



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION**



2009

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.

AAAC Legislative Mandates

- *Maintain a liaison between the African-American community and governmental entities;*
 - *Review and comment on any proposed state legislation that would affect the African-American population in the state;*
 - *Encourage African-American representation at all levels including state boards and commissions;*
 - *Advise and provide information to the Governor on state policies concerning the African-American communities;*
 - *Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-American population;*
 - *Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the African-American population of the state; and*
 - *Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with appropriate recommendations concerning the African-American population in the state.*
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2009 Acknowledgement

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

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AAAC Commissioners:

George S. Logan, Chairperson

Fred Pierre-Louis, Vice-Chairperson

Ngozi Taffe, Secretary

Alphonse Wright, Treasurer

Kristen M. Clark

Brenda P. DelGado

Rosetta Jones

Derrick McBride

Stephanie Moore, Secretary

Diana Washington

AAAC Staff:

*Glenn A. Cassis,
Executive Director*

*Denise R. Drummond,
Senior Legislative Secretary*

*Cheryl Harris Forbes,
Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator*

*Frank Sykes,
Senior Legislative Analyst*

LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

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



Dear Governor Rell,

On behalf of the African American Affairs Commission (AAAC), I am pleased to submit our 2009 Annual Report for your review.

The budget crisis in Connecticut had a major impact on the African-American Affairs Commission. For most of 2009, the Commission spent considerable time informing and reiterating the importance of the work that we accomplished with Legislators. Throughout the year the AAAC had to make unprecedented cuts to its budget yet continue to complete its mandate. Staff developed additional collaborations and partnerships to help impact policy. Partnerships with the State Departments of Education, Higher Education and Public Health helped insure that the voice of the African-Americans was heard. The AAAC was an active participant in the Department of Education's Secondary School Reform legislative initiative. As a member of the newly formed Commission on Health Equity, the AAAC helped formulate the by-laws and assisted in designing the operating procedures. The AAAC continued its partnership to help improve health outcomes through its involvement with initiatives in the detection and prevention of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, childhood obesity, kidney disease, lupus, sickle cell disease and lead poisoning.

Through the leadership of the AAAC, Connecticut became the first state in New England to pass a resolution apologizing for its participation in slavery. The Commission worked closely with Representative Kenneth Green to pass Resolution 632: The Profound Regret Of The Connecticut General Assembly For The History Of Wrongs Inflicted Upon Black Citizens By Means Of Slavery, Exploitation And Legalized Racial Segregation, And Calling On All Citizens To Take Part In Acts Of Racial Reconciliation. A press conference and several community forums helped raise awareness and inform the public of the impact that slavery continues to have on current social policy.

For the third consecutive year, the AAAC was a leader in the planning and implementation of KnowHow2Go-Connecticut. This year the attention focused on increasing the access and success of first generation students in higher education. The Commission and partners successfully applied for a three year \$140,000 grant to the Lumina Foundation for Education. By the end of the 2009, the AAAC began awarding community based organizations, local education authorities and post-secondary institutions grants aimed at making a difference by increasing access and success in college.

For the second consecutive year the Commission provided leadership for College Goal Sunday- Connecticut (CGS). This national program targets first generation students seeking to attend college. In partnership with the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators and the Connecticut Association of Education Opportunity Programs CGS expanded from 6 site locations to include 12 in Connecticut and reaching 791 high school seniors and their parents.

As evidence of its broadening commitment to education, at our annual Classic Awards the AAAC proudly presented its Youth of the Year Award Winners each with a \$1,750 scholarship. This year marked the a philanthropic milestone, with more than \$14,500 awarded in scholarship grants to deserving academically excellent and community and public service oriented students.

During the year the Commission adopted the Results Based Accountability (RBA) method for reporting and measuring the efforts of the Commission. This has proven to be a process that will inform Legislators and the general public of the accomplishments and how well the Commission is improving the lives of the African-American Community in Connecticut.

Due to a worsening State budget the African-American Affairs Commission was forced to reduce its budget by 52%. This translated to reducing outreach efforts and the laying off permanent staff. By October, Cheryl Harris Forbes, Special Projects Coordinator and Franklin Sykes, Legislative Analyst II, were laid off. This reduction to the Commission's staff by half, severely impacted the AAAC. The Commission was limited in its ability to complete its legislative and outreach agendas.

Despite the obstacles created by budget reductions, our Commission looks forward and deems it an honor to serve Connecticut's African-American community and to participate at all levels of state government. Our goal and daily practice is to ensure that all policies and every agency and branch of government serves the needs and protect the rights of all Connecticut residents. Your continued support and partnership along with that of the Connecticut General Assembly is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George S. Logan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

George S. Logan
AAAC Chairperson

AAAC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

OVERVIEW

The 2009 legislative session was a long session. A majority of the Commission's attention focused on the budget crisis. In addition to testifying on proposed bills the Commission presented testimony before the Appropriations Committee in February in response to proposed cuts in the Governor's budget to eliminate the Commission's funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011. On April 2nd the Appropriations Committee voted for a 20 percent cut to all the Commissions. This bill passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor. Finally during a special session in September, the Commission reduced its budget by 52% which prompted staff layoffs in October. Despite these challenges, the Commission was able to be proactively involved in some legislative initiatives.

EDUCATION

The Commission supported HB 6901 – An act concerning educator certification and professional development and other education issues. This bill was signed by the Governor as PA 09-1.

HEALTH

The Commission supported HB 6678 – An act concerning revisions to Department of Public Health licensing statutes. Section 16 of this bill adds cultural competency to the list of continuing medical education topics physicians must take every two years. The list currently covers infectious diseases, risk management, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Physicians must take at least 50 minutes (one contact hour) of education in these topics every two years. It was signed by the Governor.

The Commission supported Raised Bill – 6391 An act concerning revisions to the HIV testing consent law. This bill routinely offer HIV counseling and testing to all adults living in the United States by minimizing legal requirements and barriers to obtaining oral consent for testing. It was signed by the Governor.

