

## Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys

Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Meeting Minutes

Location: One Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW)

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Ben-James Brown	Yes
Arthur Burnett	Yes
George Garrow	Yes
Silas Grant	No
Tamara Henry	Yes
Amber Hewitt	Yes
Villareal Johnson	No
Frank Malone	No
Elsie Scott	Yes
Don Smith	No
Ivory Toldson	No

1. **Meeting called to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting but was later met when Commissioner Arthur Burnett arrived
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** previous meeting minutes were approved later in the meeting by Commissioners present

### **Introduction of Commissioner Ben-James Brown**

Chairman Garrow Introduced new commissioner Ben-James Brown. Commissioner Brown discussed his role as member of 100 Black Men organization in DC and his excitement for the new role.

### **2020 Initiatives**

Executive Director Jason Wallace discussed the highlights of the 2019 fiscal year and the initiatives that stood out and received notoriety.

Director Wallace discussed the new initiatives of the office including the paternal rights workshop and fatherhood symposium.

Commissioner Scott discussed the importance of public/private partnerships and suggested we engage with the National Academy located in Ward 7.

Director Wallace highlighted The Manuscript and the focus on season 2.

Commissioner Brown requested that a schedule be provided to the commission and community members for the purpose of spreading the word on the events and initiatives for the community.

Community member suggested that the office focus on a rowing program that is available for District residents at Anacostia Park.

Community member asked question about our collaboration with national MBK Alliance team. Director Wallace communicated the folding of MBK office in DC lead to a lack of collaborative efforts.

Residents suggested that we model our efforts after the work being done in Cambridge.

National League of Cities has collaborated with MBK Alliance and DC and would like to contribute to the efforts.

### **Legislative Ideas**

Commissioner Hewitt provided a recap on subcommittees previous year's work to focus on policy recommendations. Commissioner Hewitt highlighted the mental health recommendations the health and well-being subcommittee submitted.

Commissioner Brown communicated that he would like to participate on the subcommittee focused on economic opportunity.

Commissioner Burnett would like to focus on the trauma related issues that have Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Community member suggested that city provide curriculum that focuses on youth that are experiencing trauma.

Director Wallace suggested that we focus on policy that would impact fathers and boys immediately rather than long term issues and concerns.

### **Announcements**

Community member currently working with residents with special needs. He communicated that MOFMB should focus on working with residents with special needs.

Residents must receive SSI and medicare benefits to be eligible for services. Program provides transportation and child care for residents.

Director Wallace communicated that he would like to attend father support groups.

Community Mediation DC – spoke about the work that do with residents focused on housing issues, reentry issues and conflict resolution.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.