

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
Public Meeting
Minutes of June 3, 2019

A public meeting was held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 18 South Higgins Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

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

Minutes of April 1, 2019's Meeting

Chair Dale Green called for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2019's MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections. Commissioner Cheryl McLeod 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 recognizing: Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives; Mr. Tony Spencer, artist and Ms. Barbara Paca. She also took a moment to recognize Mr. LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant for the MCAAHC and the Administrative Manager for the BDM.

Director Compton shared that the theme for the 50th MCAAHC Anniversary is: "We Rise-Help Preserve African American History in Maryland." She said that there will be a series of programs and events that will help elevate this theme, the mission of the commission and African American history for our future. One of the signature projects is the "We Rise-Youth Project" where youth from the Forest Park High School in Baltimore, Maryland will be working on a photo journalism project from April –June 2019. There will be a "We Rise Youth Conference" that is totally produced and devised by the youth, for our youth of Maryland. The youth conference will take place at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Director Compton said that on Saturday, June 28th the MCAAHC will have an incredible MCAAHC 50th Anniversary Legacy Symposium that will be hosted at Morgan State University, New Jenkins Hall, 1600 Havenwood Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21251. She shared that Historically Black Colleges and University History Departments (HBCU's) are under attack where it appears as if their significance is being diminished. Director Compton said that if we didn't have the black history departments at the HBCU's, we would not have an African American Commission, the National Museum on African American History and Culture and so much more. She said, The Honorable Mr. Kweisi Mfume, Head of the Board of Regents at Morgan State University will be the key note speaker. This affair will run from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Director Compton said that during this celebratory time the commission will have "Museum on the Move-Verda's Place" which is a traveling exhibit about the life and legacy of the great Senator Verde Freeman Welcome, Maryland and the United States' first Black State Senator. The traveling exhibit will feature programs and reenactments of Senator Welcome. Senator Welcome worked along with Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Professor and Scholar of history from Morgan State University where they both collectively established the MCAAHC preserving Maryland's African American history in all 23 counties as well as Baltimore City. In addition to this, they both were able to have the Mt. Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church be saved from demolition and have it transformed into the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Both entities are legislated by the State of Maryland because of their concerted efforts. Director Compton said that these programs would not take place without extremely, dedicated, help of the MCAAHC Commissioners. She said that the BDM highlights their work in the various newsletters, eblasts, and announcements.

Director Compton said that as an April-May highlight, the BDM was spotlighted in the Annapolis Home magazine as the "Face of Black History in Annapolis, Maryland." She admonished the public to visit the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland's Official Repository of African American History & Culture. Director Compton said that the BDM is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. where it is free for the public to visit.

Director Compton said that the MCAAHC partners with the Maryland Historical Trust in presenting presentations in various counties on the Maryland African American Heritage Preservation grant program. This grant program provides \$1 million year towards capital grant heritage site projects throughout the State of Maryland. There are six grant workshops that will take place in the various counties of the State of Maryland. Those who apply for the grant can possibly receive up to \$100,000 for their project.

Director Compton said that the MCAAHC gave out two Maryland African American prizes for two students at History Day. There was one student who developed a great project on the Tuskegee Experiment as well as will be spotlighting her project at the Youth Conference at BDM on Friday, June 28th.

Director Compton shared that for the "We Rise" celebration two art exhibits were created. "Verda's Place" the rise to a valiant woman. This art exhibit, was created to pay homage to Senator Verda Welcome who was not always welcomed in the good old boys club. She said one can stop by, learn more about her incredible life, sit, relax, enjoy the bistro setting and have a cup of coffee. One will also find books on African Americans to sit, read, and enjoy. This exhibit will be featured at the BDM up until December 28, 2019.

On August 10, 2019 the BDM will host an exhibition opening called, "Doing the Work." This exhibit focuses on the history of the commission from 1969-present concerning its publications, advocacy work, and many endeavors. One will find this temporary exhibit housed in Senator Verde Freeman Welcome Hall which is located on the second floor of the BDM.

Last but not least, Director Compton shared with MCAAHC Commissioners that each one of them has received a "We Rise-Doing Its Work" outreach campaign packet sharing all of the amenities that the MCAAHC has to offer in raising significant funds for the MCAAHC and the BDM. Should any MCAAHC Commissioner have any questions or need any assistance, she asked that they please see her for more information. One can also find more information about this campaign at www.africanamerican.maryland.gov.

