

African-American Affairs Commission
 Approved Minutes for May 6, 2015
 LOB Room 1B

Present: Commissioner **Brown**, Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Hugley**, Commissioner **Ike**, Commissioner **Johnson**, , Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**, Commissioner **McBride**, and Commissioner **Wright**

Absent: Commissioner **Darity**, Commissioner **Ficklin**, Commissioner **Harris**, Commissioner **Fields**, Commissioner **Jones** and Commissioner **Vermont**

On Leave: Commissioner **Tetty**

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

Public: **Sue Gunderman, Kyle Gel, Tiana Hercules, Eileen O'Connor, Karen Warner, Richard Porth, and Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad**

Agenda Item	Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>)	Action (<i>and by whom</i>)
Meeting called to order	6:04 pm Called to order	Chairman Alphonse Wright
Roll Call	10 Present, 6 absent and 1 on leave	Executive Director Glenn Cassis
Public Comment	<p>The entirety of each public comment was recorded and is available upon request.</p> <p>Richard Porth- United Way Discussed the ALICE Study (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) that the United Way and 5 other states in addition to CT recently completed. The ALICE report to quantify how there are individuals and families that work hard, but still struggle to make ends meet. The ALICE study was done in 6 states in conjunction with Rutgers University in CT, NJ, Florida, Michigan, Indiana and California.</p> <p>Study Goals: 1. Why do many hard working people still struggle financially?</p>	Introduction by Chairman Alphonse Wright

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	<p>2. To understand how the struggle affects their lives and limits their opportunities and choices.</p> <p>3. To determine how the financial hardships they face impacts the community as a whole.</p> <p>Sue Gunderman- Stride Job Placement Coordinator with a focus of employment for the reentry population Quinebaug Valley Community College, Co-Chair of the Greater Hartford Reentry Council.</p> <p>The stride Job Placement is a program funded by the Dept. Of Labor to work with formerly incarcerated parent's pre/post release. All participants have children under the age of 25 years of age and have been on some form of state assistance. 5 Reentry councils across the state</p> <p>Greater Hartford Reentry Council:</p> <p>Signature event - 5th Annual reentry employment and resource fair in Mid-September 2015</p> <p>3 Main Goals Pre/During/Post incarceration</p> <p>Legislative Advocacy Goals support or blocking of a bill that adversely impacts the population they serve.</p> <p>Creating a mentoring or Community program</p> <p>Updating and putting forward proposal for end of sentence resource home/service-center</p> <p>Tiana Hercules- Project Coordinator for Project Longevity, statewide law enforcement initiative to decrease violence targeted on group and gang related gun violence in CT's major urban areas of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven.</p>	

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	<p>Project Longevity has a basic strategy of intervention by directly interacting with former offenders with known group/gang association/affiliation in conjunction with positive community individuals/resources and law enforcement. Looking at innovative vehicles to get these individuals connected to resources like SBA and SCORE for those interested in starting their own businesses due to other barriers to these individuals to regular, gainful employment.</p> <p>Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad- My People Clinical Services and their Fatherhood programs. The business has existed for 10 years and started out with a Father to Father initiative. The organization also has a female empowerment component. They provide individual and family therapy inside of the schools. MPCS also provides supportive housing services for DCF those male youths under 23 years of age and the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction youths.</p>	
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda - Budget Report, Approval of April 1, 2015 Minutes, Executive Committee Reports.	Moved by Commissioner Ike seconded by Commissioner Brown Approved
Chair Report	Chairman Alphonse Wright On Sunday May 3rd Judge Coefield Annual Law day given at the First Cathedral Church with a focus on the CT Second Chance Society initiative. The June 9 th Forum on CT Racial Profiling in Bridgeport has been tentatively scheduled.	
E.D. Report	Mr. Cassis stated that his report is a part of the packet. He highlighted the 2015 Classic Awards taking place in the LOB Atrium on Friday the 15 th . The ED asked that all commissioners be present by 6 pm as photos would be taken of award recipients. Reception would be from 6:30 pm to 7pm and the program would start at 7pm. Reviewed the mock-up of the program for the 2015 Classic Awards. Commission now has 18 Commissioners with a new appointment from Litchfield County by the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Duff. Byron Francis is the newest	E.D. Glenn Cassis and AAAC Legislative Analyst, Subira Gordon AAAC Information Officer Earl Bloodworth

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	<p>commissioner added to the AAAC.</p> <p>Discussed the second CT Racial Profiling Forum taking place on May 7th at CREC, 359 Washington ST.</p> <p>Earl Bloodworth Discussed the details of the second CT Racial Profiling Forum</p> <p>Discussed the rally taking place at the Capitol for education, the Hartford Mayoral debate, and both the House and Senate will be in session.</p> <p>ED Glenn Cassis discussed the recognition and plaque the AAAC received at the Fairfield Juneteeth Award Ceremony on April 11th in addition to an Ad we placed in the booklet.</p> <p>The budget is going through iterations and the AAAC is still in the budget with numbers coming out sometime next week. There was a Republican budget proposal advising the consolidation of the Commissions.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p>Commissioner Campbell on the Internal Affairs Committee discussed setting the date for the orientation session for 6 new AAAC Commissioners but the schedule was not working out to get everyone together on the same day.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell proposed to the Chairperson having the orientation occur on the last meeting date in June or during the summer. Commissioner Johnson discussed everyone getting in their donations for the Classic Awards Journal ad. Chairperson Wright emphasized the importance of making sure the speakers keep their talking points to three minutes and the time limit will be enforced. A list will be sent out for the speakers to Commissioner Johnson so she can notify them of the time limits.</p>	Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Campbell
Resolutions	N/A	
Old Business	N/A	

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New Business	<p>Inquiry as to when a CT Racial Profiling forum would be taking place in the Groton New London area? Earl Bloodworth stated the forum is going to be organized after follow up contact with the Mayor of Norwich office.</p> <p>Brief discussion on the April Commission meeting in April and the Multi-Commission meet and greet from March by Subira Gordon and Commissioner Campbell.</p>	<p>Chairperson Wright, L.A. Subira Gordon, AAAC I.O. Earl Bloodworth Commissioner Campbell</p>
Upcoming Events	<p>2015 Classic Awards, New Commissioner Orientation, Hartford CT Racial Profiling Forum, and next meeting June 17th.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Adjourned at 7:19 PM</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner Ike and Seconded by Commissioner McBride.</p>

Respectfully Submitted

Glenn A. Cassis

Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director

Approved by

Donna Campbell

Donna Campbell, Secretary /Date