

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture  
Public Meeting  
Minutes of April 1, 2019

A public meeting was held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at Morgan State University, Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall, 2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21251.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Chair Dale Glenwood Green. The following commissioners were in attendance: Maya Davis, Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, H. Russell Frisby, Janice Curtis Greene, Marilyn Hatza, Edwin T. Johnson, Steven X. Lee, Lopez Matthews, Cheryl McLeod, and Reggie Turner.

**Proof of Public Notice**

Accepted by general consensus.

**Special Presentation**

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene opened the Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture (MCAAHC) public meeting being presenting a reenactment of Senator Verda Freeman Welcome, Maryland's and the United States' first black female State Senator and founder of the MCAAHC and the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM).

**Welcome**

Dr. Don Terry Veal, Chief of Staff to President David Wilson of Morgan State University, gave the official welcome to the MCAAHC and the public for having its meeting on its campus at the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center. He shared that Dr. Wilson loves and support missions such as the MCAAHC where it has direct impact in making a difference not only at Morgan State University but the State of Maryland as well. Dr. Veal said that Morgan State University was established in 1867 and was made a national treasure during their sesquicentennial celebration. He said that he had the pleasure of meeting Senator Welcome and wished everyone had the opportunity to work with her.

**Minutes of February 4, 2019's Meeting**

Chair Dale Green called for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2019's MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Chanel Compton, the Executive Director of the MCAAHC and the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), began her report by introducing welcoming everyone to the public meeting and sharing that she knows that those in attendance are passionate, appreciative, and supportive of the African American History in the State of Maryland. She also said that we all are passionate about promoting African American History for the next generation. Director Compton said that the vision for 2018 was to: bring new MCAAHC Commissioner's and BDM staff on board, advocate for State of Maryland budget increases and initiatives for the MCAAHC and BDM, reach out to the public for more donor and grant initiatives, build more educational outreach and public programming, as well as provide comprehensive teacher training.

Director Compton gave a report on the months of February and March. In the month of February, Director Compton reported that MCAAHC and the BDM had a closing Frederick Bicentennial program on February 9<sup>th</sup> which featured: Mr. Kenneth Morris, the great, great, great, great grandson of Frederick Douglass and Governor Larry Hogan. In the month of March, the MCAAHC and the BDM celebrated "Women's History Month" where both entities to the time to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Suffrage moment of which Frederick Douglass has a key role in.

Director Compton said that in this year of 2019, the MCAAHC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary where the mission of the MCAAHC is to: provide resources to African American sites and groups. The MCAAHC operates as the official State of Maryland's African American museum of history, art and culture. The theme for the MCAAHC anniversary is: "We Rise: Celebrating Maryland's African American Heritage." The goal for this year is to elevate the mission of the museum throughout the great State of Maryland and to present celebratory events of our history. We began the celebration with an exhibit of Senator Verda Welcome who with Dr. Benjamin Quarles both paved the way that Maryland's African American History & Culture was preserved which the Mount Moriah AME Church from being demolished kept

transforming it into the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Director Compton said that Frederick Douglass gave his dedicatory speech in the church, Rosa Parks worked in the church, and on February 24, 1984 the Mount Moriah AME church became the Banneker-Douglass Museum. From these two icons' hard work there was legislation produced in preserving the Mt. Moriah AME church as well as establishing the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. There are 21 commissioners assigned to all counties as well as Baltimore City.

Last but not least, Director Compton asked that the public join the MCAAHC for the continuance of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by coming on Friday, June 28, 2019 to the "We Rise Youth Conference" at the Banneker-Douglass Museum and join the MCAAHC at Morgan State for the "We Rise Symposium" on June 29, 2019 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. She said that the BDM celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on February 24, 2019.

#### *MCAAHC Chair Dale Green*

Chair Dale Green began his report by recognizing Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives who also sits on the Board of Regents at Morgan State University; Rev. Dr. Tamara England-Wilson, Vice Chair of the MCAAHC; the MCAAHC as well as the public.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC brings special greetings in the year of 2019. He said that this year highlights the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MCAAHC as well as marks his eighth and final term on the MCAAHC which ends June 30, 2019. He also said that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Symposium will take place at Morgan State University on June 29, 2019. Chair Green shared that it has been a remarkable journey serving as a member of the MCAAHC. His last meeting as chair will take place on Monday, June 3, 2019 in Easton, Maryland as the host. He said that he was originally appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley and then reappointed by Governor Larry Hogan. Chair Green shared that he was honored to serve as the third professor from Morgan State University serving as MCAAHC chair following the great legacy of one of the founders of the MCAAHC: Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles and Dr. Roland McConnell who both were professors of Morgan State University.

