

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

2004 ANNUAL REPORT





AAAC Mission Statement

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut, through advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, community networking and influencing legislation.

African-American Affairs Commissioners:

*George Logan, **Chair***
*Delores Franks, **Vice-Chair***
*Sharon Ibrahim, (**Treasurer**)**
*Derrick McBride, **Secretary***
Michael Jefferson
Lillie B. Crosby
Rosetta Jones
Kurt Harrison
Toni Bosley
Victoria Odesina
Charles Botts, III

Staff:

*Vanessa D. Burns, **Executive Director***
*Cheryl Harris Forbes, **Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator***
*Frank Sykes, **Legislative Analyst***
*Denise R. Drummond, **Executive Assistant***

** Deceased*



Table of Contents

<i>Mission Statement</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Dedication and Acknowledgement</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Legislative Mandates</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Chairperson's Report to Governor M. Jodi Rell</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Selected Statistics</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2004 Education</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>2004 Legislative Agenda & Summary</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>2004 Programs, Issues and Activities</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Concourse Exhibit</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Classic Awards</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Roadmap To Health Conference</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Outreach Events & Activities</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>2004 Areas of Interest</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>2004 Partnerships</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Commissioner and Staff Profiles</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Talent Bank</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Talent Bank Application</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>42</i>

2004 Dedication and Acknowledgement



- The Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission would like to dedicate its 2004 Annual Report to the late Commissioner Sharon Ibrahim, who passed away suddenly in October. Commissioner Ibrahim was the guiding force behind AAAC's *Roadmap to Health* public health conference. The conference's success was due in large part to her efforts and dedication while planning the event.

- The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is indebted to the many organizations and individuals that supported the AAAC's Legislative Agenda and ongoing advocacy concerns. We are grateful for our many partners including but not limited to the Black and Hispanic Caucus, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Children, NAACP, DemocracyWorks and the Urban League of Greater Hartford.

- The AAAC also acknowledges the support and technical assistance provided by the Office of Legislative Management, Information Technology Services and the Capitol Police.

AAAC Legislative Mandates



- Maintain a liaison between the African-American community and governmental entities;
- Review and comment on any proposed state legislation that would affect the African-American population in the state;
- Encourage African-American representation at all levels including state boards and commissions;
- Advise and provide information to the Governor on state policies concerning the African-American communities;
- Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-American population;
- Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the African-American population of the state; and
- Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with appropriate recommendations concerning the African-American population in the state.

Chairperson's Report



The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor of the State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106



Dear Governor Rell:

It is with considerable contemplation that the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) submits its 2004 Annual Report for your review.

Clearly, this year has been difficult for many Connecticut citizens, as the State's severe budget crisis has impacted many facets of daily life. This is especially true of African-Americans, who participate in programs fully or partially funded by the State of Connecticut.

In spite of these challenges, the AAAC's outreach efforts have expanded. The Commission has seized many opportunities to inform and partner with our constituents, including community groups, to advocate for those issues that concern the African-American community. Of particular note is our development of *AAAC Update*, a 30-minute public affairs program that shares information about legislative and policy issues that affect Connecticut African-Americans.

As the AAAC has done previously, this annual report continues to focus on health statistics for African-Americans because they remain among the most crucial issues impacting our community. Without question, education and prison reform rank second and third.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your administration particularly, for your efforts to promote fairness and transparency in State contracting opportunities. We are confident that your commitment to a level playing field will not only increase diversity, but also improve the quality and availability of goods and services to all Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George S. Logan".

George S. Logan
Chairperson - 2004



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN



SELECTED STATISTICS



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

POPULATION TRENDS

Connecticut ranks number twenty-four among the nation's states with the highest number of African-Americans. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of African-Americans identified in Connecticut and was reported at **309,843**. This figure represents **9.1 percent** of the State's total population. The vast majority of the African-American population in Connecticut is dispersed in the major cities, namely Hartford, Stamford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

In recent times, there has been considerable migration of African-Americans from the inner cities to the suburbs. Of the six major cities, Hartford and New Haven still remain the cities with the highest number of African-Americans. However, the Hartford population has seen a sharper decline since the 1990 census. Likewise New Haven and Stamford have experienced slight declines. (Refer to Chart A). In contrast, areas such as Windsor, Hamden and Bloomfield have seen tremendous growth in the African-American population, most notably Hamden. (Refer to Chart B). The following table illustrates the selected distribution of African-Americans in the State.



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION

<i>TOWN</i>	1990 Total Population	1990 No. of African-Americans	Percent of Total Population	2000 Total Population	2000 No. of African-Americans	Percent of Total Population	Percent Change 1990-2000
BLOOMFIELD	19,483	8,084	41.4	19,587	10,589	54	12.6
BRIDGEPORT	141,686	37,684	26.5	139,529	42,925	30	3.5
HAMDEN	52,434	4,556	8.6	56,913	8,840	15.5	6.9
HARTFORD	139,739	54,338	38.8	121,578	46,264	38	-0.08
MERIDEN	58,479	2,553	4.2	58,244	3,754	6.4	2.2
MIDDLETOWN	42,762	4,747	11.1	43,167	5,291	12.2	1.1
NEW BRITAIN	75,491	5,723	7.5	71,538	7,794	10.9	3.4
NEW HAVEN	130,474	47,157	36.1	123,578	46,181	37.3	1.2
NEW LONDON	28,540	4,807	16.8	25,671	4,784	18.6	1.8
NORWALK	78,331	12,123	15.4	82,951	12,663	15.2	-0.02
STAMFORD	108,056	19,217	17.7	117,083	18,019	15.3	-2.4
STRATFORD	49,389	3,899	7.8	49,976	4,892	9.7	1.9
WATERBURY	108,961	14,133	12.9	107,271	17,500	16.3	3.4
WEST HAVEN	54,021	6,713	12.4	52,360	8,530	16.2	3.8
WINDSOR	27,817	4,792	17.2	28,237	7,648	27	9.8