MCAAHC Chair Dale Green

Chair Dale Green gave his final and last report as a commissioner for the MCAAHC. He shared that it is a more of a farewell rather than a report. Chair Green took a moment to recognize Senator Sue Eckert from the Eastern Shore that just joined the meeting. Chair Green said that this MCAAHC Commission meeting was bitter sweet for him being that he has served eight years with the commission and his term ends June 30, 2019. He shared that it has also been a pleasure of working with the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

Chair Green took a moment and recognized Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives who also sits on the Board of Regents at Morgan State University. Chair Green thanked him for all of his support and leadership. He also recognized Chairman Emeritus Theodore Mack who began Chair Green's opportunity to be an MCAAHC Commissioner and Chair Lady Lyndra (neePratt) Marshall for her tremendous leadership. He thanked Rev. Dr. Tamara England-Wilson, Vice Chair of the MCAAHC that Chair Green said that she has been an amazing vice chair through this whole process. He also thanked all of his fellow commissioners, Director Chanel Compton as well as the public.

Chair Green said that he brings special greetings on this particular day especially this ceremonial year of the MCAAHC celebrating its 50th Golden Anniversary. He said that we recognize Senator Verda Freeman Welcome who in June 29, 1969 established the great work of the MCAAHC.

Chair Green said that today is his final commission meeting where the MCAAHC holds six meetings throughout the year. He shared this meeting was strategically placed as well as meetings at Morgan State University where Dr. Benjamin Quarles and Dr. Rolland McConnell were two scholars of Morgan State University that have served as chairs and Chair Green makes the third from this fine institution. Chair Green said that he had planned all of the MCAAHC meetings where the first meeting for the year was held in the State of Maryland's capital: Annapolis, Maryland at the Banneker-Douglass Museum which was once the Mt. Moriah AME Church where 35 years ago the commission established the Banneker-Douglass Museum as the State's Official Museum of African American History & Culture.

Chair Green said that he opted to have the second MCAAHC meeting in April on the historic campus of Morgan State University where he is an alum and a professor of architecture and history. He said Morgan State is intertwined with the history of the commission's founders where Senator Verda Welcome was a 1939 graduate of this institution and Dr. Benjamin Quarles had a long time legendary status as Morgan State University's history department head from 1953-1974. Chair Green said that Dr. Quarles was a revered professor of history, a public intellectual, a mentor to two generations of African American scholars and was an international scholar of history for the United States of America.

Chair Green said that Senator Verda Freeman Welcome was the first Black Female Senator for the State of Maryland and the United States of America. He said she was also a teacher, a civil rights leader, where she was elected in 1958. Chair Green said that Senator Welcome elevated the status of Morgan State University but was also responsible for the founding of the MCAAHC. Both Welcome and Quarles' legacy remains of enduring value to the commission as well as to the citizens of the State of Maryland. He said that nearly every person that walks across the campus of Morgan State University has crossed the "Welcome Bridge", the name sake of Senator Welcome. He also said that Morgan State University has the Quarles Institute of higher learning named after Dr. Benjamin Quarles where they are celebrating the 50th anniversary along with the Quarles Scholars.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC's third meeting of the year was on the Eastern Shore where ancestors called it the "Garden Spot of America." Chair Green calls it the "Great Ponderosa" while others call it the "Elite Place where People meet" and others call it the "Land of the Peaceful Living." He said that he had the great opportunity to live on the Eastern Shore but has worked a decade especially working on the hallowed grounds of the Hill Community where the first free black community was founded in 1788. He said that today's public meeting was taking place in the hallowed, historic, grounds of the Asbury United Methodist Church founded in 1836 and built in 1878 where Talbot County's native son Frederick Douglass spoke there. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC celebrated its first black State of Maryland Celebration with Governor Larry Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford who was one of the guest speakers right in the Hill Community. He said because of this celebration in the Hill Community, several homes are being restored because of the community's historical significance. Chair Green said the history of the commission is to promote, document, and preserve Maryland's African American history.