The Commission testified in support of Raised Bill – 6600 An act concerning the establishment of the Sustinet Plan which was passed when the General Assembly over rode the Governor's veto.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Commission provided supportive testimony for Senate Joint – 61 Resolution confirming the nomination of Dawne G. Westbrook, Esquire, of Glastonbury to be a Judge of the Superior Court. Ms. Westbrook was confirmed and took a seat on the bench.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Commission was instrumental in helping pass HJ – 00001 Resolution expressing the profound regret of the Connecticut General Assembly for the history of wrongs committed on black citizens. Representative Kenneth Green, Hartford, championed the resolution in both houses. It was passed.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Since 2003 the Commission has successfully supported periodic minimum wage increases. The 2008 legislative session was no different. Initially the Governor vetoed a bill to raise the minimum wage during the regular legislative session. However in a subsequent special legislative session, pressure from the Commission and community advocates led to the passage of (HB) 5105 – An act concerning the minimum wage. The law raises the minimum wage from \$7.65 to \$8.00 in 2009 and \$8.25 in 2010.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Commission supported Senate Bill 880 An Act Concerning Trade With Africa. The bill instructs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct a three-year study of programs initiated, conducted and coordinated by the Department of Economic and Community Development that promote and assist Connecticut businesses with international trade with African countries with whom the United States has diplomatic relations. In each of the three years of such study, the commissioner shall focus on four different countries in Africa. This bill was signed by the Governor.

AAAC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EDUCATION

Closing the Achievement Gap – Develop classroom assessment tools to enhance instruction and learning, strengthen parental involvement, strengthen mentorship programs statewide and strengthen reading programs.

Strengthen multicultural education into school curricula – Ensure that all children have adequate knowledge of their history. Ensuring that first generation students are well prepared academically and financially to attend college.

HEALTH

Support a universal health care plan – Ensure that all residents of the state particularly underserved populations have access to affordable and quality health insurance.

Instituting cultural competency requirements in health care – Ensure that medical providers are culturally competent.

Support HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives – Ensure that youth are adequately knowledgeable about responsible sexual behavior.

Support initiatives for combating diabetes – Support funding prevention and awareness initiatives aimed at stemming the onset of diabetes.

Support initiatives for combating cardiovascular disease and stroke – Support funding prevention and awareness initiatives aimed at stemming the onset of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Increase funding for post incarceration initiatives – Ensure that ex-offenders have adequate access to employment, housing and transportation

Increase minority representation of state prosecutors and judges – Address the need to increase minority judges and prosecutors through financial incentives.

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE

Strengthen families through effective fatherhood initiatives – Ensure that fathers are connected and involved with their children.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support initiatives to promote minority businesses in the state – Ensure that minority business have equal access to state contracts.

HOUSING

Strengthen anti-predatory lending laws – Ensure that low-income families are protected from predatory lenders.

Increase funding for public housing units – Ensure that public housing units are not further depleted.

Strengthen laws to combat racial discrimination in housing rentals – Support funding to uphold the fair housing laws.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Enhance work support systems for recipients transitioning from welfare to work – Provide ex- welfare recipients with the skills needed to secure sustainable employment.

Establish a State Earned Income Tax Credit – Improve the earnings potential for poor working families

Increase the minimum wage – Ensure that workers receive fair wages.

ENVIRONMENT

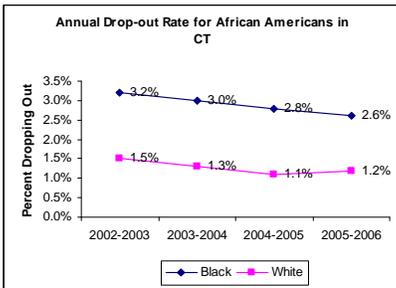
Prevent environmental pollution in the state especially in urban communities – Address the incidence of asthma and other airborne illnesses prevalent in low-income communities. Continue efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning in the state especially in urban communities – Address the incidence of autism and developmental disabilities in children.

AAAC Results Based Accountability

Report on the Status of Connecticut African-Americans 2009

All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Achieve Educational Success

Indicator 1: African American Drop-Out Rate



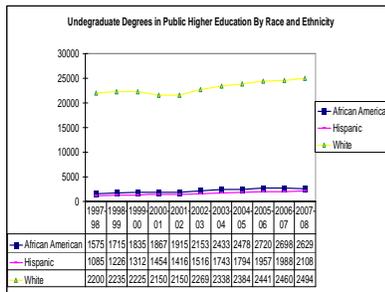
Story behind the baseline:

African-Americans experience significantly higher drop out rates than whites. Causes for poor performance include: lack of adequate early preparation, lack of a welcoming school climate, lack of afterschool programs and mentors/role models.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Provide for early intervention through development of individual education plans
- 2) Increase availability of before and afterschool programs
- 3) Strengthen mentorship programs statewide
- 4) Improve the policy, culture, infrastructure and services schools offer **AAAC partners** with Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, in supporting legislation to address the achievement gap. Served on the State Department of Education's Ad-Hoc Committee. Guided policy recommendations to close the achievement gap.

Indicator 2: % of African American College Degree Recipients



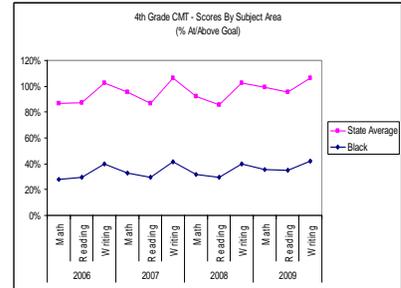
Story behind the baseline:

Research shows that individuals with a college degree are 10 times more likely to have a family income over the poverty level. Causes for poor college performance include: inadequate preparation, poor remediation policies, lack of financial aid, and underutilization of student resources.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Supports Know-How to Go, a program that prepares students for college;
- 2) Provide students increased access to financial aid through a program entitled College Goal Sunday
- 3) Support the State Department of Education Secondary School Reform Plan. **AAAC is a co-sponsor** of Know How to Go and College Goal Sunday, programs designed to enable middle and high school students in Connecticut to take advantage of the multi-media and web based resources available.

