



CMEAA
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2025 | Noon EST

Kalasho Education & Youth Services MINDgarden
29900 Lorraine Ave.
Warren, MI 48093

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Suzanne Sukkar, Chair
Dr. Adhid Miri
Nadine Kalasho-Khalil, Vice Chair
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer
Karim Kaddouh

Zane Hatahet (Arrived at 12:24)
Petra Alsoofy
Nabeleh Ghareeb, Secretary
Matthew Jaber Stiffler

Officials and Staff: Administrator, CMEAA, Alexander Sahouri; Assistant AG, Civil Rights Office, Tonya Jeter; Executive Director, Office of Global Michigan (OGM), Poppy Hernandez(Virtual); Deputy Director, OGM, Ben Cabanaw (Virtual); Commissions Manager, OGM, Mika McAskil; Civil Rights Specialist, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Charles Schoder

Community Partners:

Executive Director, Kalasho Education & Youth Services MINDgarden, Sumaiya Ahmed-Sheikh

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sukkar at 12:17 PM ET, roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion made by Treasurer Lina Hourani-Harajli and seconded by commissioner Karim Kadouh the Commission approved the meeting agenda of March 5th, 2025 as presented. *Motion carries*

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Sukkar recognized Secretary Ghareeb to present the September 4th 2024 Meeting Minutes. Secretary gave time for the Commissioners to review the minutes and then requested a motion to approve the December 5th meeting minutes as presented.

On Motion made Secretary Nabeleh Ghareeb, and seconded by Dr. Adhid Miri, Commission approved the December 5th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. *Motion carries*

Chair Sukkar thanked Vice Chair Kalasho-Khalil for hosting the CMEAA meeting at Kalasho Education & Youth Services MINDgarden and then welcomed Commissioner Matthew Jaber Stiffler to his first CMEAA meeting and gave him the opportunity to introduce himself to the commissioners.

Chair Sukkar then reminded commissioners to keep discussions limited to whats on the agenda. If there is something commissioners wish to see on the agenda, please inform commission leadership and administration know, and that the agenda can be amended at the top of every meeting.

Chair Sukkar recognized Treasurer Hourani-Harajli to introduce the Treasurers report:

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached is the Treasurer's Report Materials.

On Motion made by Secretary Nabeleh Ghareeb and Seconded by Commissioner Karim Kadouh, the Commission approved the Treasurers Report as presented. *Motion carries*

Chair Sukkar then recognized Commissions Manager Mika McAskil to present the OGM report

V. OGM Report

Attached is the OGM Report

Chair Sukkar asked Mika to explain the branding of "Prosperity Commissions" where Mika and Poppy explained that OGM is part of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's Prosperity Division lead by Kim Trent. OGM commissions such as CMEAA, HLCOM, MAPAAC MIARC and the LGBTQ+ Commission, and including the Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) and the Women's Commission outside of OGM, all reside in the Prosperity Division and have thus been branded the Prosperity Commissions.

Chair Sukkar then asked about how the feedback from Listening Sessions would be leveraged into action. Mika explained that after each session there would be an executive summary one pager of the session distributed to commissions and kicked up to OGM leadership. Down the line, we will reinvite those who invited to the listening sessions to tell them what we have done so far "solutioning" based on the feedback we previously received, and will then solicit more

feedback on what needs to be done further. Mika then gave a brief overview of feedback from all the Prosperity Commission listening sessions so far.

Commissioner Hatahet expressed the wish for more interaction with the Governor. Mika and Poppy responded by assuring commissioners that through Alexander and Mika, the commissioners' thoughts and priorities are kicked up to the governor's office via Poppy.

VI. Administrators Report

Attached is the Administrator's report.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

Chair Sukkar introduced new bylaws proposed by OGM. She explained that adopting these new bylaws will have CMEAA's bylaws match those of the other Prosperity Commissions in OGM.

She noted that there would be a change to the structure of the executive committee. The proposed bylaws would eliminate the officers of Second Vice Chair and Trustee from the executive Committee.

She requested that commissioner review the proposed bylaws for a vote at the June 4th 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Hatahet asked why there was a Trustee added to the Executive Committee in the past and why the positions are being removed. Chair Sukkar replied that the Trustee was added in the past because there was a lot of interest in officer roles, to promote inclusivity. Mika then explained that when officers are elected in December, that they will also chair the SIG groups, three sig groups, three officers, and the connection between the executive committee and the SIG groups will be the driving force of CMEAA.

Secretary Gharib expressed concern about having an executive committee of an even number of members, three officers and the Chair, as there would be no tie breaking vote.

Chair Sukkar then announced further discussion on the Bylaws would be held in the next Operations SIG meeting and moved on to the next item of New Business.

Chair Sukkar informed the commission that they needed to approve spending for the purchase of the tickets for CMEAA's Signature Heritage Event, the Marcel Khalife Concert in partnership with UMS.

On Motion Made by Secretary Nadine Kalasho-Khalil, and Seconded by Commissioner Karim Kadouh, The Commission Approved purchasing 30 tickets up to \$1,400 for CMEAA's Signature Heritage Event, the Marcel Khalife Concert, April 5th. *Motion carries*

IX. Comments from the Public

None.

X. Announcements

Commissioner Alsoofy announced a film screening ISPU is hosting at the Arab American National Museum about the three Students murdered at Chappel Hill.

Treasurer Hourani-Harajli announced that ACCESS has gifted a table to CMEAA for ACCESS's 54 Anniversary Dinner April 16th at the Renaissance Marriot in Detroit.

Chair Sukkar announced that the next CEMAA meeting will be held June 4th at the America's Community Council headquarters

XI. Adjournment

On Motion made by Treasurer Lina Hourani-Harajli and seconded by Commissioner Petra Alsoofy, the Commission Adjourned. *Motion carries*

Meeting adjourned at 1:45

X

Nabeleh Ghareeb
Secretary

X

Suzanne K. Sukkar
Chair