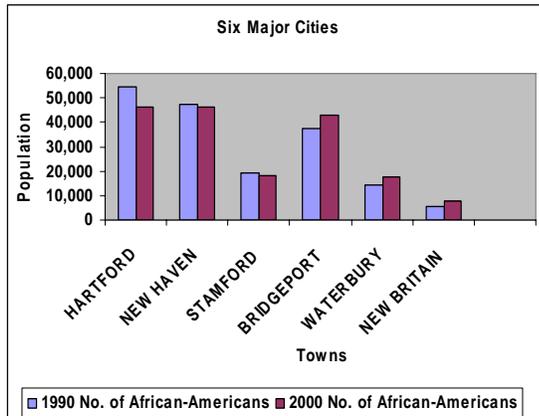


Chart A

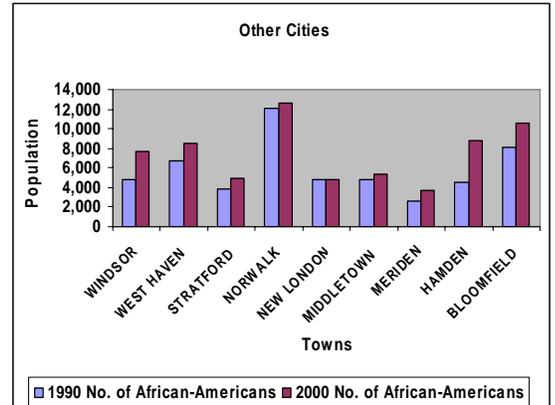


Chart B



INCOME

Race	Median Household Income
Asian	61,587
White	57,518
Native American	37,078
Black	35,104
Hispanic	32,075

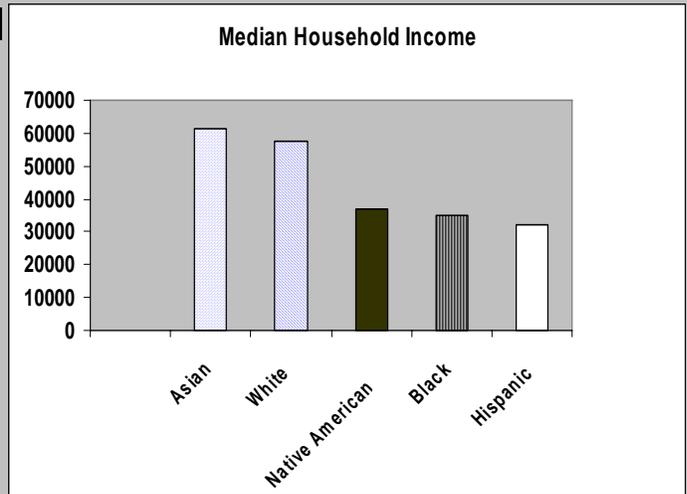


Table 2

Chart C Source: U.S. Census Bureau



2004

EDUCATION



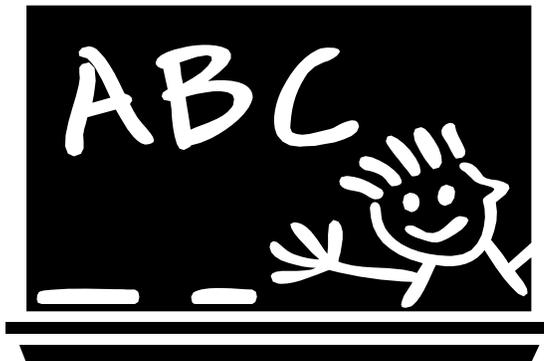
COMPARISONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2002-2004

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)

The following graphs illustrate statewide results on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) beginning in 2002 through 2004. The CMT is administered each fall to measure the academic performance of approximately 126,000 students in Grades 4, 6 and 8. Overall achievement gaps between whites and non-whites have improved slightly. Nevertheless the gap still demonstrates a significant disparity in educational achievement between whites and minorities throughout the State. Results from the 2004 (CMT) indicate that the average scores for African-American students have proportionately remained the same.

Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) assesses 10th grade students' academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. For African-Americans, participation levels increased slightly. However statewide, the gaps in student achievement between minorities and non-minorities have remained essentially the same. Exhibit 1.3 demonstrates the participation levels and rates for students in selected ethnic groups. Exhibit 1.4 illustrates the percentage of students who scored above the CAPT's established State goal by subject matter.



Education

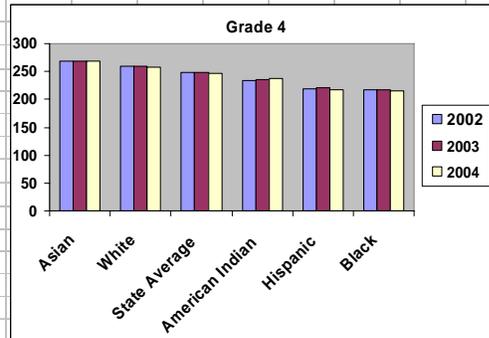


Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

MATH

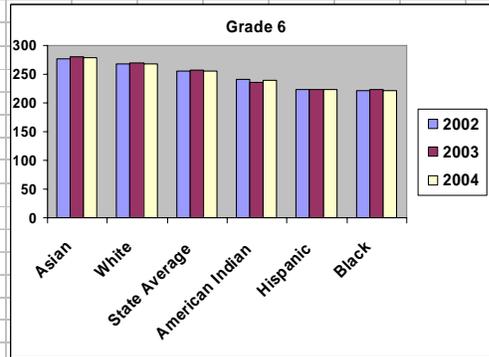
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	268	268	268.8
White	260	259	257.9
State Average	249	248	246.6
American Indian	233	235	237.5
Hispanic	219	220	217.7
Black	217	218	214.9



