



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

Meeting Minutes

June 4th, 2025 | Noon EST
Chaldean Community Foundation
2075 Walnut Lake Rd
West Bloomfield Township, MI 48323

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Suzanne Sukkar, Chair
Dr. Adhid Miri
Zane Hatahet (arrived at 12:24)
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasure
Dr. Najib Hourani (virtual attendance)
Jaleelah Ahmed (arrived at 12:22)

John Daoud, Trustee
Alexandra Nassar
Nabeleh Ghareeb, Secretary
Matthew Jaber Stiffler
Karim Kadouh

Officials and Staff: Administrator, CMEAA, Alexander Sahouri; Assistant AG, Civil Rights Office, Tonya Jeter; Manager, OGM, Mika McAskill; Executive Director, Office of Global Michigan, Poppy Hernandez (virtual attendance); Civil Rights Specialist, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Charles Schoder; Arab American Community Liaison, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Nazmieh Khatib; President, Arab and Chaldean Resource Center, Fadel Nabils

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Suzanne Sukkar at 12:16 PM ET, roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion made by Treasurer Lina Hourani-Harajli and Dr. Adhid Miri, the Commission approved the meeting agenda of September 3rd, 2025 as presented. *Motion carries*

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Suzanne Sukkar recognized Secretary Ghareeb to present the June 4th 2025 Meeting Minutes. Secretary gave time for the Commissioners to review the minutes and then requested a motion to approve the June 4th meeting minutes as presented.

On Motion made Secretary Nabeleh Ghareeb, and seconded by Dr. Adhid Miri, Commission approved the June 4th, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. *Motion carries*
IV. Chairpersons Remarks

Chair Suzanne Sukkar thanked Dr. Adhid Miri and the Chaldean Community Foundation for hosting the commission meeting at the newly opened Chaldean Community Foundation West campus in West Bloomfield Township. She also thanked commissioners Alexandra Nassar and Lina Hourani-Harajli for hosting listening sessions. And lastly, Chair Sukkar thanked the Office of Global Michigan for hosting the All Commissions Convening, noting that Alexander represented the commission well in his panel presentation with the other prosperity commissions.

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

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached is the Treasurer's Report Materials.

On Motion made by Trustee John Doud and Seconded by Commissioner Alexandra Nassar, the Commission approved the Treasurers Report as presented. *Motion carries*

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

VI. OGM Report

Attached is the OGM Report

Commissioner Zane Hatahet asked OGM Commissions Manager Mika McAskill if the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) was receiving the content coming out of the Listening Sessions.

McAskill responded that all the information from the listening sessions goes to Executive Director Poppy Hernandez who is part of the Governors Cabinet.

Poppy Hernandez noted that she does bring the event captures to EOG meetings, and Alexander added that the listening session event captures in the meeting packet are reviewed and approved by the CMEAA Community Engagement Strategic Initiative Group.

Secretary Nabeleh Ghareeb suggested that the event captures be shared with the EOG in a periodic basis.

Hernandez then suggested that the commission decide how to compile the event captures in a periodic basis and that Alexander could administer this process and that she would be happy to bring the product of this process to the cabinet meetings with the EOG.

VII. Administrators Report

Attached is the Administrator's report and relevant materials.

VIII. Old Business

No old business to address.

IX. New Business

Chair Suzanne Sukkar recognized President of the Arab and Chaldean Resource Center, Fadel Nabils, to present the proposal attached followed by discussion and questioning by the commissioners on the proposal and the remaining FY25 budget.

On Motion made by Commissioner Alexandra Nassar and seconded by Commissioner Zane Hatahet the Commission approves awarding \$45,000 from the FY25 budget to the Arab and Chaldean Resource Center based on the proposal presented; and the remaining of the FY25 budget to be awarded to the Arab American Heritage Council, America's Community Council, ACCESS, and the Chaldean Community Foundation in equal sums.

Motion Carries

X. Comments from the Public

None.

XI. Announcements

Commissioner Alexandra Nassar announced that two debke troupes from over seas were performing at the Flint Institute of Music September 4th.

Chair Suzanne Sukkar announced that the HLCOM Gala is on October 16th in Lansing and that anyone interested in attending should connect with Alexander.

Trustee John Daoud thanked the commissioners who attended the ACC Gala on August 28th.

Commissioner Karim Kadouh announced that Judge Mariam Bazzi's investiture was coming up September 18th and suggested that the commission should request a Tribute from the EOG. He also announced that he has connected three students at the University of Michigan with a MEDC program that awards graduating engineering students \$10,000 who accept job offers in the EV and mobility sectors in Michigan and that he would like to see this reflected in our annual report.

Civil Rights Specialist Charles Schoder introduced Nazmieh Khatib as the Arab American Community Liaison for the Michigan Department of Civil rights.

On Motion made by Secretary Nabeleh Ghareeb and seconded by Commissioner Alexandra Nassar, the Commission Adjourned. *Motion carries*

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM

X

Nabeleh Ghareeb
Secretary

X

Suzanne K. Sukkar
Chair