



Commission Chair Franklin Donahoe
Representing Snohomish County

Commissioner Sara Franklin
Representing South King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County

Commissioner Sheila Reed Trahan
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Dr. James Smith
Representing King County

Commissioner Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Will Howard
Representing Pierce County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Public Meeting Commission on African American Affairs

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Keewaydin Library – 6th Avenue, Kennewick, WA 98405

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioners Howard, Franklin-Phillips, Reed-Trahan, Quinn, Waller, and Executive Director Edward Prince. Quorum established

Absent: Commissioners Caupain, Donahoe and Smith

11:00 AM - Meeting called to order

11:05 AM – Director's Report

Two major takeaways from the 2019 legislative session for the African American community:

- Passage of I-1000 by the legislature – reversing I-200 and making Affirmative Action legal in Washington state again. A signature gathering effort is underway to place a referendum on the ballot this fall.
- Legislation around the use of deadly force/de-escalation via HB 1094.

The State of Washington Disparity Study for six agencies who do public sector contracting in the state to assess the public-sector spend among women and minority-owned businesses. Expects the number to be very low: believes African Americans do a miniscule amount (1/10 of 1%) business with the state. Place voluntary goals for contractors and possibly mandatory goals. Report to be released in June.

11:20 AM

- **Update on Initiative 940.** Commissioner Howard attended a Tacoma town hall meeting. Community members relayed their opinion of what law enforcement needs to properly serve the community/African American community. Attendees shared personal stories and viewpoints – the critical concern being the relationship between the police and community. Commissioner Howard spoke of the community's willingness to continue meeting in order to strategize the structure for independent investigations and de-escalation techniques.
- Commissioner Quinn continues to serve on the Criminal Justice Training Commission, which is now in the rule-making phase, addressing de-escalation training, the coordination between police and medical personnel and how police interact with those with mental health issues. The public comment period closed on May 1 and many comments were received. Comments drive a

broad and thoughtful conversation towards revision of the rules. The CJTC will be in Spokane for the first round of rule-making regarding law enforcement rendering of first aid is scheduled for May 23. Commissioner Quinn was a member of the first legislative task force and continues to work on this issue.

- Commissioner Franklin-Phillips attended meetings in Kent. A dialogue with law enforcement in the Kent-area was held in May. Emphasizes the importance of community input. It is not too late to relay comments.

11:50 PM – Ready for Kindergarten, Vicki Piippo, Program Director

Ready for Kindergarten is a national organization. The Kennewick chapter started in Kennewick about 20 years ago to address deficits in early learning. Currently, 39 Ready for Kindergarten programs statewide. The Kennewick program is funded by the school district and free for parents. Other localities may receive funding via grant dollars or donations. Ready for Kindergarten believes the parent is the most influential teacher; they empower parents, grandparents and caregivers through free workshops to promote kindergarten readiness. RFK is also promoted by local physicians.

Three program divisions: Language & literacy, math and reasoning, social emotional. Workshops empowers and assists parents with strategies to help children gain skills early. Kids enter kindergarten between ages 3-8. Data shows learning deficits between one and three years. Children can usually catch-up one year of learning, but the deficit continues to exist. RFK cite workshops in local areas to assist those who do not have transportation. They offer workshops for non-English speaking parents (Hispanic and Arabic) and an increasing number of WIC families are attending as well.

12:30 PM – Sami Bigham, HAPO Community Credit Union

HAPO is a local credit union. In 2017, they assessed whether they were making an impact in the community. Statistics from the [Federal Reserve Board of Governor's Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2017](#) found 40% of respondents did not have \$400 in savings to weather an emergency, but felt they were living comfortably/ok. Those with less education were less able to handle financial emergencies which reaffirms most U.S. households are living paycheck to paycheck.

HAPO provides financial coaching services for their members. Their employees are certified financial counselors trained in behavioral economics. HAPO partners with organizations such as Greenpath to assist with debt management plans, bankruptcy counseling, student loan debt counseling for free or a nominal fee. Financial tools available online such as access to credit reports and budgeting worksheets can be found on the HAPO website.

Their LIVE NOW platform is an online, full-scope financial education tool with articles and short financial courses. Originally designed for a university, it has an embedded scholarship search tool free to everyone – no need to be a credit union member - and a career exploration tool.

HAPO is piloting a digital program in nine schools later in the year. Because small credit unions are going away, HAPO wants to stay relevant: they have been a player in the Kennewick area for a very long time.

1:15 PM – Public Comment

Commission made aware of an employment issue.

4:00 PM - Adjournment