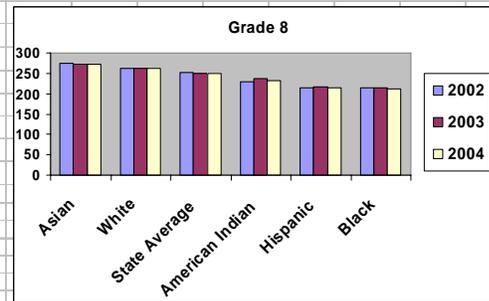
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	277	281	279.4
White	267	269	267.1
State Average	255	257	254.8
American Indian	241	236	239.8
Hispanic	224	224	224.1
Black	222	224	221.6



Average Scale Scores, Grade 8

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	276	272	273.4
White	263	263	261.2
State Average	251	250	248.6
American Indian	230	238	232.7
Hispanic	215	216	214.8
Black	215	215	212.7



Education



Education

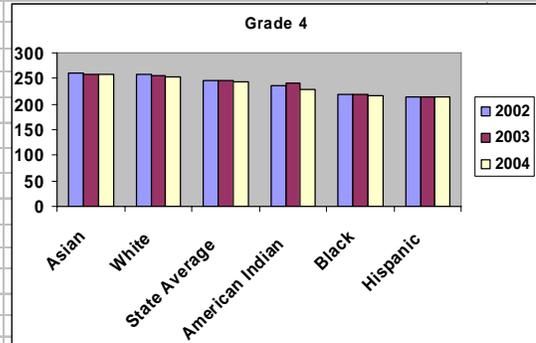


Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

READING

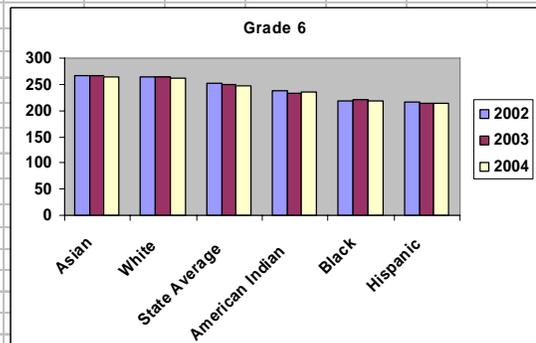
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	260	259	258.6
White	258	256	253.5
State Average	246	245	242.7
American Indian	236	240	229.6
Black	218	219	216.1
Hispanic	213	215	213.5



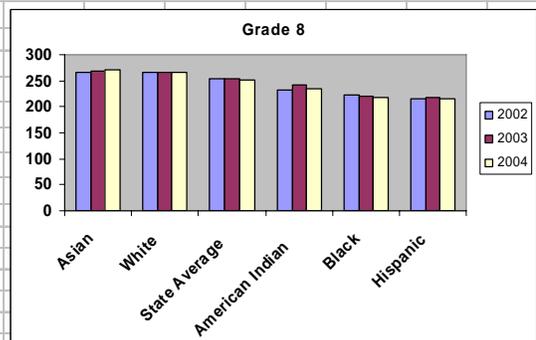
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	266	266	264.2
White	264	263	260.8
State Average	252	250	248.2
American Indian	237	233	235.6
Black	219	220	218.7
Hispanic	215	214	214.3



Average Scale Scores, Grade 8

	2002	2003	2004
Asian	267	269	270.3
White	265	267	265
State Average	253	254	251.7
American Indian	233	241	234.6
Black	222	220	217.5
Hispanic	216	217	214.7



Education



Connecticut Academic Performance Test(CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) assesses tenth grade students' academic skills in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. For African-Americans participation levels increased, considerably. However statewide, the gaps in student achievement between minorities and non-minorities essentially the same. **Exhibit 1.3** demonstrates the participation rates for students in selected ethnic groups. **Exhibit 1.4** illustrates the percentage of students who scored above the CAPT's established State goal by subject matter.

Exhibit 1.3

*CAPT PARTICIPATION RATES BY RACE - 2004

	Math	Science	Reading	Writing
White	97.3	97.3	97.3	96.7
Hispanic	88.0	88.7	86.5	85.5
Black	88.9	89.3	88.9	87.4

Source: Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Second Generation
Summary Performance Results, 2001-2004

Exhibit 1.4

MATH

	2002	2003	2004
White	52.8	54.7	56.4
Hispanic	11.9	13.2	13.7
Black	9.6	10	10.1

SCIENCE

	2002	2003	2004
White	52	52.6	57.8
Hispanic	12.5	12.3	14.7
Black	10.8	10.2	12.1

READING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

	2002	2003	2004
White	52.5	55.6	56.6
Hispanic	17.6	17.8	19.2
Black	15.2	16.8	19

WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

	2002	2003	2004
White	58.8	61.1	62.7
Hispanic	21.4	23.5	23.2
Black	21.9	23.7	23.6

Source: Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Second Generation
Summary Performance Results, 2001-2004



2004
Legislative Agenda
AND
SUMMARY

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The African-American Affairs Commission developed its *2004 Legislative Agenda* to include the following:

- **Revitalizing Distressed Communities** – Support commercial investment and economic growth strategies in inner-cities outlined in the Blue Ribbon Commission Report.
- **Asset Ownership** – Support continued funding for asset growth programs (e.g. individual development accounts).
- **Minority Business Enterprises** – Enforce regulations implementing set aside provisions for small contractors/minority business enterprises (e.g. MBE's involved in capital projects undertaken by municipalities with substantial state funding).
- **Welfare to Work** – Support initiatives under the Connecticut Jobs First Program aimed at achieving the following:

Increased funding for advanced educational opportunities for welfare recipients in job training programs

Maintain funding for childcare programs

Support funding for transportation and support services

- **Environmental Justice** – Support legislation that addresses environmental justice issues.
- **Healthcare Education** – Support programs aimed at educating and creating awareness of health issues in African-American communities.
- **Husky Health Plan** – Support legislative initiatives to protect currently enrolled Husky adults from further cuts.
- **State Administered General Assistance** – Safeguard against further cuts and examine associated costs and benefits.
- **School Health Clinics** – Protect spending for school-based health clinic screening of students for diabetes and other common illnesses.
- **Affordable Housing Development** – Protect funding for affordable housing.
Preserve current affordable housing units for low-income residents and advocate for construction of new affordable housing.