Indicator 3: African American 4th Grade CMT Scores



Story behind the baseline:

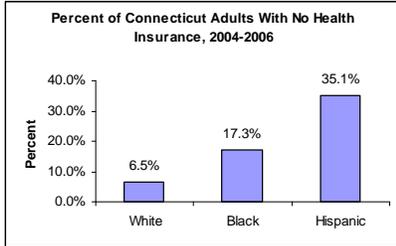
The CMT tests serve as a strong predictor of student achievement. Poverty, lack of parental involvement, lack of information, lack of school readiness; lack of culturally competent staff and inadequate resources are all contributory factors that undermine student achievement.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Access to quality pre-K;
- 2) Provide culturally competent services and support;
- 3), Strengthen parental involvement;
- 4) Provide adequate resources 5) Identify and remove unintended consequences related to federal mandates and testing. **AAAC partners** with the Commission on Children and Early Childhood Education Cabinet to identify strategies to adequately prepare students for kindergarten.

Result: All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Are Healthy

Indicator 1: % of African-Americans without Insurance



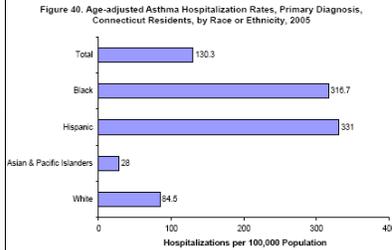
Story behind the baseline:

Roughly 17.3% of Connecticut's uninsured are African-American. Health insurance coverage is critical to African-American communities, many of whom have lower income levels and suffer disproportionately from a number of illnesses. Without health insurance coverage many end up in emergency rooms when medical conditions have severely deteriorated significantly increasing health care costs.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Support a universal healthcare plan that is quality, affordable and accessible.
- 2) Promote awareness on healthier living through proper nutrition and routine check ups.
- 3) Increase Husky enrollment through outreach. Commission is a member of the Health First Authority Task Force and the Statewide Primary Access Authority, groups responsible for developing a universal healthcare plan for Connecticut.

Indicator 2: African American Asthma Rates



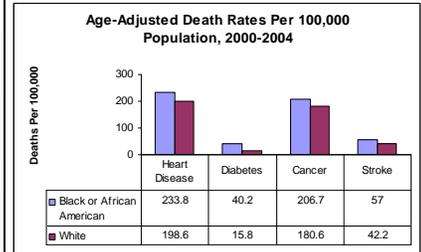
Story behind the baseline:

Asthma is a chronic disease that affects a growing number of residents in Connecticut. Based on a study conducted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health of adults, blacks experienced the highest rates of asthma prevalence in the state.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Involve impacted communities in environmental decision making.
- 2) Track asthma prevalence rates among school children to identify and better understand causes and contributors to asthma.
- 3) Promote stronger indoor air quality school programs. **AAAC collaborates** with the Environment and Human Health Inc, American Lung Association and is a member of the Coalition for Environmental Justice. **AAAC convened** environmental advocates to get landmark legislation signed into law aimed at reducing pollution in overburdened communities.

Indicator 3: African American Death Rates by Cause of Death



Story behind the baseline:

African-Americans experience the highest incidence of death from a variety of major illnesses, including but not limited, to diabetes, obesity, cancer, stroke, heart disease and HIV/AIDS.

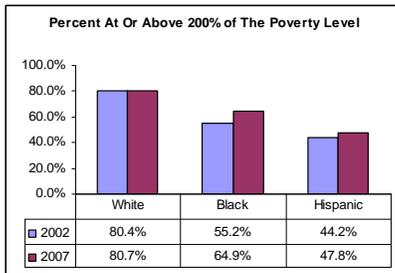
Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Improve data collection methods and analysis of minority populations
- 2) Promote pedestrian friendly communities
- 3) Develop and implement cultural competency training for healthcare professionals to meet the needs of diverse patient populations **AAAC serves** on the Commission of Health Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities. **AAAC partners** with Department of Public Health, National Kidney Foundation, Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition to increase awareness and prevent major illnesses common to African-Americans through informational events and public media outlets.

Result: All Connecticut Residents of African Descent are Financially Self-Sufficient

Indicator 1:

% of African-American households living above the poverty level



Story behind the baseline:

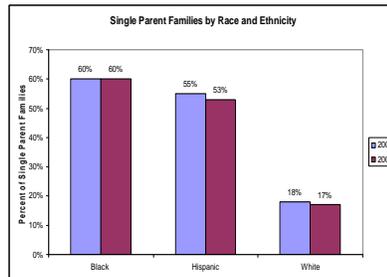
In 2007 55.2 % of African-American lived above the poverty level implying that 35.1 % of African-American households still lived below the poverty level. Poverty is the most crucial factor responsible for producing a range of negative outcomes in children, including poor academic performance and increased morbidity and mortality rates etc.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Strengthen work supports that uplift working poor families from poverty e.g. earned income tax credits and individual development accounts
- 2) Invest in education to increase earnings potential
- 3) Increase awareness on resources for financial literacy programs. **AAAC collaborates** with the Child Poverty Council and the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) in efforts to reduce poverty.

Indicator 2:

% of African-American Single Parent Households



Story behind the baseline:

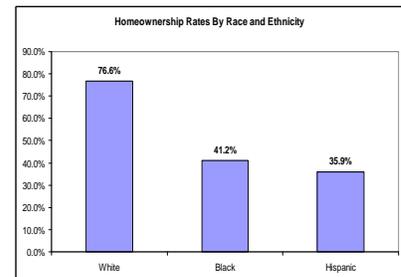
Research shows that roughly 60 % of African-American households are headed by a single parent usually female, yet we know that two-parent households with children, on average, enjoy a higher standard of living and greater economic security. Two-parent households have more resources, more time to supervise children, offer emotional support and take part in children's education.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Support child support modification to connect fathers to families
- 2) Involve faith community in strengthening families
- 3) Provide job training and skills development to ex-offenders. **AAAC collaborates** with the Fatherhood Task Force to identify strategies and policy recommendations in reducing fatherlessness in the state.

