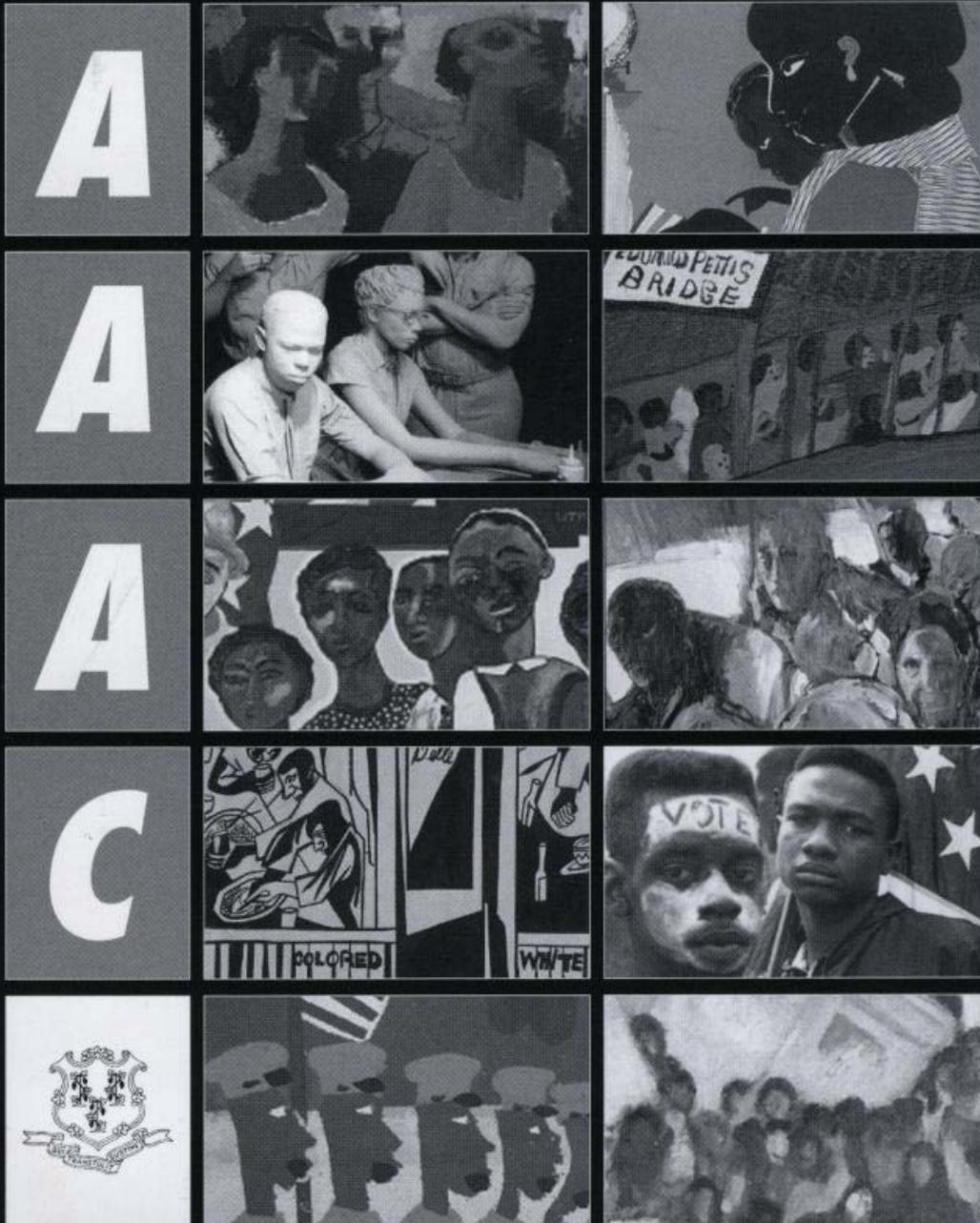


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

## 2006 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, Senior Legislative Assistant*  
*Cheryl Harris Forbes, Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator*  
*Frank Sykes, Senior Legislative Analyst*

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## 2006 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:

2006 was certainly a year of new beginnings for the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). As we help improve the lives of African-American's living in the State of Connecticut, we also look towards the shared benefits of our efforts in relation to the general population. A large effort was made to reach out and collectively work with other organizations in support of the AAAC's Legislative Agenda and ongoing advocacy concerns.

