

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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Retreat Summary

February 15, 2019

Members Present – Benjamin Abe; Brenda Charles-Edwards, Tricia Diamond; Ina Howell; Paul Mitchell; Claudette Thomas; Cynthia Winters

Absent – Dr. Brenda Jackson; Mattie Taplin (Emeritus)

ADS Staff – Brent Butler; Cathy Knight, Karen Winston

I. Discussion with Mayor's Office Rep

Mayor Durkan's senior external affairs liaison, Dominique Stephens, attended the retreat. Arielle Wesley-Washington, who confirmed initially, was unable to attend. Both will be working to support the commission. MCAAE members had three items to discuss.

- 1. MCAAE Appointments** – Last February 2018, four names were submitted with recommendations for appointment and one for re-appointment. Two of the four individuals continue to participate in monthly meetings and are still waiting for confirmation.
Response – Dominique explained how the 160 B&Cs have been divided among the Mayor's Internal and External teams. This new approach should improve the appointment process. Dominique assured members that she is working to confirm the two pending appointments by the end of February. Currently, there are 5 members appointed; two pending appointments (Claudette & Trisha); and one pending re-appointment (Cynthia).
- 2. 2018 MCAAE Report: Advocating for Change** – In November 2018, the MCAAE submitted their 2018 Advocacy Report to Mayor Durkan and requested an appointment to discuss. Since then, the MCAAE chair followed up twice, but received no response.

Response – Dominique noted how concerns in the report overlap and encompass several initiatives that the Mayor's Office is currently working on. Over the next few weeks, she will work with the mayor to get her specific feedback and will give an update at the March meeting.

- 3. Meeting with the Mayor** - The MCAAE would also like to build a rapport with the Mayor, since she confirms appointments for the commission.

Response – Dominique will take the request back to the mayor. She will give an update at the March meeting.

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II. ADS Background

Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Director, Cathy Knight provided an overview of the division's structure, function, and budget. Seattle Age Friendly Manager, Brent Butler, discussed items in the Age Friendly Action Plan, including the priorities and the people of color focus areas. Both presentations helped increase understanding about connections between the MCAAE, ADS, the ADS Advisory Council, and Age Friendly Seattle.

III. 2019 Goals and Strategies

After brainstorming about possible activities for the year, members reached consensus on the following advocacy items for 2019.

1. Continue advocacy re property tax exemption.
 - a. Continue to advocate for extremely low-income housing in area impacted by gentrification in Seattle.
2. Advocate for funding to support a registered nurse for the African American Elders Program.
 - a. Increase dementia awareness, education and outreach among African Americans in King County.
3. Support fraud and scam prevention awareness, education and outreach.
4. Marketing to increase community awareness about the MCAAE purpose and membership.

Potential strategies discussed are listed below. The March meeting will include committee assignments

- Housing Resource Fair – Involve housing providers and the King County Property Tax Exemption Program.
- Support the 2019 African American Caregivers Forum.
- Host an end-of-year community holiday party.
- Create a 3x5 card with information about the MCAAE that members can distribute in the and at community events. Seek support from local professional athletes.

IV. March Meeting Agenda

- Mayor's Office follow-up items
- Area Plan overview and input
- Senior Lobby Day debrief
- MCAAE 2019 committee assignments

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 15, at the Southeast Seattle Senior Center.