Indicator 3:

% of African-Americans who own homes



Story behind the baseline:

Homeownership rates for African-Americans are 41.2 % compared to 76.6 % for whites. The creation and preservation of affordable housing units for African-Americans is an integral component in addressing poverty, building wealth, ultimately stronger communities.

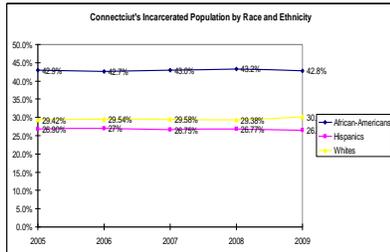
Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Invest in affordable housing developments
- 2) Promote first time homebuyer programs in low-income communities
- 3) Promote fairness in financial institutions lending policies. **AAAC works in partnership** with the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Connecticut Housing Coalition to address affordable housing policy issues.

Result: All Connecticut Residents are Free From Discrimination

Indicator 1:

% of African Americans incarcerated in Connecticut's prisons



Story behind the baseline:

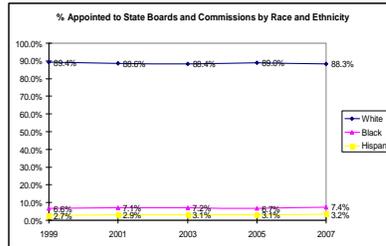
African-Americans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. African-Americans are 9% of Connecticut's population, yet make up roughly 44 % of Connecticut's prison population and 75 % of juveniles in detention facilities.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Eliminate unfair drug sentencing laws.
- 2) Provide for stronger re-entry programs in housing and substance abuse treatment
- 3) Provide for earlier intervention and effective mentoring programs for at-risk youth. The **AAAC participates** in meetings of the Connecticut Sentencing Task Force and the Racial and Ethnic Disparity Commission both established to address sentencing disparities.

Indicator 2:

% of African Americans serving on State Boards and Commissions



Story behind the baseline:

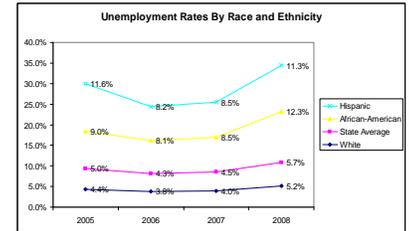
Since reporting began in 1999 on the racial and gender composition of State's Boards and Commissions African-Americans have been consistently underrepresented. In the most recent report African-Americans are 9.1 % of the population yet make up 7.4 % of members appointed to State Boards and Commissions.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Expand the recruitment of African-Americans to State Boards and Commissions through community outreach
- 2) Build stronger relationships with legislators and community groups
- 3) Assist in improving the overall referral and appointing process.

Indicator 3:

% of Unemployed African-Americans



Story behind the baseline:

The unemployment rate for African-Americans has consistently been above the state average since 2005. Higher than normal incarceration rates, employment discrimination based on race and lack of educational attainment have all been cited as factors for this negative trend.

Proposed strategies to turn the curve:

- 1) Support and encourage cultural awareness and sensitivity training through workshops, forums etc.
- 2) Enforce stronger penalties for employment discrimination based on race
- 3) Remove employment barriers preventing ex-offenders from securing stable employment 4) Improve overall educational attainment for African-Americans **AAAC championed** hate crimes legislation most recently legislation to eliminate the residual structures of racism existing in the state. Disseminated information and material to educate the public about racism and its social costs.

2009 RACIAL PROFILING

Public Act 03-160 known as the “Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act” mandates each municipal police department and Department of Public Safety to provide annually summary reports of traffic stops made by law enforcement to the African-American Affairs Commission. In addition a copy of complaints submitted by persons stopped and written notification of the review and disposition of the complaint must be provided to the Commission by departments.

The AAAC continued to collect and file reports submitted from twenty-seven (27) of the one hundred and ten (110) departments in Connecticut. The reports received from the departments have been submitted in several formats. Some were received electronically while others were received in several paper formats. The reports have not been reviewed by the African-American Affairs Commission. No funding was provided by the General Assembly to manage the data and the Commission did not have resources to analyze the reports. Barely twenty-five percent of the required law enforcement agencies have submitted reports during this reporting year. The Commission did receive two copies of complaints made by persons from two departments.

The Commission has not secured funding to analyze the reports that have been submitted. The only action that Commission has taken is to report on which municipalities have filed reports.

The towns that were in compliance with P.A. 03-160 and who submitted reports during the year were:

Ansonia	Guilford	Ridgefield
Bethel	Middletown	Simsbury
Bloomfield	Naugatuck	Stonington
Bristol	New Canaan	Trumbull
Cheshire	New London	Vernon
Coventry	New Milford	Watertown
Danbury	Newtown	Westport
Enfield	Plainville	Willimantic
Greenwich	Putnam	Woodbridge

2009 PROGRAMS, ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

- 2009 AAAC CLASSIC AWARDS
- ADVOCACY DAY
- APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY - TRACES OF THE TRADE
- BLACK HISTORY MONTH - COSTEN CULTURAL EXHIBITS
- COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY
- CONNECTICUT CIVIC DAY
- DONATE LIFE CONNECTICUT
- GREATER NEW ENGLAND ALLIANCE OF BLACK EDUCATORS RECEPTION
- KNOWHOW2GO
- EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH EDUCATION LEAD POISONING FORUM
- STATE OF BLACK CONNECTICUT
- TROUBLE THE WATER
- WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY / THE AMERICAN DIVIDE

2009 COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

For African-American families applying to college is stressful. Next to selecting a college, applying for financial aid is probably the most important challenge facing students and their families. To help navigate this process, the African-American Affairs Commission joined educators to sponsor College Goal Sunday - Connecticut 2009 (CGS). On Sunday, January 25, 2009, 791 high school students and their parents/guardian visited 12 sites. The site locations included Central High School (Bridgeport), Discovery Museum (Bridgeport), Capital Community College, Manchester Community College, Middlesex Community College, Gateway Community College, Eastern Connecticut State University, the Science and Technology Magnet High School of SE Connecticut (New London), Norwalk Community College, St. Joseph College, Western Connecticut State University and Post University. While at the sites the students and parents completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA).

