

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Ethnic Commissions FY2017 Report to the Legislature

(Pursuant to Section 802 of PA 107 of 2017)

March 1, 2018

Reporting Period: October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017



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Executive Summary:

The Michigan Office for New Americans (MONA) was created to help grow Michigan's economy by retaining and attracting global talent; to promote the skills, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant communities; and, to make Michigan a more welcoming state. MONA partners closely with refugee resettlement agencies, economic development organizations, ethnic service providers, universities, our state Ethnic Commissions (noted below) and many other organizations around the state.

Background Information:

Executive Order 2016-03 transferred the Commission on Middle Eastern Affairs, Hispanic Latino Commission, and the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to LARA from the Department of Civil Rights.

Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC)

The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission's vision is to be an exemplary commission by adding public value to the State of Michigan and the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, by fully engaging APAs across the state

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM)

The HLCOM strives to market the state's career development services to Michigan Hispanics, encourage initiatives to reduce the high school dropout rates of Hispanic youth, and facilitate efforts to increase the enrollment of Hispanics in postsecondary education and training programs.

Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA)

The 15-member council will advise the department on issues relating to the Arab and Chaldean communities in Michigan and promote awareness of their culture and history.

Public Act 107 of 2017, Section 802 requires the following:

Sec. 802. *The Michigan office for new Americans is to coordinate with the Asian Pacific American affairs commission, the Commission on Middle Eastern American affairs, and the Hispanic/Latino commission of Michigan to produce a report by March 1 that is to be transmitted to the senate and house subcommittee chairpersons and the senate and house fiscal agencies. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the following:*

(a) Total number of people with whom each commission directly interacts through programming.

(b) Total number of public events that each commission conducted.

(c) Description of the activities that the commissions initiated to promote cooperation between the commissions.

(d) Total number of meetings that each commission held with foreign diplomats.

(e) Programmatic costs of each commission.

Pursuant to this requirement, this report has been prepared and issued electronically to the senate and house subcommittee chairpersons and the senate and house fiscal agencies. In addition, this report is also online under the following locations:

- The 'All About LARA' section – 'Legislative Reports' of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) website at: www.michigan.gov/lara.

Required Information:

Public Act 107 of 2017, Section 802:

a) Total number of people with whom each commission directly interacts through programming.

a. MAPAAC

- i. MAPAAC has produced ten programs, which we interacted with the Asian Pacific American communities and public. Estimated community members: 685

b. HLCOM

- i. Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan interacted with over 6,400 community members through programming organized by the commission, or that they actively participated in.

c. CMEAA

- i. The Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs hosted numerous Town Hall meetings throughout the year in the cities of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Flint, Dearborn, and Troy to introduce CMEAA to the Middle Eastern population in Michigan. This was an opportunity to interact with Michiganders and for our Commissioners to listen to and document the prevailing needs and concerns of the Middle Eastern American community in Michigan. Approximately 246 people attended Town Hall Meetings across the state.
- ii. CMEAA was privileged to host an exhibit titled Patriots & Peacemakers: Arab Americans in Service to Our Country at two locations in the state: Flint and Lansing. It is estimated that roughly 7,500 people attended the exhibit at the combined locations.
- iii. CMEAA's study, the Middle Eastern Economic Impact Study, conducted by Wayne State University includes focus groups, phone interviews and surveys which will reach thousands of Michiganders. To date, the study has reached out to roughly 42 participants in our focus groups.
- iv. In total, CMEAA has directly interacted with roughly 7,788 individuals through our programs.

