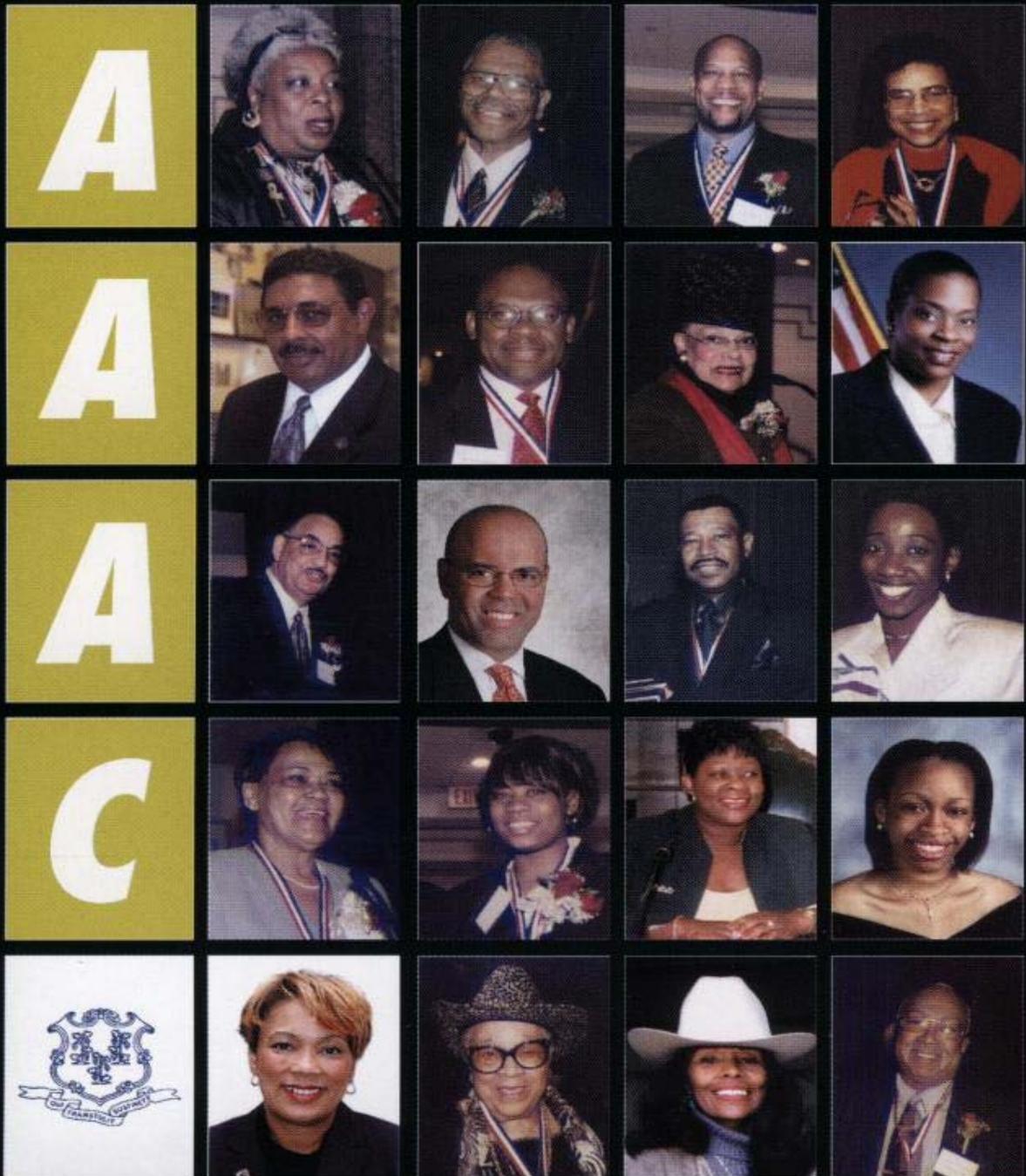


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

## 2005 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*  
*Michael Jefferson, Vice-Chair*  
*Lillie B. Crosby, Secretary*  
*Toni Bosley, Treasurer*

*Charles Botts, III*  
*Delores Franks*  
*Rosetta Jones*  
*Derrick McBride*  
*Victoria Odesina*  
*Brenda Person*

### ***Staff:***

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

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## ***2005 Acknowledgement***

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- ***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*

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- *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*

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

Dear Governor Rell:

It is with pleasure that the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) submits its 2005 Annual Report for your review. We are delighted to report that our external promotional efforts have expanded our ability to reach our constituents. For example, we have produced and distributed to cable outlets throughout the state a total of fifteen *AAAC Update* programs, our 30 minute public affairs show. Some of the programs released to date have discussed issues of homeownership, college opportunities, minority health status, and criminal justice. A complete listing of available programs is included in this report.

The Commission is also pleased with your administration's recognition of the AAAC/Department of Administrative Services (DAS) undertaking to create a web link for State-certified African-American businesses. The link, as you are aware, was activated during the summer of 2005. We look forward to many more opportunities to work with your administration.

The AAAC's highest priorities during the past year; health, education and criminal justice are still vital concerns for 2006. We plan to continue to work with the appropriate agencies and the Legislature to produce positive changes to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



George S. Logan  
Chairperson - 2005

# CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN



## SELECTED STATISTICS



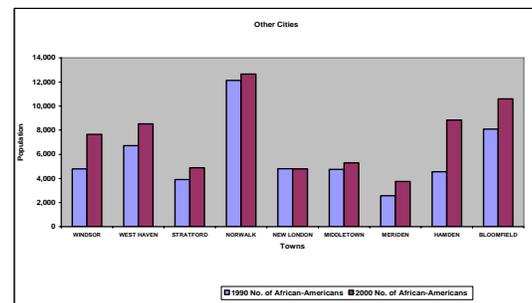
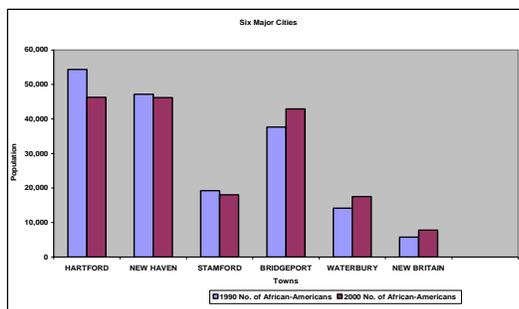
## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### 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. Hamden ranks number one among the three. (Refer to Chart B). The following table illustrates the selected distribution of African-Americans in the State.

| CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION |                  |                          |                     |                  |                          |                     |                  |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| TOWN                                    | 1990             | 1990                     | Percent             | 2000             | 2000                     | Percent             | Percent          |
|   | Total Population | No. of African-Americans | of Total Population | Total Population | No. of African-Americans | of Total Population | 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              |



# INCOME

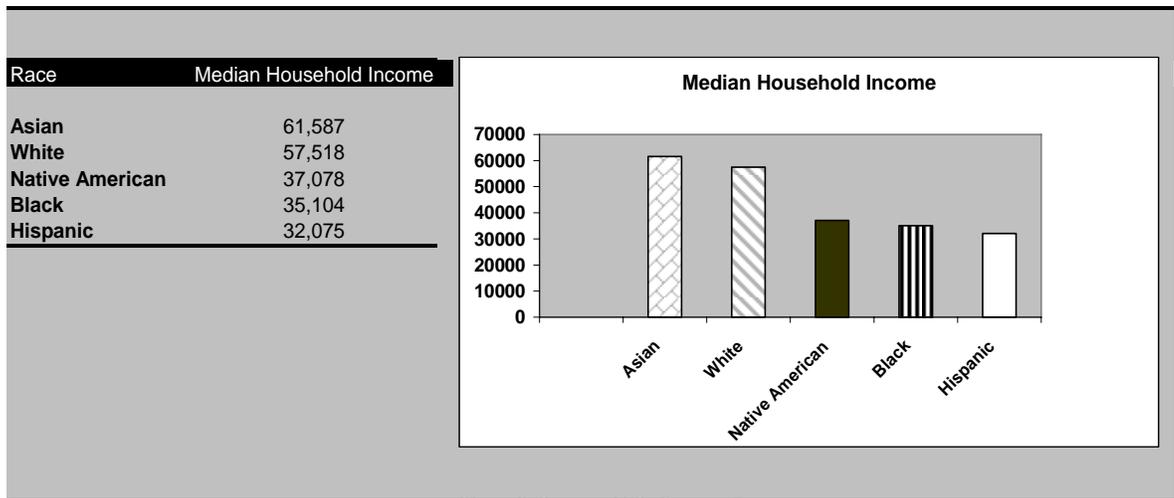


Table 2

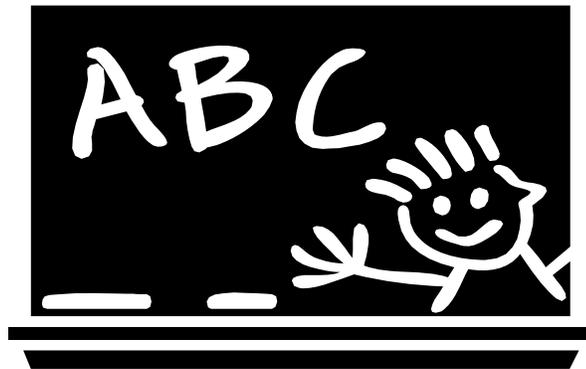
Chart C Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# 2005 EDUCATION



**COMPARISONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2002-2005**



# Education



## Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)

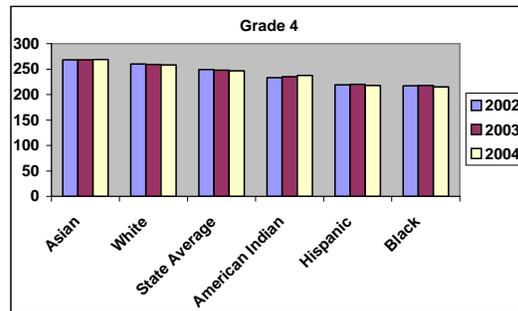
The CMT is administered annually; however, test results for 2005 will not be administered until the spring of 2006. This is a change from the original testing schedule, which required that the test be administered in the fall. The test measures the academic performance of students in grades 4, 6 and 8. Over the years, participation rates and the number of minority students scoring above proficiency has improved, but still more needs to be done to close the achievement gap. The following tables and graphs illustrate the test scores on the CMT beginning in 2002 through 2004. While test scores are a component in measuring student performance, other factors must be taken into account.

### Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

#### MATH

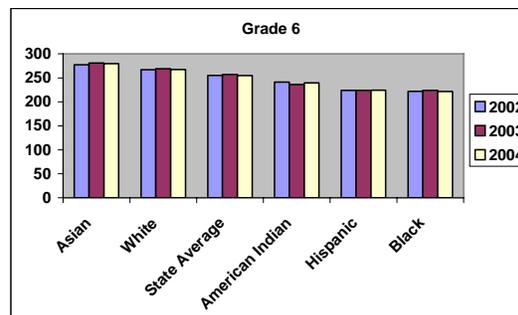
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

|                 | 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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>217</b> | <b>218</b> | <b>214.9</b> |



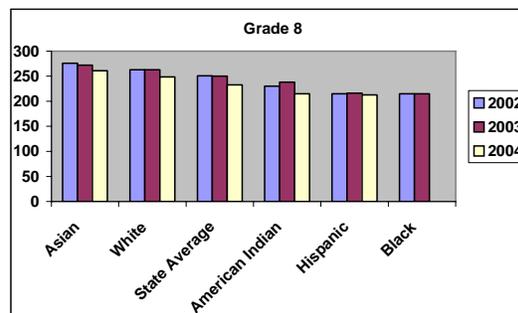
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

|                 | 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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>222</b> | <b>224</b> | <b>221.6</b> |



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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>215</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>212.7</b> |



# Education

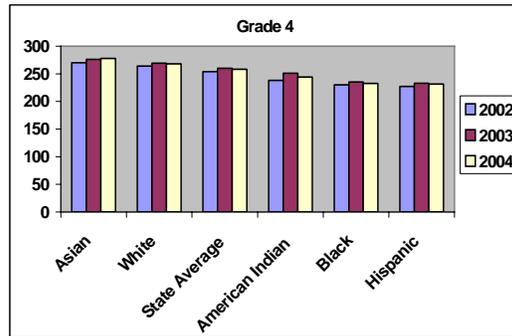


Source: Connecticut State Department of Education - Profiles of our Schools - Condition of Education in Connecticut (2001-02) and Statewide Test Results, School Year: 2003-04