With funding support from the Lumina Foundation and sponsorship from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators and the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs free professional services were provided. Twelve scholarships were awarded to students who completed their FAFSA and attended college in the fall 2009.

Nationally CGS began 20 years ago and this was the second year that Connecticut participated in the program. In the first year Connecticut served 360 students at 6 sites. Once completed and submitted the FAFSA is used by colleges and universities to determine how much financial aid a student will be eligible to receive. Without a completed FAFSA, it will be very difficult for a student attending college in the fall to receive financial aid. With the involvement of the YMCA-USA College Goal Sunday-Connecticut will expand in the coming year.



2009 CONCOURSE EXHIBIT

SKY ENDEAVORS - COSTEN CULTURAL EXHIBIT



In celebration of Black History Month, the African-American Affairs Commission sponsored the Costen Cultural Exhibit. The exhibit is a very unique collection of rare photographs, ephemera, memorabilia and collectibles. It has been custom designed to travel to any location and show viewers the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history.

The display addresses the interests of all age groups covering the topics: science, invention, business, civil rights, politics, military, aviation, education, literature, music, entertainment and sports.

Over the years, the exhibit has been displayed at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, universities, libraries, churches, museums, and companies throughout the east coast. The acceptance has been phenomenal and it has educated thousands of people.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY: A WORK IN PROGRESS

A Work In Progress held in the Capitol/Legislative Office building concourse, provided an opportunity for more than 20 organizations to gain greater visibility and to display their contributions to the African-American community.

In celebration of Black History month, during the busy Legislative Session, the exhibit afforded staff, visitors, and legislators the chance to become familiar with governmental, nonprofit, historic and cultural organizations that have service connections and/or historical significance to the African-American community. African-American history panels, memorabilia and ephemera were prominently featured as was information about health and wellness, environmental justice, breast and prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes and stroke prevention.

2009 CONCOURSE EXHIBIT PARTICIPANTS

- African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)
- American Heart Association
- Amistad Foundation
- Bill Costen Sky Endeavors
- Charter Oak State College
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Citizen for Quality Sickle Cell Care
- Connecticut Association Against Domestic Violence (CADV)
- Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP)
- Connecticut Pardon Team
- Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP)
- Department of Public Health Heart Disease/Stroke Chronic Maladies
- Donate Life
- Dr. Caldwell McCoy Jr. Memorial Engineering Scholarship Foundation
- Environmental Justice Coalition
- Friends of Prudence Crandall
- John E. Rogers Foundation
- National Kidney Foundation
- Sickle Cell Disease Association of America of Southern Connecticut
- Small/Minority Biz Showcase
- The National Conference for Community and Justice
- Urban League of Greater Hartford

2009 CLASSIC AWARDS

The Annual African-American Affairs Commission's Classic Awards gives all of us a rare opportunity to acknowledge the contributions, achievements, and service of individuals who are not often recognized for their efforts and positive impact on our communities.

The following individuals were chosen as recipients of the Tenth Annual Classic Awards, held on May 8, 2009 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.

2009 CLASSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS



Man of the Year
Dr. Mark Mitchell



Woman of the Year
Gwendolyn Smith Iloani



Lifetime Achievement
Pastor Wade Hyslop, Jr.



Youth of the Year
Ugochuku Nwachuku



Youth of the Year
Rachelle Zribi



Business & Economic Development
Carlton L. Oneal

TROUBLE THE WATER

The film *Trouble the Water* provokes thought about how prepared or unprepared communities are to handle disaster. On January 9, 2009 the African-American Affairs Commission brought the public together to experience this documentary and to see first-hand what happened in New Orleans.

The documentary was followed by a panel discussion of experts which included: West Hartford Fire Chief William H. Austin, University of Connecticut Dean and Professor of Social Work Salome Raheim, Hartford Hospital Bioterrorism Program Manager Sandra C. Brown and Branch Chief Operations - Department of Public Health and State Homeland Security Advisory Council Member, Leonard H. Guercia, Jr. We learned together how to protect our families and communities here in Connecticut.



TROUBLE THE WATER - It's not about a hurricane - It's about America!

CIVIC DAY



In celebration and acknowledgement of Black History Month, the AAAC sponsored *Civic Day* at the State Capitol. On February 18, 2009, the Commission hosted 35 students from the Drop-In Learning Center of New London and Hartford's Covenant Academy. The group, greeted by Senator Edwin Gomes, Representative Kenneth Green and Representative Ernest Hewett, listened while each statesman talked about their roles in the state government and stressed the importance of education. Students and their teachers participated in a guided tour of the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building. Interactive sessions about advocacy, government and the legislative process were presented by AAAC Executive Director, Glenn Cassis, AAAC Legislative Analyst, Frank Sykes and Werner Oyanadel of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

ADVOCACY DAY

On April 22, 2009 the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission hosted AAAC Advocacy Day. The public had the opportunity to meet with their legislators, community organizations and advocates to talk about the impact of current and proposed legislation impacting some of the state's most at-risk populations. Issues and concerns related to the budget and its impact on education, healthcare, human services, and business and economic development were addressed.



STATE OF BLACK CONNECTICUT



On April 25, 2009 150 parents, advocates, laborers, policy makers, business, and the faith community, across Connecticut, concerned about high disparities within the minority community participated in a two panel discussion about issues related to Education, Employment, Health, and Poverty a keynote address by Hartford School Principal Dr. Steve Perry. This critically needed dialogue was held at Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church in Middletown.

Congressman Chris Murphy gave remarks from Washington. Also present were, Middletown Mayor *Giuliano*, Middletown Representative Matt Lesser, Former Speaker of the House, James Amann and Gwen Eady, President of the State of Black Connecticut Alliance.

