

African-American Affairs Commission  
 Un-Approved Minutes for March 5, 2014  
 Legislative Office Building – Room 1B

**Present:** Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **Darity**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Jones**, Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**, and Commissioner **Wright**, Commissioner **McBride**, Commissioner **Harris**, Commissioner **Tetty Jr. and** Commissioner **Hugley**

**Absent:** Commissioner **Clark**

**Staff in Attendance:** AAAC Executive Director, **Glenn Cassis** and AAAC Legislative Analyst, **Subira Gordon**

**Public:** **Jackie Bryant** from Genesis and **Kendrick Roundtree** from the First Step Foundation

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
<b>Meeting called to order</b>	<b>6:08 pm</b> Called to order	Chairman <b>Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis</b>
<b>Roll Call</b>	11 Present and 2 absent	Executive Director <b>Glenn Cassis</b>
<b>Public Comment</b>	Executive Director, Cassis started the meeting by asking Jackie Bryant from “Genesis-College is a must”. Jackie Bryant from “Genesis- College is a must” introduced herself and gave an overview of the program she is working on which is an initiative to excite fathers to read to their children. She explained that children who are unable to read by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade almost never catch up. The program is being lunched in all of the turn-around districts. The program is titled “daddy and me” time. She emphasized the power of reading from as early as in the womb. This is a part of a nationwide program that is trying to engage fathers to read to their children. Reading helps to build self-esteem. Jackie is trying to get male organizations to take part and help with the initiative. “Genesis-college is a must” had a successful father take your child to school day. The age range for the program is pre-school to 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade. Commissioner Canterbury asked Ms. Bryant if she is looking for volunteers for her organization. She replied that she was looking for father figures and any other willing volunteers	

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	<p>and she is also looking for a letter of support from the AAAC. She is also looking for funding from the state for help working in the turn- around districts.</p> <p>Next Chairman Pierre-Lois asked Commissioner Hughley to introduce his invited guest. Commissioner Hughley introduced Kendrick Roundtree to the commission. Kendrick then introduced himself as the President and CEO of the First Step foundation which is an approved provider for therapeutic services for children in the DCF system. He said he was asked by commissioner Hughley to come to the meeting to get more information on the work that the commission does.</p> <p>Chairman Pierre-Lois said that he understood that Mr. Roundtree was interested in joining the commission. Mr. Roundtree inquired about the open spot on the commission. The chair said that the commission has the resume and will follow up if there was a vacancy.</p> <p>Mr. Hughley suggested that Mr. Roundtree add his name to the talent bank on the AAAC website.</p>	
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	<p>Consent Agenda – Chairman Pierre-Lois stated that while the commissioners looked the consent agenda he would introduce Alex Tettey Jr. to the commission saying that he thought that he would be a good addition to the group. The commissioners then all introduced themselves to Commissioner Tettey. There were no questions on the consent agenda. Commissioner Jones pointed out that there was some money left in the budget for management and consultant services.</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner <b>Wright</b>, seconded by Commissioner <b>Canterbury</b></p>
<b>Chair Report</b>	<p>Dr. Pierre-Louis reported February was very interesting based on all the cancellations due to snow storms and he wanted to commend the operating staff for their great work on legislation. Commissioner DelGado said she seconded the comment about the AAAC staff. Commissioner Wright said he wanted to add that he has always been impressed with the operating staff of the AAAC.</p>	

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<b>E.D. Report</b>	<p>Mr Cassis reported that the Amistad Committee, Inc., which is in New Haven is having a couple of events one is the African American Connecticut Explored at the New Haven museum. The Amistad committee will also be showing "Race" at Lyrick Hall on Whaley Ave. Mr. Cassis said that he has heard that this is a compelling film although he has not seen it. The AAAC will have tickets for sale.</p> <p>There is also a piece of testimony available that was not in the packet.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis talked about the President's visit that staff was able to attend. The president talked about the minimum wage and said that the commission is supporting that measure which will help many African Americans in the state.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell asked about the time for the film showing she was told it was at 6:00pm.</p>	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<p><u>Classic Awards Committee</u> – Commissioner Wright reported that the Nomination Committee has their packets for evaluation and they need to be returned by the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The nominating committee includes commissioner DelGado, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Hughley and Commissioner Wright. The packet includes evaluation sheets and Commissioner Wright suggested that Commissioners call him if her had questions. In the past the commission bought a full page ad in the book and Commissioner Wright suggested that this be done again this year the cost would be \$40 per commissioner. As he did last year Commissioner Wright said will divide the list of people who have been sent letters asking for funding. He also informed the Commission that the Lieutenant Governor will no longer be able to do the key note. Mr Cassis is looking into someone for the keynote. This year each nominee will have 2-3 minute speaking time limit to avoid the embarrassment from last year of a speaker going on for over 30 minutes.</p>	