Chair Green spoke that this year, the commission is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary. He said that this is America's first commission on African American History & Culture. Chair Green said that we call special attention to the originators of the MCAAHC: Senator Verda Freeman Welcome and Dr. Benjamin Quarles. He said that the MCAAHC represents one of nine such commissions in the United States where the MCAAHC is the only commission that is comprised of 21 seats representing each county in Maryland as well as Baltimore City. These seats are appointed by the governor for statewide representation on African American history and culture. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC oversees the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland's official African American Museum; is supported by a foundation; and strengthened by a friend's group.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC jointly administers a \$1 million dollar African American Heritage Preservation Grant with the state partners: the Maryland Historic Trust. He said that the African American Heritage Preservation Grant is part of a 10 year legislation that was passed in 2010 of which the grant was reauthorized in 2015 in perpetuity. He said that this is no longer a conditional grant. Every year the State of Maryland will allocate at least \$1 million. Chair Green said that Maryland is the only state in the country that has a dedicated African American grant program. He said that the MCAAHC is proud of this program where in preserving specific historical sites has created 400 jobs, leveraged \$25 million dollars in other investments and has created significant returns of approximately \$50 million. He said from this grant program, the MCAAHC has also preserved nearly 100 buildings that would not have been preserved throughout the counties in the State of Maryland. Chair Green said that it is quite the signature program where the Maryland Historic Trust has studied the program which led the National Trust creating a \$25 million national program modeling after the African American grant program.

Chair Green said that we, the public, have to be reminded to steward our heritage. He said that 2019 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Africans 400<sup>th</sup> to Jamestown, Virginia. The Association for the Study and Life of African American History and Culture has a theme that is uplifting this under two banners: "The Great Black Migrations as well as 400 years of African American perseverance." Chair Green shared a quote from a Cumberland Maryland based recipient, Dr. Henry Louis Gates who said, "Where you go in history, there are black people who have been making contributions but their contributions are buried, lost, or obscured."

Chair Green said that last year, all year long, the State of Maryland had a celebration where Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed that “This is the Year of Frederick Douglass.” The State of Maryland, the MCAAHC, and the BDM recognized and celebrated Frederick Douglass’ 200 birthday. He also said that Morgan State University was the first to erect a statue of Frederick Douglass on its campus in front of Holmes Hall. He shared that the BDM, formerly known as the Mt. Moriah AME Church, was the place that Frederick Douglass gave his dedicatory speech. Chair Green said that the State of Maryland received numerous awards at the local, national, and international levels.

Chair Green shared that this is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MCAAHC and the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BDM. He stated that this is a milestone year. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC public meeting was strategically placed on the MSU campus because Chair Green said that he was appointed in the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center Recital room and that former MCAAHC Chair: Chairman Mack had Chair Green to make a presentation on two of Maryland’s historical African American communities that would lead to him being asked by former Chairman Mack to join the MCAAHC. Chair Green said that in keeping in line with the great legacy of great scholars such as Dr. Benjamin Quarles who was Chair of Morgan State University’s History Department from 1953-1974, he felt that it was important to connect and keep this revered legacy of Dr. Quarles as well as Dr. Rolland McConnell going by having the Baltimore City held on Morgan’s campus.

#### *MCAAHC Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson*

Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England Wilson gave her report by sharing that she has the pleasure of serving as chair of the MCAAHC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. She gave a brief overview highlighting the various programs and events that will take place for this great anniversary. Vice Chair England Wilson said that the theme this year is: “We Rise.” She shared that the committee boasts 13 honorable commission members of which the honorable Kweisi Mfume is serving as the honorary chair. Vice Chair England Wilson said that the theme is simple, powerful, and elegant all at the same time. She said the goal is to elevate the mission of the commission which is to discover, document, preserve, collect, and promote African American heritage.