GREATER NEW ENGLAND ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

Greater New England Alliance of Black School Educators held their annual "Lou Irvin" Scholarship Reception on June 5, 2009 at the State Capitol. Tamar Turner was the 2009 Award Winner.



GNEABSE is an affiliate chapter of National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) which is the nation's premiere non-profit organization dedicated to improving both the educational experiences and accomplishments of African-American youth through the development and use of instructional and motivational methods that increase levels of inspiration, attendance and overall achievement.

APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY



The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission was a key player in bringing the issue of Connecticut formally recognizing its role in slavery. On June 26, 2009 the Commission held a forum that laid out recommendations the AAAC feels should follow the passage of House Joint Resolution 1: Resolution Expressing The Profound Regret Of The Connecticut General Assembly For The History Of Wrongs Inflicted Upon Black Citizens By Means Of Slavery, Exploitation And Legalized Racial Segregation, and called on all citizens to take part in Acts Of Racial Reconciliation.

Katrina Brown presented her documentary "Traces of the Trade". Brown uses the film to acknowledge the past and pave the way for greater mutual respect and understanding.

TRACES OF THE TRADE - A Story from the Deep North

DONATE LIFE

The African-American Affairs Commission and Union Baptist Church in Hartford collaborated with Donate Life Connecticut to sponsor a "Night at the Movies" on July 30, 2009. The movie, *John Q* starring Denzel Washington, dramatized the issue of organ transplant. The Commission is working with Donate Life Connecticut to help increase awareness of the need for donor organs and tissues in the African-American community. Mike Tutler a heart recipient and Beth Ballard mother of a donor shared their stories.

Also in attendance were Sherri Wood and Rickey Reed from the 2010 Census. They disseminated information and material on the 2010 Census in the hopes of making sure all citizens, especially African-Americans are counted in the upcoming census.



KNOWHOW2GO



On August 7, 2009, the African-American Affairs Commission and the State Department of Education participated in the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show Back to School broadcast at the Hillhouse High School Field House. KnowHow2Go is the national campaign that helps middle and high school students prepare to be successful college students who graduate with degrees. Beginning at 6 AM, thousands of New Haven public school students and their parents/care providers received KnowHow2GO and AAAC education material from information booths. Celebrity Sybil Wilkes of the Tom Joyner Morning Show was the guest hostess for local radio station WYBC. This was the second year that the Commission and SDE participated in this event.

“THE AMERICAN DIVIDE” WESTERN CT STATE UNIVERSITY

On October 6, 2009 Western Connecticut State University convened a panel of citizens and experts to discuss the case of Henry Louis Gates, the African American professor from Harvard who was arrested in his home over the summer, along with the resulting discussion of race that the issue spurred across the country. Panelists generally agreed that race and sensitivity toward the subject should be fully discussed, and people of different backgrounds must try to understand others' perspectives before race becomes a non-issue in the United States.



LEAD POISONING FORUM



On November 19, 2009 the AAAC teamed with Dr. Vivian Cross, President and co-founder of Health Education Lead Poisoning to sponsor the 2009 Legislative Forum. The Forum featured nationally renowned researchers and experts. The forum included Dr. Kim Dietrich, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Dr. Eric Cooper, President of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, Dr. Jeanne Zehr, Assistant Superintendent East Allen County Schools in Indiana and Dr. Janice Gruendel of Gruendel and Associates and Co-chair of the CT Early Childhood Education Cabinet. Pictured are Dr. Vivian Cross and AAAC Executive Director, Glenn A. Cassis.

AAAC WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONERS

The AAAC would like to welcome new Commissioners Stephanie Moore and Diana Washington to our Commission. Ms. Moore is a resident of Milford, CT and Ms. Washington is a resident of Bridgeport, CT. Please join us as we welcome Ms. Moore and Ms. Washington to the African-American Affairs Commission.



Stephanie Moore



Diana Washington

AAAC STAFF INFORMATION

As a result of the new State budget passed in September 2009, the African-American Affairs Commission has changed. Like the other General Assembly Commissions (Commission on Aging, Commission on Children, Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the Asian Pacific Affairs Commission and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women) the AAAC was forced to reduce its budget by more than 50%. The AAAC reduced its non-Personal Services accounts to the barest of essentials. That was not sufficient so it was necessary to layoff personnel. Veteran staff members, Cheryl Harris Forbes, Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator and Frank Sykes, Senior Legislative Analyst, were laid off reducing the AAAC staff in half. Their knowledge, expertise and professionalism will be tremendously missed.

Through the implementing provisions passed during the September 2009 Special Session – House Bill No. 7007 changes were made to the Commissions structure and mandate. The AAAC will increase the number of Commissioners from 13 to 21. The Legislature will fill all appointments and purposely include a representative from each county in the State (8). All future appointments will have experience in the field of African-American affairs as an advocate or an academic, civic or cultural leader. The AAAC will focus its efforts on the quality of life desired results for the African-American population in the State in the areas of health, safety, educational success, economic self-sufficiency and freedom from discrimination. The Commission will conduct greater educational and outreach activities to help raise awareness of critical issues for the African-American population in Connecticut.

To accomplish this mandate, the Commission will expand its alliances and partnerships. The AAAC will network with organizations to improve the quality life desired results. We will continue to advocate and support issues that affect the African-American community. The Commission staff will work tirelessly to accomplish the mandate by working smarter and more efficiently



Former Special Project/Public Affairs Coordinator, Cheryl Harris Forbes, Executive Director, Glenn A. Cassis, Senior Legislative Secretary, Denise Drummond and Former Senior Legislative Analyst, Frank Sykes.

OUTREACH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- African-American Women’s Summit – New Haven
- Black and Latino Male Student Achievement Gap - SERC
- Commission on Children – Poverty Council and Child Obesity Council
- Connecticut Health Foundation Multi-Cultural Health Forums
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women - Trafficking in Persons Council
- Reflecting Connecticut Forums
- KNOWHOW2GO – CT
- College Goal Sunday – Connecticut
- Black History Month Presentation – Department of Public Health
- Black History Month Presentation – Inmates at Bergin Correctional Institution
- Symposium Intersection of Race and Education – SERC
- New Haven Festival of the Arts
- Community Collaboration for Change

PARTNERSHIPS

The AAAC would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.

- Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparities in the Judicial Systems
- Connecticut Department of Education
- Connecticut Department of Higher Education
- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
- Donate Life
- Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity & Justice
- Help Educate Lead Poisoning Initiative
- Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Manchester Community College
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
- Secretary of the State’s Office
- State Education Resource Center

ISSUES OF INTEREST

- Appointive Boards and Commissions
- Black Male Development
- Department of Developmental Services
- Department of Public Health
- Disparate Criminal Justice
- Economic and Business Development
- Educational Achievement
- Environmental Justice
- Greater New England Alliance of Black School Educators
- Health Programming
- Health Status Disparities
- Juvenile Justice
- Juvenile Violence
- National Correctional Center
- Organ Transplants
- Pay Equity
- Predatory Lending
- Prison Reform
- Prevention of LEAD Poisoning
- Secondary School Reform
- Sickle Cell Association
- Sickle Cell Treatment Disparities
- Social Service Program Reductions

AAAC COMMISSIONER PROFILES



George Logan

Housing Member – Chairperson George Logan is Director-Capital & Planning at Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut. He is responsible for the entire range of Capital and Planning activities, including water resource planning, project management, new services, purchasing and inventory for Aquarion's facilities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree, and he received a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Griffin Health Services (Derby-CT) Board of Directors / Griffin Hospital Board of Trustees, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce-Inc. Board of Directors, Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut-Inc. Board of Directors and Trinity College Engineering Advisory Council. A native of New Haven-CT, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. In 1998, House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan as a Commissioner of the African-American Affairs Commission. In 2005, he was reappointed by House Majority Leader, James Amann.



Fred Pierre-Louis

Member of the Public – Vice Chairperson Fred Pierre-Louis is a proven leader in both community and professional arenas. He is a passionate team player with a keen understanding of group dynamics. Mr. Pierre-Louis has fourteen years of combined business development and project management experience. He is pursuing a doctorate degree in educational leadership at the University of Hartford. His academic achievement include: a Sixth Year Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Bridgeport, an Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) from the University of Connecticut, an Advanced Business. Executive Program from the Amos Tuck Business School at Dartmouth College, a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, and Business Computer Programming credentials from the Computer Processing Institute, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Commissioner Pierre-Louis is committed to continuous self-improvement and actualization. He is a member of Stamford Republican Town Committee, the vice-chairperson of the Smith House (for elderly citizens in Stamford), a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Education Honor Society and the chairman of the Education Committee of AAAC. Commissioner Pierre-Louis was appointed in 2006, by House Minority Leader, Robert M. Ward.



Ngozi Taffe

Commissioner Ngozi Taffe a Business Manager at Hamilton Sundstrand. She is responsible for driving development and growth of the international supply base and executing cost reduction initiatives. Prior to her current position, Ms. Taffe worked for Info Tech Enterprises American where she managed on and off-shore resources and spearheaded best practice efforts for process improvement initiatives. Ms. Taffe received her Bachelors degree in Management Information Systems and Masters in Business Administration and International Business Strategy from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Taffe is committed to enriching the lives of young children. With the support of the Connecticut Valley Adventist Church, she runs a summer day camp aimed at strengthening moral values, developing intellectual abilities and encouraging service to others. She chairs several nonprofit organizations and was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in February of 2008 by Governor M. Jodi Rell.



Alphonse Wright

Member of the Public - Treasurer Alphonse Wright has more than twenty years of Human Resources experience and eleven years as a mortgage broker, dedicated to meeting the needs of small business. As part of his commitment to give back to the community, he participates on a number of inner-city boards as well as the Connecticut State Board of Education. In Norwalk, he was Excel's Chairman of the Board. Excel is an organization that helps at-risk students graduate high school. As a result of Mr. Wright's willingness to represent his community and engage the political process, he received a letter of recognition from President George W. Bush, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and Governor M. Jodi Rell. In addition to serving on the AAAC Board, Mr. Wright is Chairman of the New Britain Commission on Community Neighborhood and Development, Board Member of the New Britain Human Resources Agency and a Trustee of McCullough Temple. Mr. Wright is a graduate of Boston University. He was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission by House Republican Leader, Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr. in 2007.

AAAC COMMISSIONER PROFILES



Kristen M. Clark

Member of the Public - Commissioner Kristen M. Clark is the Village for Families and Children, Inc.'s Community Ambassador. During her fourteen years with the agency, Ms. Clark has worked as a supervisor, therapist, and case manager in the Village's foster care program. As part of her community involvement, Ms. Clark participates as an officer with several organizations in the Greater Hartford area. She is currently the President of the Howard University Alumni Club of Greater Hartford, an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and member of the Board of Directors for Community Health Center in Hartford. Additionally, Ms. Clark serves as a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Greater Hartford Alliance of Black Social Workers, the NAACP, past member of Hartford Communities that Care Advisory Board and the Neighborhood Enforcement and Stabilization Team (NEST). She is involved with the Development Committee of the Open Hearth as well as the Corporate Intern and Young Professionals Committee of the MetroHartford Alliance Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Clark was appointed to the AAAC Board in 2007 by Representative Christopher G. Donovan.



Brenda DelGado

Health - Commissioner Brenda P. DelGado, worked in the area of health care administration for over 30 years and is currently the Executive Director of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc in Hartford. She is the past Chief of HIV Prevention Clinical Services for the CT Department of Public Health AIDS Division. She received a Fellowship in Long term Care Administration from the National Black Caucus on Aging to become one of first African-American licensed Nursing Home Administrators in CT. Ms. DelGado has a Bachelors degree in Biology and Medical Technology, a Masters in Health Administration and is completing a PhD in Educational Psychology. Mrs. DelGado was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Senate President Pro Tempore, Donald E. Williams.



