

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Responses to Fiscal Year 2020 Performance Oversight Questions

Yolanda Pierce

Chairperson,, Mayor's Interfaith Council

Submission to

Committee on Government Operations and Facilities

Chairperson Robert White

At-Large Councilmember

February 9, 2021

Committee on Government Operations and Facilities

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20004

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Please provide the agency's mission statement.

Answer: The Mayor's Interfaith Council (MIC) shall advise the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Mayor's Director for Religious Affairs, and the Mayor's Cabinet, on various matters, especially and including those that affect the spiritual, faith and religious well-being of all the residents of the District of Columbia.

2. Please list all reporting requirements in the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations that the agency is required to complete in FY 20 and FY 21, to date. For each requirement, please list the date the report was required and the date it was produced. If the agency did not produce the report on the mandated timeline, please explain why.

Answer: There are no reporting requirements for MIC.

3. What are the agency's top five priorities? Please explain how the agency expects to address these priorities in FY 21.

Answer: The MIC amplifies the priorities of the Mayor's Office of Religious affairs which are:

- a) MORA stands up to protect the DC Values that define our faith community and support the most vulnerable residents among us.
- b) MORA recruits places of worship to use their excess land for affordable housing.
- c) MORA seeks to address hate and bias related crimes against DC residents and respond with moral clarity and spiritual leadership.
- d) MORA seeks to connect the religious community with District government resources.
- e) Advocate for the needs of the faith community.

4. Please describe any new initiatives or programs that the agency implemented in FY 20 and FY 21, to date, to improve the operations of the agency. Please describe any funding utilized for these initiative or program and the results, or expected results, of each initiative.

Answer: The MIC continues to support the initiatives and programs of MORA outlined in their testimony.

5. Please list all pending lawsuits that name the agency as a party. Identify which cases on the list are lawsuits that potentially expose the District to financial liability or will result in a change in agency practices and describe the current status of the litigation. Please provide the extent of each claim, regardless of its likelihood of success.

Answer: MIC did not have any lawsuits in FY20 or FY21 to date.

6. Please list all settlements entered into by the agency or by the District on behalf of the agency in FY 20 or FY 21, to date, and provide the parties' names, the amount of the settlement, and if related to litigation, the case name and a brief description of the case. If unrelated to litigation, please describe the underlying issue or reason for the settlement (e.g. administrative complaint, etc.).

Answer: MIC did not receive any administrative complaints or grievances, or enter into any settlements in FY20 and FY21 to date.

7. Please provide the number of FOIA requests for FY 20, and FY 21, to date, that were submitted to your agency. Include the number granted, partially granted, denied and pending. In addition, please provide the average response time, the estimate number of FTEs required to process requests, the estimated number of hours spend responding to these requests, and the cost of compliance.

Answer: MIC did not have any FOIA requests in FY20 and FY21 to date.

8. Please list and describe any ongoing investigations, audits, or reports on the agency or any employee of the agency that were completed during FY 20 and FY 21, to date.

Answer: MIC did not have any ongoing investigations, audits or reports in FY20 or FY21 to date.

9. Please provide a list of all studies, research papers, reports, and analyses that the agency prepared or funded during FY 20 and FY 21, to date. Please submit a hard copy to the Committee of any study, research paper, report, or analysis that is complete.

Answer: MIC did not have studies, research papers or reports prepared in FY20 or FY21 to date.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL

10. Please provide a list of all voting members currently serving on the Council, including:

- a. Their date of appointment;**
- b. The date their term expires;**
- c. Whether they are a District resident; and**
- d. Their title or associated religious institutions or other organizations, if applicable.**

First Name	Last Name	Appointment Date	Term end	Ward of Residence	Title/Name of Institution
Johari	Abdul-Malik	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 4	Imam/Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center
Talib	Shareef	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 4	Imam/Masjid Muhammad
Bruce	Lustig	9/17/2015	7/29/2020	Maryland Resident	Rabbi/Washington Hebrew Congregation
Shmuel	Herzfeld	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 4	Rabbi/Ohev Shalom Synagogue
Christine	Wiley	4/17/2016	7/29/2020	Maryland Resident	Pastor/Covenant Baptist Church United Church of Christ
James	Coleman	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 4	Pastor/All Nations Baptist Church
Wallace	Smith	4/27/2016	7/29/2021	Ward 2	Pastor/Shiloh Baptist Church
Dwayne	Johnson	8/19/2011	7/29/2020	Ward 6	Pastor/Metropolitan Community Church
Keith	Byrd	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Maryland Resident	Pastor/Zion Baptist Church
Raymond	Kemp	4/27/2011	7/29/2020	Ward 3	
Susan	Taylor	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 2	Church of Scientology
Shirley	Stanfill	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 8	Bishop/House of Help City of Hope
Darrell	Smith-Bey	7/30/2015	7/29/2021	Ward 6	
Gerald	Serotta	7/30/2015	7/29/2020	Maryland Resident	Rabbi
Sidney	Fowler	7/30/2015	7/29/2020	Ward 2	First Congregational UCC
Michael	Bell, Sr.	9/17/2015	7/29/2020	Ward 8	
Maria	Swearingen	5/14/2017	7/29/2021	Ward 1	Calvary Baptist Church
Yolanda	Pierce	10/30/2017	7/29/2020	Ward 3	Dean/Howard University School of Divinity
Darryl	Roberts	6/12/2018	7/29/2022	Ward 4	Pastor/Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
Brahmachari	Sharan	5/23/2019	7/29/2022	Ward 2	
Christopher	Zacharias	11/16/2018	7/29/2021	Maryland Resident	Pastor
Monica	Raines	10/29/2018	7/29/2021	Ward 6	