Vice Chair England Wilson said that in staying true to the theme of “We Rise”, a team of 13 noted African American scholars were assembled from around the State of Maryland to help with this great celebration. She shared that the Honorable Kweisi Mfume will be its speaker. Vice Chair England Wilson said on March 8<sup>th</sup> the MCAAHC had a grand opening of Senator Verda Welcome’s exhibit “Verda’s Place” that took place at the BDM. She said that the public was greeted by the presence of Senator Welcome via reenactor Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene. Vice Chair England Wilson said that the “We Rise” Youth Conference and symposium taking place in the month of June as well as a closing MCAAHC event that will take place in the month of November.

Vice Chair England Wilson said, how will we pay for all of this? The MCAAHC has a goal of \$500,000 to support the programs and events that will take place at the BDM. She took the moment to offer a challenge to the MCAAHC Commissioner’s present at the meeting and challenged the public to be a part of several fundraising events throughout the course of the year. Vice Chair England Wilson said that she will be hosting an event with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> that will take place at the BDM. She said that Senator Verda Freeman Welcome was a member of this great organization as well. Vice Chair England Wilson admonished the commissioners and the public to host events at the BDM so that we can continue the great work that is done at MCAAHC and the museum. One can find more information concerning these endeavors on the MCAAHC’s website. Vice Chair England said that if the public is interested in hosting an event at the BDM please speak to her, Director Chanel Compton or any MCAAHC Commissioner.

#### **Report of Commissioners**

##### *Commissioner Reggie Turner*

Commissioner Reggie Turner began his report by sharing that he had a meeting with Ms. Stephanie Gaines Leggett, Executive Director from the Washington County Historical Society who shared that she was interested in partnering with the MCAAHC on some community projects where they are establishing a larger footprint in the African American Community. He also shared that he had meetings with Mr. Ron Lytle of the African American Historical Association of Western Maryland and Mr. Dan Speed of the Convention’s and Visitor’s Bureau. Commissioner Turner said that he has been championing Ron’s organization by partnering with him in getting the funds needed to continue the programming he is doing especially throughout Black History Month. Commissioner Turner said that Ron’s organization was

responsible for bringing John Muller, author on Frederick Douglass to Hagerstown, Maryland. He said that John Muller spoke at the Hagerstown Library and the Ebenezer AME Church in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Commissioner Turner said that he has had conversations with Rebecca Massie Lane, Executive Director of the Washington County Fine Arts Museum where they have agreed to host the MCAAHC's October meeting. He said that he will be forwarding all of the pertinent information to LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant.

In finishing his report, Commissioner Turner said that he is looking for guidance in trying to preserve a property on 417 North Jonathan Street that is in the Historical Jonathan Street community where it is in disrepair. He shared that late last year a police officer ran his vehicle into this home. Commissioner Turner said that this is the oldest African American house on Jonathan Street and that there hasn't been any efforts by the city of Hagerstown to make repairs to this property. Chair Dale Green asked that Commissioner Turner check on the date that is set for demolition to see how the MCAAHC can help.

*Commissioner Steve X. Lee*

Commissioner Steven X. Lee began his report by saying that it has been a while since the Nomination's Committee has met. He said that the committee had determined that it would come up with some basic criteria that would be used for gauging nominations for the commission. Commissioner Lee said that he has been working diligently in recognizing African American Patriotism of the American Revolutionary War. He said that it was sponsored by Senator Jill Carter that was brought back from last year to this year.

Commissioner Lee said that he does not think that the bill will pass this year but that it has been a tremendous experience of going through this process. He also said that the talk of Senator Verda Welcome has been encouraging for it is a significant challenge to breakthrough 300 year old education systems in getting African American History taught to all of our youth. Commissioner Lee felt that 50% of African American History is not taught in Maryland schools. He also said that it was interesting to hear various dignitaries and the public ask him, how his bill was working? Commissioner Lee said that it is all of our bill.

Commissioner Lee has been researching this history for 50 years and he wanted the youth, especially African American youth to know that blacks contributed to the American Revolutionary War. He said that he can see some of the struggles Senator Verda Welcome went through in getting legislators to come on board with the legislation she was proposing in preserving African American history. Commissioner Lee felt that there was still, "Chains on the Brains of politicians and people." He said the chains you can't see are the ones that are hard to break off of society.