Ensure that the rehabilitation of affordable housing low-income units is replaced by similar units

Predatory Lending – Support legislative efforts to address the problem of unfair lending practices aimed at low-income residents.
- **Access to Jobs** – Support state transportation policies recommended by the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board to expand mass transit options, specifically bus service, for urban residents.
- **Election Day Registration (EDR)** – Support Election Day Registration initiative aimed at increasing voter turn-out for disenfranchised groups.

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



2004 END OF SESSION REPORT

The legislative session commenced on February 4th, 2004 and ended on May 5th, 2004. This report is a summary of the status on a number of legislative bills pertinent to AAAC's legislative agenda for that period. Testimonies were provided on the following bills:

EDUCATION

- House Bill (HB) 5344 – *An act concerning childhood nutrition in schools, recess and lunch breaks*

Public Hearing 2/26/04 – AAAC submitted written testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on June 8th, 2004 as Public Act 04-224.

HEALTH

- (HB) 327 – *An act concerning family and medical leave for organ donation*

Public Hearing 2/24/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on May 10th, 2004 as Public Act 04-95 on May 10th, 2004.

- Senate Bill (SB) 5005 – *An act concerning funding for elderly nutrition*

Public Hearing 2/10/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred from Senate to Committee on Appropriations on February 26th, 2004. No action taken. There is no new funding appropriated in the budget for the elderly nutrition program.

- (SB) 7 – *An act concerning extension of group health insurance benefits for older individuals.*

Public Hearing 2/10/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Committee on Aging on February 4th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 419 - *An act to study health insurance coverage for the treatment of obesity.*

Public Hearing 2/10/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by Senate to Committee on Legislative Management on March 31st, 2004. No action taken.

- Senate Bill (SB) 468 – *An act establishing a center for adults with sickle cell disease*

Public Hearing 03/04/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred from House to Committee on Appropriations on March 15th, 2004. No action taken.

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



- (HB) 5637 – An act concerning health insurance for low income adults

Public Hearing 3/11/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Committee on Public Health on March 4th, 2004. No action taken.

HUMAN SERVICES

- House Bill (HB) 5572 – *An act concerning child poverty and the use of psychotropic medications with children.*

Public Hearing 5/05/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on June 8th, 2004 as Public Act 04-238.

- (HB) 197 – *An act concerning the urban renewal housing program.*

Public Hearing 2/17/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred from House to Committee on Finance Revenue and bonding on March 18th, 2004. No action taken.

- (SB) 194 – *An act concerning the preservation of federally assisted housing as low and moderate-income housing.*

Public Hearing 2/17/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Tabled for the House calendar on April 30th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 5187 – *An act concerning the return of rental deposits and notification of the name and address of a landlord*

Public Hearing 2/17/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred from Senate to Committee on Judiciary on March 18th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 5183 – *An act protecting residents of housing sold by a housing authority.*

Public Hearing 2/17/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Committee on Housing on February 11th, 2004. No action taken.

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



- (HB) 5190 – *An act concerning the opening of waiting lists for federal Section 8 vouchers.*

Public Hearing 02/17/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Tabled for the House calendar on April 13th, 2004. No action was taken on the bill, however language in the budget implementer HB – 5689 required that any entity in the state that administers federal Section 8 housing choice vouchers must make this information available to the public at least two weeks before opening its waiting lists.

- (SB) 5615 – *An act concerning revisions to the Husky program.*

Public Hearing 3/09/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by Senate to Committee on Appropriations on March 19th, 2004. No action taken, however the budget for fiscal year 2004/05 repealed the co-pays on prescription drugs and doctor’s visits under the Husky A portion of the program. These changes are expected to make the program more affordable for enrollees.

- (SB) 553 – *An act concerning revisions to the Medicaid program.*

Public Hearing 3/09/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by House to Committee on Appropriations on March 18th, 2004. No action taken. (Same as explained in SB – 5615 above)

- (SB) 554 – *An act concerning technical revisions to the temporary family assistance program.*

Public Hearing 3/09/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by House to Committee on Appropriations on March 18th, 2004. No action taken.

- (SB) 5617 – *An act concerning the state administered general assistance program.*

Public Hearing 3/09/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by Senate to Appropriations Committee on March 19th, 2004. No action taken, however the budget bill signed by the Governor eliminated the current \$1.50 co-payment on prescription drugs as implemented in the 2003/04 budget.

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



ENVIRONMENT

- (HB) 5535 – *An act concerning overburdened communities and notice of polluting events*

Public Hearing 03/04/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Tabled for the House calendar on April 27th, 2004. No action taken.

COMMERCE

- (HB) 5414 – *An act concerning consumer credit counseling*

Public Hearing 2/26/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Banks Committee on February 19th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 5538 – *An act creating a micro loan program for micro enterprises.*

Public Hearing 3/04/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by Senate to Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding on March 18th, 2004. No action taken.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- (HB) 5211 – *An act concerning prison overcrowding*

Public Hearing 2/18/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on June 8th, 2004 as Public Act 04-234. A total of \$13.4 million was provided to enhance prisoner recidivism reduction efforts aimed at achieving the following: an increase in the number of probation officers, additional residential drug treatment and halfway house beds. The budget also provided funding for community reinvestment employment initiatives in Hartford and New Haven, as outlined in the “Building Bridges Report”, a state initiative aimed at assisting ex-offenders re-integrate into society.

