



Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs

1st Quarterly Meeting

Virtual ZOOM

Thursday, March 26, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Amal K. Ali, Member
Shivaani Arya, Member
Gunay Evinch Member
Rabbi Dr. Susan Grossman, Member
Dr. Ayesha A. Gulistan, Member
Mohammad Khalil, Member
Mona Kishore, Chair
Dr. Aharona (Roni) Rosenthal, Member
Ala'a Wafa, Vice Chair

Commissioners Absent:

Ammar Abdulhamid, Member
Dr. Majd AlGhatrif, Member
Athar Bayoumi, Member
Anthony Browder, Member
Alissa Deaver, Member

GOCI Staff:

Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff
Cheryl Madigan – Executive Assistant

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Procedural Reminders:**
Mona Kishore, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. Adoption of the Agenda:**
#1 Motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
To adopt the agenda.	Ayesha Gulistan	Ala'a Wafa	7Y-0N-0A by hands

- III. Open Remarks:**
Gregory Yancey, COS – He greeted everyone and stated that AD Dr. Antwan Brown is on leave.
Mona Kishore, Chair – She stated that she met with Special Secretary Maria Martinez and that she is excited what knowledge SS Martinez will bring to the commission. She also informed the commissioners to contact COS Yancey concerning any questions or support that might have or need.



IV. Approval of the Minutes:

#2 Motion to approve the minutes for 02/12/26 SPS II and 03/09/26 SCM

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the minutes for 02/12/26 SPS II and 03/09/26 SCM.	Gunay Evinch	Rabbi Dr. Susan Grossman	10Y-0N-0A by hands

V. Committees:

- a) **Education and Heath** – Commissioner Ayesha Gulistan stated that they have not met in person since October. Her and Commissioner Rabbi Dr. Rabbi Grossman spoke on RSD Methodology (Reflective Structure Dialogue Programming).

#3 Motion to establish a Working Group to launch the Reflective Structured Dialogue Program Working Group.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To establish a Working Group to launch the Reflective Structured Dialogue Program Working Group. This group will facilitate the introduction of pilot programs in public school districts—beginning with Howard County—that apply a reflective, structured dialogue model grounded in empathy, curiosity, and respect. It will also guide efforts to foster meaningful cultural transformation within schools.	Ayesha Gulistan	Dr. Rabbie Susan Grossman	8Y-0N-1A by hands

Commissioner Gulistan would like to start an initiative on Hate Crimes. She will be having a meeting with the Attorney General's office.

- b) **Local Engagement & Inclusion** – Vice Chair Ala'a Wafa spoke on collecting information from the commissioners on possible contacts for three counties (Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Howard) to have Focus Groups. She will send out a Doodle Poll to coordinate an upcoming meeting.

VI. Working Groups:

- a) **Partnership & Focus Groups** – Update provided above in the Local Engagement & Inclusion Committee by Vice Chair Ala'a Wafa.
- b) **Event Planning**
- Maryland 250 Planning - Annapolis Orchestra** – Chair Mona Kishore stated that Maryland Hall will be a co-presenter. Venue will be free of charge.
 - Maryland 250 Planning – Peace Walk** – Chair Kishore stated that they will be a small peace walk package with the Multiculture Celebration.



- III. **Maryland 250 Planning - International Music Festival** - Chair Kishore stated that this event will be at Glen Echo Park. We will have a stage and table. We will need to set up a meeting. Need to raise sponsorship of \$3,000.00 for the stage rental.
- IV. **Maryland 250 Planning – Multicultural Celebration with Commissions** – Chair Kishore stated that Chair Yang Yu from the APAA commission has applied for a \$24,000 grant through the Maryland 250 Commission agency. COS Greg Yancey said a venue and date is still being determined.
- c) **Strategic Planning** – Chair Kishore stated that everything was covered under the SPS meetings.
- d) **Communication & Legislation**
 - I. **Updates on the bill signing for HB661 & SB308** – Chair Kishore stated that HB661 has moved over to the Senate side. The cross-filed bill SB308 did pass. Commissioner Grossman thanked everyone for their testimony on the bills. Commissioner Mohammad Khalil and Commissioner Susan Grossman went over other bills that insect with immigrant rights and status.
- e) **Interfaith Program** – Commissioner Amal Ali spoke on climate change and a native plant giveaway.

VII. **#4 Motion for Adjournment:**

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.	Mohammad Khalil	Ayesha Gulistan	Not counted-No Quorum