



Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs
4th Quarter – Virtual Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

Ken Alce
Gabriel Christian
Jemima Davis
Samantha Howard, Vice Chair
Maxine Kellman
Winsome Leslie
Habacuc Petion
Dr. Carla Sewer
Kassandra Tucker

Commissioners Absent:

Dr. Melissa Buckley
Anderson A. Jean
Cylia Lowe
Luis McSween, Chair
Dr. Elaine Simon

Presenters: Pansy Watson, Maryland State Ethics

Guests: John McKenzie Agna McKenzie

GOCI (Governor's Office of Community Initiatives) Staff:

Lawrence Walker, Executive Director (GOCI)
Greg Yancey, Chief of Staff (GOCI)
Keith Colston, Director of Ethnic Commissions (GOCI)
Silvia Gomez Decja, Admin. Director- Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant – (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

- ❖ Vice Chair Samantha Howard – Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

- ❖ Provided by Executive Assistant Cheryl Madigan, GOCI.

III. Maryland State Ethics:

- ❖ Assistant Counsel Pansy Watson provided a PowerPoint presentation on ethic laws for gifts and fundraising.

IV. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Vice Chair Samantha Howard presented a message from Chair Luis McSween during his absence from this meeting.
- ❖ AD Silvia Decja welcomed everyone as well. Reminded commissioners of meeting procedures.
- ❖ Executive Director Larry Walker spoke about providing support for the commission. Asked the commissioners to respond to all correspondence. Also, for them to submit all information to GOCI that they have on the events that they may attend or have attended.
- ❖ Chief of Staff Greg Yancey reminded the commissioners to reach out to GOCI or State Ethics if they have any questions.



V. Motion: Approval of Minutes:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Approval of 09/11/25, 10/29/25, and 08/21/25 minutes	Carla Sewer	Winsome Leslie	7Y-0N-1A

VI. New Business: Caribbean Relief Efforts: Commissioners participated in the following events/activities on a Personal Capacity:

Commissioner Gabriel Christian thanked the commissioners for their participation in Caribbean Disaster Relief and Recovery Alliance (CDRRA) events. These events raised nearly \$20,000 and sent 240 containers to Jamaica. Commissioner Jemima Davis mentioned her participation with the church communities and non-profits. Vice Chair Samantha Howard announced that the Archdiocese of DC raised over \$11,000 in funds for the Archdiocese of Montego Bay.

VII. Motions: Postpone discussions on the By-laws, MD Caribbean Voices Forum and Selecting Members for Committee Groups:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Postpone discussions on the By-laws, MD Caribbean Voices Forum and Selecting Members for Committee Groups.	Gabriel Christian	Carla Sewer	8Y-0N-0A

VIII. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Health – Chair Commissioner Melissa Buckley not present, no updates.
- b. Business/Economic Development – Chair Commissioner Kassandra Tucker had no updates.
- c. Education/Workforce Development – Chair Commissioner Gabriel Christian spoke about an upcoming possible partnership with the University of Maryland’s Caribbean Strengths Assoc.
- d. Community (Arts, Culture, and Faith) – Chair Luis McSween not present, no updates.

Commissioners still need to decide what subcommittee they wish to join. Need to provide commissioners with a description of each subcommittee. Committee Chairs need to upload their meeting minutes and any other correspondence.

IX. Announcements:

Commissioner Habacuc Petion thanked ED Larry Walker for visiting the Eastern Shore. Commissioner Ken Alce expressed his gratitude for the Immigrant Affairs meeting. Commissioner Habacuc Petion spoke on the November incident with ICE in Wicomico County.

III. Motion: Adjournment:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
To adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.	Ken Alce	Jemima Davis	8Y-0N-0A