- (HB) 5358 – *An act establishing a permanent interagency task force on trafficking persons*

Public Hearing 3/31/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on May 21st, 2004 as Special Act 04-8.

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



- (SB) 313 – *An act providing for community-based behavioral health programs and services for children in the juvenile justice system.*

Public Hearing 2/26/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred from House to Committee on Human Services on March 9th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 5213 – *An act adopting the recommendations of the Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission.*

Public Hearing 2/18/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on February 11th, 2004. No action taken. Bill did not pass but prison reform initiatives were incorporated in (HB) 5211 – *An act concerning prison overcrowding*

- (HB) 5292 – *An act concerning the reduction of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.*

Public Hearing 3/01/04 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on February 13th, 2004. No action taken

CIVIL RIGHTS

- (SB) 507 – *An act concerning the Freedom Trail*

Public Hearing 3/04/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on April 28th, 2004 as Public Act 04-25.

- (SB) 5621 – *An act concerning election day voter registration.*

Public Hearing 2/09/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by House to Committee on Legislative Management on March 30th, 2004. No action taken.

- (HB) 5621 – *An act concerning membership on state boards and commissions.*

Public Hearing 03/09/04 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by House to Committee on Legislative Management on March 30th, 2004. No action taken

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



Other Legislative Bills of Interest to the Commission

(HB) 5366 – An act concerning establishing a plan of community based services for adolescent females involved in the juvenile court

Status – Signed by Governor on May 10th, 2004 as Special Act 04-5

(HB) 5428 – An act concerning school readiness staff qualifications

Status – Signed by Governor on May 16th, 2004 as Public Act 04-15

(SB) 119 – An act concerning clean cars

Status – Signed by Governor on May 10th, 2004 as Public Act 04-84

(HB) 5483 – An act concerning transition rental assistance

Status – Signed by Governor on May 4th, 2004 as Public Act 04-73

(HB) 5564 – An act concerning the placement of female juvenile offenders at the Connecticut Training School

Status – Signed by Governor on May 21st, 2004 as Public Act 04-152.

(HB) 5346 – An act concerning continued eligibility for the child care subsidy program

Status – Favorable Change of Reference. Referred by Senate to Committee on Human Services on March 10th, 2004. No action taken

(HB) 5348 – An act concerning youth in crisis

Status – Favorable Change of Reference. Referred by Senate to Committee on Human Services on March 10th, 2004. No action taken

(HB) 5351 – An act concerning the school breakfast program

Status – Favorable Change of Reference. Referred by Senate to Committee on Education on March 10th, 2004. No action taken

(SB) 303 – An act concerning reporting on children placed in out-of-state residential facilities

Status – Tabled for the House calendar on March 15th, 2004. No action taken

(SB) 337 – An act concerning residential beds for female juvenile offenders

Status – Favorable Change of Reference. Referred by House to Appropriations Committee on March 10th, 2004. No action taken

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



(HB) 5324 – An act concerning after school programs

Status – Referred to Education Committee on February 17th, 2004. No action taken, however funding was provided for after school programs in the budget.

(HB) 5371 – An act concerning education cost sharing

Status – Favorable Change of Reference. Referred by Senate to Appropriations Committee on March 11th, 2004. No action taken, however the budget implementer bill, HB – 5584, eliminated the existing cap on annual increases to the education cost sharing grant and restored a provision that allows additional funding for towns with population densities higher than the state average. This is expected to provide towns the additional educational resources at the local level.

(SB) 257 – An act concerning the urban industrial site reinvestment program

Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred by House to Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on March 18th, 2004. No action taken

(HB) 5338 – An act concerning funding for mental health programs for children, And

(HB) 5339 – An act concerning funding for mental health programs for young adults

Status – Referred to Committee on Public Health on February 17th, 2004. No action taken. Funding was provided for mental health services in the following budget line items: the Community Mental Health Center, Community Health Services and the Community Mental Health Strategy Board.

(HB) 5290 – An act concerning the Care-for-Kids childcare program

Status – Referred to Committee on Human Services on February 13th, 2004. No action taken on bill, however the budget implementer bill, HB. 5689, required the Department of Social Services to re-open enrollment for the child-care subsidy (Care-for-Kids) program. In addition, working families that have exhausted their temporary family assistance benefits would be given priority for these subsidies. As of February 2004, over 10,000 families including over 17,000 children who were not current or former recipients of temporary family assistance were excluded from the program

(HB) 5387 – An act concerning a family strengthening plan

Status – Referred by House to Committee on Legislative Management on March 23rd, 2004. No action taken.

(HB) 79 – An act concerning childcare vouchers

Status – Referred to Committee on Human Services on February 10th, 2004. No action taken

African-American Affairs Commission 2004 Legislative Report



(SB) 427 – An act concerning juvenile justice programs administered by the Department of Children and Families

Status – Recommended to Committee on Human Services on May 5th, 2004. No action taken

(HB) 5292 – An act concerning the reduction of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system

Status – Referred by House to Judiciary Committee on February 13th, 2004. No action taken.

(SB) 84 – An act concerning appropriations for housing and homeless services

Status – Referred to Committee on Human Services on February 10th, 2004. No action taken. In the budget bill there was \$500,000 appropriated to the Housing/Homeless Services line item. From that allotment \$200,000 was allocated to emergency shelters and the remaining \$300,000 was appropriated to the Beyond Shelter. The increased shelter funding is expected to restore funding levels of 2001. After repeated rescissions, the shelters had been operating below their normal grant levels.

