



Governor’s Commission on African Affairs
4th Quarterly Commission Meeting
November 3, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Attended:

Tope Adeyoju– Member
 Adebowale “Shola” Ajayi Member
 Njukang Asong – Member
 Adedana Ashebir – Member
 Dr. Anyinke Atabong – Member
 Fatmata Barrie – Member
 Dr. Jasmine Blanks Jones – Member
 Dr. Sylvia Dasi – Member
 J. Wyndal Gordon – Member
 Chukwunonso “Vincent” Iweanoge – Chair
 Dr. Terry V. Jones – Member
 Maureen Wambui – Member

Commissioners Absent:

Amsale Geletu – Member
 Dr. Natalie McCabe – Member
 Maroufath Ogooussan – Member

GOCI Staff:

Dr. Antwan Brown – Administrative Director
 Cheryl Madigan – Executive Assistant

Guests:

Dr. Allan Olorunsola, Monique Williams, Vivienne Sequeira, Maduka Nkuku, Steve Ele, Deografias Kawunde, Dr. Ezi Mecha, and Ayomide Ibrahim.

I. Meeting Call to Order at 6:06 p.m. and Commission Roll Call:

Chukwunonso (Vincent) Iweanoge, Chair of the Governor’s Commission on African Affairs

II. Opening Remarks:

Chair C. Vincent Iweanoge thanked the commissioners for attending the meeting. He expressed his gratitude for the work the commission did at the Health Fair and Business Conference. He stated that the commission will need to start planning events earlier.

III. Motion #1 - Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to adopt the agenda.	Maureen Wambui	Dr. Jasmine Blanks Jones	The chair said the Ayes have it.



IV: Motion #2 - Approval of 07/28/2025 Minutes

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion of 07/28/2025 Minutes.	N/A	N/A	Chair approved the minutes.

V: GOCI Remarks:

Dr Antwan Brown thanked everyone for a great September month. He provided appreciation for all work the commissioners did with the Health Fair, Business Conference, and Proclamation Reading. He sent the commissioners the ZOOM background and asked the commissioners to use it for all future meetings. He stated that the commission needs to schedule one more meeting before the end of the year, since September’s meeting was canceled. He asked the commissioners if they would send him any food distribution centers or Food Banks in their area.

VI: Committees:

a) Community (Arts, Culture, Faith):

Commissioner Jasmine Blanks Jones said they had a meeting, but didn’t have a quorum, but still went over a few things. Having more consistent meeting dates, went over what could be done better with the planning of the African Heritage month, and developing a calendar for other possible tasks.

b) Business & Economic Development:

Commissioner Njukang Asong spoke about the Business Conference and how it was a success. Only thing he stated that needs improvement is on attendance. He suggested making a database. The commission needs to find better ways to get the word out for the event. Commissioner Maureen Wambui agreed that the commission needs to do better on marketing. She would like the commissioners to be more active in the logistics of the event. Commissioner Tope Adeyoju would like media coverage to promote the events. Suggested having community members help with event planning. The commission needs to be more active in promoting events for more sponsorship. Commissioner Sylvia Dasi suggested having the event after working hours or on a weekend. The commission needs to plan earlier and get things processed quicker. Chair Iweanoge suggested creating a yellow book with people’s data that commissioners have collected at events. Commissioner Adedana Ashebir agreed on a resource/yellow page/database that would consist of Media, Influencers, Businesses, Community Organizations, Community Leaders, and African Elected Officials. This would include business name, email address, and phone number.

c) Education/Workforce Development:

Commissioner Dr. Terry Jones stated that the committee has not yet had a meeting.

d) Health:

Commissioner Anyinke Atabong spoke about the Health Fair. They need to plan earlier and market earlier for the event. The event went well, but there was low participation. The committee wants to support Africa Restaurant Week in June of 2026, Health Fair, and a Global Health Discussion with partners and have an education on a specific topic via the ZOOM platform. Commissioner Adeyoju would like to continue the topic of Nourish to Flourish. Commissioner Dasi suggested that the Nourish to Flourish task would be good to expand it to a different county and rotate it throughout the state and collaborate it with the faith-based organizations and nonprofit organizations that could provide on-site health screenings.



VII: New Business:

- a) Conversations on the African Heritage Month Bill to present to the General Assembly. Commissioner Wambui and Commissioner Barrie spoke about the proposal and who would present it. There will be conversations with Delegate Mireku North. **There was no motion to create a working group or vote.**
- b) To create a working group for African Day at Annapolis. This is when the commissioners go to Annapolis during legislative session on a specific day and go to office to office and speak to the house members and the senate members to make sure, they are aware of our commission and our needs for the communities. Commissioners Barrie, Wambui, Dasi, and Adeyoju would like to join this working group with Chair Iweanoge. Commissioner Ashebir suggested to explore the African organizations that lobby on Capitol Hill to see what they have done. Chair suggested to contact CASA, since they help with the Latino in Annapolis. **There was no motion to create a working group or vote.**

VIII: Rescheduling the postponed meeting:

Motion #3 – To have the last meeting of the year to be on 12/08/25.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to have the last meeting of the year to be on 12/08/25.	Sylvia Dasi	Jasmine Blank Jones	9Y – 0N – 0A

IX: Closing Remarks:

Chair Vincent Iweanoge apologized for the lengthy meeting but thanked them for coming. He encourages everyone to attend the Montgomery County African Diaspora event at 6:00 p.m. this evening. He wants all commissioners to continue their hard work. He informed them to complete the form when attending events. This will let GOCI know how much they are working in the communities. He also asked for everyone to support the upcoming business conference.

X. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.	Jasmine Blank Jones	Sylvia Dasi	8Y - 0N - 0A