

# AGENDA

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

Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting/Conference Call

Attendees: Natalie Borneo, Nadine Burnett, Reginal Benjamin, Isma Chaudhry, Melrose Corley, Biena Depena, Charles Dickens, Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon, Kim Jenkins, Kyle Rose Louder, Natalie Mitchell-Cange, 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. Presentations:

Guest Speakers - *Eileen A Krieb*

*Commissioner*

*Nassau County Parks Recreation & Museums*

- a. Eileen A Krieb, Commissioner, Nassau County Parks Recreation & Museums
  - o Question & answer limited to 5 mins.
- b. Lionel Chitty, Director, Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs
  - o Question & answer limited to 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**

## **Draft Meeting Minutes**

**May 10th, 2021**

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Nassau County Minority Affairs Council was called to order at 5:02 pm on May 10th, 2021 by Chair Nadine Burnett.

### **Present**

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

### **Absent**

Natalie Mitchell-Cange  
Paul Quintyne  
George Siberon

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

Chair Nadine Burnet acknowledged the presence of our Guest Speaker for the meeting, Eileen A Krieb Commissioner Nassau County Parks Recreation & Museums and Mr. Andrew Goldstein, Deputy Parks Commissioner. They were given the floor to share updates on the Department's operations.

### ***Update from Commissioner Krieb:***

The department is extending summer employment opportunities to the community. While re-opening is slow there will be many positions open for the summer and possibly beyond the season.

Openings will include:

- Summer camps counselors

- Lifeguards for the 5 County Pools & Aquatic Center
- Park Maintenance (Main Parks and also neighborhood pocket parks)
- Museums (Old Bethpage, Glen Cove, African American Museum)
- Golf Courses
- Cashiers

These positions are for students as well as adults. The department can keep hires through November, and some positions, until December 2021.

Biena Depena asked where referrals should be sent. The Commissioner noted that all applicants would need to complete a physical application.

Interested applicants should visit the Department of Park's office in Eisenhower Park – 1899 Park Boulevard. Paper applications must be submitted in person and there is a 2-week clearance process, so applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The Department working with the Office of Minority Affairs to get applications distributed and positions filled?

Chair Nadine Burnett asked about the precautions being taken in the parks and with the programs being rolled out.

COVID 19 protocols and procedures will be observed, and this is one reason for the slow re-opening. Opportunities will become more visible since decisions have been made regarding summer operations.

Camps will operate at reduced capacity while the number of counselors will be increased to adhere to the Nassau Board of Health and New York State requirements

#### *Park Safety Concerns*

Commissioner Krieb confirmed that the parks re operational from dawn to dusk. Gates are not closed, however Public Safety will be patrolling and notified of activities/events outside of these times so that they can be prepared to monitor and support.

Public Safety will be giving tickets to those who violate the hours of operation or engage in prohibited activities.

Chair Nadine Burnett raised the issue of the recent fatality at Cow Meadow Park in Freeport.

The commissioner noted that while parks in general are well lit in main areas of the park there are remote areas which present a challenge. The preserve area at Cow Meadow Park is one such area. Gates there are closed but it is still remote.

Kim Jenkins questioned a particular area of Point Lookout where there is an attractive nuisance. While neither the Commissioner nor Deputy Commissioner were not familiar with the location described, they committed to connecting with Mr. Hedgepath from the Office of Minority Affairs.

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

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

The Director shared that a lot of work is being done with Kyle Rose-Louder on promoting and supporting COVID-19 vaccination sites. An additional site is a new location opening in Kennedy Park, Hempstead. There is still a lot of hesitancy and so the work continues.

The June Calendar of events include:

- Caribbean Heritage Celebration
- The County Juneteenth Program
- June is African American Music Month

**Other Projects:**

Workforce Development ~ The OMA continues to focus on entrepreneurship, specifically on how to start a small business. We need to encourage businesses to pursue the state certification process for minority business owner status. Michelle Crosley can assist with WMBE filings by providing guidance to applicants. There may be way to expand training by conducting a zoom workshop in the future.

