



Washington State Commission On

# African American Affairs



Commissioner Joseph Todd, Chair  
Representing South King County

Commissioner Stacy Estes  
Representing Central Washington

Commissioner Michael Bailey  
Vice Chair  
Representing King County

Commissioner LeRoy Laney III  
Representing King County

Commissioner Zellynda Perkins  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Geolingo  
Representing Thurston County

Commissioner Sheila Stanton  
Representing King County

Commissioner Lolinda Turner  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Corwin Scott  
Representing Pierce County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

## Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Minutes

**Friday, March 21, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 p.m. | In Person**

**William E. Moore Historic City Hall – City Council Chambers**

**3002 Wetmore Ave, Everett, Washington 98201**

**Members present:** Chair Todd, Vice Chair Bailey, Turner, Stanton, Scott, Executive Director Edward Prince, Program Manager Charlotte Kerney, Executive Assistant Keahna Umpstead.  
Quorum established.

**Absent:** Geolingo, Laney, Perkins, Estes

**1:00pm** – Meeting called to order by Chair Todd

**1:02pm** – Roll Call

**1:03pm - Motion to approve meeting minutes by Chair Todd – Motion seconded to correct and accept minutes by Commissioner Turner.**

**Chair Todd called for vote to accept January 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Voice vote** – no objections. Motion carried. January 2025 commission meeting minutes approved.

**1:10pm – Executive Directors Report – CAAA Executive Director, Edward Prince**

### Current Work

- Commission Committee Assignment updates
  - Education Committee Members
    - Estes (chair of committee)
    - Laney
    - Chair Todd
  - Public Health Committee Members
    - Geolingo (chair of committee)
    - Tuner
    - Stanton
  - Public Safety Committee Members
    - Vice Chair Bailey (chair of committee)
    - Scott
    - Perkins

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- Legislative Committee Members
  - Chair Todd (Chair of committee)
  - Vice Chair Bailey
  - Geolingo

### **2025 Legislative Update**

- Governor Ferguson budget priorities that he has shared with the Legislature
  - One furlough day a month for every state employee
  - If Legislature adopts all priorities from the governor, it will mean that all Commission meetings would become virtual due to zeroing out of the Commission's travel budget.
  - Agencies are no longer able to communicate directly to the Legislature, if wanting to testify on bills or budgets cannot do so on their own behalf.
    - The Commission is still having conversations with the Legislative Black Caucus to make sure what priorities are still present from former Governor Inslee and how the Commission can continue to support.
- Legislature is working towards raising revenue to assist with the budget deficit rather than making cuts.
- Budget will be finalized and submitted to the governor for approval following sine die in April 2025.

### **Reparations Update**

- Representative Street was planning on running a bill to back this initiative since Governor Inslee did not sign the proposed executive order before his departure. However, the activist involved decided that they did not want a bill but rather a budget proviso. All involved, including the public, now must wait until the proposed budget is presented to see where things go from here.

### **Senate Bill 5142**

- Led by Representative Hasegawa.
- Bill would require that any land taken under eminent domain by school districts or sold under the threat of eminent domain to be offered back to the original owners to purchase the real estate back when it is not put to intended public use.

**Discussion** – Introduction and welcome to CAAA's newest appointed commissioner, Corwin Scott who will be representing Pierce County. He was the final appointment of previous Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee.

### **Updates on African American Legislative Day**

- Potential to gain a new sponsor for the event to make it even more impactful.

### **1:30pm – Commissioner Updates – CAAA Commissioners**

#### **Commissioner Scott**

- Work with his non-profit agency, the [Evergreen Empowerment Group \(EEG\)](#) that works to assist people returning from prison to expunge their nonviolent criminal record(s). Recently partnered with CRP in 2023 to extend this work and expand

knowledge of the networks available through the CRP program to those individuals that come to the EEG for assistance to provide wrap around services.

- Hosting an event on March 22, 2025, Coffee with a Commissioner. A small event to open discussion with the community around the commission and the work being done along with the ability for the public to voice any community concerns or questions.
- Working with the [Pierce County Minority Bar Association](#) to set up legal obligation clinics in Pierce County. Aiming for May 31, 2025, for this event.

