

African-American Affairs Commission  
 Public Meeting, Minutes for **Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
 Old Judiciary Room – Capitol Building

**Present:** Commissioner **McBride**  
 Commissioner **Jefferson**  
 Commissioner **Jones**  
 Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**  
 Commissioner **Wright**  
 Commissioner **Clark**

**Absent:** Commissioner **Logan**

**Staff in Attendance:** Executive Director – **Glenn Cassis**  
 and Legislative Analyst – **Frank Sykes**

**Public:** **Gary Highsmith** – Principal of Hamden High School

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
<b>Meeting called to order</b>	Meeting commenced at approximately <b>6.00 pm</b>	Commissioner <b>Jefferson</b>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p><b><u>School Principal of Hamden High School</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Highsmith presented testimony in response to proposals from the State Department of Education to reform Connecticut's schools to address the achievement gap. He cited certain weaknesses with the proposal and emphasized personal responsibility.</p> <p>He requested the Commission's support and involvement in doing outreach to enhance parental involvement.</p>	Commissioner <b>Jefferson</b>
<b>Approval of December</b>	Motion to approve minutes for the December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2007 meeting.	Moved by Commissioner

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<b>Regular Minutes</b>		<b>Jones</b>  Seconded by Commissioner <b>Jefferson</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Budget was distributed and reviewed.	<b>Glenn Cassis</b>
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	<p>Report was distributed. Items discussed included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Gary Highsmith (Principal of Hamden High School) regarding secondary school reform</li> <li>• Meeting with Senator Looney regarding New Haven cab drivers.</li> <li>• Reviewed 2008/09 Legislative Agenda</li> <li>• Scheduled meeting with Commissioner of Education</li> </ul>	Commissioner <b>Jefferson</b>
<b>Committee Update Reports</b>	<p><b><u>Education:</u></b></p> <p>Update on education initiatives presented.</p> <p><b><u>Health:</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Wright requested staff support to provide him an update of Commission's activities in the area of health care.</p> <p><b><u>Legislative:</u></b></p> <p>Legislative agenda was reviewed and approved. (<i>see attachment</i>)</p>	<p>Commissioner <b>Pierre-Louis,</b></p> <p>Commissioner <b>Wright</b></p> <p>Commissioner <b>Jefferson</b></p>
<b>Resolutions</b>	Motion to approve Resolution	Moved by Commissioner

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
	<p><b>103 – Resolution setting the 2008 meeting schedule for the AAAC.</b></p> <p><b><i>Meeting date for the July meeting was corrected from July 30<sup>th</sup>, to July 23<sup>rd</sup></i></b></p>	<p><b>Wright</b></p> <p>Seconded by Commissioner <b>Clark</b></p>
<b>Director’s Report</b>	<p>Report was distributed. Items discussed included:</p> <p><b>Budget Update</b> – Discussed earlier under Treasurer’s Report</p> <p><b>Update on Meeting with Cab Drivers</b> – Meeting will be re-scheduled for January 24th</p> <p><b>Coalition for Environmental Justice Event</b> – Planning for the event is underway. Event is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum</b> – Request for AAAC to co-sponsor this event scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p><b>2007 Annual Report</b> – Draft of the report was distributed to Commissioner’s for follow up and feed back</p>	<p><b>Glenn Cassis</b></p>
	<p>Motion made for AAAC to offer a contribution of a \$1000 for the Greater Hartford Male Youth Leadership initiative to be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the State Capitol in Hartford.</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner <b>Wright</b></p> <p>Seconded by Commissioner <b>Clark</b></p>
<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Clark informed the Commission of a grant available to the Commission for health or education initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>Commissioner <b>Clark</b></p>

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on Racial Profiling (<i>No action</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>Glenn Cassis</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black History Month Celebration at Central Connecticut State University on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.</li> </ul>	<b>Glenn Cassis</b>
<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned at 8.15 pm	Moved by Commissioner <b>Wright</b>  Seconded by Commissioner <b>Clark</b>

Respectfully Submitted

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**Frank Sykes**  
Legislative Analyst

Approved By

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**Commissioner Logan**  
AAAC Secretary