The success of the AAAC could not be accomplished without a dedicated and talented staff. As we head into our tenth year as a Commission, we have a new leader in our office. We welcome our new Executive Director, Glenn Cassis and we are pleased with the drive and the new energy he has brought to the Commission in his first few months with us.

In 2006, we used our limited resources to support legislation aimed at reducing disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system, legislation that attempts to eliminate unfair lending practices targeting low-income residents, supporting various initiatives under the Connecticut's Job First Program, and legislative efforts to modify the educational cost sharing formula to achieve equity in public school funding. In addition to these specific concerns, there are many more issues to address in the areas of human services (health care, housing), education, criminal justice, civil rights, and business and economic development. We, the AAAC, along with all of our supporters will continue to work hard to meet all of our goals and objectives.

Attached is the African-American Affairs Commission's 2006 Annual Report for you review. If you have any questions or would like to relay any comments regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

George S. Logan  
Chairperson - 2006

2006

# Legislative Information

# *AAAC Highlights of the 2006 Legislative Session*



## **2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

In the 2006 session the Commission, was proactive in its support of a broad range of legislation positively impacting the lives of African-Americans in the state. This summary outlines some of the key legislative initiatives the Commission successfully supported.

### **HEALTH**

In the area of health the Commission is excited to report success in securing \$250,000 in funding, towards the establishment of the state's first treatment center for congenital blood disorders. Sickle cells one of the many blood disorders, affects a disproportionate number of African-Americans in the state. This is significant progress considering that prior to this legislation such a center was non existent, neither was there any funding to address this issue. Other initiatives the Commission successfully supported include the following: increased funding for breast cancer initiatives, eliminating co-pays, premiums and income eligibility requirements. Overall the changes in the state's Husky Health plan have made it more accessible and affordable to low-income residents.

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

It is becoming increasingly evident that to compete effectively in today's economy having a college degree is an absolute necessity, yet in the state there are still many low-income adults who lack any college education and in some cases a high school degree. For these reasons the Commission was instrumental and vocal in its support for funding in the amount of \$6.5 million provided in the budget aimed at providing a variety of services including, employment services, vocational and educational training programs and child care services for participants transitioning from welfare to work.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The Commission was equally successful in its support of funding in the amount of \$500,000 for planning and implementing the needed changes in transitioning 16 and 17 year olds from adult courts to juvenile courts. An additional \$1 million was allocated in the budget to enhance mental health services for youthful offenders.

### **EDUCATION**

In the 2006 session landmark legislation was signed into law providing schools the opportunity to introduce healthier food alternatives. The Commission advocated in support of this bill, recognizing that introducing proper nutritional standards in schools is the first step the state could take in addressing the obesity crisis, particularly in kids from low-income backgrounds.

# AAAC 2006 Legislative and Administrative Priorities



## 2006 LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES

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### OVERVIEW

The Commission continued its legislative advocacy in the 2006 legislative session, building on the successes of recent years. While this session was one of the shortest on record, as in other sessions, the Commission focused its efforts in the areas of education investment, affordable housing, environmental justice, civil rights, healthcare education, equity in the criminal justice system and minority business growth. The following document outlines the priority issues the Commission addressed in the 2006 session.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Eliminate disparities in mandatory minimum sentencing laws** – Support legislation to eliminate mandatory minimum sentence laws that unfairly target minorities. (e.g. prohibits the sale of drugs by non-drug-dependent in, at or within 1,500 feet of school, public housing, or day care center.)
- **Increasing Diversity of State Prosecutors and Judges** – Address the need to increase minority representation in the selection of judges and prosecutors in Connecticut’s courts.
- **Juvenile Justice** – Support legislation to reduce disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.
- **Alternative Incarceration Programs** – Support 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 of post incarceration initiatives for ex-offenders as outlined in the Building Bridges Initiative.

