the CAAA Public Meeting Schedule, Months, and Meeting Time. This was unanimously approved by the CAAA.
- **Committees**: At 7:55 pm Dr. Jeffries Leonard (CAAA Chair) appointed Commissioner Gopaul (Vice Chair) as the “Acting Chair” to preside over the public meeting and to conduct the business of the Commission. The Acting Chair opened nominations from the floor for the CAAA Committees (e.g. Economic, Education, and Health). Commissioner Derryck made a motion for an additional CAAA Committee, “Current Events” that would meet episodically when a crisis or something of significance occurs in the African American community. Commissioner Shymoniak made a friendly amendment to change the name of the new committee to “Cultural and Current Events”. Commissioner Shymoniak seconded the motion. The Acting Chair made a motion to approve the CAAA Committees (e.g. Economic, Education, Health, and Cultural & Current Events) and called for a vote. The Commission unanimously approved the CAAA Committees.

### 7. Next Steps: Below are action items for Commissioners:

- CAAA Committee Member Selection Process: Commissioner Parrish will make recommendations for the CAAA Committee selection process. The CAAA Profile Summary and Survey will be used as a guide to indicate Commissioners’ committee of interest; in the absence of Commissioners input.
- CAAA Executive Officers Meeting Schedule: Commissioner Adofo (CAAA Parliamentarian) asked if a meeting schedule could be set for Executive Officers.
- Chairwoman Dr. Jeffries Leonard will appoint Chairs of Committees and the Chairs of each Committee will establish committee procedures.

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- Commission will resume Public Meetings in September. Commission and Committees will strategically plan over the summer to present a Strategic Plan outline in September.
8. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Gopaul adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.