(SB) 5231 – An act authorizing state funds to establish commuter rail service in the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield corridor

Status – Referred by Senate to Finance Revenue and Bonding on February 19^h, 2004. No action taken.



2004
Program
Issues & Activities

Concourse Exhibit



2004 BLACK HERITAGE STAMP ART CREATES HISTORY

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission and the Northeast Area operations of the United States Postal Service sponsored the 2004 Black Heritage Stamp Exhibit from February 2-13, 2004. The Exhibit, a group of 38 images which commemorate some of the finest individuals and moments in African-American history was displayed in Capital/Legislative Office Building Concourse.

The stamp art concept and display were created by the AAAC in celebration of Black History Month. The show marked the first time that the United States Postal Service's 125-year-old stamp program had showcased stamp artistry and history to create public awareness of the Postal Service's philatelic collections.

The African-American Affairs Commission staff was recognized by U.S. Postal executives at the 2004 Classic Awards for the innovative concept. Since the initial showing, the Black Heritage Stamp Collection returned to the Capitol Concourse for the entire month of June (2004), appeared twice at the Artist Collective in Hartford and is available for public loan. Additionally, the Exhibit served as a model for the Hispanic American Heritage Stamp display.



U.S. Postal Service Managers and AAAC Staff

Left to Right: Carl Walton, Communications Programs Specialist Northeast Area , AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Harris Forbes, U.S. Postal Service Connecticut District Manager Gerard Ahern, AAAC Executive Director Vanessa Burns, and Todd Hawkins, Connecticut Postal Service Lead Plant Manager



THE CLASSIC AWARDS

The following individuals were chosen as recipients at the Fifth Annual Classic Awards, held on February 6, 2004 at the Legislative Office Building. Honors were bestowed on Connecticut residents who contributed to the quality of life of Connecticut's African-American communities. Honorees were selected from a distinguished pool of nominations submitted by the public. More than 225 people celebrated the event.

AAAC Woman of the Year

Patricia E. Kelly

AAAC Man of the Year

Mr. Robert Burgess

AAAC Youth of the Year

Nwanyinma Nnodum

Lifetime Achievement

George B. Clarke

Business & Economic Development

Harland Henry

Classic Awards



2004 Honorees



*Top Row Left to Right: Robert Burgess, Harland Henry, George Clarke
Bottom Row: Nwanyinma Nnodum, Patricia Kelly*

2004 Awardees and AAAC Commissioners



*Top Row Left to Right : Executive Director - Vanessa Burns and Commissioners:
Michael Jefferson, Rose Jones, Toni Bosley,
Sharon Ibrahim, Lillie B. Crosby, Derrick McBride
Bottom Row Left to Right: AAAC Chair - George Logan and Awardees: Harland Henry,
Robert Burgess, Patricia Kelly, George Clarke*

Roadmap to Health Conference



On October 25, 2004 the African American Affairs Commission sponsored “Roadmap to Health” a public health conference funded by a \$16,000 grant from the Center for Disease Control.

The one-day event provided information about issues that dramatically impact the health of African-Americans in Connecticut. Subjects included diabetes, heart, kidney and sickle cell disease, hypertension and cancer.

Nationally recognized speakers including Dr. Muhammad Akhter, Associate Dean of Howard University Medical School, provided global and national perspectives in African and African-American health. Dr. Randall Maxey, President of the Alliance of Minority Medical Associations and past president of the National Medical Association presented information related to increasing occurrences of kidney disease, pre-disease indicators, dialysis patients, and transplant candidates within the African-American population.

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Bureau Chief, Dr. Ardell A. Wilson supplied Connecticut specific statistics for the State’s African-American population as compared to other racial and ethnic subgroups. Selected indices such as healthcare access and healthcare coverage, health status, leading causes of death, age-adjusted death rates for heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, homicide, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases were examined. Healthcare system policy, workforce diversity, and cultural competency challenges, in addition to consumer education, advocacy and participation needs were also identified.

More than 125 members of state agencies, community health organizations, health related associations and the public attended.



Dr. Ardell Wilson – Bureau Chief, Community Health CT Department of Public Health

Outreach Events & Activities



- 3rd Congressional District Information Forum
- African-American Women's Summit
- Centers Edge Project
- Citizenship Forum
- Connecticut Health Foundation Multi-Cultural Health Forums
- Connecticut Supreme Court Law Day Ceremony
- Department of Environmental Protection / Black History Presentation
- Global Majority Retreat
- Juvenile Justice Issues Forum
- National Council of Black Males
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women - Leadership Roundtable
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women Making Women Visible Day
- Reflecting Connecticut Forums
- Small & Minority Business Showcase – New London, New Britain, Stamford, Norwalk and New Haven
- Stonington High School – Speaker – Martin Luther King Day
- Southern Connecticut State University - Women's Studies Program
- Take Your Child to Work Day
- Trafficking Task Force

2004 Areas of Interest



- Appointive Boards and Commissions
- Black Catholics
- Black Male Development
- CT Public Interest Law Journal/ Center for Children Advocacy
- Charter Oak College
- Childcare
- DMV Immigrant Concerns
- Department of Mental Retardation
- Department of Public Health
- Disparate Criminal Justice
- Economic and Business Development
- Educational Achievement
- Election Day Registration
- Environmental Justice
- Greater New England Alliance of Black Educators
- Health Programming
- Health Status Disparities
- Juvenile Justice
- National Correctional Center
- Organ Transplants
- Pay Equity
- Predatory Lending
- Prison Reform
- Sickle Cell Association
- Sickle Cell Treatment Disparities
- Social Service Program Reductions