#### **Commissioner Turner**

- The Pacific Northwest University School of Dental Medicine will be welcoming five black individuals into their dental program, 3 female and 2 males, 3 from the Seattle area and 2 from out of state. A large accomplishment as only 3.8% of black people area the dental field nationally, and in turn was told that getting any black individuals to join due to the low numbers historically.
- Working with [American Dental Association](#) and The Washington State chapter of Black Dental Professionals to connect and provide mentorship for young black dental students to help create pathways to individuals who want to become dentists but do not know the path forward.

#### **Vice Chair Bailey**

- Working to learn more about the field around public safety geared towards the work being done within the black community within the nonprofit sector and speaking to these community leaders regarding their priorities. Learning that this quarter especially, budget and policy have been the biggest priority due to three major programs being at risk of either reduced funding or cancellation of funding.
  - The Recovery Navigator Program
    - It is possible that his program will get cut around %18 million in the biennium.
    - The only program that is required in each county.
  - [Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion](#)
  - Incarcerating Diversion Programs as a whole
- [King Counties Veterans Reentry Program](#)
  - Program just completed its first inaugural year with over 100 attendees with 25% of those individuals being black.

#### **Chair Todd**

- Focus on the 2025 Legislative priorities
  - [SB 5146](#) is the only bill to survive out of all the bills the Chair was tracking for the session.
  - Watching the potential head tax that may be instituted.
- [Community Reinvestment Project \(CRP\)](#)
  - Run in tandem by the Department of Commerce and the Office of Equity
  - Was the Vice Chair of the Advisory board for the creation of the CRP now the newly elected Chair.
  - Made sure that all funds were allocated to the correct revenues for positive change.

- Board president for [Songs of Black Folk](#) who's mission is to celebrate the best of black people through music. Will have a documentary premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival.

#### **Commissioner Stanton**

- Working in partnership with Commissioner Estes within the Commissions Education Committee to develop an internship for students to come into the commission to learn how our agency works and the work of the Commission.
- Working to develop a language access program to be available at the county court office to match those that are available at the superior court level.

#### **2:00pm – [Black Panther Legacy Project](#) – Director of Diversity Services, Elmer Dixon**

**Discussion** – Director Dixon shares about the history of the Black Panther Party in Washington that began in the Spring of 1968 and his time spent co-creating, leading and defending the chapter through the arsenal against the organization both past and present. The black panther legacy project is being created to hold space to share more of this history and the impact the chapter had and continues to have on the civil rights movement.

#### **3:00pm – Update on the Implementation of the [Community Reinvestment Project \(CRP\)](#) – Korbett Mosesly, CRP Managing Director**

**Overview** – The Community Reinvestment Project (CRP) was designed as a community-designed plan to uplift communities that have been and continue to be disproportionately affected by the war on drugs. The goal of the project is to create economic benefits that build wealth to ensure that everyone has a fair chance at success. CRP aligns with Washington's workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) Plan Goal 1 for education and training access. In 2022 Senate Bill 5693 and RCW 43.79.567 established equity-focused funding priorities for CRP to support CRP's work that has seen a 24% increase in participants from Black, Latino, and Tribal Communities into the Equity Security for All program (ECSA) from 27% to 51% following CRP's implementation.

#### **CRP Workforce Investments**

- \$45.3 million for workforce development
- Expansion of ECSA through workforce training and job placement programs
- Incentivizing skills-based career growth to allow for career acceleration
- Funding 12 local workforce development councils
- Targeting underemployed individuals
  - Breaking low-wage cycles through focusing on upskilling to allow for career mobility rather than just job placement.

#### **Impact**

- Business growth through the backing of microloans that fueled new business development
- Career acceleration through providing programs led to 93% participation from historically marginalized groups that led to stable full-time employment.

**Discussion** – Looking forward to the future of the CRP some challenges are sustaining long-term funding, expanding to rural communities, addressing barriers for those involved in the justice system, and driving decisions based off metrics to guide needed future investments into the CRP.

**3:30pm – Public Comment** – No Comment

**4:00pm – Meeting Adjourned**