Perzavia	Praylow	11/1/2018	7/29/2021	Ward 6	Pastor/Fifteenth Street Presbyterterian
Hannah	Goldstein	5/23/2019	7/29/2022	Ward 4	Rabbi
Anika	Wilson-Brown	1/10/2020	7/29/2023	Ward 7	Pastor/Union Temple Baptist Church
Mai	El-Sadany				
Emilio	Biosca Aguero	2/28/2020	7/29/2023	Ward 1	
Leonard	Hamlin				The Rev. Canon/Washington National Cathedral

11. Please provide the dates of any Council meetings held in FY 20 and FY 21, to date.

Answer: MIC had a meeting on January 23, 2020.

12. For every meeting of the Council in FY 20 and FY 21, to date, please provide the agenda, the minutes, a list of all voting members in attendance, and whether a quorum was established.

13. Please list the Council officers, including the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson appointed by the Mayor, and any other officers elected by the Council.

Answer:

Yolanda Pierce - Chairperson

Christopher Zacharias – Vice Chair

14. Please list any subcommittees the Council may have created, along with who chairs each subcommittee, and the members composing each committee, including any District residents not serving as a member of the Council, along with their Ward of residence.

Answer: MIC does not have any subcommittees at this time.

15. Please provide any bylaws or rules of procedure that have been adopted by the Council.

Answer: There have not been any additional bylaws or procedures adopted by the MIC.

16. Please describe any activities and events the Council hosted of in FY 20, and FY 21 to date.

Answer: The MIC did not host any activities or events in FY20 or FY21 to date.

18. Please describe any other Council achievements in FY 20, and FY 21, to date.

Answer: The MIC was invited to stand with the Mayor in the unveiling of Black Lives Matter Plaza and stand in solidarity with the faith communities affected by the First Amendment activities of the summer of 2020. The MIC also assisted in identifying funds to clean the houses of those who passed away due to COVID-19.

19. Please describe any recommendations the Council has provided to the Mayor or the Director of Religious Affairs in FY 20, and FY 21, to date.

Answer: The MIC continues to support the mission and recommendations of MORA.

20. Please provide any Mayor's orders impacting the Interfaith Commission since it was established. Please also note whether the Mayor assigned any specific duties for the Council to undertake that are not already outlined by a Mayor's order?

Answer: There have not been any Mayor's orders that have impacted MIC since the order creating the Council, Mayor's Order 2011-110. The Mayor has not assigned duties outside of this Mayor's Order.

21. Please describe any challenges that the Council has that is impacting its ability to meet its goals.

Answer: The MIC has not encountered any challenges that has impacted its ability to meet its goals.

22. Mayor's Order 2011-110 sunsets on June 30, 2021. If this sunset is still in effect, is the Council aware of any plan by the Mayor to extend the Council's mandate?

Answer: MORA is working with MIC and faith community of DC to determine elements of the commission's renewal and amendment of the order.

23. If a new order is issued by the Mayor, or if the Interfaith Council is established in the District of Columbia Council in statute, do you recommend any changes to the Interfaith Council's mandate, structure, or administration?

Answer: An additional 5 seats to the MIC would allow for additional diversity.

QUESTIONS AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMPREHENSIVE HOMICIDE ELIMINATION STRATEGY TASK FORCE

24. Please describe three initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway within your agency directed at preventing homicide in the District of Columbia. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe three ways in which your agency could play a role in reducing homicides in the District of Columbia.)

Answer: This initiative is not within the mission and scope of the MIC

25. Please describe the resources currently allocated to these initiatives, program, or projects, and describe what additional resources you would need to improve the efficacy or scale of these efforts. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe the resources you would need to implement the ideas detailed in response to question 1.)

Answer: As this initiative is not within the mission and scope of the MIC, there are currently no resources allocated to initiatives.

26. Please describe how your agency is working collaboratively with other DC agencies toward the goal of reducing homicides. Please also describe how your agency is engaging non-governmental organizations and the community at large on the issue of homicide prevention. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe with whom you would collaborate and how you would engage the community in order to implement the ideas detailed in response to question 1.)

Answer: This initiative is not within the mission and scope of the MIC

27. Please describe how you currently measure (or would measure) the efficacy of the aforementioned initiatives, programs, or projects. Additionally, if three metrics related to homicide prevention were added to your Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), what should those metrics be?

Answer: This initiative is not within the mission and scope of the MIC