Left to Right: Sharon Ibrahim - AAAC Commissioner, His Excellency, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau – Executive Governor of Kano State, Nigeria, and Rosetta Jones – AAAC Commissioner

2004 Partnerships



- The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.
 - Business Showcase
 - Center Edge
 - Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
 - Connecticut Department of Education
 - Connecticut Department of Education
 - Connecticut Environmental Justice Coalition
 - Connecticut Environmental Justice Coalition
 - Connecticut Health Foundation
 - Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
 - Criminal Justice Task Force
 - Democracy Works, Inc.
 - Department of Administrative Services / Set Aside Program
 - Multi-Cultural Health Task Force
 - National Black Male Association
 - Northeast Action
 - One Connecticut
 - Southern Connecticut State University Youth Services Board



Vanessa Burns – AAAC Executive Director and Scott Esdale – State of CT NAACP President



2004
COMMISSIONER
&
STAFF PROFILES

Commissioner Profiles



Housing Member and Chairperson - Commissioner George Logan is a Senior Engineer and Mapping Group Supervisor at the BHC Company in Bridgeport. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College, and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System and a member of the Advisory Commission on Multi-Cultural Health. A native of New Haven, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. His volunteer efforts are mainly concentrated on youth empowerment through educational achievement. He currently serves as a board member for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut. In addition to his duties as a Junior Achievement board member, he is responsible for the coordination of the organization's Evening Program, which provides high school students with practical business experience through the creation and operation of an after-school business enterprise. In 1998, House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan as a Commissioner of the African-American Affairs Commission.



Public Safety Member and Secretary - Commissioner Derrick McBride is a native of Bridgeport. He currently resides in Willimantic. Mr. McBride holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He has worked in law enforcement since 1987 at Eastern Connecticut State University's Police Department, and is currently the department's Executive Officer/2nd in Command. He recently graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Mr. McBride is involved in many roles at the University and within the Windham community. As a reflection of this commitment, he is a recipient of Eastern's Martin Luther King Community Service Award and the Excellence in Service to the University Award. Mr. McBride is deeply devoted to his family and church. He was appointed to the Commission by Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons in February 2001.



Education Member and Vice Chairperson - Commissioner Deloris A. Franks is a graduate of Rutgers and Yale Universities where she received Masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health. She has extensive experience in the fields of health, mental health and finance. Ms. Franks was appointed to the AAAC in 2001 by House Minority Leader Robert Ward.



Health Member - Commissioner Victoria Odesina is a Clinical Research Facilitator/Program Nurse Coordinator for the University of Connecticut Health Center. There she manages and evaluates a wide variety of clinical research projects. Ms. Odesina is responsible for the daily operation of the Medication Adherence Support Program for patients with HIV/AIDS, as well as supervision of records maintenance and communication with service facilities.

As a community health educator and advocate, Ms. Odesina has done extensive work in the area of sickle cell disease and HIV/AIDS. She continues to co-author and publish articles and research papers on pediatric sickle cell care as well as pain assessment and management for the disease. Ms. Odesina is Vice-President of Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care headquartered in New Britain, Connecticut. She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in February 2004, by Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin B. Sullivan



Transportation Member and Treasurer - Commissioner Sharon Ibrahim of Manchester is currently employed as a Marketing Assistant for the Governor's State Employee Mentoring Program with Nutmeg Big Brothers & Big Sisters. She has worked for more than 10 years in the human/social services field and is also certified by the State of Connecticut as a sexual assault counselor. Ms. Ibrahim is involved in a host of community organizations and was appointed to the AAAC by House Minority Leader Robert Ward in 1998.



Member of Public - Commissioner Charles Botts, III currently works as a Career and Employment Development Specialist for Trinity College in Hartford. There he provides effective strategic career and educational advising to students and alumni. For two years he served as the college's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and for more than three as a secondary coach for the football team. Prior to joining Trinity, Mr. Botts was employed by United Technologies Corporation (UTC) where he was responsible for evaluating and defining processing capabilities requirements for US/Mexico logistics. Additionally, he worked with UTC's divisional transportation directors to track and report savings targets. Mr. Botts developed a standard for reporting which produced \$10 million in corporate savings. He was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in April 2004 by Representative James Amann.



Environment Member - Commissioner Lillie Crosby of Monroe is a retired executive from the Southern New England Telecommunications Corporation (SNET). She attended Waterbury Public Schools and holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Teikyo Post University, where she majored in Business Office Management and Administration. She also holds a Masters of Science in Health and Human Services from the University of Bridgeport, and was a Minority Fellow with the Connecticut Community Technical Colleges' Minority Fellowship Program. Mrs. Crosby has served as a Commissioner for both the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. In 1998, Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mrs. Crosby to the AAAC.



Children & Youth Development Member - Commissioner Kurt Harrison is a lifelong resident of Hartford, born and raised in the city's Northend section. In 1995, Mr. Harrison graduated from Northeastern University (Boston, MA) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in African-American Studies. As a Program Manager for the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors (RASC), Mr. Harrison is charged with administering the RASC contract compliance and monitoring program for both the redevelopment of Hartford's riverfront infrastructure (Adriaen's Landing), as well as the construction of the University of Connecticut's 40,000 seat football stadium in East Hartford. Accordingly, he is responsible for helping to maximize job opportunities for small and minority business enterprises (S/MBEs) and the minority workforce throughout Greater Hartford and Connecticut in accordance with state goals and requirements. Prior to his current position, Mr. Harrison worked as a Legislative Analyst for the General Assembly and provided research and analysis of issues affecting Connecticut's African American communities. In service to the state's Commission on African-American Affairs, Mr. Harrison assisted the Commission in the development of its legislative agenda and priorities, and served as the prime liaison between legislators, governmental agencies and external groups.