### HEALTH AND INSURANCE

- **Husky Health Plan**
  - Support restoration of Husky parents eligibility to the original 185 percent of the federal poverty level
- **State Administered General Assistance**
  - Support the restoration of non-emergency medical transportation services.
  - Support the restoration of vision care, home healthcare, physical therapy, occupational therapy and podiatry as covered services.
- **Sickle-Cell Center** – Secure funding for a sickle-cell center equipped with the latest technology that delivers comprehensive care to patients

# AAAC 2006 Legislative and Administrative Priorities

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## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **Predatory Lending** – Support legislative and educational efforts aimed at strengthening state laws to protect Connecticut’s low-income residents from continued abusive lending practices.
- **Individual Development Accounts (IDA’s)** – Support funding of individual development.
- **Earned Income Tax Credit** – Support the creation of a state income tax credit system.

## **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.
  - Increased funding for Care4Kids Child Care Subsidy program

## **HOUSING**

- **Affordable Housing Development** – Support increased funding for the preservation and rehabilitation of the states public housing units.
- **Supportive Housing** – Support funding of the Beyond Shelter Program and increased funding for other supportive housing initiatives.

## **EDUCATION**

- **Educational Cost Sharing** – Support legislative efforts to modify the educational cost sharing formula to achieve equity in public school funding.
- **Minority Teacher Recruitment** – Support legislative efforts to increase the level of minority teachers within the public school system.
- **Special Education** – Address the overrepresentation of minorities in Special Education Programs

## **CIVIL RIGHTS**

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



### **TRANSPORTATION**

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

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- **Environmental Justice** – Support legislation that addresses environmental justice issues

# AAAC 2006 End of Session Report



## 2006 END OF SESSION REPORT

This report is a summary on the status of a number of legislative bills pertinent to AAAC's agenda in the 2006 legislative session. Oral and written testimony was provided on all bills in *Section 1*: Items checked off are bills which were priorities on AAAC's agenda.

### SECTION 1

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- ✓ ***HB 5781 – An act concerning certificates of employability and rehabilitation***

*Purpose – This bill creates a Task Force to examine criminal justice and sentencing policies, to achieve fairness and equity in the process and report to the Governor and State Legislature by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2007, of its plan and recommendations*

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-193.

- ✓ ***HB 5651 – An act adopting the recommendations of the report of the Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding***

*Purpose – Seeks to provide continued funding for post incarceration initiatives including hiring additional probation/parole officers, mental health services, employment and other support services.*

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, however the budget provided \$8.2 million in funding related to the implementation of the prison and jail overcrowding recommendations.

- ✓ ***HB 5780 – An act concerning safe schools***

*Purpose – Reducing drug free zones in urban communities from 1500 feet to 200 feet to correct the inequities in mandatory minimum sentencing laws that disproportionately impact minorities.*

Outcome – Bill died in the Judiciary Committee on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

***HB 5818 – An act concerning lost or stolen firearms***

Status – Bill died on the House floor on April April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

- ✓ ***HB 5782 – An act concerning the age of a child for purposes of jurisdiction in delinquency matters and proceedings***

***Purpose – Return 16 and 17 year old offenders to juvenile courts instead of adult courts.***

Outcome – Bill died on the House calendar on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. However funding in the amount of \$500, 000 was provided in the budget for planning and implementing any changes needed within the juvenile justice system to accommodate 16 and 17 year olds. In addition \$1 million was provided to enhance mental health services for youthful offenders.

- ✓ ***HB 5700 – An act concerning justice for all children***

***Purpose – Seeks to use strictly objective race neutral criteria in deciding whether to detain a child in juvenile custody. It aims to create fairness and equity in the process.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Judiciary Committee on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

- ✓ ***SB 147 – An act creating a state earned income tax credit against personal income tax***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

- ✓ ***HB – 5024 An act concerning the workforce readiness of the Jobs First Program participants***

***Purpose – Implements pilot programs to provide education in basic skills necessary for employment, including, but not limited to, English as a second language, literacy programs, high school completion and General Equivalency Degree programs.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, however funding in the amount of \$6.5 million is provided in the Governor’s budget aimed at a variety of services including, employment services, vocational and educational training programs and child care services for participants transitioning from welfare to work.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*



- ✓ ***Raised Bill 475 – An act concerning revisions to the Husky Plan Part A and B.***

***Purpose – Makes it easier for children and families to enroll and stay enrolled in Husky A and B without constantly reapplying to prove income eligibility. Bill also seeks to eliminate co-pay and appropriates money to DSS for outreach initiatives.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, however \$2 million was provided in the budget to implement this change. In addition funding was appropriated to enhance dental access under the Husky program.

