

AGENDA

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

Monday, January 11, 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



Zoom Link to Attend <http://bit.ly/3q6lwmb>

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. Roll Call (Attendance & Sign-in Sheet)
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Presentation: Office of Minority Affairs
 - a) Executive Director Office of Minority Affairs, Lionel Chitty
 - b) Question & answer session 5 mins.
5. Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting
6. New Business
 - a) Working Committee Updates
 - b) Confirmation of Priority List for 2021
 - c) Committee Action & Response process for signing documents
 - d) Council efforts to facilitate dialogue on COVID vaccine
 - e) Other
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment of meeting

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

Nassau County Minority Affairs Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Nassau County Minority Affairs Council was called to order at 5:01pm on January 11, 2021 by Vice Chair Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon.

Present

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

Absent

Charles Dickens
Paul Quintyne

Approval of Agenda

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

The council members welcomed Reginald Benjamin and allowed brief introductions. Mr. Benjamin was asked to join the SLACK community.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept meeting minutes made by Arthur Vernon and second by Melrose Corley.

Report from Office of Minority Affairs, Director Lionel Chitty

Director Chitty discussed activities and projects being worked on by the OMA

1. Disparity Study which has been the current focus of OMA.

2. Small business series - 4C's of Entrepreneurship
3. Bay Park Sewage Treatment project \$439M Contract. State Funded Project available at the end of January. Opportunity to add minority subcontractors. Typical barriers include:
 - a. Bonding
 - b. Insurance Requirements
 - c. Lag time between work and payment
4. OMA working on their end of year report which will cover activities and events from September through December 2020
5. Other OMA programs:
 - December 29th Virtual Kwanza program at the Africa-American Museum in Hempstead
 - January 18th Martin Luther King ~ "A Kings Conversation" hosted by County Executive Laura Curran, moderated by Bishop Harvey.

New Business/Announcements

A. Updates from Working Groups

Police Reform Working Group

The final letter has been printed; however, Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon advised that the signature page is missing a few council member signatures. If members need assistance with understanding options available to help them to add their signatures Mickheila can assist.

Kyle Rose-Louder confirmed that the draft response is still in the public forum for comment, therefore the council still has time to submit the recommendation letter to the County Executive.

Education Equity Working Group

The working committee is scheduling a meeting with Larry Levin to get feedback and recommendations on Education Equity. The committee will report back to the council on the outcomes of the meeting.

B. Other

Isma Chaudhry shared comments on issues in minority community with the COVID vaccination. As Chair of the Asian American Council, she coordinated a session with Doctors from Northwell for members of the community to hear important information and ask questions. There are several questions on safety, side-effects, equitable distribution.

OMA should consider doing something similar. There is significant distrust and skepticism in the minority communities.

Isma committed to sharing a recording of the session she organized with the council members. She noted that it is extremely important that the roll out be done in a timely fashion.

Kyle Rose-Louder shared her involvement with vaccine plans for Nassau County. Northwell Health is a vaccination HUB and is involved with the NYS Taskforce. She noted that members of the taskforce have medical backgrounds.

The OMA is collaborating with the Department of Health. Other organizations involved include the Hispanic Council, and the Asian American Council.

George Siebron is on the task force for Health Equity Trust and shared favorable impressions of the set up at Nassau Community College. He acknowledged that the minority communities have many concerns including:

- Speed at which the vaccine was manufactured.
- History of minority experiences with suspicious medical clinical trials
- Distrust of government
- Threat felt by undocumented residents.

It was suggested that a member of the taskforce be invited to share details on the outreach plan for Nassau County including:

- Locations including number of locations and mobile pods.
- Plan for Seniors 75+

Members were advised that vaccination information is available in multiple languages including Arabic. Chair Burnett noted that we should think further about how to help with dissemination of information to our communities.

Chair Nadine Burnett reminded the secretary that the minutes need to be posted for public access.

The Council agreed that monthly meetings would continue to be scheduled on the second Monday of every month and remain virtual for the foreseeable future. The next general meeting will be at 5pm on February 8th, 2021.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Arthur Vernon and second by Debra WheatWilliams. Meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

Minutes submitted by: Natalie A. Borneo, Secretary

Approved by: Nadine Burnett, Chair