

African-American Affairs Commission
 Un-Approved Minutes for February 6, 2013
 Legislative Office Building – 1B

Present: Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **Clark**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Hugley**, Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**, Commissioner **McBride**, Commissioner **Thompson**, and Commissioner **Wright**

Absent: Commissioner **Harris and** Commissioner **Washington**

Staff in Attendance: AAAC Executive Director, **Glenn Cassis**

Public: State of CT Child Advocate Attorney Jamey Bell, Rosetta Jones, Kenneth McClary, Kennard Ray, Jordan Bennett

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Meeting called to order	6:05 pm Called to order	Chairperson Fred Pierre-Louis
Roll Call	9 Present and 2 absent	Executive Director Glenn Cassis
Public Comment	Public Comments - State of CT Child Advocate Attorney Jamie Bell shared and discussed a report “12 Years of Child Gun Deaths”. She shared statistics from the report. She investigates issues within the child welfare system. Her research focused on unexpected child deaths and how to prevent them. Within the last 12 years 94 children died from gunshot wounds. Statistics show that the norm is older children, male, African-American. The report also indicated that there were 924 gun injuries during this period. She noted that suicide attempts with guns are more successful in the U.S. Decreasing the availability to guns will decrease suicides. She shared information on the foster care system in CT and noted that more African-American children are being removed from their families and placed into foster care than any other group in CT. She would like for the AAAC to help bring children’s issues to her attention.	

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Consent Agenda	The Minutes for December 5, 2012 and Executive Director's report were approved. Consent Agenda for February 6, 2013.	Moved by Commissioner Wright , seconded by Commissioner Canterbury
Chair Report	Mentioned that Commissioners Jones has invited the Commission to be on her local television show. Thanked the Commissioners for their participation in College Goal Sunday.	
E.D. Report	<p>Executive Director discussed an issue presented to him by Professor Matt Warshauer, a professor at CCSU. The need to put Social Studies /History back into the school system's curriculum, particularly at the high school level. He is waiting for additional information on the topic in order to support and/or proceed.</p> <p>Met with Senator Meyer's staff to discuss legislation regarding blood minerals that are being exported out of the Congo. The Senator presented a resolution requesting that U.S. companies not engage in trade of blood minerals from the Congo. Mr. Cassis has put the Senator in contact with a member of USAADO who does business and trade with the Congo to shed light on the issue.</p> <p>During the Nigerian National Assembly's visit here in CT, the AAAC set up meetings with the Lieutenant Governor, leaders of the Black and Hispanic Caucus and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. Representative Penny Bacchiochi and several other legislators attended the <i>meet and greet</i> that the AAAC hosted on January 29th.</p> <p>The Executive Director discussed the Governor's budget and the recommendation that all the commissions be consolidated in order to save \$700,000.00. He mentioned the budget hearing scheduled for February 19, 2013. AAAC</p>	

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	<p>will present at 9:00 A.M. in Room 2D of the Legislative Office Building. The public is invited for public comments at 4:00 P.M. He encouraged the commission to be present to show their support.</p> <p>The Executive Director submitted testimony on the gun bill, taking guns out of the hands of the mentally ill.</p> <p>Discussed the possible elimination of Hartford Job Corps Academy. The Executive Director will make contact with legislators so that they may show their support.</p> <p>It was brought to the AAAC's attention that Hartford middle school students have visited Natures Classroom in Massachusetts. This program does slavery reenactments. Some of the parents have voiced concern about the reenactment which is degrading to the students. The Executive Director brought the matter to the attention of the State Department of Education; this program is now being investigated.</p> <p>College Goal Sunday was a success, will get back with the number of students that attended as soon as the numbers are tallied.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p><u>Public Relations Committee</u> – Commissioner Clark has continued update the AAAC Facebook page. She ask that Commissioners send events and other information to be uploaded, attachments should be in jpg. Tina Martin from WFSB will have the AAAC on her program to discuss the Classic Awards on her weekend news show. Commissioner Clark will line up Mr. Cassis to be on the show in April. There is also an opportunity to have City Councilman Kyle Anderson host the Commission on his local cable television</p>	

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	<p>show in April</p> <p><u>Internal Affairs Committee</u> – Commissioner Campbell proposed that the April meeting be held in the Stamford area and the September meeting be held in the New Haven area. She asks that Commissioners in those areas contact her with information on meeting sites in the areas. She suggested that Commission packets be available to all guests that attend for public comments. Commissioner Campbell also discussed the need for more interaction between the commission board members so that the board can operate as a more cohesive group.</p> <p><u>Classic Awards Committee</u> - Commissioner Wright shared that youth nominations forms are still coming in along with a few other categories. He will keep the commission updated as things progress.</p> <p><u>Community Issues</u> - Commissioner Hugley read information on the topics of: Gun Violence / Gun Control, Immigration Reform, Education Reform, Project Longevity and Mental Health. He feels the commission should look into these issues. Commissioner DelGado suggests that the Commission get together with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and the Asian Commission to discuss these topics and work together on these issues.</p>	
Resolutions	None	
Old Business	Commissioner Campbell feels that the Commission needs to regroup and follow up on the plan laid before the Commission by the consultant. She suggests having an additional group meeting to review the plan.	
New Business	None	

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Legislative Agenda	Commissioner Hugley mentioned Gun Violence/Gun Control, Immigration Reform, Education Reform, and Mental Health.	
Upcoming Events	AAAC Black History Month Annual Table Tops February 13 th – 15 th , 2013 – LOB Concourse. March for Change February 14 th - State Capitol Gun demonstration Friday, February 15, 2013–State Capitol AAAC Black History month Art Exhibit February 15 th – 28 th , 2013 – LOB Concourse. Dedication of the Rosa Parks Stamp February 15 th 11:30 – 1:00 – State Capitol	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 7:25 PM	Moved by Commissioner Pierre-Louis seconded by Commissioner Wright

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

Approved by _____
Donna Campbell, Secretary /Date