



Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks, Chair  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Joseph Todd, Vice Chair  
Representing Eastern Washington

Commissioner Andrea Caupain  
Representing King County

Commissioner Michael Bailey  
Representing King County

Commissioner LeRoy Laney III  
Representing King County

Commissioner Dorian Waller  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Zellynda Perkins  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Geolingo  
Representing Thurston County

Commissioner Sheila Stanton  
Representing King County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

## Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 6, 2023 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 p.m.

In Person – 1110 Capitol Way S. Rm. #135, Olympia, WA 98501

**Members present:** Chair Kendricks, Vice-chair Todd, Laney, Geolingo, Perkins, Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince, Program Manager Charlotte Kerney

**Absent:** Commissioners Bailey, Caupain-Sanderson, Stanton and EA Umpstead. Quorum established

**1:00 pm** – Meeting called to order by Chairman Kendricks

**1:04 pm - Motion to accept meeting minutes by Chair Kendricks – Motion seconded by Commissioner Laney. Voice vote accepted November 4, 2022, meeting minutes. No objections, abstentions, or questions**

### Director's Report by Executive Director Prince

- Legislative update begins January 11.

#### Priority bills are:

- Creating the Washington Future Fund Program HB 1094 / 5125
- School access to breakfast
- Creating Evergreen Basic Income pilot HB 1045
- Enhancing the Voting Rights act HB 1048 / SB 5047
- Outlawing solitary confinement HB 1087 / SB 5135
- Civil Remedy against peace officers HB 1025
- Sealing juvenile records: this was an issue the commission worked on extensively in years past. Unfortunately, we revisit this issue to close some loopholes. Previously, juvenile records were being sold by the state and was detrimental to youth of color.

#### Watch list:

- Vehicular pursuits HB 1053 / SB 5034
- School Resource Officers HB 1071
- Working Families Tax Credit HB 1075
- Body Worn Cameras – use of data HB 1080
- Wage Replacement program HB 1095
- Vascular Restraints SB 5042
- Advancing equity in programs for students SB 5072
- Jury Diversity SB 5128 / HB 1598

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- Reentry Supports SB 5134

**The Legislative Update will continue through the end of session and will include bill status and effect. Commissioners will be notified of opportunities to testify.**

### **1:20 pm – CAAA Committee Chairs Reports**

Vice-Chair Todd – Education Committee

- Productive Sen. Wilson discussion about computer science programs for STEM. Another convo with Sen. Nguyen about tracking for STEM classes being taught to ensure marginalized communities are able take these classes. Building facilities Dollars that will be available.

Commissioner Geolingo – Reimagining Public Safety/Public Health Committee

- Moving forward with the holistic care for black women re-integrating into society. On March 8, 2023, a tour of the Women’s Treatment Center (Purdy) is scheduled. Will be able to interview 5 of the inmates.

### **1:25 pm – Harriet Tubman Foundation/Shawn Glaze**

- Black woman-led, community researcher organization located in Seattle. The Community Reinvestment Fund – [Wa-reinvest.com](http://Wa-reinvest.com) - looks to reinvest 200 million into communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs. Funded by a proviso created by the Legislature (general fund). A consulting firm to determine how monies are to be allocated differently than in years past. Research centers on the community: conducts focus groups, interviews with communities, government, and subject matter experts. Working toward deliverables that communicate true narrative and story over time to promote government/community relations.
  - Making sure true community voice to create a different kind of accountability and respect for the community’s expertise.
  - Employs Community Researchers who have real-life, lived experience usually not captured such as formerly incarcerated individuals. Here you can hear specific ways how systems have failed, and solutions communities want placed in the forefront.
  - Dedicated to Data Justice - Making sure the BIPOC community are positioned as experts in their own rather than being viewed as things to be studied as in the past.
- Weekly meetings with Department of Commerce and community stakeholders
- Four funding categories: Aims to put the money where the community can see it.
  - Economic Development – addresses wealth disparities and promoting asset building such as home ownership and access to financial resources.
  - Legal Assistance (also civil assistance) – post-conviction relief, case assistance including the expungement of criminal records and vacating of criminal convictions
  - Reentry Services – Reentry services for successful transition of formerly incarcerated adults or juveniles
  - Community Safety – relational health, prevention services

- Active survey via website. Community can reply via video, text or in writing. The survey asks people about definitions, serves as a focus point for and gives people a chance to convey their feelings other than just clicking pre-designed responses. A way to have more conversations. Researchers can interact with survey participants easier.

**1:45 pm – Washington Community Alliance / Kamau Chege, Executive Director**

**Document**

- Washington Community Alliance (WCA) is a statewide coalition of organizations and tribes led by and working in communities of color to close the representation gap for people of color in elected office and make systemic change for Black and Brown communities to share in the prosperity all of us build.
  - Concerning the racial wealth gap: 1 out of 4 live within 200% of the federal poverty level vs. the 100 individuals living in Washington state worth over billion dollars or more
  - Even within our community, the disparity massive disparities exist
  - Data on the racial wealth gap in Washington state is tracked. The Alliance has been advocating and has submitted a few budget provisos to gather this data and provide a roadmap for future efforts.
  - **Wealth is generational and hereditary – people don't just go to college and get rich, instead, rich people go to college.**
  - **If incomes were equalized, income does not contribute to wealth generation – its unlikely individuals will work their way out of the racial wealth gap**
  - **Home ownership accounts for less than half of the racial wealth gap. It is important but not a solution to the racial wealth gap. Its one of the only assets for Black people that depreciates.**

**Feels that reparations for Black people isn't really a mechanism for closing the racial wealth gap. Looking abroad some of the Nordic countries have social wealth funds to address the wealth disparity. Alaska is another example where the dividend is issued turning an asset into income. Plans to theorize the benefit a social wealth fund in Washington state for policymakers.**

**WCA educates the public through meetings, blogs, op-eds, and YouTube channel. The Alliance has other projects in the works such as collaboration with thinktanks to produce Whitepapers on the subject.**

**3:15 pm – Department of Enterprise Services – Paul Bitar, CAAA Budget Analyst**

- The commission can spend donation funds (gifts, grants or endowments) without legislative approval, however there are rules about what both donated and appropriated funds can be spend on.
- Funds are held in a general ledger account; the legislature did not create an interest-bearing account for these funds.
- Donations can have stipulations/earmarks and the agency would have to comply.
- The commission is allowed to raise funds
- Executive Director must approve expenditure

**3:45 PM – Public Comment**

**One participant present. Conveyed greetings.**

**4:00 PM – Meeting Adjourned**