

# AGENDA

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

Monday, April 12, 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

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 -
    - a. Kevin J. Crean, Director Nassau County, Office of Community Development  
question & answer limited to 5 mins.
    - b. 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
8. Adjournment of meeting

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

# **Nassau County Minority Affairs Council**

## **Draft Meeting Minutes**

**April 12th, 2021**

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Nassau County Minority Affairs Council was called to order at 5:04 pm on April 12th, 2021 by Chair Nadine Burnett.

### **Present**

Natalie Borneo, Secretary  
Nadine Burnett, Chair  
Biena Depena  
Charles Dickens  
Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon, Vice Chair  
Kim Jenkins  
Paul Quintyne  
Kyle Rose Louder (Deputy County Executive)  
Natalie Mitchell-Cange  
Rabbi Arthur Vernon  
Debra Wheat-Williams

### **Absent**

Reginal Benjamin (excused)  
Isma Chaudhry (excused)  
Melrose Corley (excused)  
George Siberon

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

Rabbi Vernon called for a change or the order for the day to enable the council to advance the approval of minutes and report from the Office of Minority Affairs ahead of the meeting guest speaker

### **Approval of Minutes**

Corrections requested by council members:

- Typo "HIPAA" and correction of jurisdiction of Cow Meadow Park as "county"

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

*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.

Tentative date in May for community outreach. Date, time and format to be determined.

- Upcoming Alzheimer's event on April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Maternal Mortality April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Careers in Civil Service event – walk through of how to apply for civil service jobs. Three sessions English April 27<sup>th</sup>, with sessions for other languages in May and June

Reporting was paused once special Guest, Kevin Crean joined the meeting at 5:13 pm.

*Report from Nassau County, Office of Community Development, Director Kevin Crean*

This office is responsible for administering programs which improve communities, support creation of affordable housing and expanding economic opportunities through partner agencies for Nassau County Villages and Towns. Nassau County has 64 villages, however only 24 participate regularly. Funding occurs on September 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

- I. **Community Development Block Grants** – projects undertaken by villages and towns. Very flexible grant based on census data. Applicants must meet criteria and demonstrate “an eligible purpose”. Must benefit low-moderate income residents.
- II. **Home Investment Partnership Program** – less flexible but focused on affordable housing. Awarded mostly to developers for both profit and non-profit. The goal is to provide more affordable rental housing while increasing diversity. The program provides support for section 8 housing, first time home buyers support and project vouchers.

Examples of offerings and existing projects include:

- New Cassel Project
- Valley Stream – Gibson Avenue station
- Uniondale Community Land Trust – focused on turning zombie homes into affordable housing

- III. **Emergency Solutions Grant ESG Eligible Activities** – include street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention. Nonprofit organizations involved receive funding from the Department of Social Services

Funding from the CARES ACT Funding (COVID19 program) – provides funding for the county to:

- Partner with Local Community Food Banks – served 1.4 M residents with emergency food relief and PPE distribution to small businesses.
- Provide Healthcare Training – program with Nassau Community College covering the tuition costs for certificate programs to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide Boost Nassau Small Business Recovery Loan Program as part of the New York. The program has funding of \$500,000 which offers \$10M for local business.



Another COVID related relief grant program available to local restaurants is the **Restaurant Recovery Grant Program** where grants of \$5K or \$10K can be awarded to local restaurants. This money is still available, and the director encouraged council members to share this information with restaurants in our areas, especially minority and women-owned businesses.

Kyle Rose-Louder asked for more information about the Restaurant Recovery program especially because minority restaurant owners have not typically taken advantage of such programs and the application process.

Kevin Crean – shared that applicants must have sit-down restaurants and have current board of Health Certification. Catering halls have recently been added to the eligibility list. Local officials have been asked to get the word out because of the low response level. The application is accessed via online at zoom grant at <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/restaurantrecovery>. Once approved the funds are dispersed by wire. The Nassau County Restaurant Recovery Grant website has a list of restaurants which have received grant money. He highlighted that the grants are different from loans which restaurants may apply for. They do not have to be repaid. There are no fees involved, no upfront costs.

