



ARIZONA COMMISSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Public Meeting Notes

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 11:07 AM

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Anderson
- Commissioner Post
- Commissioner Sherwood
- Commissioner Strozier
- Commissioner Hodge
- Commissioner Glover
- Commissioner Johnson
- Commissioner House
- Commissioner Hart
- Executive Director McPherson

Ex Officio Members Present:

- Senator Leah Landrum Taylor
- Art Harding
- Sophia Branham

Guests:

- Donna Williams (National Coalition of 100 Black Women)
- Ruby Dennis (Champions RS LLC)

Meeting Status

- Meeting held without quorum
- Approval of February 18, 2025 minutes tabled due to incomplete minutes

Executive Director's Report



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Strategic Plan

- Strategic plan completed and ready for review and feedback
- Focus areas include measurable goals, stakeholder engagement, and long-term sustainability

Website Redesign

- Redesign completed with improved functionality, accessibility, and visual appeal

Pillar Leadership Structure

- New co-chair model introduced for pillar management
- Each pillar to be led by one public member and one Commissioner
- Goal: Expand leadership capacity and ensure diverse community representation

External Engagement

- Commission appointed to Governor Hobbs' workforce cabinet (part of Talent Ready AZ initiative)
 - Focus on bolstering education and training in high-demand industries
- Participated in Governor Hobbs' Bridging Progress event
 - Addressed achievements and ongoing efforts in supporting African American communities in Arizona

Next Steps

- Strategic plan review
- Pillar chair recruitment
- Continued amplification of website and digital platforms

Upcoming Events

- Consumer protection and fraud awareness pillar talk (led by Attorney General Chris Mays)
- Workshop on sealing criminal records

Public Comments

Michael Berry



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- Raised concerns about community access to training grants
- Requested formal processes to ensure training opportunities are available to the African American community

Ruby Dennis

- Inquired about the process for getting involved with the youth pillar
- Executive Director explained the new leadership model for managing pillars

Donna Williams (National Coalition of 100 Black Women)

- Expressed interest in collaborative efforts
- Connected with pillar chairs for future work

Community Announcements

Tony Hamilton (Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family)

- Announced \$4 million grant opportunity for parent commission education grants
- Call for new and returning members for the Governor's Youth Commission

Sophia Branham

- Directed community members to the website for information on upcoming town halls
- Town halls will focus on federal firings and funding cuts

Commissioner Johnson

- Shared information about two community events:
 1. Health event hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
 2. Book signing event by eight female authors

Senator Landrum Taylor

- Announced Jack and Jill Battalion event celebrating 24 young men in the community
- Encouraged public attendance and highlighted importance of community support for youth

Meeting Actions



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- Executive Director's Report unanimously approved
- Strategic plan review and bylaws review moved to Executive Session due to absence of quorum

Action Items

- Promote the consumer protection and fraud awareness event and encourage increased registration
- Follow up with Donna Williams from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women to explore collaborative efforts
- Distribute flyers for the upcoming community events to the Commission's email distribution list

Meeting transitioned to Executive Session to discuss the strategic plan and bylaws