## WRITING

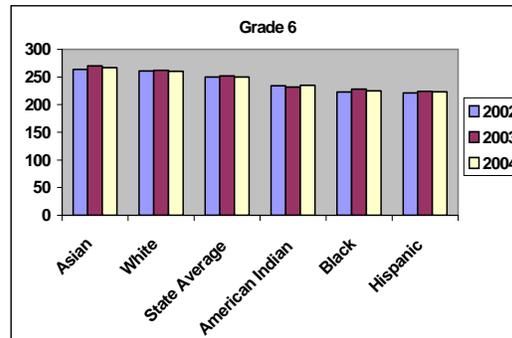
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

|                 | 2002       | 2003       | 2004         |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Asian           | 270        | 276        | 277.9        |
| White           | 264        | 269        | 267.9        |
| State Average   | 254        | 260        | 258.2        |
| American Indian | 238        | 251        | 244.1        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>230</b> | <b>235</b> | <b>232.5</b> |
| Hispanic        | 227        | 233        | 231.5        |



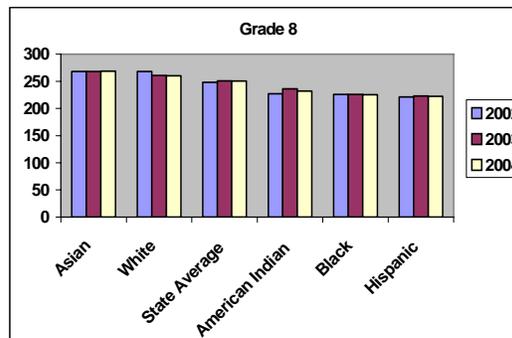
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

|                 | 2002       | 2003       | 2004         |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Asian           | 264        | 270        | 266.7        |
| White           | 261        | 262        | 260.1        |
| State Average   | 250        | 252        | 250          |
| American Indian | 234        | 232        | 235.3        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>223</b> | <b>228</b> | <b>224.8</b> |
| Hispanic        | 221        | 224        | 223.3        |



Average Scale Scores, Grade 8

|                 | 2002       | 2003       | 2004         |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Asian           | 268        | 268        | 268.8        |
| White           | 268        | 261        | 260.1        |
| State Average   | 248        | 251        | 250.4        |
| American Indian | 227        | 236        | 232.1        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>226</b> | <b>226</b> | <b>225.4</b> |
| Hispanic        | 221        | 223        | 222.3        |



# Education

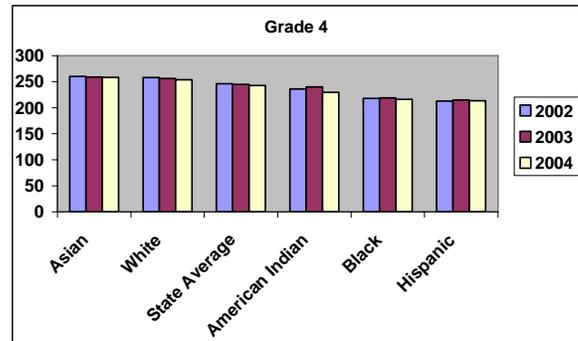


## Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

### READING

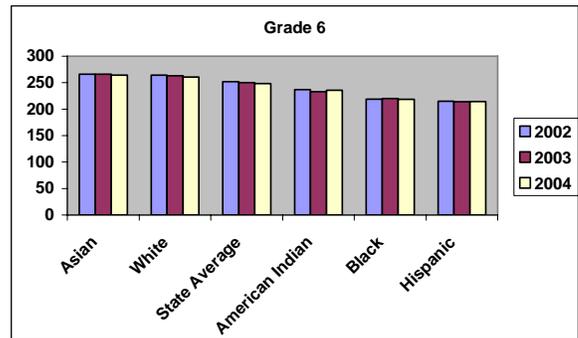
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

|                 | 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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>218</b> | <b>219</b> | <b>216.1</b> |
| Hispanic        | 213        | 215        | 213.5        |



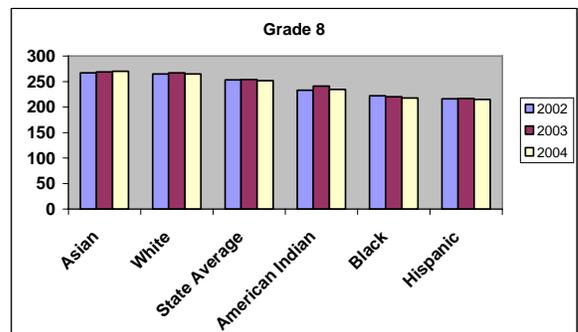
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

|                 | 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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>219</b> | <b>220</b> | <b>218.7</b> |
| 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        |
| <b>Black</b>    | <b>222</b> | <b>220</b> | <b>217.5</b> |
| Hispanic        | 216        | 217        | 214.7        |





## Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) evaluates the academic performance of tenth grade students in Math, Reading, Science and Writing. Participation rates, a measure of how many students take the test annually, continues to increase for all racial groups. In spite of these increases, minorities continue to lag behind their white peers. Exhibit 1.1 demonstrates the participation rates for students in selected ethnic groups. Exhibit 1.2 illustrates the percentage of students who score above the CAPT's established state goal by subject matter.

