Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2017, 2:30 P.M.
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center – Ballroom A
925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners Present:

Manal Saab, Chair
Sharif Hussein, 2nd Vice-Chair
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer
Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary
Mariam Bazzi, Trustee
Bing Goei, Ex-Officio
Dave Abdallah
Ronald Haddad
Adel Mozip

Commissioners Absent:

Michael Romaya, Vice Chair
Wendy Acho
Bishr Al-Ujayli
Fay Beydoun
Susan Dabaja
Haifa Fakhouri
Abe Munfakh

Staff: Mike Zimmer (Cabinet Director), Nicholas Payne (Cabinet Liaison), Ron Robinson (Assistant Attorney General), Justine Foy (LARA), Raya Fares (CMEAA Coordinator)

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Manal Saab at 2:32 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Chair Saab welcomes Chief Haddad to his first meeting and welcomes the commission back from summer break.

## II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION: Commissioner Bazzi moved to accept the agenda. Motion supported by Commissioner Sukkar. Motion passed unanimously.**

## III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION: Commissioner Mozip moved to accept the minutes of May 5th, 2017. Motion supported by Commissioner Harajli. Commissioner Sukkar abstained. Motion passed.**

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## IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Harajli provided the Commission with both an updated spending plan and expense report and reviewed financial details with the Commission. Chair Saab updated the commission of the upcoming 2018 budget, which included a budget increase of $25,000.

**MOTION: Commissioner Sukkar moved to accept the CMEAA Treasurer's Report. Motion supported by Commissioner Abdallah. Motion passed unanimously.**

## V. RFP/MEA Study

Coordinator Raya Fares provided the commission with details of the study, including information on the mailed survey and focus groups. All pertinent updates were emailed to commissioners prior to this meeting. It was mentioned that at the moment, the study team is preparing for the upcoming focus group to be hosted on Sept. 20th. As members of the Stakeholders Committee, Commissioner Hourani-Harajli and Commissioner Mozip also provided insight on the progress of the study.

## VI. LARA/MONA DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Bing Goei mentioned that MONA had an ethnic cabinet advisory meeting recently at the Eastern Market and emphasized how welcoming Eastern Market and the surrounding community is to immigrant businesses.

Director Goei invites all commissioners to the upcoming Global Michigan meeting, which will be held at Ann Arbor Sparks Central on Sept. 26th. The Michigan Immigrant Talent Solutions (MITS) is growing and has hired an additional staff member to help with the success of the program. MITS has placed 35 individuals so far, with at least $50,000 income. The goal is to introduce MITS to non-graduates in the near future.

## VII. NEW AMERICANS APPRECIATION GALA

Director Goei encourages commissioners to attend the upcoming inaugural New Americans Appreciation Gala to be held on Thursday October 12th at the Ann Arbor Marriott at Eagle Crest. The event will honor and highlight the economic contributions of New Americans and showcase the strength of our ethnic communities.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Mozip updated the commission on the environmental justice committee. He mentioned that the committee has had several on-site visits and hope to have a report available to the Governor by the end of the year.

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## IX. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bazzi has informed the commission of her resignation from CMEAA, as her most recent judgeship will not allow a judge to serve on a commission that is not directly related to the law. Commissioner Bazzi reiterates how humbled she is to have served and looks forward to see CMEAA's success in the future.

Commissioner Saab introduced the 2018 Meeting Schedule. The meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 8th will be hosted by ACC in Troy. The meeting on Thursday, May 10th will be hosted by ACCESS at the AANM. The date, time and location of the joint ethnic committee meeting is still being determined. Dickinson Wright in Ann Arbor will host the Wednesday December 5th meeting.

## X. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m. by Chair Saab.

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Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary Manal B. Saab, Chair

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