**Minutes from**

**Mayor’s Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Affairs**

**Quarterly Meeting – October 16, 2023**

1. **Meeting was opened** by Trang Nguyen (Committee Chair) at 6:05pm.
2. **Welcome by Jackie Reyes**, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs, who recognized Director Bowles and MOLGTBQA Team, and shared her excitement about the recruitment of the Committee as well as activities to come.

DC government employees in attendance were asked to introduce themselves (see list below).

1. **Swearing in of new and reappointed Members of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee (MAC)**  by James Bassett, Associate Director, MOTA.

New MAC Members:

1. Remmington Belford
2. Charity Blackwell
3. MaCherie Dunbar
4. Terrence Ford
5. Hope Giselle
6. Neil Going
7. Beatrix Haffey
8. DeMarcus (Mark) Kinkle
9. Jim Kline
10. Christine Miller
11. Michael Mullings-Whitaker
12. Tariq Omarshah
13. Daniel Penchina
14. Mike Silverstein
15. Angela Stepanic

Re-appointed MAC Members:

1. Michael Haresign
2. Aaron Wade
3. Jordyn White

**(**note: Chair Trang Nguyen’s current appointment is through June 2024).

1. **Report from MOLGBTQA on highlights of achievements and challenges in 2023 –** Director Japer Bowles  
     
   Director Bowles welcomed guests and members, highlighting the programs and services offered by MOLGBTQA.
2. **Constituent Services:** MOLGBTQA has served over 237 constituents in 2023 by connecting them to services that range from housing services to assisting with parking tickets. Residents can easily reach the office using the [Office Request form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8Unkj5SLt0-ZBm-Tnagtcw2s6Y5IFD9Dt7bu2S783a5UNFVRQlMzQUczNEIzMjMwUUw5Nk84QTBaNi4u), following them on social media and their [DC Office of LGBTQ Affairs | Instagram, Facebook | Linktree](https://linktr.ee/DCLGBTQ)
3. **Housing:** The office has 90 housing vouchers, and 55 have been successfully assigned to a home. MOLGBTQA will also be a government sponsor for the upcoming LGBTQIA+ Housing Symposium
4. **Grants:** In FY23, MOLGBTQA had over $600,000 in its grant program that supports programs across the city, such as OTS, the arts, GSAs, and essential services. In FY24, the office expanded its grant program to over a million dollars. MOLGBTQA has granted out a large portion of those funds through our community development fund and will soon announce awards for VAPRT and Cultural Competency grants.
5. **MOLGBTQA Needs:** Director Bowles asked the MAC for support in two specific areas in the short-term:
   1. A few volunteers needed to help develop a Strategic Communications Strategy and implementation plan for the Office
   2. Specific connections/introductions to potential resources and partners for upcoming events and activities
6. **Q&A related to Director’s Report**
7. Q: What is the timeline for the communications plan?
8. Starting in Jan, the office would like to have a step-by-step plan to engage, partner, and bring resources.
9. Q: Is there time to train hotel workers and identify safe places ahead of WP 2025?

A: Cultural Competency training for business is a priority, and in partnership with CPA, we can ensure that this training is offered. MOLGBTQA also works closely with local BIDS to reach businesses that interact with the LGBTQIA+ community and during pride.

1. Q: Are there any other areas for which you would like to identify funding?

A: As the FY25 budget is being developed, this is the time to meet with the community and gather those requests. Also, MOLGBTQA is partnering with DC government agencies to connect them with community members. By doing so, community members can highlight their and the community's needs to those agencies.

1. Comment: There is a need for grassroots communication, for example, flyers and  
   in-person direct engagement with the community.

A: A communications plan should include those ideas. The plan should include how we get those flyers and engagement done for every MOLGBTQA effort.

1. Q: Can the committee consider a way to help new MAC members learn the role, e.g. shadow a returning MAC member?

A: The MAC will plan and organize a retreat in November to bring everyone on board, identify work areas and begin the work.

1. **Briefing on World Pride 2025 -** Capital Pride Alliance (CPA) Executive Director, Ryan Bos

Executive Director Bos shared a high level summary of current plans related to World Pride 2025. The pillars that World Pride will be organized under are arts and culture, human rights, nightlife, and history. Over 3 million people are expected to come to DC for World Pride. CPA has made sustainability a key component of its planning efforts. They aim to ensure that the pride celebrations in 2024, 2025, and beyond benefit from the World Pride event 2025.