- ✓ ***Raised Bill 478 – An act concerning revisions to the state administered general assistance program (SAGA).***

***Purpose – Expands the scope of medical services available under the SAGA program and requires the Commissioner of Social Services to ensure that non medical emergency transportation services are available to program beneficiaries.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, however funding for non-medical emergency transportation services was provided in the budget. In addition services for vision care were restored.

***SB 203 – An act implementing recommendations of the Child Poverty Council concerning educational activities and eligibility under the temporary assistance for needy families program.***

***Purpose – Implements certain recommendations of the Child Poverty Council by amending limitations and eligibility under the temporary assistance for needy families program for individuals participating in educational activities in order to promote self sufficiency and child welfare.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Appropriations on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

***HB 5503 – An act establishing a youth trust fund***

***Purpose – Seeks to establish a youth trust fund worth \$20 million. Fund must be used to provide job training and employment opportunities to low income youths ages 14 to 21. Eighty percent must be used for in-school activities and 20% for out-of-school programs.***

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, however the budget appropriated \$4 million in new funding to establish an Urban Youth Employment Grant that will be administered through the Department of Labor (DOL)

***Raised Bill 480 – An act concerning child care.***

***Purpose – Seeks to increase child care provider reimbursement rates, hence provide more affordable and quality child care across the state.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Appropriations on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. The budget appropriated \$1.5 million in childcare funds to help meet the federal TANF requirements.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

✓ ***Raised Bill 583 – An act improving Connecticut bus transit***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

✓ ***Raised Bill 584 – An act concerning Connecticut rail transit***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The budget appropriated \$1.3 billion to a number of strategic transportation initiatives that included the following: restore the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail line, develop new commuter rail station between New Haven and Milford, other initiatives aimed at addressing traffic congestion.

## **HEALTH AND INSURANCE**

✓ ***Raised Bill –163 An act establishing a center for adults with sickle cell disease.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Appropriations on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. \$250,000 is appropriated in the Governor’s budget for a center to provide services to people with congenital blood disorders.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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***SB 396 – An act implementing a comprehensive plan to eradicate childhood lead poisoning in the state.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Appropriations on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, however \$447,000 was provided in the budget for comprehensive screening of children for lead poisoning.

***SB 422 – An act concerning health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-38.

***SB 423 – An act increasing health coverage for persons with diabetes***

Outcome – Bill died in the Insurance Real Estate Committee on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

## **EDUCATION**

***SB 204 – An act promoting the physical, mental, social and emotional needs of students.***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-44.

***SB 201 – An act concerning the Birth to Three programs***

***Purpose – Birth to Three Program provides care to the very young particularly those at risk of developmental delays. This bill seeks to expand eligibility criteria for children experiencing other significant delay complications.***

Outcome – Bill died in Committee on Children on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The budget allocated \$989,000 to support an increase in the provider reimbursement rates, aimed at expanding eligibility requirements for participants in the program.

***SB 376 – An act concerning full day kindergarten***

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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Outcome – Bill died in Committee on Appropriations on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

***SB. No. 373 – An act concerning healthy food and beverages in schools.***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-63.

***Raised Bill 5517 – An act concerning universal preschool***

Outcome – Bill died on the House Calendar on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

***Raised Bill 407 – An act concerning reading programs for priority school district students***

***Purpose – To amend the statutes concerning reading instruction for priority school district students with reading difficulties to shift the focus from assisting students in grades four and six to assisting students in grades one to three, inclusive, and to strengthen the provisions concerning personal reading plans.***

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

***Raised Bill 5513 – An act concerning parental involvement in school profiles***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 06-167.