**Exhibit 1.1**

| <b>*CAPT PARTICIPATION RATES BY RACE - 2005</b> |             |                |                 |                |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|   | <b>Math</b> | <b>Science</b> | <b>*Reading</b> | <b>Writing</b> |
| <b>White</b>                                    | 96.6        | 96.7           | 97.0            | 96.4           |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                                 | 84.2        | 84.7           | 85.7            | 83.9           |
| <b>Black</b>                                    | 89.0        | 88.8           | 89.6            | 87.5           |

*Source: Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Second Generation 2001-05*

**Exhibit 1.2**

| <b>MATH</b>     |             |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                 | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| <b>White</b>    | 54.7        | 56.4        | 58.7        |
| <b>Hispanic</b> | 13.2        | 13.7        | 17          |
| <b>Black</b>    | 10          | 10.1        | 13.3        |

| <b>SCIENCE</b>  |             |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                 | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| <b>White</b>    | 52          | 52          | 58.6        |
| <b>Hispanic</b> | 13.1        | 12.5        | 15.1        |
| <b>Black</b>    | 10.5        | 10.8        | 12.8        |

| <b>READING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES</b> |             |             |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                       | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| <b>White</b>                          | 49.5        | 52.5        | 58.9        |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                       | 14.6        | 17.6        | 20.5        |
| <b>Black</b>                          | 14.6        | 15.2        | 18.8        |

| <b>WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES</b> |             |             |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                       | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| <b>White</b>                          | 56.1        | 58.8        | 65.1        |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                       | 19.9        | 21.4        | 25.4        |
| <b>Black</b>                          | 20.4        | 21.9        | 25.8        |

*Source: Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Second Generation 2001-05*

# PRISON POPULATION STATISTICS

# Prison

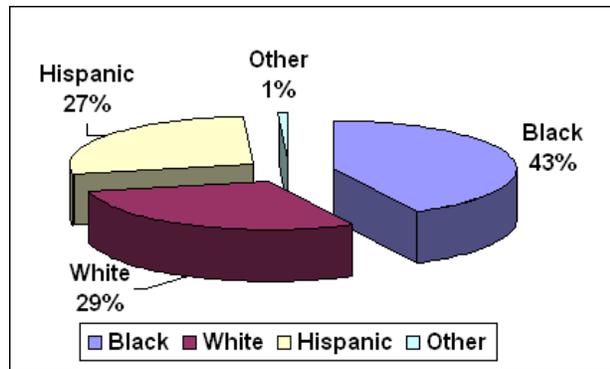


## PRISON POPULATION

The chart below indicates the population breakdown by race and ethnicity. Over the last couple of years, the State has made great efforts in reducing the prison population, however, there are still a disproportionate number of African-Americans serving in Connecticut's prisons.

Exhibit 7.1

| INCARCERATED POPULATION |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| BY RACE AS OF 07/01/05  |               |
| Black                   | 7,706         |
| White                   | 5,328         |
| Hispanic                | 4,985         |
| Other                   | 131           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>18,150</b> |



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction - (Workforce Analysis Report by Employment type, Occupational Category, Race and Sex)

**2005  
Legislative Agenda  
And  
Summary**

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Summary and Report*

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## 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission supported several initiatives during the 2005 session. Some of these initiatives were successfully signed into law. This narrative highlights various policy initiatives that support the Commission's priorities.

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

The major accomplishments in the area of human services were the establishment of a \$100 million trust fund aimed at expanding affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income residents in the State. In addition the Commission successfully supported certain administrative changes to the Husky Plan that expanded coverage for about 12,000 working parents who were previously excluded from the plan. A provision making it possible for children to receive immediate medical attention without waiting up to forty five days was also restored.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The Commission supported *House Bill 6975* which became *Public Act (PA) 05-248*. The bill equalizes the amount of drugs required to convict an individual in possession of either crack or powder cocaine at 14 grams. Prior to this law, harsher sentences were meted out to individuals with lesser quantities of crack cocaine, a drug disproportionately found in communities of color. In effect the new law reverses the trend of unequal justice by bringing more parity in the State's drug laws.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

The Commission was successful in supporting efforts to increase voter participation in the State through *PA 05-235*. Prior to this act, the deadline to register to vote in a federal, state or local election was 14 days prior to the election. Certain voters in the State sometimes felt disenfranchised due to administrative hurdles and insufficient time. *PA 05-235* seeks to address this problem by extending the time voters have to register by allowing them to register up to 7 days before an election.

### **EDUCATION**

The Commission in partnership with other education advocates, supported several education initiatives. These efforts resulted in increased funding aimed at accomplishing the following; establishing an Early Childhood Cabinet, improving the quality of school readiness programs and increasing subsidy rates for State-funded Child Development Centers.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Commission has always been a strong advocate of asset building initiatives aimed at lifting low-income families out of poverty. In the 2005 Session, the Commission supported increased funding of the Connecticut Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative. Although the bill died during the regular session, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) through bonding allocated \$300,000 in matching grants for people participating in the IDA program.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



## **2005 LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES**

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### **OVERVIEW**

The Commission's 2005 Legislative Agenda and Priorities focused primarily on continued funding of basic human service programs. In addition, the Commission worked towards its long-term goals including education investment, affordable housing, environmental justice, civil rights, healthcare, education, equity in the criminal justice system, and minority business growth. The following highlights issues the Commission addressed in the 2005 session.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- **Juvenile Justice** – Promote legislation to reduce disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.
- **Eliminate Disparities in Drug Sentencing** – Support legislation to reverse disparities in crack and cocaine laws and mandatory minimums
- **Alternative Incarceration Programs** – Support continued funding for prevention and treatment programs for substance abuse offenders and the mentally ill, in lieu of incarceration.
- **Discharge Planning for Ex-Offenders** – Support continued funding for transition and related services for ex-offenders.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **Predatory Lending** – Support legislative efforts to address the problem of unfair lending practices targeting low-income residents.
- **Asset Ownership** – Support continued funding for asset growth programs (e.g. individual development accounts and a state earned income tax credit).
- **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).
- **Revitalizing Distressed Communities** – Support commercial investment and economic growth strategies in inner cities outlined in the Blue Ribbon Commission Report.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- **Welfare to Work** – Support initiatives under the Connecticut's Job First Program aimed at achieving the following:
  - Increased funding for GED preparation and advanced educational opportunities for welfare recipients in job training programs.
  - Maintain funding for childcare programs

### **EDUCATION**

- **Educational Cost Sharing** – Support legislative efforts to modify the educational cost sharing formula to achieve equity in public school funding.



## **ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

- **Environmental Justice** – Support legislation that addresses environmental justice issues
- **Husky Health Plan**
  - Support the restoration of continuous and presumptive eligibility requirements
  - Restore Husky parents eligibility to the original 185 percent of the federal poverty level
- **State Administered General Assistance** – Protect the program from further cuts and support the restoration of non-emergency medical transportation services.
- **Organ Donation** – Support initiatives aimed at increasing the State’s organ donor pool.