Chair Green took a moment and recounted his history with the MCAAHC where he shared that it was Chairman Emeritus Ted Mack who gave him his first assignment where he was sent to Washington County to Jonathan Street to look at preserving the African American History there. He also said that it was at a public meeting at Morgan State University where Chairman Emeritus Ted Mack asked Chair Green to give a presentation on the historic Morgan Park Community. He did and afterwards, Chairman Emeritus Mack asked that then Mr. Dale Green consider joining the MCAAHC. It was in 2011 that he was appointed by former Governor Martin O' Malley to the MCAAHC for his first four year term and then reappointed in 2015 by Governor Larry Hogan to serve his last four year term.

Chair Green said that he has been a person of the public, served as a commissioner, served as a vice chair, and now serves as chair. While Chairman Emeritus Ted Mack has had a tremendous impact on his life, Chair Lady Emeritus Marshall has significantly affected his life as well where she nominated him to serve as her vice chair. Collectively with the commission, these leaders has reinforced the mission of the commission to serve the entire State of Maryland. He said it was incredible to work with Chair Lady Marshall where they successfully worked together to celebrate the bicentennial celebration of Frederick Douglass which receive local, state, national, and international awards. Chair Green said that with the leadership of Chair Lady Marshall, the commission was able to secure Director Chanel Compton where he said that she has served the commission and state well. He thanked her for her commitment and service.

Chair Green said that he has had the pleasure to serve in all 24 counties of Maryland as well as be a part of the awarding of the African American Heritage Preservation grant that has funded \$8 million in capital grant projects. He gave a special thanks to Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson for accepting the call in being his vice chair. Chair Green says that accepts gender diversity in leadership. He thanked Vice Chair England Wilson for her powerful leadership, thanked her for all of her great work in meeting weekly with Director Compton as well as thanked her for governing the 50th anniversary of the MCAAHC. Chair Green says that people asked him often: "Who is next to lead the MCAAHC?" He responded in saying that Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson is the next chair of the MCAAHC.

Chair Green also took a moment to acknowledge Commissioner Herbert Frisby. He said that Commissioner Frisby has always been like a 2nd Vice Chair throughout his chairmanship. Chair Green said that Commissioner Frisby has chaired the Administration and Finance Committee, has collaborated extensively with Vice Chair England Wilson, Director Compton and himself on a weekly and biweekly basis. He said by virtue of their positions Vice Chair England Wilson and Commissioner Herbert Frisby will be the active leadership of the MCAAHC. Chair Green said that Commissioner Herbert Frisby will be the vice chair of the MCAAHC.

Chair Green said that he bids the MCAAHC and the public farewell where he is the oldest commissioner in terms and not by age. He then had the Asbury United Methodist Church bell ring 5 times signifying 50 years of the MCAAHC's existence of a half of century where it is the only African American Commission in the whole United States of America. Chair Green said that the African American Heritage Grant program is the only State of Maryland grant program that preserves Maryland's African American History and Culture. The program has saved hundreds of buildings in Maryland's 24 counties, produced 400 jobs, leveraged \$25 million in our communities and produced \$50 million dollars leveraged in state government opportunities. The results and success of this grant program has led to the establishment of a \$25 million grant program of the National African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

Chair Green said that this year marks the 400th anniversary of Africans arrival to Jamestown, Virginia. A.S.A.L.H., the Association for the Study and Life of African American History theme this year is called: "The Great Migration." He said thus we commemorate 400 years of African American perseverance. He said that this year highlights the 50th 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 50th 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 50th 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 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans 400th 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 50th Anniversary of the MCAAHC and the 35th 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 first taking a moment to stop and recognize the work of Chair Dale Glenwood Green by presenting him a gavel plaque on behalf of Director Chanel Compton and the MCAAHC. She then said that this year, 2019, marks the founding of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. Vice Chair England Wilson said that the commission has had several signature events thus far continuing the great 50th Anniversary Celebration of the MCAAHC.

Vice Chair England Wilson said that on Friday, June 28, 2019 the commission will host its "We Rise" Youth Conference. This conference is curated by beautiful young people, who will give their perspective on life and its situation through their lens. She said that this conference is run for young people for young people. There will be many youth led discussions with a photo journalism project produced solely by the students of Baltimore City's Forest Park High School.