***HB 5762 – An act concerning a study to enhance the achievements of Black and Hispanic male students in public schools***

Outcome – Bill died in the Education Committee on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

***HB 5516 – An act concerning after school programs***

Outcome – Bill died in the House, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, however \$3 million was provided in the budget for after school programs.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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## **CIVIL RIGHTS**

*HB 168 – An act concerning the interagency task force on trafficking persons*

Outcome – Bill died on the Senate Calendar on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 but \$175,000 was provided for victim services, in the budget.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

✓ *Raised Bill 290 – An act concerning environmental justice*

*Purpose – To reduce the incidence of pollution in communities that are already overburdened by environmental pollution.*

Outcome – Bill died on the Senate Calendar on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*SB 92 – an act concerning an appropriation for the Freedom Schooner Amistad*

*Purpose – To secure \$500,000 in grant money for the continued operation and educational activities of Amistad America.*

Outcome – Bill died in Appropriations Committee on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, but \$410,000 was provided to run the operations of the vessel.

*HB 5493 – An act establishing a pilot micro loan program for micro enterprises.*

Outcome – Bill died on the Senate Calendar on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006, but \$50,000 in funding was provided in the budget for the program.

✓ *SB 603 – An act concerning individual accounts (IDA's)*

Outcome – Bill died in the Appropriations Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. however budget provided \$250,000 in funding.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*

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## **HOUSING**

*HB 5367 – An act providing funds to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for the emergency mortgage assistance program*

Outcome – Bill died in Committee on Housing on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

✓ **HB 5107 – An act concerning the Beyond Shelter Program**

Outcome – Bill died in the Committee on Appropriations on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, however \$500,000 was provided in the budget for supportive housing and homeless services.

✓ **HB 5294 – An act concerning predatory lending**

Outcome – Bill died in the Banks Committee on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

# *African-American Affairs Commission 2006 Legislative Report*



## **SECTION 2**

### **OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

#### ***SB 5254 – An act concerning state investment in prevention and Child Poverty Reduction.***

Purpose – The bill seeks to direct the Child Poverty and Prevention Council to promote the implementation of its 10-year plan to reduce child poverty. In order to promote the health and well-being of children and families. It must, within available appropriations:

1. establish prevention goals and recommendations and
2. measure prevention service outcomes.

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-179.

#### ***HB 5781 – An act concerning certificates of employability and rehabilitation***

***Purpose – To promote the rehabilitation of offenders by authorizing the issuance of a certificate of employability to assist eligible offenders in overcoming barriers to being employed or holding state licenses or permits, and to authorize the Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant provisional pardons and certificates of rehabilitation.***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as PA 06-193. However bill was amended and substitute language was inserted to create a task force to address the sentencing disparities in the state. The purpose of the bill as described above is part of the budget implementer bill HB 5846.

#### ***HB 5532 – An act concerning youth policy***

***Purpose – The bill requires the state's youth policy to focus on achieving positive development outcomes for all of the state's youth. It must also focus on ensuring that all youth have access to (1) ongoing relationships with caring adults, (2) safe residences and schools that provide structured activities, (3) services that improve and promote mental and physical health and well-being, and (4) community service and civic participation opportunities.***

Outcome – Signed into law by the Governor on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as Public Act (PA) 6-182.



### **Racial Profiling**

During 2006, 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 2007-2008.