## **HOUSING**

- **Affordable Housing Development** – Protect funding for affordable housing.
  1. Preserve current affordable housing units for low-income residents and advocate for the construction of new affordable housing.
  2. Ensure that the rehabilitation of affordable housing low-income units is replaced by similar units
- **Supportive Housing** – Support continued funding of the Beyond Shelter Program and increased funding for other supportive housing initiatives.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- **Access to Jobs** – Support State transportation policies recommended in the report issued by the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board aimed at expanding mass transit options, specifically bus service for urban residents.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS**

- **Election Day Registration (EDR)** – Support the Election Day Registration initiative aimed at increasing voter turn out for disenfranchised groups.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



## **2005 END OF SESSION UPDATE**

The legislative session commenced on January 5th, 2005 and adjourned on June 8th, 2005. This report is a summary of the status of a number of legislative bills pertinent to AAAC's agenda in the 2005 legislative session. Testimony and legislative activity was provided on the following bills:

- ✓ *Checked items were either signed or vetoed.*

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

- **Senate Bill (SB) 989 – An act concerning the preservation of federally assisted housing as low and moderate-income housing.**

Public Hearing 2/15/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred by Senate to Committee on Judiciary on April 20th, 2005. No action taken**

- **House Bill (HB) 5145 – An act concerning affordable housing developments.**

Public Hearing 2/15/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Housing on January 12th, 2005. No action taken. Funding for 500 units of supportive housing over two years was provided in the new budget.**

- ✓ **HB 6785 – An act concerning the use of abandoned property bond funds for the housing trust fund program.**

Public Hearing 3/03/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Tabled for the House Calendar on May 4th, 2005. No action taken in the regular session, however the trust fund was created in the bonding bill SB – 2001. The bill authorizes the State Bond Commission to issue up to \$100 million in bonds, with \$20 million effective each July 1st, from 2005 through 2009.**

- **HB 6927 – An act concerning restoration of services available under the state-administered general assistance program**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference from Senate to Committee on Appropriations on April 4th, 2005. No action taken. No new funding was provided and no services were eliminated.**

## *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



- **SB 1323 – An act concerning the administration of the Husky Plan A and B**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference from Senate to Committee on Appropriations on April 6th, 2005. No action taken. (Please refer to HB 6438 section regarding Other Legislative Matters.)**

- **SB 1334 – An act concerning enhancements to the childcare subsidy program**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference from House to Committee on Appropriations April 16th, 2005. No action taken. Funding for the Care 4 Kids program was reduced, but enrollment into the program has re-opened after some period of inactivity.**

- ✓ **HB 6228 – An act increasing the minimum wage.**

Public Hearing 2/01/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Signed by the Governor on May 17th, 2005 as Public Act (PA) 05-32. Wage was increased from \$7.10 to \$7.40 on January 1st, 2006 and \$7.65 on January 1st, 2007**

- ✓ **HB 5439 – An act establishing commuter rail services on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield corridor line.**

Public Hearing 2/01/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Transportation on January 19th, 2005. No action was taken in the regular session, however transportation initiatives were strongly supported by the Governor. Key items identified in the bonding bill SB-2000 aim to achieve the following: acquire new rail cars, purchase 25 transit buses, establish \$1 per trip surcharge on tickets for travel on the New Haven Line to raise additional revenue for rail improvement. Signed by the Governor on July 1st, 2005**

- **HB 6708 – An act concerning the workforce readiness of the job first program participants.**

Public Hearing 3/01/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference, from Senate to Committee on Appropriations March 22nd, 2005. No action taken, however child and family literacy standards and goals for TANF recipients are addressed in SB 5482 – An act concerning the implementation of the Child Poverty Council.**

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



- **HB 6356 – An act concerning young children living in homeless shelters.**

Public Hearing 2/08/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference, from Senate to Committee on Appropriations March 30th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 897 – An act implementing the recommendations of the Child Poverty Council**

Public Hearing 2/15/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received a favorable change of reference, from Senate to Committee on Appropriations March 29th, 2005. No action taken. (Please refer to SB 5482 below)**

- ✓ **SB 5482 – An act concerning the implementation of the Child Poverty Council**

Public Hearing 2/15/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Signed by the Governor on July 11th, 2005 as Public Act (PA) 05-244. Bill accomplishes the following:**

- 1. includes performance-based standards and outcome measures in all contracts for services to low-income families,**
- 2. establishes administrative procedures to improve access to services for eligible children and families that reduce poverty or related negative outcomes,**
- 3. establishes a standard assessment protocol for all state agencies concerning barriers to employment, including transportation, child-care, education, and substance abuse to expedite referrals and access to services.**

## **HEALTH AND INSURANCE**

- **SB 28 – An act concerning health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening**

Public Hearing 2/17/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate on January 5th, 2005. No action taken**

## *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



- ✓ **SB 30 – An act concerning health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening for individuals with a family history of breast cancer and individual cancer**

Public Hearing 2/17/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Signed by Governor on June 2nd, 2005 as PA 05-69. Bill requires health insurers to expand breast cancer screening options.**

- **SB 5712 – An act concerning health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening using magnetic resonance imaging.**

Public Hearing 2/17/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate on January 20th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 130 – An act concerning health insurance coverage for the treatment of obesity**

Public Hearing 2/17/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate on January 12th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 5808 – An act concerning an income tax credit for non-medical costs incurred by organ donors.**

Public Hearing 3/04/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Public Health on January 20th, 2005. No action taken.**

- ✓ **HB 6717 – An act concerning organ and tissue donors.**

Public Hearing 3/18/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Signed by the Governor on June 24th, 2005 as PA 05-21. Bill facilitates the organ donation process by requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept not only licenses as information from potential organ donors but also identity cards as legitimate documents for potential donors.**

- **SB 1291 – An act concerning a space on the income tax form to contribute to prostate cancer**

Public Hearing 3/04/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Received favorable change of reference from House to Committee on Appropriations on April 7th, 2005. No action taken.**

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*

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- **HB 6631 – An act concerning childhood obesity,**

Public Hearing 2/08/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred by House to Appropriations Committee on May 19th, 2005. No action taken**