On the following day, the MCAAHC will have its 50th Anniversary "We Rise" Legacy Symposium. This will take place at Morgan State University sharing the impact of the MCAAHC on State of Maryland at large showcasing the 10 year Anniversary of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant. The commission's own Chair Dale Green will be moderating the panel discussions with special guests: Dr. Evelyn Higginbotham, President of the Association for the Study and Life of African American History; Ms. Adrienne Jones, State of Maryland's Speaker of the House to a name a few. Also, The Honorable Kweisi Mfume will be rounding the symposium off as the keynote speaker for that day.

On August 10, 2019 the MCAAHC will host an exhibition opening called, "Doing the Work" at the Banneker-Douglass Museum from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. where it will feature 50 years of the MCAAHC's work. Last but not least Vice Chair England Wilson said that she is so excited about the culminating event: the "We Rise" MCAAHC 50th Anniversary Gala that will take place on Saturday November 2, 2019 at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. She shared that it will be a very starred, glitzy, spectacular affair gala. Vice Chair England Wilson said that if one has never been to the Banneker-Douglass Museum, this will be the perfect time to come. The museum will be transformed with music, a tent that will have a

harpist playing, when one walks into Verda Welcome Hall there will be Motown music playing, and the church part of the museum will feature the Charles Garnet Jazz Band. This will be a night of one's life that one will never forget. Vice Chair England Wilson said that she is challenging the commissioners to sell 100 tickets representing 100 people being there.

Report of Commissioners

Commissioner Herbert Frisby

Commissioner Herbert Frisby gave his report sharing that he will be speaking as the chair on behalf of the Administration and Finance Committee of the MCAAHC. He said that his report will be focusing on two key areas: funding and storage. He said that the Administration and Finance Committee had a meeting about a month ago with members: Commissioner Reggie Turner, Commissioner Melvin Kelly, and Commissioner Lynn Bowman. Commissioner Frisby said that the committee spent a lot of time reviewing the finances, expenses, revenue as well as the 4 year plan of the BDM. He said, administrative wise, things are going well at the BDM. However we need more funding for the MCAAHC as well as the museum. Commissioner Frisby said that we need the additional finances to help us increase the staff at the BDM.

Commissioner Frisby shared that the MCAAHC needs more financing because the MCAAHC represents all 23 counties plus Baltimore City. While the MCAAHC is everywhere, the message of who the commission is and what we provide with our services is not strong enough. He shared that the commission wants to make sure that it is represented in each county where our presence is felt in terms of historical locations.

Commissioner Frisby said that in addition to these objectives the Administration and Finance Committee is looking into doing a board evaluation where the board evaluates itself and how it is doing. Last but not least, he said that the Administration and Finance Committee is looking to develop a mission statement of what this committee is all about.

Commissioner Frisby said that when it comes to any organization, support comes from within. He said that Senator Verda Freeman Welcome and Dr. Benjamin Quarles had a profound pride and way that they presented the museum that it would sparkle in someone's eyes. He was asking every MCAAHC Commissioner to take the lead by giving towards the financial goals that the commission has. Commissioner Frisby said that when one goes out to solicit financial giving or any help, people want to know what the organization is contributing in general. He shared that there are five categories of giving with different denominational amounts towards the 50th anniversary of the MCAAHC.

Commissioner Frisby shared that he had given \$1,000 to Director Compton. Chair Dale Green thanked Commissioner Frisby for being the example of giving towards the MCAAHC's 50th Anniversary. He said that by statute a commissioner does not have to give any financial donation but Chair Green said that he would do the same and match Commissioner Frisby's donation of \$1,000. Chair Green said that if one would like to donate, they can give a check or donate on line. The Eastern Shore Network for Change gave a check for \$500 at this meeting, Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson pledged \$500, Commissioner Tony and Dr. Vivian Spencer gave a donation, Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene pledged \$500, Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England Wilson who pledged \$2,000, and Commissioner Iris Barnes pledged \$500. Chair Green thanked everyone who gave and shared that the MCAAHC always gives and presents opportunity to give. He said that when you give to the MCAAHC you help to preserve African American resources in the State of Maryland.

Commissioner Reggie Turner

Commissioner Reggie Turner began his report by sharing that in Washington County, in Hagerstown, Maryland there is the Jonathan Street Community, a free black community that dates back to the 1700's. There are two historic homes that are in disrepair there. One of the homes was owned by the Fulk LLC while the other historic home was hit by a police officer. The situation that took place with the 335 Jonathan Street home is that it goes back to the Moxley Brother's Band that played professionally in 1854. The three Moxley brothers then joined the U.S. Colored Troops. They toured as a band throughout Maryland, Virginia and Texas.