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	<p>Commissioner Wright said he had received a packet from Commissioner Hughley which he had neglected to pass on to Denise and asked that he be given permission to use the names for the nomination process. The committee decided that that would be allowed.</p> <p>Commissioner DelGado asked for Commissioner Wright's cell number. She also asked if the packets could be returned on Friday instead of Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>. She was informed that the date of the 12<sup>th</sup> is a hard deadline. Commissioner Harris asked for Commissioner Wright's email address to be able to return his packet.</p> <p><u>Veterans of Color Committee-</u> Mr. Cassis reported that the committee had a conference call and set a date for a meeting for the 25<sup>th</sup> of March in the Old Judiciary room from 5-7:30 to do a planning session. A number of individuals and organizations have been invited to this meeting. The committee discussed having programs at certain areas of the state and is trying to ensure that each geographic region have ownership over how the event is done in their portion on the state to be most effective. Mr. Cassis has started to work on a budget to make the events possible. The committee will meet in the next week to finalize the plans for the March meeting. Commissioner Campbell informed the group that the Hartford NAACP is interested in working with the committee. Commissioner Wright has also reached out to a retired Lieutenant General in the area. Commissioner DelGado asked what the end goal was for this group and she was informed that the group is still working on what the goal was.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell's Committee met in on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and discussed a new commissioners orientation packet, prepared a letter to address public speakers who have asked the commission to for help with their own organizations and discussed the possibility of a</p>	

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	<p>commissioner being a part of the Amistad America's board . They also met with Molly from Human Resources and worked on a strategic planning session to decide how the commission would use the suggestions. Commissioner Campbell said that she will have the report in writing and sent to the Executive Director.</p>	
<b>Resolutions</b>	<p><b>179. BE IT RESOLVED:</b> That the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will be a co-sponsoring agency with the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System's Color of Justice program that will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 2 PM to 4 PM at Central Connecticut State University. AAAC staff will attend planning meetings and assist with promoting the program. Commissioner Wright says the adoption date needs to be changed from the 5<sup>th</sup> of April to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. ED Cassis mentioned the commission on racial justice that focuses on youth in the justice system. The film "the color of justice" will be shown and educators will be invited and was asked by judge harper to be on the committee.</p> <p>Commissioner DelGado asked what exactly co-sponsor means in this instance. She was informed by the Executive Director that In this instance we are helping to plan and promote the event.</p>	<b>Moved by Commissioner Hughley and Seconded by Commissioner Jones.</b>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p>Chair Pierre-Louis said that the Amistad America asked for help for someone to sit on their board and asked if any commissioners would be interested in sitting on that board. Mr. Cassis said that he met with Ms. Washington and discussed the audit that should soon be finalized and he has been informed that the audit will be clean there was no misuse of finances. He also said that the person on the board does not have to necessarily be a commissioner but someone who is committed to the mission of the Amistad. Commissioner DelGado asked who referrals should be</p>	

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	<p>made to and was informed by Mr. Cassis that they should be sent to Hanifa Washington who is the Executive Director for Amistad America.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell informed the commission that the April Meeting would be held in New London and then turned the floor over to Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Jones informed the group that the meeting is confirmed for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Connecticut College. Commissioner Jones said she will be contacting local legislators and other local groups to invite them to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner DelGado asked if there was a specific theme. Commissioner Jones said that there would be a brief PowerPoint presentation about that region of the state. There is no real specific theme but the focus is going to be on elevating the presence of the region.</p> <p>Commissioner Jones said we would be discussing our legislative priorities and this will be a chance to discuss what the AAAC is working on this session.</p> <p>Commissioner DelGado asked if the commission thought it would be beneficial to have the mayor of New London speak about things in the region and Commissioner Jones responded that the focus should be on the region on a whole not one specific town. She went on to say that we can discuss our legislative agenda and how it ties into education. The city of New London is under a huge transformation that is changing the district into a magnet school district which will be a significant change for the area.</p> <p>Commissioner DelGado also asked if there could be a state representative from the region would be invited to discuss issues for that region. Commissioner Jones said that she would be inviting all the state and local officials from the area but she cannot guarantee that they will attend.</p> <p>Commissioner Jones said that we should also tap into local resources with the clergy in that area.</p>	
<b>New Business</b>	Last week the president made a speech about my Brother's	

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	<p>Keeper which is a project about black males in urban males. Commissioner Tettey said that he has discussed this initiative with his office and is waiting to hear from the White House.</p> <p>Commissioner Wright added that Commissioner Tettey asked to become a member of the veterans of color committee.</p>	
<b>Legislative Agenda</b>	No Report	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	No report	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Adjourned at 7:10 PM	Moved by Commissioner <b>Wright</b> , seconded by Commissioner <b>Jones</b> .

Respectfully Submitted Glenn A. Cassis  
 Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donna Campbell, Secretary /Date