Rosetta Jones

Human Services - Commissioner Rosetta Jones retired in 2001 as Warden of Brooklyn Correction Institution. Her career began with the Connecticut Department of Corrections as a Correction officer. Spanning 22 years Ms. Jones ascended through the ranks as Lieutenant at Niantic Correctional Institution for Women; Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Commissioner, Deputy Warden, and Warden. The Connecticut General Assembly, Association of Police Commissioners, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Connecticut College, CPTV, have recognized her. Ms. Jones holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Springfield College, and was recently elected as a Councilwoman, in the town of Montville, CT. She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in November 2003 by Governor John G. Rowland.



Derrick McBride

Public Safety - 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 is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. He served in the United States Army Reserves for 10 years as a Captain and member of a Civil Affairs Unit. 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. He was appointed by the Windham First Selectman to serve on Windham's Affirmative Action Commission. He is deeply devoted to his family and church. Mr. McBride has served on the Commission since 2001. He was reappointed in 2008 by the Speaker of the House, Jim Amann.

AAAC COMMISSIONER PROFILES



Stephanie Moore

Arts & Culture - Commissioner Stephanie Moore serves Southern Connecticut as a consultant and grant-writer. Previously, she served the 4th Congressional District as Director of Outreach in the office of Congressman Christopher Shays. Mrs. Moore is a native of Ohio where she served as an Area Court Bailiff, a Regional Coordinator for Reclaim Our Democracy, as a spokesperson for voter education and voter protection, and as an Adult Services Specialist for adults with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Mrs. Moore also served as Office Manager for Wilberforce University's Co-op & Career Services Center, a Building Manager and Executive Assistant to the Director of Housing Management Services for Dayton's Housing Authority. Previous board experience includes Executive Board Member of the Montgomery County Central Committee, Dayton Urban League's Young Professionals, NAACP, United Way's Young People Succeeding Outcome Team, United Way Annual and Urban League Capital Campaigns, adjunct member of the Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee and executive board member to the Dayton Public Schools Evergreen Project. She was appointed in September 2009 by Senate Minority Leader, John McKinney.



Diana Washington

Environment - Commissioner Diana Washington a development professional for more than 20 years is a community outreach grants coordinator with the office of Congressman Christopher Shays. There her responsibilities include disseminating information on federal, state and local funding opportunities as well as loans and contracts to non-profit and social service organizations and local governments. She is also affiliated with the Human Services Council of Mid-Fairfield and the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County. Ms. Washington was appointed in September 2009 by Senate Minority Leader, John McKinney.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONERS



AAAC Commissioners:

Brenda P. DelGado, Derrick McBride, Kristen M. Clark, Alphonse Wright, Ngozi Taffe, George S. Logan, Fred Pierre-Louis, Diana Washington, Stephanie Moore, Rosetta Jones

AAAC STAFF PROFILES



Glenn A. Cassis

Executive Director - Glenn A. Cassis has served as the Executive Director of the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission since August 2006. Prior to joining the AAAC, Mr. Cassis, a New York native and Bloomfield resident, worked 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. Mr. Cassis is an active member of several professional and non-profit organizations, including but not limited to the American Society of Engineering Educators, the Southern New England Association of Technical Professionals, and Hartford NAACP. He serves as a board member or officer in the following organizations: Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, Bloomfield Raiders Youth Football, treasurer of the National Association of Pre-College Directors, Connecticut Academy for Education Fellow, vice-president of the Bloomfield Education Foundation and reviewer for National Science Foundation and NASA. Mr. Cassis attended the University of Connecticut where he earned his undergraduate degree in political science and his graduate degree in arts administration.



Cheryl Harris Forbes

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. Some of 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.



Frank Sykes

Senior Legislative Analyst II - Franklin Sykes is a resident of Rocky Hill and holds an MBA degree from the University of New Haven. Mr. Sykes spent the earlier part of his youth outside the U.S. including England. His parents finally settled in their native Ghana where he completed high school with an emphasis in Liberal Arts. Mr. Sykes is also a veteran and served in the U.S. Army in Germany. Mr. Sykes has a well rounded background. He has worked in the financial industry, briefly in academia and has always had passion for humanitarian work. Mr. Sykes main functions in his position are research, policy analysis and advocacy. He also serves as liaison between the Commission and the legislature.



Denise Drummond

Senior Legislative Secretary - Denise Drummond is a native of Connecticut. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Mrs. Drummond worked for Allegheny Ludlum as an Executive Secretary, Payroll Analyst, and Materials Management Coordinator.

AAAC - CONTACT INFORMATION

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

The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a website that includes information about our Commission, our Legislative and Administrative Priorities, Resource Links, Talent Bank Information and Forms, Commissioner and Staff Profiles, Internship Program Information, Service Providers, News Items, College Search, a listing of regional employment opportunities and a Calendar of Events. Our website address is www.cga.ct.gov/aaac.

If you would like to request additional information, or to correspond with the AAAC, please feel free to 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)

[aac@cga.ct.gov](mailto:aaac@cga.ct.gov)

www.cga.ct.gov/aaac

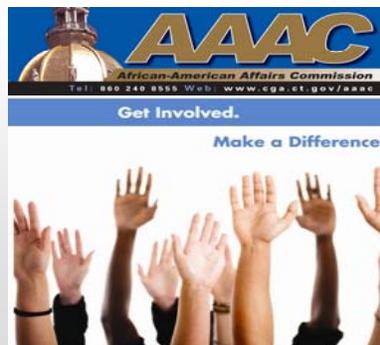
We look forward to hearing from you

AAAC TALENT BANK

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

The Connecticut Secretary of State's published report, *Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards*, (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 Name, First Name, Middle Initial

Address: _____
Street City or Town State/Zip Code

Telephone: _____
Home phone Work phone fax E-mail address

Employer: _____

Gender: Male Female - **U.S. Citizen:** Yes No - **Racial/Ethnic Background:** _____

Registered Voter: Yes No - **Political Affiliation:** Democrat Republican Independent

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 dates served.





AAAC
African-American Affairs Commission
Tel: 860 240 8555 Web: www.cga.ct.gov/aaac