The Moxley Brothers came back home in 1866 where the band was made up of three brothers: Robert, Perry and Joseph who performed with nine other people in private functions as well. Commissioner Turner said that with the help of Commissioner Bowman, he found that the Moxley brothers performed in front of Frederick Douglass in 1879. From doing

research based on the Moxley Brother's historic home, Commissioner Turner found that one of the Moxley's sons took over the band that continued to perform up until 1953. He shared that the Moxley Brother's Band had 100 years of performing coming from the Jonathan Street community. Commissioner Turner said that part of the issue is that beyond the homes being in disrepair, the black community does not know of this rich history that is there on Jonathan Street. He said that there are grant programs out there to preserve homes like this.

Commissioner Turner said that the circumstances that they ran into was that the city of Hagerstown had it set to demolish this home, He thanked the MCAAHC Commissioners who came, the Maryland Historical Trust who supported this endeavor. The first step that he took was to make some noise concerning this situation. Commissioner Turner said that one of the ways that you do this is to reach out on social media admonishing the public to speak out and call the city to urge against having this home demolished. He talked to his local delegate and senator and then spoke to Senator JoAnn Benson who called his local senator where they were able to get an injunction to stop the demolition process from going forward.

Commissioner Turner thanked Director Chanel Compton and Janice Curtis Greene that came to support him at the city of Hagerstown Council Meeting. The other home Commissioner Turner spoke of is the 417 Jonathan Street home that is an older home that the owner is giving the Jonathan Street Community to purchase the home so that they can go forward with the preservation of that home.

Commissioner Iris Barnes

Commissioner Iris Barnes began her report by sharing that one of her main initiatives is working with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project where the organization is trying to get a coalition throughout the State of Maryland and the 18 counties that have reported lynchings. She shared that groups have been formed and have had their meetings in Harford County, Howard County, and Prince George's County. Things are moving along where legislators have passed House Bill 307 which recognizes the Maryland Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It's the first of its kind in United States. Commissioner Barnes shared that the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project is trying to get groups together to recognize individuals that went through this horrible process throughout the state and pay homage to them.

Commissioner Barnes said that there will be an annual conference where the second Maryland Lynching Memorial project will take place at Morgan State University in the month of November. For more information, please go to the Maryland Memorial Project website: www.mdlynchingmemorial.org. She asked the public to embrace this project where recognition in the past has been way overdue.

Commissioner Maya Davis

Commissioner Maya Davis began her report by sharing that the Maryland State Archives (MSA) is partnering with the Maryland Office of Tourism and the Maryland National Parks Service to solicit more applications for the Network to Freedom program which documents different historical sites on the Underground Railroad. She said that this site shares information on churches, homes, gravesites and more. Commissioner Davis shared that they have the largest number of sites nationwide. She said that they would like to keep things this way by engaging the communities that are currently not a part of this site program. Commissioner Davis said that the group now has access to a capital grant to support the work that they are doing.

Commissioner Davis shared that another project that the MSA is working on is called the "Collection's Community Day program." She has spoken with Director Chanel Compton about working with minorities of all ethnic backgrounds through the various Governor's Ethnic Commissions. She shared that one way to capture this information is to look at the various funeral booklets that many have in their homes. Commissioner Davis said that this is vital information where they don't want grandchildren and others to throw this great history away. The MSA would like to have this information to place in their records.

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson gave his report by sharing that the Loudon Park Cemetery project continues where Commissioner Iris Barnes and Commissioner Maya Davis has joined him with this endeavor. He said that there will be no

projects that will be reported for the fall. In addition this Commissioner Johnson said that there will be a reconciliation ceremony that will take place between Morgan State University and the surrounding community associations. He said that the Laurel Hill Improvement Association is willing to partner with MSU and the other community associations to find out what took place in 1917 at the segregated white neighborhoods that surround MSU. Morgan State University moved to this site where there were a number of court cases and protests about a so called liberal college in their area. Commissioner Johnson said the community is embracing this initiative and are looking to have a program in the month of November where MSU was founded in 1877.