Biena Depena – asked whether the Office of Minority Affairs has a current list of black-owned businesses in Nassau County.

Lionel Chitty – confirmed that it does not have a centralized complete listing available.

*Additional Questions/Comments:*

Biena Depena – asked for information on traffic funding.

Kevin Crean – responded that traffic funding is based on jurisdiction applications. They are submitted in March to local officials and reviewed/discussed during public hearings with community members.

*Working Committee Reports*

- 1) Economic development committee by Rabbi Vernon:
  - a. Seeking guidance from leadership for Celebrating Diversity Festival where minority owned businesses showcase.
    - i. Contacted VP Community engagement of Discover Long Island and would like to meet with MAC to discuss helping with celebrating Summer 2022
    - ii. Kyle Rose-Louder raised a threshold issue: Minority Affairs Council cannot coordinate this, but rather the Office of Minority Affairs
    - iii. Next steps
      1. 6-way meeting with Minority Affairs Council (Isma, Biena, Art), Office of Minority Affairs, Office of Asian-American Affairs, and Office of Hispanic Affairs
      2. Identify opportunities for sponsorships/ funding by coordinating with the aforementioned offices and Discover Long Island to use their existing partnerships.
  - b. Gather information about Black-Owned restaurants and initiate outreach to Black-Owned.

- i. Kyle Rose-Louder: Every year, Nassau County takes on summer youth and this should be delegated to those employees who may be working on this remotely.
    1. Department of Social Services and Department of Human Services are directly in Kyle's vertical.
  - ii. Art Vernon: A good way to start is by searching via existing licenses
    1. Adelphi can also provide social work interns in need of work credits.
  - iii. Nadine Burnett: noted a previous request for this information.
    1. Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon: seconded a desire to get this information since her first meeting.
    2. Art Vernon: staffing has been a major impediment
    3. Kyle Rose-Louder: this needs to be prioritized and properly managed.
    4. Biena Depena
      - a. Nassau County Council of Chambers works as a council with all other chambers and meets first Thursdays.
      - b. Black-Owned long Island has a list of black owned businesses that we can start with
    5. Paul Quintyne: Biena's idea for the Nassau County Council of Chambers may be the best way of mining this data via the business licenses.
      - a. The Health Department is ideal source of information since you must be established to apply.
- 2) Workforce Development committee by Biena Depena
- a. Short Term Goals
    - i. Understand the state of employment/jobs on Long Island
    - ii. Identify resources for workforce development (education) and job placement
    - iii. Understand the emerging work trends on Long Island (DOL report)
    - iv. To achieve these goals we propose scheduling information sessions with - Representative from the DOL on Long Island, The Commissioner on Human Rights, Department of Social Services, Other groups within Nassau - Asian-American & Hispanic Councils
  - b. Midterm to Long term goals:
    - i. Create job activations through supporting and promoting workforce development programs which train and place candidates in jobs
    - ii. Understand who the larger/major employers on Long Island and the requirements from the county for equitable and fair employment
    - iii. Understand and champion best hiring practices (incl. diversity and inclusion and wage equity) on Long Island including knowledge of who is responsible for oversight
    - iv. Identify and present opinion to Nassau County Executive on the Barriers to Resources for residents of Nassau County, specifically: Access to Childcare, Affordable Childcare, Full day Childcare, Pre-K programs
    - v. To achieve these goals we will need to establish smaller working teams to focus on areas. We may consider including non-council members to assist with aspects of the work of the group.
  - c. Proposed Events:
    - i. Job Resource Fair - June 2021 - invite and host townhall/meeting with 5-10 workforce development training programs with placement component

and invite all participants to sign up before leaving the meeting  
(examples, medical billing, data entry, manufacturing entry level)

**A. *Other Business***

No additional business discussed.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Vernon, second by Biena Depena. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Minutes submitted by:      Natalie A. Borneo, Secretary

Approved by:                Nadine Burnett, Chair