## **EDUCATION**

**Funding for a variety of early care and education initiatives was increased by \$24 million. This was a priority of the Governor and was supported by the Legislature. Funding accomplished the following: established an Early Childhood Cabinet; increased financial support for school readiness programs and small increases in subsidy rates for state-funded Child Development Centers.**

- **HB 6949 An act concerning school readiness,**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Tabled for the House Calendar on May 31st, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 1347 An act concerning full day kindergarten**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Education on February 18th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 6957 An act concerning teacher shortage**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Education on February 17th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 1346 An act concerning paraprofessionals, school nurses and pay equity**

Public Hearing 3/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Education on February 17th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 6682 – An act concerning the reemployment of retired teachers and administrators in schools in need of improvement.**

Public Hearing 2/18/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Tabled for the House Calendar on May 2nd, 2005. No action taken.**



✓ **SB 1309 – An act concerning school nutrition**

Public Hearing 3/16/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Governor vetoed bill on June 15th, 2005. The bill was intended to require twenty minutes of physical activity, full day kindergarten through grade five, exclude certain foods and beverages in school lunch programs, and require the Department of Education to publish a list of recommended foods offered. The bill would also allow school boards to establish School Wellness Committees.**

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

• **HB 6538 – An act concerning a scholarship fund for graduates of priority school districts who attend a state university**

Public Hearing 2/8/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 27th, 2005. No action taken**

• **SB 1316 – An act concerning high school curriculum reform**

Public Hearing 2/8/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred by Senate to Committee on Appropriations on April 26th, 2005. No action taken**

• **HB 6793 – An act concerning access to post secondary education**

Public Hearing 3/01/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – House rejected bill on May 11th, 2005. No action taken**

## **CIVIL RIGHTS**

✓ **SB 55 – An act concerning voter registration, certain nominating procedures, campaign accountability, a voter guide, push polling and electronic voting machines**

Public Hearing 2/18/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Signed by the Governor on July 11th, 2005 as PA 05-188.**

✓ **SB 59 – An act concerning Election Day Registration**

Public Hearing 2/18/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – The original intention of SB 59 was to allow voters to register and vote on election day. Unfortunately these efforts failed and instead language in the original bill SB 59 was merged into HB 6669,**

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



An act concerning voter registration, certain nominating procedures, campaign accountability, a voter guide, push polling and electronic voting machines. HB 6669 allowed voters to register seven days before an election, not on election day as SB 59 intended. The Governor signed HB 6669 on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 as PA 05-235.

- **HB 6564 – An act creating a task force to study the creation of a monument to honor wartime military service by residents of this state.**

Public Hearing 2/8/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Received favorable change of reference, from Senate to Committee on Legislative Management on March 15th, 2005. No action taken. However \$175,000 was appropriated in bonding bill SB-2003 towards its completion. Completion is expected in September of 2006.

- **SB 855 – An act concerning appropriation for the Freedom Schooner Amistad**

Public Hearing 2/8/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Received favorable change of reference, from House to Committee on Appropriations on March 24th, 2005. No action taken. Funding was provided in the budget for the Freedom Schooner.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- **HB 6853 – An act concerning the incidence of pollution in overburdened communities.**

Public Hearing 3/11/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to the Environment Committee on March 3rd, 2005. No action taken.

## **COMMERCE**

- **HB 5496 – An act creating a micro loan program for micro enterprises.**

Public Hearing 2/18/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

Status – Referred to Commerce Committee on January 20th, 2005. No action was taken, however Representative Diana Urban the sponsor of the bill reported that negotiations had taken place to appropriate \$500,000 in bonding for program operations.

## *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*

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- **HB 6497 – An act concerning micro enterprise economic development.**

Public Hearing 2/22/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Commerce Committee on January 27th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 5486 – An act concerning payday loans**

Public Hearing 2/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Banks Committee on January 20th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 6695 – An act prohibiting abusive practices in the making of reverse annuity mortgage loans.**

Public Hearing 2/22/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Banks Committee on January 20th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 618 – An act concerning protecting consumers from predatory lending practices associated with reverse mortgages.**

Public Hearing 2/22/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Banks Committee on January 21st, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 1217 – An act concerning predatory lending**

Public Hearing 3/08/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Banks Committee on March 2nd, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 1328 – An act concerning the expansion of the Connecticut IDA initiative**

Public Hearing 4/01/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Appropriations Committee on March 16th, 2005. No action taken. No new funding was provided for the Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative in the budget after efforts made to expand the program failed. However under provisions in the bonding bill *SB – 2001* the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will allocate \$300,000 matching grants for purchases of primary residences for people participating in the IDA program.**



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- **SB 172 – An act concerning the reduction of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.**

Public Hearing 4/04/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on February 8th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 6848 – An act concerning the reduction of disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system.**

Public Hearing 4/04/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on February 8th, 2005. No action taken.**

- **SB 6980 – An act concerning services available to a child in a family with service needs**

Public Hearing 4/04/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on February 8th, 2005. No action taken, however funding for this initiative was deferred until the next biennial budget.**

- **HB 900 – An act concerning a juvenile review board**

Public Hearing 2/08/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Moved to the foot of the Senate Calendar on June 3rd, 2005. No action taken.**

## *African-American Affairs Commission 2005 Legislative Report*



- **HB 6363 - An act concerning alternatives to incarceration and diversion programs for adolescent girls**

Public Hearing 2/08/05 – AAAC presented oral testimony

**Status – Referred to Select Committee on Children on January 26th, 2005. No action was taken, however funding was provided in the 2005-7 budget for the Makayla House established to serve 13 to 17 year old runaway females.**

- **HB 6635 – An act concerning the illegal sale or possession with intent to sell cocaine**

Public Hearing 3/28/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – The Governor vetoed the original, bill HB 6635 on June 2nd, 2005. An amendment was added to HB 6975 – An act concerning forfeited bail bonds, the collection of unpaid fees and funeral service contracts. The new bill equalizes the amount of crack and powder cocaine required to enforce a five-year mandatory minimum sentence for possession of either or both drugs at 14 grams. The Governor signed HB 6975 on July 11th, 2005 as PA 05-248.**

- **HB 6974 – An act concerning the collection and analysis of forensic evidence and the review of wrongful arrests**

Public Hearing 3/28/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred to Judiciary Committee on March 23rd, 2005. No action taken.**

- **HB 6705 – An act implementing the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee relative to pretrial diversion and alternative sanctions.**

Public Hearing 3/18/05 – AAAC presented written testimony

**Status – Referred by House to Appropriations Committee on May 10th, 2005. No action taken. Most of the administrative priorities in the bill pertaining to strategic planning, analysis and delivery of various support services for clients will be undertaken within existing resources.**



## **Racial Profiling**

During 2005, the African-American Affairs Commission continued to collect traffic-stop data from compliant police departments, pursuant to Public Act 03-160. Limited funding was provided in Fiscal Year 2005-06 for the first time. An abstract report will be forthcoming in Fiscal Year 2006-2007.