Commissioner Lee lastly shared that he wrote an article that was placed on the Maryland Historical Trust's webpage. He said that this moved his heart for he felt that this is a step moving in the right direction. There were a couple of college scholars that reached out to him about his article and felt that it shared great information.

*Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson*

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson gave his report by congratulating Director Chanel Compton and the Banneker-Douglass Museum staff on a job well done for the "Women of Color in Legislative Roles" program where he represented the MCAAHC at that affair. He said that he spent much of Black History Month working on the Morgan State University's Women's History Month Convocation program. Commissioner Johnson said that Dr. Wilson, President of Morgan State University renamed the Women's History Month Convocation after Dr. Regina Terborg-Penn. He shared that she was one of three founders of the Association of Black Women Historians. Commissioner Johnson said that she was also a part of Dr. Benjamin Quarles legacy. He said that her work was timely for MSU is getting ready to celebrate the centennial of African American and the right to vote. Commissioner Johnson said that he is working on a chapter in a book that will be published by the National Urban League that deals with the public education experience of African Americans in Maryland. He said that the book will focus on the HBCU's and the Gallo's Hill community where they all came out of an African American community where there is no trace of.

Commissioner Johnson finished his report by sharing that he and Commissioner Maya Davis need help in finishing the Loudon Park Cemetery project. The cemetery has close to 3,000 Civil War Soldiers documented there.

*Commissioner Herbert Frisby*

Commissioner Frisby began his report by complimenting Director Compton and her staff on the various successful conferences, meetings, and programs that they have recently produced. He also complimented Director Compton, the BDM staff as well as the use case in his role as Chair of the Administrative and Finance Committee. He felt that the committee is coming along well and that he was very encouraged. Commissioner Frisby said that he joins Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England Wilson in seeing that all of the MCAAHC Commissioners contribute to the fundraising of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee of the MCAAHC. He shared that in his years of working with many boards and groups he finds that donors ask how the board or group is supporting the endeavor with funding as well as what kind of community support the organization has.

*Commissioner Marilyn Hatza*

Commissioner Hatza gave a report that since the last MCAAHC meeting, she has been working on the introduction of House Bill 307. She shared that she and Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes have been working together with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project in support of this bill which would establish the Maryland Support of Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This bill has now passed in house, almost unanimously with one no vote, and is now moving to the Senate and has had a hearing on Senate Bill 326. Commissioner Hatza shared that Senate Bill 326 has a good chance of passing in this year's legislation.

Commissioner Hatza gave her second update on a project that she has been working on called "Beyond the Monuments." She and Chair Dale Green are a part of this partnership, the commission, Maryland Humanities, Maryland State's Arts Council, Morgan State, Coppin State, Baltimore Office of Promotion and Arts, the Reginald Lewis Museum, Baltimore Cultural Alliance, and the City of Baltimore. Commissioner Hatza said that this was a group that was established to determine what would happen with the Confederate monuments that were removed. This group has come together to make some plans, have community conversations, as well as receive input from the public would like to see be done with the various places and spaces where empty receptacles now stand. A schedule and a memorandum of understanding is being devised to share what roles and responsibilities are being expected.

*Commissioner Maya Davis*

Commissioner Maya Davis began her report by acknowledging the passing of Ms. Iris Anne Harris who was the president of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation. She shared that President Harris passed on March 13, 2019. Commissioner Davis said that Ms. Harris was a long serving foundation member and that she wanted to make sure that she was recognized.

Commissioner Davis said that the Maryland State Archives recently put out two publications. One is an article in the Archives Outlook for the Society of American Archives and the other is "Turning Data into People into Maryland Slave Records" which features a copy of an image from Frederick Douglass' "My Bondage, My Freedom." She thanked Chair Green for the work that he did on Frederick Douglass' Bicentennial but she would like to see that this work continue on beyond the celebration.

Commissioner Davis shared that there is another publication that has been worked on at the Maryland State Archives where the State of Maryland, for the first time, is going to recognize the history of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. She shared that in 2020 the statues of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman will be coming to the State House of Maryland.