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene began her report by recognizing the concerted efforts of Commissioner Reggie Turner standing up in his community fighting for he and the community's rights in making sure that the black historic homes on Jonathan Street were preserved. She shared that this is the epitome of what the MCAAHC is all about. She also shared that Senator Verda Freeman Welcome and Dr. Benjamin Quarles would be very proud today.

Commissioner Greene said that she has been working with the Reginald Lewis Museum (RLM) where she has been placed on their roster to not only be a reenactor of Ms. Juanita Mitchell Jackson but now will be portraying Senator Verda Freeman Welcome. She will be sharing her gifts with the youth their where they will have a living history program as well. Many of the schools in Baltimore City come to the RLM but there are many schools in the county that don't get to receive the benefits of this museum. She shared that she has been on the road portraying: Harriet Tubman, Mother Mary Lange, Mary Carter Smith, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, and now Senator Verda Freeman Welcome. Commissioner Greene said that she is currently working on two new projects where she is looking to pay homage to African American Women of Maryland in Maryland's History.

Commissioner Greene said that Commissioner Michael Kent has been very helpful in putting her in contact with people that talked and worked with Harriet Elizabeth Brown, a trailblazer that fought for equal rights for Black teachers in Calvert County. She was very instrumental in getting the then young Thurgood Marshall to win a case to pay colored teachers equal pay as white teachers. She said that this case started the State of Maryland to provide equal rights of getting colored teachers equal pay. Commissioner Greene said that she is working on preparing a reenactment of Gloria Richardson and plans to speak with Ms. Richardson so that she can get her words and mannerism down perfectly. Her goal is to go to each county and find African American Women that have not only changed the face of the counties in Maryland but the whole country.

Commissioner Steve X. Lee

Commissioner Steven X. Lee began his report by saying that there will be a new park dedicated to Cab Calloway. The dedication date has not been determined but he will let the public know as soon as the information is made available. He also shared that he is working with the environmental conservation effort in Baltimore City. He said that he is of African American and Native American descent where he loves Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Commissioner Lee said that he is sad to see the nature of how the various parks of these races have been treated. Commissioner Lee said that people who work at Maryland National Parks that live in Baltimore County will work to preserve their parts of Baltimore County but when it comes to preserving the parks in Baltimore City, they allow big money business and machines to break up our parks. He said that it is we as the community have to stand up for our parks. There are so many issues with Baltimore City parks that, pot holes, uprooted trees, and bugs have affected the quality of our parks. Commissioner Lee said that it is not only true for Baltimore City but for all of us across the country. He said that if you noticed of late, it is the African American communities and Native American communities that are being tremendously affected by development. Other communities protect their properties.

Commissioner Lee said that Mr. Lou Fields, the head of the Baltimore City Tourism Council, who supports and comes to the MCAAHC meetings, sponsored a symposium where Chair Dale Glenwood Greene, Director Chanel Compton, and Commissioner Lee were honored with awards. He said that it was a great and innovative program. Commissioner Lee said that he would like to see a program like this shared in every county for people that don't get recognized at a state level like this. Commissioner Lee said that he is a commissioner on a mission where he is looking uncover and share the history of the free blacks in Maryland.

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza

Commissioner Hatza gave a report by first sharing that one can see why the MCAAHC public meetings are so important after hearing the various reports given by the MCAAHC Commissioners. She said that these meetings have led to great discussions with doctors, professors, and scholars where she was able to meet with them after the public meeting and gain tremendous information that intersects with her professional work. From these meetings she has met with these professors from the University of Baltimore and or Laurel where she was able to provide funding through the Maryland Humanities Grant. She shared that while some may feel that the MCAAHC meetings are long, one is able to find many resources that help further support various individuals, institutions, and organizations with their goals by supporting the MCAAHC with the preservation of African American History.

Commissioner Hatza said that she is a daughter of Dorchester County where she lived 15 miles down the road in Cambridge, Maryland. She said that she always like to come back home completing the full circle by being home with the commission. She took a moment to give an update that she and Chair Dale Glenwood Green are working on a project called "Beyond the Monuments." This project focuses on the arts and humanities of historical preservation organizations such as Morgan State, Bowie State, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, and the Baltimore Office for the Promotion of Arts. They are in the process of getting community input in making recommendations for the city of Baltimore of where should there be spaces for the Confederate Monuments that were located throughout the State of Maryland. Many people know that the Confederate Statues were removed and now there are open spaces.

