

# Commission on African Affairs Meeting | May 5, 2021

## **Attendees:**

### MOAA Staff:

- Aly Kaba
- Gelila Getaneh
- Sosina Baruda
- Yared Mengistu
- Semhal Hagos

### COAA Commissioners:

- Hellen Fissahaie
- Theodore Ngatchou
- Carmen Eliam
- Sannido De Poukn
- Ify Bozimo
- Josiane Ndoymbaye

Opening – Call to Order: 6:08pm

## **II. MOAA Updates and Announcements**

Aly: MOAA has been busy conducting a great deal of community activities in collaboration with DC Health Link, recently under the Sankofa Outreach Campaign. In addition, have been doing weekly food distributions, May 14-15<sup>th</sup> is a vaccination campaign coming up as well.

## **III. Chair Announcements**

Hellen- welcomes guests. No current updates or announcements. Asks all Commissioners to introduce self and what they have been up to recently specifically in the African community.

### Commissioner Introductions:

Hellen- Commissioner, CEO/Managing Director at F3 Global Advisory Group LLC, working with DC Health on Credible Messenger program targeting the African community.

Theodore- Commissioner, Founder at Renaissance Center, and working w/ DC Health Link to support the franco-phone community.

Sannido- Commissioner, TV show local host, and is available to support French translation

Ify- Commissioner, Attorney licensed in NY and Nigeria, interest and expertise is Africa on the other side, a way to leverage- Africa Investment Forum- AfDB and Other National banks- lawyer to help documentation leading up to the event (how to leverage for here and in Africa)- business connectivity and development

Josiane- from Central African Republic- Commissioner- nonprofit- the Africa Foundation- help in fighting poverty, help community members to grow community- volunteer to help covid- campaign

Carmen- Behavior health Specialist- DCH Department of Health- homeless get vouchers and helping those who need it, help emotional and through art

Next Steps:

Social Gathering- for Commissioners

Saturday at 11am – May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am

#### **IV. Public Comments**

Hellen-How can we better work together? The Commission and MOAA?

Gelila- the current focus is to have the African community to get vaccinated, walk-in vaccination, Vaccine clinic- push on the 13<sup>th</sup> will gather Church leaders getting vaccinated, May 22<sup>nd</sup> day of action

Sosina- please continue to share the weekly updates on resources with your network.

Aly- There are two ways to best be more collaborative and helpful.

- 1) strategic planning- MOAA and COAA have the same mandate (have strategic plans) and have specific technical meetings
- 2) Delivering information to the community (MOAA newsletter- goes to 16,000, 1000K weekly, 900 calls weeks, etc) and attending events

Ify- was not aware that events were happening in-person and agrees to share resources and attend events

Theodore- agrees we can collectively work together

Social Gathering for Commissioners to be held end of May 2021

#### **V. Adjournment (7:00pm).**