**2005  
PROGRAMS  
ISSUES & ACTIVITIES**

## *Business & Economic Development*

### **African American Affairs Commission & Department of Administrative Services Business Web Link**

On August 17, 2005, the AAAC launched its web link listing African-American vendors that have received Department of Administrative Services (DAS) certification. DAS and/or Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) certification is crucial to participation in State contracting opportunities and set-aside programs.

The State of Connecticut Minority & Small Contractors' Set-Aside Program, Connecticut General Statutes, 4a-60(g), was established for the purpose of assuring that Connecticut small and small minority owned businesses have an opportunity to bid on a portion of the state's purchases. Under this program 25% of state funded purchases are set aside for small businesses. In addition, 25% of that amount is reserved for small businesses which are minority/women-owned.

The link of African-American businesses is located on the AAAC website at [www.cga.ct.gov/aaac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/aaac) under the DAS logo. With a click of the mouse, web visitors will be directed to a document listing the business name, contact information, as well as products and services provided. A similar link is also available on the DAS website: [www.das.state.ct.us](http://www.das.state.ct.us).

At the time of its launch, the AAAC/DAS business web link listed 134 certified African-American owned businesses. Both organizations were recognized by Governor M. Jodi Rell for their efforts to increase supplier diversity in state contracting opportunities.



*Front Row - left to right: AAAC Commissioner Rose Jones, AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator - Cheryl Harris Forbes, Governor M. Jodi Rell, AAAC Commissioner Victoria Odesina, DAS Business CoNNections Program Director - Meg Yetishefsky*

*Second Row- left to right: DAS Supplier Diversity Representative - Gregg Nome, AAAC Commissioner Charles Botts, III, DAS Supplier Diversity Representative - Mark Tandler, DAS Commissioner Linda Yelmini (photographed, but not shown), DAS Procurement Director - Carol Wilson, and AAAC Chair -George Logan.*

## *Concourse Exhibit*

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### **THE 2005 CONCOURSE EXHIBIT**

In celebration of Black History Month, the African-American Affairs Commission sponsored *Origins - An African-American Perspective, Connecticut's Sons and Daughters*.

The presentation highlighted the richness and diversity in style, media, and genre of 15 Connecticut African-American artists. *Origins* was available for public viewing in the Capitol/Legislative Office Building Concourse from February 1 -15, 2005.

The display, which included 30 pieces of sculpture, still life, mixed media and tactile work gave evidence of the State's vibrant artistic community. The *Origins* exhibit depicted Connecticut life and observances of life and culture throughout the African Diaspora.

#### **Featured artists:**

*Jerry S. Barry*

*Delois Barnes*

*Donald Boudreaux*

*James Buxton*

*E. Diann Cook*

*Stanwyck E. Cromwell*

*Nigel J. Cromwell*

*Juanita G. Eaton*

*Paul Goodnight*

*Delores Howard*

*Ionis Bracey Martin*

*Dr. Cora Marshall*

*Maurice D. Robertson*

*Jean Slaughter*

*Stuart Hudson Beckford*

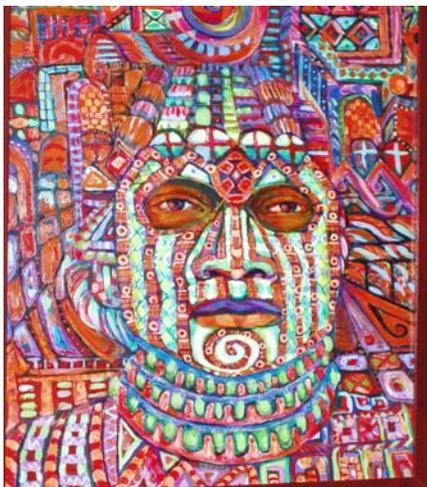
## Concourse Exhibit



Stanwyck Cromwell  
**“Inner Peace”**



Jerry Barry  
**“Snokone”**



Cora Marshall  
**“Mask”**

## *Classic Awards*

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### **THE CLASSIC AWARDS**

The following individuals were chosen as recipients of the Sixth Annual Classic Awards, held on February 4, 2005 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 candidates submitted by the public. More than 225 people celebrated the event.

#### **AAAC Woman of the Year**

*Michelle R. Dunlap, Ph.D.*

#### **AAAC Man of the Year**

*Rodney O. Powell*

#### **AAAC Youth of the Year**

*Chelsea B. Smith*

#### **Lifetime Achievement**

*Connie Wilson Collins*

#### **Business & Economic Development**

*Ronald Williams*

## *Classic Awards*



### **2005 Honorees**



*Top Row Left to Right: Michelle R. Dunlap, Chelsea B. Smith, Ronald Williams  
Bottom Row: Connie Wilson Collins, Rodney Powell, Jr.*

### **2005 Awardees, AAAC Commissioners and Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez**



*Top Row Left to Right: Commissioner -Michael Jefferson, AAAC Chairperson- George Logan, and  
AAAC Secretary -Derrick McBride  
Second Row Left to Right: Hartford Mayor - Eddie Perez, Dr. Michelle R. Dunlap, Chelsea B. Smith,  
Commissioner -Delores Franks, Ronald Williams and Commissioner -Victoria Odesina  
Bottom Row Left to Right: Connie Wilson Collins, Taylor G. Powell and Commissioner -Toni Bosley*

## *Outreach Events & Activities*

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- 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



# AAAC UPDATE

# *AAAC Update*

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## *AAAC Launches Cable Television Program*

*AAAC Update* is a half hour public affairs show created and developed to inform viewers about how legislative and administrative policies and issues are likely to affect Connecticut's African-American community.