Commissioner Hatza said this group is trying to determine what they will do with the open spaces that have now been left behind. At their last forum, the group was trying to determine a schedule of meetings and community outreach so that all of the groups mentioned can have a plan of how things were going to be done and who were things going to be done by. Commissioner Hatza shared that with the change of leadership in Baltimore, some things have been placed on a halt. She said that she will be glad to give updates to the MCAAHC and the public as new information comes forth.

Commissioner Elinor Thompson

Commissioner Elinor Thompson shared that it is an honor to be back on the Eastern Shore for she is native of the Eastern Shore from Queen Anne's County. She shared that she has been under the weather since February and was glad to be back to be engaged with some of the programs and events.

Commissioner Thompson said that she is working with the Equal Justice Initiatives in Annapolis Maryland (EJI) where they are documenting many cases of lynchings that took place in Anne Arundel County. Currently, she and EJI are working on a historical marker. Commissioner Thompson said that she has a great, great, great grandfather: Mr. Noah Gatts that was from Dorchester County and was born in 1812, died in 1902, and was interred in Loudon cemetery. She shares that she documents cemeteries and churches where she is looking to work with some of her colleagues that do genealogy at the Baltimore Historical Society.

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod gave her report by sharing that there is a Juneteenth Celebration taking place on June 19th in Howard County. She also shared that in 2019 there will be a lot of anniversaries that will be taking place. The Alvin Haley Dancers will be having their anniversary this year, the MCAAHC, and the BDM all have anniversaries this year. Commissioner McLeod said that we will be commemorating the 400 year anniversary of enslaved Africans that came to this country in 1619. She said that there is also a national commission that has been designed to commemorate and memorialize this 400th year activity.

Commissioner McLeod said that on June 19th, there will be a national day of drumming and healing that will take place in Howard County campground where they will have: "Let's Have A Talk: A National Day of Drumming and Healing." She had some samples of materials and proclamation where individuals can see how they are celebrating Juneteenth. In 1740 Commissioner McLeod said that drums were outlawed in many areas of the country. She said Africans used drums not just to keep the beat but also as ways to communicate in code language. Commissioner McLeod said that thing we don't want to do is to forget the healing aspect of what this signifies of our people.

Presentations

Mr. Dion Banks, Eastern Shore Network for Change

Mr. Dion Banks and Ms. Keisha Petticolas, from the Eastern Shore Network for Change, came to the MCAAHC meeting giving a report on the various things that his organization is doing in producing programs, events, economical opportunities for the Eastern Shore as well as connecting with Africa on mission and business endeavors. Mr. Banks said that they had a successful event in 2017 called, "Reflections on Pine Street." This event focused on the unrests and the civil rights energy that took place in the city of Cambridge, Maryland in 1967 and beyond. This event was so successful that the organization found themselves being pulled to so many places like Ethiopia, other parts of Africa as well as other states. People wanted to come on board to find out how this organization was able to make all of this happen so quickly.

Ms. Brenda Thomas, Denton Colored School Committee

Ms. Brenda Thomas, member of the Denton Colored School Committee came to the MCAAHC meeting sharing information about the school and the initiative they are working on. She said that the DSC is owned by the Masonic Family where in the past, the building was used for the Eastern Stars and Masonic Family. She shared that a couple of weeks ago previous to the MCAAHC meeting, a juvenile decided that he wanted to set fire to the building. This person's actions did not stop their initiative but helped to promote their initiative. The fire marshall for the city of Denton said that if someone would have waited another 20 minutes, the building would have been turned into rubble. The Denton Colored School was able to go inside, save several items, take pictures and has received guidance from the MCAAHC on how to look into insurance opportunities and ways to restore what was done to the building. Ms. Thomas thanked the MCAAHC for its support and help in not only restoring the building but also having historical integrity of the building.

Chair Dale Green, called for a motion to adjourn the MCAAHC meeting. There was a unanimous motion and a unanimous second for the meeting to be adjourned after Mr. Greg Hatza, husband of Commission Marilyn Hatza, played the African American National Anthem: "Lift Every Voice & Sing." The public meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant