

African-American Affairs Commission
 Public Meeting, Minutes for **Wednesday, May 7th 2008**
 Room: **LOB 1-B 5.30 PM**

Present:

Commissioner **McBride**
 Commissioner **Jefferson**
 Commissioner **Jones**

Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**
 Commissioner **Wright**
 Commissioner **Clark**

Absent:

Commissioner **Logan**

Staff in Attendance:

Executive Director – **Glenn Cassis**, Legislative Analyst – **Frank Sykes**

Public:

Hank Gruner – Vice-President of Programs, Connecticut Science Center (**invited**)
African-American Day Parade Committee – President, Ula Dodson and Stan McCauley
Scott X. Esdaile – President of NAACP
Dawn Westbrook – Civil Rights Attorney

Agenda Item	Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>)	Action (<i>and by whom</i>)
Meeting called to order	Meeting commenced at 6:07 pm	Commissioner Pierre-Louis
Public Comment	Hank Gruner distributed a power point presentation to the Board. He provided the background, the mission and an update on the development of the Connecticut Science Center. He highlighted the disparities in educational achievement and explored opportunities to partner with the Commission, to reduce these disparities through school-family collaborations.	Commissioner Wright Commissioner Jones

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	<p><u>Commissioner Jefferson the Chairperson of the AAAC joined the meeting</u></p> <p>Stan McCauley and Ula Dodson distributed material and briefed the Commission on the work of the Committee. An interest in involving the Commission in the planning of the parade was expressed.</p> <p>Scott X. Esdaile reported on the status of the bill regarding the creation of a Minority Health Advisory Commission. He congratulated the AAAC for its support and promised to invite the Commission to the ceremonial signing of this bill.</p>	<p>Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Pierre-Louis,</p>
Approval of April Minutes	<p>Motion to approve minutes for the April 2nd, 2008 monthly meeting.</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner Wright</p> <p>Seconded by Commissioner Jefferson</p>
Treasurer's Report	<p>Report was reviewed.</p> <p>It was noted that the surplus from the OE account will be less than 10 percent of the budget. It was recommended that very little be returned.</p>	<p>Mr. Cassis, Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Clark</p>
Chairperson's Report	<p>Report was presented. Items discussed included.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with a special agent from the FBI to speak with the Commission on matters relating to the African-American community. It was agreed that the meeting should be held in June. • Inquiry on passage of noose legislation. It was affirmed that the bill was waiting the Governor's signature • There was discussion about possible Commission involvement in the planning of the African-American day parade to increase public participation. Issues of safety and security at the event were raised. Other issues discussed, pertained to the AAAC offering technical expertise, resources and guidance in organizing the parade. It was agreed that staff should attend future meetings to determine opportunities for collaboration. • The search for advisors with various capacities to serve on the Advisory Council. Commissioners were asked to present names at the next meeting. 	<p>Commissioner Jefferson,</p> <p>Commissioner Jefferson,</p> <p>Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pierre-Louis, Commissioner Clark, Mr. Cassis</p> <p>Commissioner Jefferson,</p>
Committee Update Reports	<p><u>Education:</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Health:</u></p>	Commissioner Pierre- Louis

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	<p>It was reported that Natalie Achong had agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee for health.</p> <p><u>Legislative:</u></p> <p>An update on legislative activities was presented. Status on a number of key bills supported by the AAAC throughout the legislative session was reported. It was agreed that an alert be sent out to community groups urging Governor Rell to take action on certain bills.</p>	<p>Commissioner Wright</p> <p>Mr. Sykes, Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Clark</p>
Resolutions	<p>The following resolutions were adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission supports and will assist the Coalition of Independent Contractors in its effort to seek legislative redress to improve the economic determination and racial representation of taxi drivers in particularly in Connecticut's urban centers. 2. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission supports the Coalition for Environmental Justice in its effort to seek legislation that will address environmental inequities that adversely impact the African-American community in the State of Connecticut. 3. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs 	<p>Mr. Cassis, Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Jones,</p>

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	<p>Commission will assist and support the African-American Day Parade Committee (Hartford) by attending planning meetings and offering technical support to organizers.</p> <p>4. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission support the Community Collaboration for Change (Hartford) project that establishes a facilitated discussions on parental involvement in the education of children by being a signing organization, attending planning meetings and offering technical support.</p> <p>5. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission support the American Heart Association Stroke Prevention initiative by disseminating information to the African-American Community and establishing a partnership with the Connecticut American Heart Association.</p> <p>6. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission be a member the Hartford Cancer Awareness Task Force and support the goals of this initiative to better inform the African-American community on cancer awareness and prevention.</p> <p>7. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission partner with the State Departments of Higher Education and Higher Education to launch the statewide Know How To Go-CT campaign to guide</p>	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">middle and high school student preparing for college.</p> <p>8. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission support the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Water Safety Task Force initiative to decrease fatalities in recreational water activities at state parks.</p> <p>9. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission will continue to support legislative and public awareness efforts to reduce and eliminate lead poisoning incidents. In addition the Commission will support educational initiatives that will assist children victimized by lead poisoning with overcoming learning disabilities.</p> <p>10. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission serve on the State of Connecticut Department of Education Ad-Hoc Committee on secondary school reform.</p> <p>11. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission will support the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services in its effort to disseminate information on the Charter Oak/Husky Plan health plan.</p> <p>12. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission will serve on Governor M. Jodi Rell's Task</p>	

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	<p>Force on the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity.</p> <p>13. RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission will collaborate with the Commission on Children, the Department of Children and Families, Casey Family Services, The Village for Family and Children and other entities committed to decreasing the disparity and disproportional representation of African-American children in the foster care system in Connecticut.</p>	
Director's Report	<p>Report was distributed. Items discussed included the following:</p> <p>Coalition of independent Contractors, New Haven Taxi Drivers – A public hearing is expected to be held on the matter sometime in June/July. The coalition has been alerted and should be ready to testify.</p> <p>Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice – The environmental bill is moving successfully through the legislative process.</p> <p>Noose Bill – The legislation is expected to be signed by the Governor and the AAAC has requested to be present at the signing of the bill.</p>	Mr. Cassis

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	<p>Racial Profiling – The Town of Bloomfield has agreed in principle to be the fiscal agent in receiving and disbursing funds so the project could commence. More details will follow.</p> <p>Education – Reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee has expanded in membership. Sheila Hayes of the Norwich NAACP Education Committee has joined.</p> <p>Lead Poisoning – Overview of AAAC’s involvement with HELP in terms of its outreach.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis has not received the appointment letter from Ngozi Taffe</p>	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was agreement that overall the Classic Awards Event was a success. • Concerns were raised about comments from participants at the Classic Awards Event regarding the opening remarks. Discussion followed. • The need to get increased community involvement regarding legislation/issues impacting the African-American community was also mentioned. 	<p>Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Pierre-Louis</p> <p>Commissioner Jefferson, Commissioner Pierre-Louis, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Wright, Commissioner McBride</p> <p>Commissioner Clark</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Upcoming Events	None	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 8.24 pm	Moved by Commissioner Wright Seconded by Commissioner Jefferson

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Sykes
 Legislative Analyst

Approved By

Commissioner Logan
 AAAC Secretary