Small business and Economic Development - Commissioner Toni Bosley with a career of more than twenty years in municipal, non-profit and human service environments, Ms. Bosley has and continues to be an integral part of planning, and development of grant administration and human service delivery implementation for the Greater New Haven community. Her primary responsibilities include researching, planning, developing and directing all grant activities for the Town of Hamden. In that capacity she pursues and secures grants from state and federal sources. Ms. Bosley is experienced in the recruitment and development of collaborations with various city, state, federal and private agencies. She designs and implements needs assessments to address various corporate and resident issues as they relate to community building and support services. Ms. Bosley was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in November 2003 by Governor John G. Rowland



Member of the Public - Michael Jefferson is a criminal defense attorney and community activist. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1995 after completing a Masters degree in Child Welfare from Saint Joseph College (1991) and a Bachelors degree in Computer Science from Southern Connecticut State University (1986). In addition to his role as founder of New Haven's Black Parent Teacher's Organization and the AIDS Brigade, an organization to fight the effects of AIDS in the African-American community, Attorney Jefferson established New Haven's first ever All Civilian Review Board as a means of combating police brutality. For two years he hosted WNH-1340 AM's radio public affairs show "Inside the Community". Attorney Jefferson continues to advocate for reform of Connecticut's criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.



Human Services - Commissioner Rosetta Jones is a former Warden of the Brooklyn Correction Institution in Brooklyn, Connecticut. The adult male, medium-security facility specializes in sex offender treatment and provides services to those sentenced for sexually related, domestic violence and/or risk of injury offenses. She retired in April 2001. Ms. Jones began her career as a Correctional Officer in 1979 at the Niantic Correctional Institution for Women. Later in her career with the Connecticut Department of Correction, she served as Deputy Warden of Operations and Treatment of both minimum and maximum adult sentenced and pre-trial and adult male facilities. Ms. Jones' work has been recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly, Association of Police Commissioners, Council of Negro Women, and Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in November 2003 by Governor John G. Rowland.

Staff Profiles



Executive Director – Vanessa Dale Burns is a native and long-time New Haven resident. She worked for more than 24 years in public service, including ten years as a legislative and fiscal analyst for the New Haven Board of Alderman. From 1997 to 1998 she served as staff to the Connecticut General Assembly’s public health committee. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs commission, Ms. Burns served as the Director of Public Works, in Washington D.C., Evanston, Illinois, and New Haven, Connecticut. She is a graduate of American University, and earned her Masters degree in public administration from the University of New Haven.



Public Affairs/Special Projects Director - Cheryl Harris Forbes is a Connecticut native and graduate of Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Prior to her current position, she worked as a Writer/Editor in the University Relations Office at Eastern Connecticut State University. Her accomplishments include the creation of Connecticut State University’s first institutional advertisements, and collaborative efforts with the State Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor’s Office, and WFSB-TV3 to produce a statewide water conservation campaign, including television public service announcements.



Legislative Analyst II - Franklin Sykes is resident of East Haven and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of New Haven. Mr. Sykes brings a wealth of experience from his work with the African Development Institute (ADI), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the human and material development of Africans and peoples of African descent, through research and policy analysis. More recently Mr. Sykes worked with the Department of Treasury as an Examiner and has also tutored in a variety of business disciplines at Albertus Magnus College.



Executive Assistant - Denise Drummond is a native of Connecticut. She attends Middlesex Community College pursuing a degree in Business Administration. She plans to further her degree at the University of Hartford. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Mrs. Drummond worked for Allegheny Ludlum as an executive secretary, a payroll analyst, and materials management coordinator. She has also been actively involved with the Big Brothers – Big Sisters organization.



Left to Right: Cheryl Harris Forbes - AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator, Vanessa Burns – AAAC Executive Director, Frank Sykes – AAAC Legislative Analyst, Denise Drummond – AAAC Executive Assistant



TALENT BANK

Talent Bank



The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a talent bank of applications from African-Americans who are interested in appointment to state boards, councils, commissions, or task forces. The African-American Affairs Commission serves as a resource by forwarding these applications to appropriate appointing authorities. (Generally, positions on state boards and commissions are unpaid, and are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House or other state officials in accordance with State law.)

The Connecticut Secretary of State's published report, *Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards, (2003)* revealed of the 1,997 appointed members of the 203 state boards and commissions, 89.4% were White, 6.6% Black, 2.7% Hispanic and 1.3% were classified as "Other". Consequently, the African-American Affairs Commission worked to increase the participation of African-Americans on state boards and commissions.

Talent Bank Application



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

TALENT BANK FORM

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Home Address: _____
Street City/Town State/Zip Code

Telephone: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Home phone # Work phone # Fax # E-mail address

Employer: _____

Racial/Ethnic Background: _____ Age: 18-30 31-50 51 & over

Political Affiliation: Democrat Republican Independent U.S. Citizen Yes or No

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE / BACKGROUND / OR ATTACH RESUME

Education: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Degree Major/Concentration Institution Graduation Year

(Areas of interest for appointment):

___ Education ___ Human Services ___ Health ___ Housing ___ Public Safety
___ Children/Youth ___ Economic Development ___ Other

Briefly describe your community experience. Please include organizations purposes, your role / title and the dates you served:

Talent Bank Application



(References)

Please list name, address and day phone number.

Reference #1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

African-American Affairs Commission Contact Information



The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is located in Room 509 (5th Floor) of the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut.

The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a website that includes a listing of regional employment opportunities and the previously mentioned Talent Bank. Our website address is www.cga.state.ct.us\aaac.

If you would like to request additional information, or to correspond with the AAAC, please contact us:

**State of Connecticut
African-American Affairs Commission
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Room 509
Hartford, CT 06106-1596
(860) 240-8555 (Phone)
(860) 240-8444 (Fax)
www.cga.ct.gov/aaac**

We look forward to hearing from you.