Commissioner Davis took a moment to congratulate Mr. Omar Eaton-Martinez, a stakeholder in Prince George's County who was a sponsor for a Black History Month program called, "The Other Immigrants." This program highlighted black immigrants that come into this country. Commissioner Davis said that many times black immigrants are overlooked by the current administration of the United States. She shared that many of our black brothers and sisters are struggling that have come from Liberia to the United States, in the 1980's, following the coo there. Commissioner Davis said that it is important that we pay attention to our African Diaspora. She said that at this program, there was representation from: Haiti and Liberia.

Commissioner Davis said that there will be a Museum Association of the Caribbean and The International Book Awards that is attached to the African American Genealogical Society. They will be holding their conferences in Maryland in October. She shared that if you have books that you have published, now is your time to be recognized.

#### *Commissioner Cheryl McLeod*

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod began her report by recognizing Ms. Iris Anne Harris, former President of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and sharing that she attended her home going service as well. She shared that Ms. Harris was a real trailblazer for African American History in the State of Maryland that many people didn't know about. Commissioner McLeod said that she didn't play when it came to resolving issues in Calvert County and was known for turning injustice over. There were many African Americans that were looking for places to teach in Calvert County, Ms. Iris Anne Harris gave tremendous support to black teachers there.

During Ms. Harris' Home Going service, it was shared that she was recognized for the Kwanzaa program of which Commissioner McLeod said that she was fortunate to participate in. Commissioner McLeod said that she would like to honor Ms. Harris at this year's Kwanzaa program. She shared that Ms. Harris started a scholarship foundation for students and she hopes that there is a way that there could be some type of support for this foundation at the MCAAHC "We Rise" 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme.

Commissioner McLeod said that she came back from a professional performing arts cultural experience of which she hopes everyone puts to visit Colombia. In finishing her report, she shared that she attended the Soulful Symphony at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Howard County. She said that Mr. Calvin Ball is the Howard County Executive and that he was able to get the Soulful Symphony to be their resident symphony for the county.

#### *Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene*

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene shared in her report that beyond being an MCAAHC Commissioner, her other role is preserving African American History by being a Griot. During Black History Month in February, Commissioner Greene said that she has been to 10 counties in the State of Maryland plus Baltimore City. She then shared that she will be out in Hagerstown, Maryland on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Greene said that she has also been performing at her "Women of Maryland Courage: Great Women of Maryland Series." She said that this performance includes Mother Mary Lang, the originator of the Oblate Sisters of Maryland who educated African American Children Pre-Civil War in Maryland. Harriet Tubman, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, and Senator Verda Freeman Welcome have become Commissioner Greene's favorite icons to reenact. She said that she would like to include: Ms. Gloria Richardson as an icon in her reenactments as well.

Commissioner Greene said that she completed her reenactment of Senator Verda Freeman Welcome at the exhibition opening entitled: "Verda's Place" that took place at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. She asked the public to visit the BDM to see this great exhibit on Senator Welcome's life.

Commissioner Greene said that she is working with the Oblate Sisters of Maryland in videotaping their stories of being Catholic women of color where they were the only order of women of color that was accepted in the nation by the Catholic Church. She is currently waiting to hear that the grant money for this project has been released.

Commissioner Greene attended a census workshop for non-profits to gain insights on the impact of the undercount of the 2020 Census of people of color in Maryland in the underserved communities. She shared that we, as a society, must encourage our brown brothers and sisters to step up and be counted regardless of the threats of the current administration. Commissioner Greene said that she will be working with the Griot Circle of Maryland and the National Great Blacks In Wax (NGBIW) in setting up a committee at the TGNBW to prepare the community for the 2020 Census.

#### *Commissioner Lopez Matthews*

Commissioner Lopez Matthews shared that on April 18, 2019 the MCAAHC will be having a program at Coppin State University concerning the "We Rise-Study of African American History at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities." The program will discuss the impact that Dr. Benjamin Quarles, History Professor from Morgan State University and Chester Douglass Gregory, History Professor from Coppin State University had in history and how it affects us today.

Commissioner Matthews shared that the study of history is under attack where there is no history department in Coppin State University. He said that history departments are diminishing across the nation. Commissioner Matthews said that there is no longer a history department at the University of Baltimore.