Biena Depena suggested that the OMA create a cheat sheet outlining the list of documents and resources. Director Chitty noted that there is an online document which can be highlighted for business owners who need assistance.

Diversity Study ~ At the end of the month there will be discussions with all counties to share more information on the Diversity Study.

Bay Park Project ~ The process continues, and we still need Minority Businesses to sign on to the project. The OMA is working to get additional women owned businesses involved.

The PPP Program is currently unfunded and not available. The OMA is waiting to see whether it will be refunded.

Restaurant Recovery Grant ~ Director Chitty shared that the County's program and Federal programs are still not at capacity. Many minority businesses have not yet applied.

The challenge with the County program is the required that the applicants be full-fledged restaurants. Many are set up for take out and no in person dining. The Federal program does not have this limitation.

Charles Dickens shared that he personally applied for a small business association grant and had a positive experience.

Rental Assistance Program ~ Another program where local residents could benefit from is the rental assistance program. We need to get the word out.

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept meeting minutes with noted amendments and for posting made by Arthur Vernon and second by Charles Dickens. Motion carried; minutes approved

#### New Business

##### *Working Committee Reports*

##### 1) Economic development committee

- a. Summary document created by the working committee ~ reported by Rabbi Vernon.

##### *Overview*

The event will be geared toward residents of Nassau County as well as out-of-town visitors. It will feature live cultural entertainment, a food court, a children's corner, and activities for the entire family, highlighting local artists and artisans, dancers and musicians, small restaurants, and small business owner.

##### Committee Questions:

- Who is speaking to Evelyn Tsimis who should be on board with this initiative?
- Someone should ask the Nassau Human Rights Commission – (Rodney McCray) to bring them on board?

Chair Nadine Burnett ~ With the Fair proposed for 2022 may be too long for planning especially if there is a change in administration.

Rabbi Art Vernon ~ Noted that there is no way to plan such an event for June 2021. We would need to ensure that there is buy-in across the board so that planning and funding would not be disrupted even if there are changes in the administration. The county has an existing contract with Discover Long Island and they have the resources and expertise to be the main resource.

Debra Wheat-Williams ~ We should continue planning and not be distracted by details outside of our control.

##### 2) Workforce Development committee

- a. Plans of a Resource Fair tentatively for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, ~ reported to Biena Depena

##### *Summary*

The focus is to host an event where organizations with training programs which result in job placement share information on how to apply and participate. Some of the organizations which have been approached to participate include:

- Hempstead Works, Nassau Community College Urgent Program, Northwell Community Health Worker Program, CUNY Early Childhood Education, Suny Farmingdale Free 10-week program
- b. In addition, the plan is to understand who the larger employers on Long Island are and how they are working to ensure equity in hiring and advancement on Long Island.

Committee Questions:

Biena Depena ~ Ban the Box is a concern that needs to be addressed in Nassau County.

Debra Wheat-Williams ~ Most employers will do a background check anyway so will that help?

Biena Depena ~ We currently have employers who specialize in extending employment to post incarcerated individuals. However, Ban the Box will level the playing field. This will be a longer-term goal for the committee.

Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon ~ Ban the Box will not prevent the background check from happening, but it will remove any conversation on incarceration prior to a job offer. The employer must provide a copy of the background check.

Chair Nadine Burnett ~ We should also include a focus on re-entry positions.

**A. Other Business**

The Chair Nadine Burnett expressed concern about irregular attendance of Council members.

Members will be reminded to review the terms and conditions of the attendance requirements in the Charter. If members are not able to participate the Charter outlines provisions for their voluntary resignation from the Council. There will be additional conversation and confirmed actions related to inconsistent attendance at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Art Vernon, second by Charles Dickens. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Natalie A. Borneo, Secretary

Approved by: Nadine Burnett, Chair