**2006  
PROGRAM  
ISSUES & ACTIVITIES**

## *2006 Hillhouse Basketball Reception*



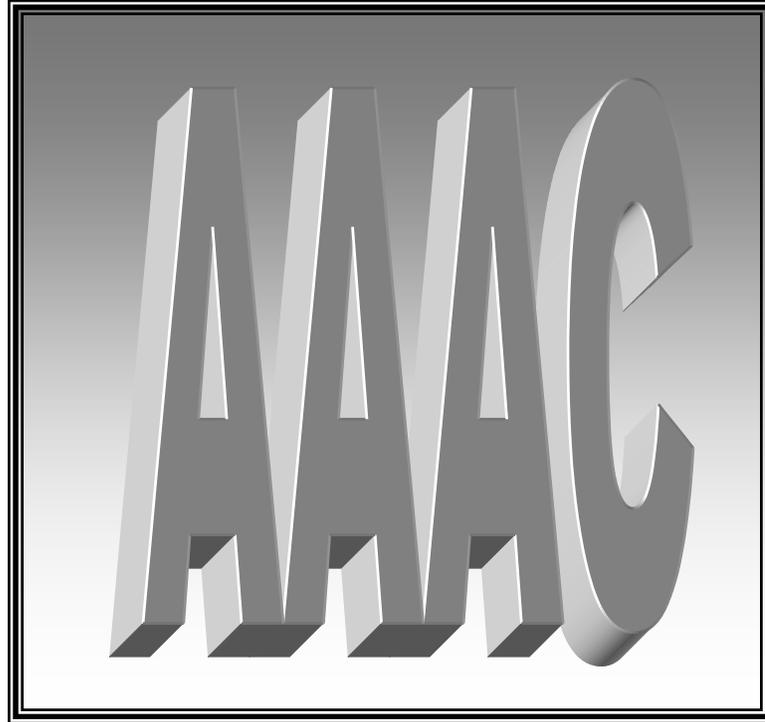
### *Hillhouse High Basketball Reception – May 2006*



*Representative Patricia Dillon, Senator Martin Looney, Coach Kermit Carolina, Senator Toni Harp, and Representative William Dyson*



**2006 WELCOME RECEPTION**



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

***“NEW BEGININGS”***

**November 16, 2006**

## 2006 Welcome Reception

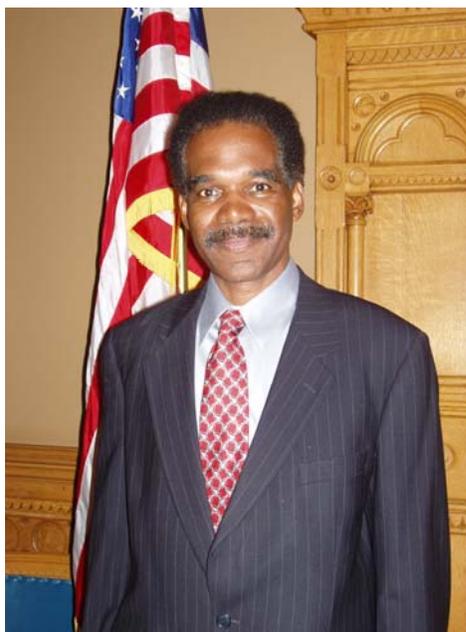


### 2006 WELCOME RECEPTION

On November 10, 2006 the African-American Affairs Commission formally introduced its new Executive Director, Glenn A. Cassis to the public. More than 300 advocates, legislators, community leaders and well wishers attended the event. In his first keynote address Mr. Cassis outlined the Commission's priority issues including education, health, economic development, and social justice, as well as his vision for approaches to success. He solicited members of the community and subject experts to join the Commission to eradicate problems statewide.

Prior to joining the AAAC, Mr. Cassis, a New York native and Bloomfield resident, served for nearly 20 years as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program, Inc.(CPEP). Under his leadership the statewide program expanded from a single school district serving 43 students to 12 urban school districts serving more than 9,000 students. CPEP is a non-profit educational program that encourages underrepresented minority and female middle and high school students to pursue careers in math, science and engineering.

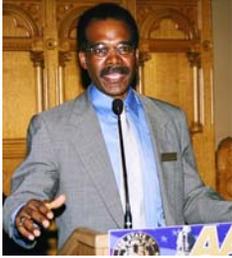
Congratulatory remarks and supporting calls to action were given by Senator Eric Coleman, Dr. David G. Carter, Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, Eddie Perez, Hartford Mayor, Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, George A. Coleman, Interim Commissioner of the Department of Education, Jerry Long, President PCC Technology Group, and George Logan, AAAC Chair.



