

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**



**Responses to Fiscal Year 2020 Performance Oversight Questions**

***Rev., Dr. Christopher Zacharias***

***Vice Chair***

***Submission to***

***Committee on Government Operations and Facilities***

***Chairperson Robert White***

***At-Large Councilmember***

***January 26, 2022***

***12:00pm (Virtual)***

***Committee on Government Operations and Facilities***

***John A. Wilson Building***

***1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW***

***Washington, DC 20004***

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

***1. Please provide the Council's mission statement.***

***2. Please list all reporting requirements in the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations that the Council is required to complete in FY 21 and FY 22, to date. For each requirement, please list the date the report was required and the date it was produced. If the Council did not produce the report on the mandated timeline, please explain why.***

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.

***3. What are the Council's top five priorities? Please explain how the Council expects to address these priorities in FY 22.***

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 Council implemented in FY 21 and FY 22, 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 Council 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 Council 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 FY21 or FY22 to date.

***6. Please list all settlements entered into by the Council or by the District on behalf of the Council in FY 21 or FY 22, 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 FY21 and FY22 to date.

***7. Please provide the number of FOIA requests for FY 21, and FY 22, to date, that were submitted to your Council. 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 FY21 and FY22 to date.

***8. Please list and describe any ongoing investigations, audits, or reports on the Council or any employee of the Council that were completed during FY 21 and FY 22, to date.***

Answer: MIC did not have any ongoing investigations, audits or reports in FY21 or FY22 to date.

***9. Please provide a list of all studies, research papers, reports, and analyses that the Council prepared or funded during FY 21 and FY 22, 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 FY21 or FY22 to date.

**INTERFAITH COUNCIL**

***10. Please provide a list of all 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, if they are, the ward in which they reside;***
- d. The number of meetings they have attended since they were confirmed; and***
- d. Their title or associated religious institutions or other organizations, if applicable.***

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Term end</b>	<b>Ward of Residence</b>	<b>Title/Name of Institution</b>
Bruce	Lustig	5/23/2019	7/29/23	Maryland Resident	Rabbi/Washington Hebrew Congregation

Dwayne	Johnson	8/19/2011	7/29/23	Ward 6	Pastor/Metropolitan Community Church
Michael	Bell, Sr.	9/17/2015	7/29/23	Ward 8	Pastor/ Allen Chapel AME Church
Yolanda	Pierce	7/29/2020	7/29/23	Ward 3	Dean/Howard University School of Divinity
Darryl	Roberts	6/12/2018	7/29/22	Ward 4	Pastor/Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
Brahmachari	Sharan	5/23/2019	7/29/22	Ward 2	Georgetown University
Dededrick	Rivers		7/29/22	Ward 7	Pastor/ Ward Memorial AME Church
Hannah	Goldstein	5/23/2019	7/29/22	Ward 4	Rabbi/ Temple Sinai
Anika	Wilson-Brown	1/10/2020	7/29/2023	Ward 7	Pastor/Union Temple Baptist Church
Justin	Fung		7/29/24	Ward 5	Pastor/ Christ City Church
Emilio	Biosca Aguero	2/28/2020	7/29/2023	Ward 1	Shrine of the Sacred Heart
Allyson	Abrams	6/12/2018	7/29/24	Maryland Resident	Empowerment Leadership Cathedral
Karen	Curry	5/23/2019	7/29/24	Ward 7	Pennsylvania Baptist Church
Clarence	Parks	6/12/2018	7/29/23	Maryland Resident	Tabernacle Baptist Church
Aaron	Graham	5/23/2019	7/29/22	Ward 1	District Church

***11. Please list any subcommittees the Council has created, along with who chairs each subcommittee, and the members composing each committee.***

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

***12. Please provide the dates of any Council meetings held in FY 21 and FY 22, to date, and the dates and times of any future scheduled Council meetings.***

Answer: The next MIC meeting is on January 27, 2022.

***13. For every meeting of the Council in FY 21 and FY 22, to date, please provide the agenda, the minutes, a list of all voting members in attendance, and whether a quorum was established.***

Answer: No quorum was established in FY21.

***14. Please provide any rules of procedure that have been adopted by the Council, if applicable.***

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

***15. Please describe any activities and events the Council hosted or participated in during FY 21, and FY 22, to date.***

Answer: The MIC did not host any activities or events in FY21 or FY22 to date.

***16. Please describe any other Council achievements in FY 21, and FY 22, to date.***

**Answer:**

MIC joined MORA and DC Health to kick off the Faith in the Vaccine (FiV) initiative and to introduce the faith leaders' Credible Messengers program. The goal of FiV was to bring vaccines into targeted communities for easy access where residents feel comfortable and have confidence in the community. More than **6,000** people received their vaccines via the FiV clinics.

***17. Please provide any Mayor's orders impacting the Interfaith Commission since it was established.***

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.

***18. What steps has the Council taken in FY 21, and FY 22, to date, to engage new, diverse, faith communities in its work?***

Answer: We pride ourselves on truly being interfaith and inclusive. This is exemplified in our work with various religious groups, among which are the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington. We are intentional about our work with diverse populations.

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

Answer: With the impact the pandemic has had on places of worship clergy, as many others have been extremely busy as they have been on the front line. And we find that many have been in need of not only Sabbaths, but sabbaticals, and we have tried our best to honor that.