



Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys
Executive Office of the Mayor
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MINUTES OF CFMB SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

HELD APRIL 20, 2016

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Public Meeting was called to Order by the Chairman, George Garrow, Esq. at 6:07 p.m. and he had each present Commissioner to introduce himself or herself, and he then introduced Tony Dugger, Executive Director of CFMB who made introductory comments and provided an overview of the purpose and work of the Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys. Present at the meeting were Tristian Wilkerson, Elsie Scott, Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Brett Greene, Silas Grant, Jelani Murrain, and Don Smith, Commissioner-elect, who was later sworn in by Steven Walker, Director of the Office of the Mayor on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) as one of the Commissioners.

Following Mr. Dugger's preliminary remarks, the Chairman called for a motion on approval of the Minutes of the First Public Meeting held February 17, 2016, which was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Tony Dugger then gave an Office update of the various initiatives the Commission would be undertaking, mentioning visiting Barber Shops and stressing the value of learning, and a statistical study of the status of fathers, men, and boys as for educational and academic achievement in all eight (8) Wards, and to develop concepts for a fathers first initiative as to best practices for combating fatherlessness and for fathers create healthy relationships with their children. The Office is also contemplating preparing a Resource Directory for fathers, men and boys. The Office is also contemplating developing a Roundtable discussion addressing disparities and gaps in services to fathers, men and boys, to work with Richard Wright Charter School and their "Man the Block" program that assures safe passage of boys going to and from school and to develop responsible behaviors in doing so and to be under control. In June 2016 is planning a "Fathers Empowerment Day" that will launch CFMB's Fathers First Initiative and award outstanding organizations and individuals doing good fatherhood work in the community. The office plans to cooperate with D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation. The Office is recruiting volunteers from in the community to work with boys and they are planning back to school events to get boys on a fast track of performance.

He then indicated that he had two (2) presenters to talk about their activities and how they could relate to the work of the Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys. The first was Kenneth Harris, an employment specialist with the **Department of Employment Services**, who stressed creating pathways for men and boys to move them into the middle class through progressively more and more responsible employment opportunities. He described **Project Empowerment** working with District of Columbia residents ages 22-54 describing the details of that program and the emphasis on working with the younger group of 22-26 year old individuals. He described the program in detail to the approximately 70

persons who were in attendance. He emphasized that they work with out-of-school youth to get them job training and experience and even into mentoring programs. They also endeavor to try to help homeless youth by getting them into job training for at least 3 weeks and then finding gainful employment for them and then they follow up on work retention regarding the employment 30 days, 60 days, 90 days and 1 year out from the time of job placement. His presentation was very substantive and extensive.

After the swearing in of Mr. Donald Smith as a new Commissioner by Steven Walker, Director of the Mayor's Office on Talents and Appointments, Mr. Odie Donald from the **Workforce Investment Council** (WIC) came forward and gave his extensive informative presentation. He explained the work of the WIC, indicating it is like a State and Local Board funded by the Federal government like a State Agency, and it has oversight on how the District of Columbia uses federal funds for youth 18-24 which have the highest unemployment rate in the District of Columbia, observing that African Americans are the most affected.

Mr. Donald described in detail the work of WIC and its emphasis is on workforce development to increase literacy and prepare persons for employment which now exists. They place heavy emphasis on workforce development and even business development for individuals who seem to have the skills and abilities to be entrepreneurs. They collaborate with the Office of State Superintendent on education on adult education opportunities and Community College accessibility, and they partner with Business individuals and employers so that everybody is at the table. He further emphasized that they work strenuously to involve the unemployed and underemployed and not leave any money on the table available for this purpose. He noted that they will be placing 150 out of school youth in the Summer employment program this coming Summer.

Mr. Donald noted in his presentation that they endeavor to achieve system alignment and to provide the education service and preparation for the jobs that exist in the current workforce, to align their programs with the need of businesses and employers, and get the youth on pathways that will lead to consistent employment and retention with advancement where they engage in performance accountability and do what is required. He stressed that WIC's ultimate objective is to prepare these youth for the future workforce requirements to move forward in life into the Middle Class.

At the conclusion of his presentation other Special Guests and leaders of Government Agencies were introduced and thereafter everyone present were asked to introduce themselves and their interest in being present for this Second Public Meeting of the Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys.

Thereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. for slight after meeting refreshments and for people to network with each other.

Respectful Submitted,

Commissioner Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.
Secretary