

# ARIZONA

COMMISSION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

## 10/15/2024 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
  - A. 11:02 AM
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Director Jerry McPherson
  - B. EA Greyson Taylor
  - C. Commissioner Dianne Post
  - D. Ex-Officio Tonya Hamilton
  - E. Commissioner Robbie Sherwood
  - F. Commissioner Tonya Strozier
  - G. Commissioner Khara House
  - H. Commissioner Ashley Anderson
  - I. Ex-Officio Leah Landrum Taylor
  - J. Commissioner Berdetta Hodge
  - K. Commissioner Jeffrey Glover
  - L. Tracy Lopes
- III. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2024 Meeting
  - A. Name spellings need to be changed before approval.
- IV. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Acknowledgment of Leadership: Recognition of Cloves Campbell's contributions to the Arizona Commission of African-American Affairs, expressing appreciation for his leadership.
  - B. Vision for the Commission: The new Executive Director aims to strengthen the Commission's role as a unifying force for organizations supporting the African-American community and amplifying their collective impact.
  - C. Onboarding Process: The Executive Director is one week into the role and currently completing the onboarding process, taking inventory of files and planning to meet with the outgoing director.
  - D. Immediate Priorities (Next 45 Days):
    - 1. One-on-One Meetings: Will schedule meetings with Commissioners and agency executives to align on priorities and build partnerships.
    - 2. Website Revamp and Administrative Review: Plans to modernize the Commission's website and review administrative records for accuracy.
    - 3. Voter Education: Commitment to supporting voter education and addressing post-election challenges in collaboration with community organizations.
  - E. Longer-Term Objectives: Developing a collective roadmap focused on economic development, justice, health, and education, based on input from Commissioners.
  - F. Motion was approved
- V. Pillar Chair Reports
  - A. Justice
    - 1. Strategic Plan: The Justice Pillar has completed a strategic plan for their three-year terms.
    - 2. Webinars:

- a) September 2024: First webinar on restrictive covenants had 15 attendees; plans to increase participation. Suggestion to add this topic to real estate agent training was accepted by the Arizona Real Estate Department.
    - b) October 2024: Upcoming Blue Envelope Program webinar (Oct 24, organized by Robbie Sherwood).
    - c) November 2024: Webinar on Diversion Programs from the criminal justice system (Nov 21, organized by Dianne Post, speaker Josephine Korchmaros).
  - 3. Presentations:
    - a) February 2025: Dianne Post will speak at Eyman Prison for Black History Month.
  - 4. Other Initiatives:
    - a) Collaboration on a report for criminal justice system reforms to promote equality, which will be submitted to the governor to influence legislative priorities.
    - b) Meeting held with Representative Crews (Oct 11); bill language for the Protection of African American Families has been submitted, and a stakeholder group has been formed.
- B. Health
  - 1. N/A
- C. Sustainability
  - 1. N/A
- D. Economic Development
  - 1. The Economic Development Pillar met with Carlos Contreras, Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority, to get more information on the CHIPS grant that has been given to companies in the technology industry and their workforce plans. We discussed the agency, what they do, and funding available for the community via CDFIs. We are interested in bringing Mr. Contreras to a future Commission Meeting.
  - 2. Commissioners Johnson and Anderson will be meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan for the Economic Development Pillar of the Commission later this month.
- E. Youth
  - 1. N/A
- F. Education
  - 1. October 2024 Webinar: Co-hosted by the Justice, Education, and Economics Pillars, this webinar will cover the 2024 Arizona Ballot Measures. Co-presented by Commissioner Anderson and Avery Xola from Citizens Clean Elections.
  - 2. Collaboration with ASU's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College: The Education Pillar is partnering with ASU to create an Educational Leadership Institute, focusing on advancing underrepresented groups in education leadership roles. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2024.
  - 3. In-Person Town Hall Series: Five-part series of Town Hall conversations targeting teachers, parents, and students, starting in November 2024. The first event will be hosted at Chair Eric Kemp's school in Central Phoenix.
  - 4. February Legislative Days Conference:
    - a) Adults: Plans to host an Education Pillar workshop after the morning session, possibly alongside other Pillars, with around 100-150 attendees. In discussions to secure lunch sponsorship and location at the Capitol.
    - b) Youth: Plans to offer workshops on pathways to post-secondary education, including community colleges, trades, and universities (both local and HBCUs). Finalizing details on how many workshops can be

accommodated.

- VI. Old Business
  - A. Axon event for innovations on public safety on October 30, 2024 10am-12pm.
- VII. New Business
  - A. Thursday October 17 meeting to get Director McPherson up to speed on everything.
  - B. Reconnecting email addresses.
  - C. Need updated commissioner and ex-officio member information.
  - D. Potential planning retreat for commissioners.
    - 1. Potential Dates:
      - a) Friday, December 6
      - b) Friday December 13
      - c) Saturday, December 14
- VIII. Call to the Public
  - A. Tucson free grant writing class in December, details tbd.
  - B. The Department of Economic Security will have their fall informational forum in person on November 12 to introduce the A-Z program.
  - C. Crucial Conversations event will be on Monday, October 20 at Culture Hub 6-8pm.
- IX. Announcements
  - A. N/A
- X. Adjourn
  - A. 11:59PM
  - B. Ashley Anderson motion, Jerry McPherson seconded.