

# AGENDA

## Nassau County Minority Affairs Council Meeting Office of Minority Affairs (OMA)

Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting/Conference Call

Attendees: Reginal Benjamin, Natalie Borneo, Nadine Burnett, Isma Chaudhry, Melrose Corley, Biena Depena, Charles Dickens, Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon, Kim Jenkins, Natalie Mitchell-Cange, Kyle Rose Louder, Paul Quintyne, George Siberon, Arthur Vernon, and Debra Wheat- Williams

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85411756488>

Meeting ID: 854 1175 6488

Join by Phone use phone# and Meeting ID

Phone – (646)558-8656 Meeting ID - 85411756488# US (New York)

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. Roll Call (Attendance & Sign-in Sheet)
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Presentation: Office of Minority Affairs Report
  - a) Question & answer session 5 mins.
5. Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting
6. New Business
  - a) Working Committee Updates
  - b) Other
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment of meeting

\*For All Question & Answer sessions ~ 1 question per member

# **Nassau County Minority Affairs Council**

## **Amended Final Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2021**

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Nassau County Minority Affairs Council was called to order at 5:04 pm on March 8, 2021 by Chair Nadine Burnett.

### **Present**

Natalie Borneo, Secretary  
Nadine Burnett, Chair  
Charles Dickens  
Isma Chaudhry  
Melrose Corley  
Biena Depena  
Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon, Vice Chair  
Natalie Mitchell-Cange  
Paul Quintyne  
Kyle Rose Louder (Deputy County Executive)  
George Siberon  
Rabbi Arthur Vernon  
Debra Wheat-Williams

### **Absent**

Kim Jenkins (excused)  
Natalie Mitchell-Cange

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Rabbi Arthur Vernon, second by George Siebron.  
Motion carried; agenda approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to accept meeting minutes made by Arthur Vernon and second by Paul Quintyne

### *Report from Office of Minority Affairs, Director Lionel Chitty*

Director Chitty discussed activities and projects being worked on by the Office of Minority Affairs.

February was a busy month for the Office of Minority Affairs

- Black History Month Celebration
- Heart Health Education
- Collaboration with the LIACC Business – 2021 Business Expo
- WMBE Certification Program

- Industrial Development – Minority Business Resource Webinar

The focus for March will include events/workshops on:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Education
  - Haitian Community
  - Hispanic Community
- Colorectal Awareness
- Women's Health
- WMBE Enterprise Empowerment
- Boost - Nassau Small Business Recovery Loan Program
- Bay Park Sewage Treatment project – the push to get more MWBE's involved in the procurement process continues. There are issues with smaller companies trying to bid. The bid packages are complex and time sensitive and requires a significant investment of time and documentation.

#### Vaccination Update

Kyle Rose-Louder - there are efforts to increase the number of vaccination sites in Nassau. There was a shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccination which has been full dispensed.

#### *Access to appointments*

An Equity Vaccine group has been created which includes the Asian-American and Hispanic Councils, Clergy, other groups as well as the Office of Minority Affairs to ensure that individuals in our communities get appointments to be vaccinated. Once the individual's eligibility is confirmed any of the offices in the group can assist with advocacy and support to get them appointments.

#### *COVID Education in communities*

Previous COVID 19 sessions led by Dr. Brutus will soon be posted on the Office of Minority Affairs site, face book and you tube.

Debra Wheat-Williams - do we have a sense on whether individuals who are homebound are included in outreach efforts?

Kyle Rose-Louder - Northwell is working toward addressing homebound and shut-in residents.

Nadine Burnett – the County recently provided a link for individuals interested in getting appointments for vaccines and people who received it found it to be user friendly and useful. Positive feedback.

Isma Chaudhry – the Nassau County Department of Health has been working on Community collaboratives to ensure that guidelines are being followed.

Vaccine hesitancy has declined.

Kyle Rose-Louder – Doctors involved have been doing an excellent job of highlighting the most important benefits of the vaccines. Recent discussions on religious beliefs have been positive.

Biena Depena- does the County keep track of the percentage of people who have rare and underlying who have been vaccinated?

Kyle Rose-Louder - HIPAA Laws prevent those administering vaccinations to asking health questions and there are no stats being gathered on co-morbidities.

#### *Education Equity Working Group*

No report. The working group members have assignments and need work through them

#### *Economic Development*

No report. The working committee will meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

#### *Police Reform*

Kim Jenkins is attending the second session of the Freeport Police Reform group. We look forward to getting some feedback from her regarding the discussion in the meeting.

Mickheala Jasmin-Beamon - asked whether there was any feedback or timeframe for comments from the County Executive.

Kyle Rose-Louder – Friday 3/12 will be the final day for revisions/edits then the document will be submitted to the legislature for the vote. If there are changes the Office of Labor Relations has responsibility to oversee the process.

Rabbi Vernon – A long term goal of the state should be to eliminate political activity of unions, including donating money to campaigns and making public endorsements. Unions are very powerful. There should be some type of reform.

#### *Workforce Development*

No report. This working committee will meet on Monday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

### ***A. Other Business***

#### *Member Attendance*

Consistent Council Member attendance continues to be a problem. Members who have missed 3 consecutive meetings should be sent an email reminding them of the guideline in the bylaws. They should also be asked about their level of interest in continuing the council.



The secretary will reach out to them by email first. If there is no response or continued absence the council will move to send correspondence by registered mail. Nadine Burnett will confirm whether there is a budget line for mailing expenses.

If the council elevates concerns about member attendance and engagement the matter will be referred to Evelyn with a recommendation from the council.

#### *Cow Meadow Park – Report of Homicide*

News of another killing shooting has raised concern about the safety of our parks used by families and children in the community. In previous years gangs have used parks to dispose of bodies making public safety a major concern.

Kyle Rose-Louder – Cow Meadow Park falls under the jurisdiction of the county, specifically Precinct #1 in the Village of Freeport. Homicides are the responsibility of Nassau County; Patrols are the responsibility of Public Safety by the Freeport police. There are no patrols after the park closes.

Biena Depena – there should be cameras in the park, but they may not be working. We need to find out.

Nadine Burnett – who should be asked about safety? Should the council send an inquiry to the Deputy Commander or Parks Conservator? Should the council invite a representative to be a guest at one of our future meetings?

A representative from Community Development will be a guest at our next meeting. The next Minority Affairs Council meeting will be on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Arthur Vernon and second by Debra Wheat-Williams. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Minutes submitted by: Natalie A. Borneo, Secretary

Approved by: Nadine Burnett, Chair