An informational session on World Pride 2025 for the community was held October 17 (the day following the meeting), and there will be more planned.

**Questions and Comments from the MAC:**

Through their questions and comments, several members of the MAC highlighted and asked that inclusion be kept front of mind, including with the faith community, people with sensory sensitivities, young people, lesbians, trans, etc. – i.e. historically Pride has centered cis-gender gay men, predominantly white men and to some extent black men. The MAC also highlighted the need to engage local community organizations and small businesses. The MAC requested that CPA proactively engage and include the broad LGBTQIA+ community, and several members of the MAC volunteered to engage more directly.

The MAC also asked CPA to develop and disseminate a robust calendar of community engagement activities and give sufficient notice for the community to engage.

**Director Bos acknowledged the questions, comments and requests.** He explained that CPA’s website will have more information and information on upcoming listening sessions as these are great ways for people to engage and learn more. He asked that members of the community bring all these great ideas to upcoming listening sessions. He noted that CPA cannot do it all and will proactively seek partnerships with other Pride organizers (Black Pride, Trans Pride, etc.) as well as community organizations and businesses.

1. **Update on upcoming events/dates hosted or supported by the MOLBGTQA –** Gaby Vincent, Community Outreach and Relations Specialist

* Thursday, October 19th Spirit Day (anti-bullying movement for LGBTQIA+ youth)
* Tuesday, Oct. 24th Mayor Muriel Bowser’s 17th Street High Heel Race
* Tuesday, October 31st, LGBTQIA+ Halloween Silver Soiree
* Monday, Nov. 20th, Transgender Day of Remembrance
* Nov. 29th – Nov. 30th DC LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition and the ANC Rainbow Caucus will be hosting an LGBTQ+ Housing Summit at MLK Library
* Friday, Dec. 1st World AIDS Day
* Saturday, Dec. 2nd Whitman Walker’s Walk to End HIV
* TBD Holiday Event

A calendar of community events can be found at [DC Office of LGBTQ Affairs | Instagram, Facebook | Linktree](https://linktr.ee/DCLGBTQ)

1. **Community Input**

Several members of the community made comments or asked questions of the MAC.

* Comment: When telling stories of our community, we must tell all stories, not only the good stories. The stories should tell stories about how the trans community cannot safely get on buses in DC. How we do or do not give people opportunities. People who are enjoying Pride should see themselves in those stories.
* Q: People east of the river often get left out of events in the downtown area. What can the MAC to support and include people east of the river?

A: The first step is to have diversity and representation on the advisory committee, and MOLGBTQA has achieved this. In supporting the MOLGBTQA, the MAC is committed to ensuring diversity.

* Report from Team DC: The Gay Games will be held from Nov 3 – 11 and Team DC is excited to participate and represent DC. This year, there will be a half marathon, 10K, 5K, track and field, cheerleading, powerlifting, water polo, tennis, and swimming.

1. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm** by Chair Trang Nguyen. MAC members were asked to remain for a short discussion on administrative issues/logistics for the MAC.
2. **Attendance**

**MAC Members present Absent**

1. Remmington Belford  Jo McDaniel (Chapman)
2. Charity Blackwell  Salvador Sauceda-Guzman
3. MaCherie Dunbar
4. Terrence Ford
5. Hope Giselle
6. Neil Going
7. Beatrix Haffey
8. Michael Haresign
9. DeMarcus (Mark) Kinkle
10. Jim Kline
11. Christine Miller
12. Michael Mullings-Whitaker
13. Trang Nguyen
14. Tariq Omarshah
15. Daniel Penchina
16. Mike Silverstein
17. Angela Stepanic
18. Aaron Wade
19. Jordyn White

**MOLGBTQA Staff**

* Japer Bowles, Director
* George Garcia - Grants Specialist
* Gina Rupert - Housing Specialist
* Gaby Vincent - Community Outreach and Relations Specialist

**Other DC Government Employees**

* Jackie Reyes-Yanes – Director, Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs (MOCA)
* Javier Sanchez – Specialist, Dept of Small & Local Business Development
* Kai Shanklin – Associate Director, Mayor’s Office on Caribbean Community Affairs
* James Bassett – Associate Director, Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA)
* Daniel Taylor – Deputy Director, MOTA
* Vida Rangel – Deputy Director, MOTA
* Officer Desiree Walker – LGBT Liaison Unit, Metropolitan Police Department

**Members of the Public**

(See Sign-in Sheet)