To date, 15 programs have been created covering a wide variety of topics ranging from education, criminal justice, freedom of information and advocacy to economic development and procurement opportunities.

AAAC Update is broadcast on 11 public access channels statewide, with coverage in 64 towns.

# AAAC UPDATE

## Topics & Program Numbers

| <u>Program Number</u> | <u>Content</u>                 | <u>Guests</u>   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 101                   | Introduction of AAAC           | <b>Vanessa Burns</b><br>AAAC Executive Director<br><br><b>George Logan</b><br>AAAC Chair  |
| 102                   | Health                         | <b>Vanessa Burns</b><br>AAAC Executive Director<br><br><b>Victoria Odesina</b><br>AAAC Commissioner & Advanced Nurse Practitioner   |
| 103                   | AAAC & Legislative Advocacy    | <b>George Logan</b><br>AAAC Chair<br><br><b>Frank Sykes</b><br>AAAC Legislative Analyst   |
| 104                   | Economic Development           | <b>Dr. Fred McKinney</b><br>President - Connecticut Minority Supplier Development Council<br><br><b>Harland Henry</b><br>Director of Community Outreach and Business Office of the Secretary of State |
| 105                   | Political Empowerment & Voting | <b>Delores Franks</b><br>AAAC Commissioner and AAAC Legislative Committee Chair<br><br><b>Joan Gibson</b><br>Election Officer Office of the Secretary of State  |
| 106                   | Education (Elementary)         | <b>Dr. Robert Morris</b><br>Principal, Clark Elementary School<br><br><b>Theresa Cherry Cruz</b><br>Speech Language Pathologist - Stamford Public Schools   |

| <u>Program Number</u> | <u>Content</u>                    | <u>Guests</u>  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 107                   | Criminal Justice                  | <p><b>Michael Jefferson</b><br/>AAAC Commissioner and Criminal Defense Attorney</p> <p><b>Rose Jones</b><br/>AAAC Commissioner and Former Prison Warden</p>  |
| 108                   | Economic Development              | <p><b>John Lobon</b><br/>Sr. Vice President – URBANK, Connecticut Development Authority</p> <p><b>Patricia Johnson</b><br/>Community Development Program Associate, Community Economic Development Fund</p>                      |
| 109                   | Home Ownership                    | <p><b>Rose Holbrook</b><br/>Communication Officer - CT Housing Finance Authority</p> <p><b>Marvin Lindsay</b><br/>Chief Executive Officer, Prospect Financial Services</p>   |
| 110                   | Access to Higher Education        | <p><b>James Barber</b><br/>Director of Student Supportive Services-Southern CT State University</p> <p><b>Cheryl Pegues</b><br/>Director of Student Development Services-Gateway Community College</p>                           |
| 111                   | Procurement                       | <p><b>Meg Yetishefsky</b><br/>Director, Business CoNNections Department of Administrative Services (DAS)</p> <p><b>Debra Goss</b><br/>Assistant Director- Division of Contract Compliance Department of Transportation (DOT)</p> |
| 112                   | Community Development             | <p><b>James Willingham</b><br/>President &amp; CEO - Urban League of Greater Hartford</p> <p><b>Marcia Richardson,</b><br/>Executive Director - Empower New Haven</p>  |
| 113                   | Advocacy & Freedom of Information | <p><b>Merva Jackson</b><br/>Executive Director - African Carribean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc.</p> <p><b>Tracie Brown</b><br/>Principal Attorney, Freedom of Information Commission</p>                 |

- 114 Environmental Justice & Lead Poisoning Prevention **Dr. Andrew McBride**  
Director of Health & School - Medical Advisor – City of Milford
- 115 Sickle Cell Disease & Treatment **Dr. Roger Thrall**  
Director of Research – Hospital for Special Care, Director of Pulmonary Research  
UCONN Health Center
- Dr. Wayne Frederick**  
Director of Surgical Oncology UCONN Health Center



2005  
ISSUES OF INTEREST

## *2005 Issues of Interest*

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- 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

**2005**  
**PARTNERSHIPS**

## 2005 Partnerships

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- The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.
  - Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
  - Department of Administrative Services
  - Manchester Community College
  - Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
  - Southern Connecticut State University
  - Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
  - Freedom of Information Commission
  - Indiana Commission on Black Males
  - Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity & Justice
  - Small Business Administration
  - DemocracyWorks, Inc.
  - Connecticut Department of Labor
  - Connecticut Department of Transportation
  - Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
  - Groton Sub Base
  - Bridgeport Parent Leadership Training Institute Alumni
  - Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparities
  - Secretary of the State's Office
  - Central Connecticut State University
  - Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights

# TALENT BANK

## *Talent Bank*

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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, (2005)* revealed of the 1,859 appointed members of the 189 reporting state boards and commissions, 89.0% were White, 6.7% Black, 3.1% Hispanic and 1.2% were classified as "Other". Consequently, the African-American Affairs Commission worked to increase the participation of African-Americans on state boards and commissions.

The Commission is aggressively utilizing its online capabilities and outreach efforts to increase the number of African-American constituents who are referred to appointing authorities with the goal of making our government more representative of the population.

# 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:

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*(References)*

Please list name, address and day phone number.

**Reference #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2005  
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 - Commissioner Deloris A. Franks** is a graduate of Rutgers and Yale University where she received respectfully 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.



**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

## Commissioner Profiles

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**Transportation Member – Commissioner Brenda Person** is an entrepreneur who along with her husband owns and operates two McDonald's restaurants employing 75 people. She is specifically responsible for personnel and compliance issues regarding insurance, transportation and certification. Mrs. Person is a former Camden City, New Jersey Public Schools teacher and science department chairperson. There she developed and implemented the district's School Based Management Program.

Additionally, Mrs. Person served as a chief administrator for the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania based Beech Corporation. The non-profit was responsible for providing funding and technical assistance to expedite the revitalization of communities in North Central Philadelphia.

She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission by House Minority Leader Robert Ward in March 2005.

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**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.

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**Member of the Public and Vice Chairperson – 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 WNHC-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

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**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.

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**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

## Staff Profiles

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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*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*

## *African-American Affairs Commission Contact Information*

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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/aaaac](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/aaaac).

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](http://www.cga.ct.gov/aaac)**

We look forward to hearing from you.





# AAAC

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue, Room 509

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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