*AAAC Executive Director – Glenn A. Cassis*

## *2006 Welcome Reception*

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***Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director***  
*African-American Affairs Commission*



***Dr. David Carter, Chancellor***  
*Connecticut State University System*



***Mayor Eddie Perez, Hartford, CT***



***Senator Eric Coleman,***  
*Connecticut General Assembly*

## 2006 Welcome Reception

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***Fernando Betancourt***, Executive Director  
*Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission*



***George A. Coleman***, Interim Commissioner  
*Department of Education*



***Jerry Long***, President  
*PCC Technology Group*



***George Logan***, AAAC Chairperson



In Recognition and Observance of Black  
History Month

The State of Connecticut  
African-American Affairs Commission

And

Costen Cultural Exhibits

Proudly Presented

***“ROAD TO PROGRESS”***

February 1-15, 2006



### **2006 Concourse Exhibit**

This year, the African American Affairs Commission's concourse exhibit in celebration of Black History Month featured historic Connecticut African-Americans as well as photos and memorabilia from the 1960's Civil Rights Era. The presentation, ***The Road to Progress*** included 50 panels of information and images about the Civil Rights Movement, the chronology of events, and biographies of some of its leaders and activists.

The AAAC created the show to help connect people, especially youth, with African-American history. ***The Road to Progress*** featured some of Connecticut's most prominent African-American residents, and not only demonstrated how the Civil Rights Movement affected the United States as a whole, but highlighted how local happenings and people helped bring about positive changes in Connecticut.

The presentation is part of a larger body of African-American history from the Costen Cultural Exhibit. The Costen collection consists of more than 550 panels containing approximately 2,000 items of ephemera, photos, pamphlets, postcards, sports cards, stamps, historical documents, posters and pins. ***The Road to Progress*** was on display in the Capitol/ Legislative Office Building Concourse from February 1-14, 2006.

## 2006 Classic Awards

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### **THE CLASSIC AWARDS**

The following individuals were chosen as recipients of the Seventh Annual Classic Awards, held on May 4, 2006 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 submitted by the public. More than 225 people celebrated the event.

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

*Jacqueline Caron*

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

*Ulysses Hammond*

#### **AAAC Youths of the Year**

*Tiana Latta and Jordan Thomas*

#### **Lifetime Achievement**

*Todd Howell*

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

*Jerry Long*

## *2006 Classic Award Recipients*

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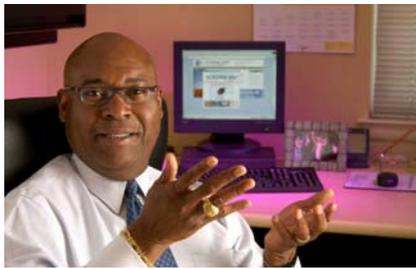
**AAAC Woman of the Year**

*Jacqueline Caron*



**AAAC Man of the Year**

*Ulysses Hammond*



**Business & Economic Development**

*Jerry Long*



**Lifetime Achievement**

*Todd Howell*

### **AAAC Youths of the Year**



*Tiana Latta*



*Jordan Thomas*

## *Classic Awards*



### *2006 Honorees*



*Left to Right: Todd Howell, Jerry Long, Tiana Latta, Jordan Thomas, Jacqueline Caron, Ulysses Hammond*

### *2006 Awardees and AAAC Commissioners*



*Left to Right: Chairperson - George Logan, Commissioner – Charles Botts, Todd Howell, Jerry Long, Jordan Thomas, Tiana Latta, Jacqueline Caron, Ulysses Hammond, Secretary – Lillie B. Crosby, Commissioner Delores Franks and Commissioner Rosetta Jones*

## *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

## *2006 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

### **New Partnership with the Department of Public Health**

During 2006 the African American Affairs Commission initiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Department of Public Health to formalize a mutual agreement to work together to eliminate health disparities, especially those affecting the state's African- American community.

As part of the first initiative the two agencies teamed up with the American Heart Association to launch the Power to End Stroke media campaign. More than 200 60-second radio spots, voiced by Keith Kuntz of News Channel 8, were broadcast via the Connecticut Radio Network. Coverage areas included Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Stamford and Waterbury. Additionally five publications in urban centers around the state carried print messages during the five-week campaign.

Planning also began for community education and outreach efforts aimed at preventing and lowering the incidence heart disease and stroke. Similar efforts related to diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and asthma were also discussed.

## 2006 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
  - Democracy Works, 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



**2006  
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



**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 –Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator,  
Frank Sykes – Legislative Analyst, Vanessa D. Burns – Executive Director,  
Denise Drummond – Senior Legislative Secretary*

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

## *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

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

Telephone: (860) 240-8555

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