b) Total number of public events that each commission conducted

- a. MAPAAC – 6
- b. HLCOM – 11
- c. CMEAA – 8

c) Description of the activities that the commissions initiated to promote cooperation between the commissions

a. MAPAAC

- i. Joint Legislative Advocacy Committee: The committee formed by Michigan Office of New Americans consists of members of the three ethnic commissions MAPAAC, Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, and Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs with legislative analysis from LARA. The objectives are to track legislation, analyze its impact on each community, assess the likelihood of passage, strategize a collective response, inform and make recommendations to respective commissions, and coordinate action with MONA and LARA.
- ii. New Americans Appreciation Gala: On October 12, 2017, the three commissions alongside with MONA, hosted the inaugural New Americans Appreciation Gala with the theme of “Building Unity and Creating Opportunity.” It was the first joint commission event to showcase New Americans’ contributions to the economic growth of Michigan and perpetuated the Governor’s commitment of making Michigan a welcoming state
- iii. Joint Ethnic Commission Meeting with Lt. Governor Calley: On September 14, 2017, the three commissions collaborated and held a joint ethnic commission meeting. Each commission held their individual meeting and convened together for a networking reception and follow by presentation of their mission, goals and initiatives for their respective communities. This forum allowed each commission to connect and brainstorm on issues that may allow them to join forces to address issues that may impact their respective ethnic communities. Lt. Gov. Calley was our guest speaker and he held a question and answer session.

b. HLCOM

- i. The HLCOM has actively participated in the Joint Legislative Advocacy Committee, created by the three commissions to work together on addressing legislation that mutually affected their respective communities. This provides all commissions with a platform to unify their opinions and concerns, to take joint action on legislation that could potentially impact their communities.
- ii. The Joint Ethnic Commission Meeting brought the three commissions together for an afternoon, with various opportunities to understand each other better. The event began with the commissions holding individual meetings, to discuss their ongoing work, and connect with individuals from their respective communities. A closed reception and program followed afterwards, where the commissioners and staff had the opportunity to learn more about each other’s goals, events, and work being done across the State. The program was closed by a presentation/question and answer session from keynote speaker Lt. Governor Brian Calley.
- iii. The New Americans Appreciation Gala was a joint event between the Michigan Office for New Americans and the three ethnic commissions, which aimed to recognize efforts by New American leaders in economic growth, innovation, and development of Michigan as a whole. The

commissions chose two awardees from their communities, along with two honorable mentions for community leaders that made a significant impact on Gov. Snyder's efforts to make Michigan into a welcoming state for New Americans.

c. CMEAA

i. Joint Legislative Advocacy Committee

1. In 2016, the Joint Legislative Advocacy Committee came to fruition after all three commissions noted legislation being passed that affected all ethnic communities. In Executive Order 2015-6, creating CMEAA, the commission is charged with making policy statements regarding issues of concern to Middle Eastern Americans and shall take positions on specific pieces of legislation in line with these policy statements.

ii. Joint Ethnic Commissions Meeting

1. In September of 2017, CMEAA, Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan and Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission collaborated and held a joint ethnic commission meeting. Each commission hosted their individual meetings. Afterwards, the three commissions and their support staff convened together for a reception and presentations on the mission, vision, goals, purpose, events and initiatives for each respective commission were presented. These efforts provided commissioners an opportunity to connect and brainstorm on issues in their respective communities. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley was the keynote speaker at the event where he held a question and answer session.

iii. New Americans Appreciation Gala

1. In 2017, the three commissions alongside the Michigan Office for New Americans held the inaugural New Americans Appreciation Gala which featured a theme of "Building Unity and Creating Opportunity." The gala aimed to celebrate the innovation and economic contributions of New Americans and honored their commitment to making Michigan a welcoming state for all.
2. The evening included award presentations to six business leader awardees for impacting the state's growing economy and enriching the lives of Michiganders. An additional two awards, per commission, were given to honorable members of each respective commission's community who perpetrated the Governor's commitment to making Michigan a welcoming state.

d) Total number of meetings that each commission held with foreign diplomats.

a. MAPAAC

MAPAAC commissioners are leaders in their ethnic communities and interact with the Consulate Generals of Asian countries namely Japan and China. Most activities were hosted by the Consulate Generals or the APA organizations.

b. HLCOM

The Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan met with Mexican Consul Fernando Gonzalez-Saiffe.

c. CMEAA

CMEAA did not host any meetings with foreign diplomats.

e) Programmatic costs of each commission.

a. MAPAAC - \$93,522

b. HLCOM - \$236,784

c. CMEAA - \$68,100