

AGENDA

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

Monday, December 13th, 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 Speaker(s)
Lionel Chitty, Director, Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs
 - Question & answer limited to 5 mins.
5. Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting
6. New Business
 - a. Working Committee Updates
 - b. Other
7. Announcements

*Thank
you
so
much*

8. A Moment of Thanks
9. Adjournment of meeting

Nassau County Minority Affairs Council

Meeting Minutes
December 13th, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Nassau County Minority Affairs Council was called to order at 5:05 pm on December 13th, 2021 by Chair Nadine Burnett.

Present

Natalie Borneo, Secretary
Nadine Burnett, Chair
Isma Chaudhry
Melrose Corley
Biena Depena
Charles Dickens
Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon, Vice Chair
Kim Jenkins
Paul Quintyne
Rabbi Arthur Vernon
Debra Wheat-Williams

Absent

Reginal Benjamin
Kyle Rose Louder (Deputy County Executive)
Natalie Mitchell-Cange
George Siberon

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Rabbi Arthur Vernon, second by Debra Wheat-Williams. Motion carried; agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes

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

Chair Nadine Burnett welcomed everyone noting that this was the final meeting for the year. With our working group activity tabled until we had clarity with leadership in 2022 most of the meeting would be the update from Director Lionel Chitty.

Report from Office of Minority Affairs, Director Lionel Chitty

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

Director Chitty acknowledged that the county was in the midst of transition. With the outcome of the election finalized as is standard protocol the Office of Minority affairs and other departments have submitted their job descriptions and are awaiting next steps. His tenure as Director is also tentative.

The Office of Minority affairs has also finalized together the Annual Report detailing the work of the office.

Highlights:

- As of Friday December 10th, the OMA has completed 200 WMBE/MBE approvals which is a milestone.
- The Bay Park project has 25 WMBEs participating which equates to 9%
- The county disparity study has 137 respondents. The expected completion is year-end 2022. The findings will be submitted to the legislature
- The traditional Kwanzaa celebration on December 26th via postings
- Additional funding was granted to the BOOST program; however, the Office is still waiting for direction. Key positions are being filled but not yet finalized.

Questions:

Debra Wheat-Williams – Now that the OMA has achieved such a significant milestone on WMBE approval, can this be publicized on social media to show progress/growth?

Director Chitty noted that the current transition and time of year with staff may not be manageable. However, the milestone is highlighted in the annual report. When the report is reviewed by the Legislature, he may also have the opportunity to present the report point by point.

Biena Depena – suggested a different approach to amplify the achievement which may not require a lot of heavy lifting. Using paid post on social media could easily be used to showcase the achievement across Nassau County. This could also attract other potential WMBEs to get certified.

Nadine Burnett – asked whether the County Attorney would need to approve such actions

Rabbi Arthur Vernon – noted that in reviewing the Charter, we serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. We should then continue until we are re-appointed or replaced. There will also be a change in the Deputy County Executive assigned to this Council.

Chair Burnett noted that once we get clarity and changes are made there will be an election for the new executive officers for this council. Until then we should move forward with our meetings and remain flexible to invite any new leaders/appointees.

Members in attendance agreed to move forward with creating a 2022 meeting calendar and maintain our meeting date of the second Monday of each month at 5pm Est until further notice.

It was agreed that the first meeting of 2022 would be scheduled for January 10th, 2022. Secretary Natalie Borneo will create a 12-month calendar and share the proposed dates with the Council members for review and confirmation.

Paul Quintyne noted that the start of the year might be very fluid be the council should anticipate the need to be flexible in January and February if additional meeting dates are required.

Natalie Borneo- suggested that in anticipation of a change in leadership and key players the council consider creating a document that lists members and highlights, current positions and working groups.

Other Business

Chair Burnett advised that Charles Dickens has officially notified her that he will be unable to continue to serve because of new responsibilities and schedule conflicts.

The Chair formally thanked Director Lionel Chitty for the great work and projects that the Office of Minority Affairs handled during 2020-2021. She also thanked council members for their contributions and hard work. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

Director Chitty acknowledged the thanks and noted his appreciation for the work of the Council in supporting the Office of Minority Affairs.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Arthur Vernon, second by Debra Wheat-Williams. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Natalie A. Borneo, Secretary
Approved by: Nadine Burnett, Chair