Commissioner Matthews said that he will be judging at a national history conference in June. He also said that he is writing a chapter in a book about the Delta Lambda Alpha Phi Alpha which also shares information on Dr. Benjamin Quarles and his work in Baltimore, Maryland.

## Presentations

### *Lou Fields, Baltimore African American Tourism Council*

Mr. Fields, from the Baltimore African American Tourism Council, thanked the MCAAHC for their time and talent bringing many African American scholars, leaders and groups together by having their public meetings in various places across the State of Maryland. He came to the MCAAHC public meeting to share that the Baltimore African American Tourism Council was devised to research, document, interpret, promote, and preserve Baltimore's African American History. The council desire is to showcase the various African American History for the not on the State of Maryland to see but the nation to see and enjoy Baltimore's tourism experience.

In doing so, Mr. Fields shared that a Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award has been something that was established to recognize those who have exemplified the Spirit of Excellence to the community at large. He said that Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene was one of the recipients of this award in the past. He said that in 2009 Commissioner Cheryl McLeod's mother, Ms. Betty McLeod, received this award and this year Cab Calloway's daughter, Ms. Cathy Murphy received this award. Mr. Fields said that this year, the BAATC will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jackie Robinson. He said it is the goal to highlight the African American History so that it is mainstream for all to see and know.

### *Ms. Jacqueline Copeland, Executive Director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum*

Ms. Jacqueline Copeland, New Executive Director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum thanked the MCAAHC meeting for the opportunity to speak at the MCAAHC meeting. She shared that she is working on her 50<sup>th</sup> day at the museum and is on the Maryland State's Art's Council. Executive Director Copeland gave a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the RFLM. She said that the RFLM shares African American History & Culture where their mission is to be the premiere experience and best resource of information and inspiration of African American Marylanders. Executive Director Copeland said that the museum: documents, interprets, promotes, and exhibits the rich contributions of Marylanders of the past, present and future.

Director Copeland said that the RFLM is the largest African American Museum in Maryland where they consider themselves the authentic voice of Maryland African American History & Culture. The museum has been opened since 2005 where they tell their stories through collections, special exhibitions, as well as educational programs and events. She shared that one of the newest exhibits that the museum has is called "Hateful Things." This exhibit focused on the Jim Crow Era and little did RFLM know that our politics today would showcase some of the effects of this era. The RFLM worked in collaboration with the University of Maryland Baltimore County on this exhibit.

In rounding out her report, Director Copeland shared that they had been gifted the "Freedom Bound Slavery" exhibit from Historic Annapolis that is in their special exhibit area. This exhibit focused on melamine people who disguised themselves as white to make their way out of slavery. Director Copeland said that at the end of this year there will be a new exhibit focusing on the work and art of Ms. Elizabeth Catlin called "Artist as Activist." She said that Ms. Catlin was a fine artist who also was an activist for people in this country and her home country of Mexico. Director Copeland asked the MCAAHC and the public to please consider visiting the RFLM where all are welcome.

*Ms. Monica Montgomery, Executive Director of the Prince George's County of African American*

Ms. Monica Montgomery, Executive Director of the Prince George's County African American (PGCAA) thanked Chair Green, the MCAAHC and the public for the opportunity to make a presentation. Director Montgomery shared that she have been on the job as PGCAA's Executive Director for four months. She shared that she is a native of New York City, where curated, taught, and consulted many clients on African American History & Culture.

In being at PGCAA, Director Montgomery said that since the museum's inception 8 years ago, this year, the museum is moving into its motto: "Home for Black Excellence." The PGCAA started as a community museum, where Director Compton took the helm of the museum four years ago to preserve Prince George's County African American History. She said that the mission of the museum is to celebrate and inspire the facilitation and presentation of cultural contributions of African Americans and the African Diaspora in Prince George's County and beyond. One of the aspects of the museum is to uplift social justice and articulating the history and importance of it. For more information concerning this museum, please visit their website at: <https://pgaamcc.org/>.

Chair Dale Green, called for a motion to adjourn the MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson made a motion that the MCAAHC be adjourned. The MCAAHC Commissioner's unanimously seconded and the motion carried. The public meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant