

Executive Order 2007-19

Establishing the Arizona Commission on African-American Affairs

WHEREAS, African-Americans are an important and growing segment of Arizona's diverse population; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans contribute greatly to Arizona's gross domestic product, tax base, and cultural history; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans also face specific challenges, including disproportionately high dropout rates, rates of teen incarceration, and health disparities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to laws 2007, ch. 255, the state legislature has included in the sums appropriated to the Arizona Department of Administration \$125,000 for the creation of an Arizona Commission on African-American Affairs to address these and other issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, hereby order as follows:

1. The Arizona Commission on African-American Affairs (the "Commission") is hereby established.
2. The Commission shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Governor shall also select a chair and vice chair of the Commission from the Commission's members.
3. To the extent practicable, the majority of the Commission shall consist of representatives of the African-American community and shall reflect the geographic diversity of the state.
3. The Commission shall meet no fewer than four times annually, at the call of either the Chair or the Governor.
4. Members of the Commission may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Commission; provided, however, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.
5. The Governor may appoint an Executive Director of the Commission who shall be eligible to receive a salary, subject to the availability of funds appropriated to the Commission by the legislature, granted to the Commission, or donated to the Commission by private sources. The Commission may also employ clerical, professional and technical personnel subject to the availability of such funds.
6. The Commission shall assist and support state and federal agencies in assisting African-Americans in this state to develop strategies for advancing the interests of African-

Americans in Arizona and addressing the challenges that African-Americans face, including specifically (but without limitation), the disproportionate dropout rate, teen incarceration rate, and health disparities. The Commission shall also:

- A. Advise the Governor on policies, procedures, legislation and rules that affect the African-American community and that will enable this state to be responsive to the needs of the African-American community;
 - B. Assist local African-American community groups in developing strategies and programs that will expand and enhance the social, cultural and economic status of the African-American community;
 - C. Develop, review and recommend to the Governor policies in the areas of health and human services, housing, education, employment, business formation and development, public accommodations and contracting and procedures;
 - D. Serve as a liaison to federal, state and local agencies to ensure that programs affecting African-Americans are effectively used and that benefits accrue equitably to members of the African-American community;
 - E. Work for greater understanding and improved relationships between African-Americans and non-African-Americans by creating an awareness of the legal, social and economic needs of African-Americans in this state;
 - F. Where appropriate and subject to the availability of funding, conduct periodic conferences throughout this state to: 1) inform African-Americans of the opportunities available to them through state and private sources; 2) encourage African-Americans to share their history and culture with other Arizonans; 3) participate in the social and political processes of their communities; and 4) learn from conference participants about their needs and problems;
 - G. Annually facilitate an African-American Legislative Day, (which shall not be a legal holiday) on the second Thursday and Friday of February. The Commission shall invite the legislature, Governor and other elected officials to pay tribute to the history and culture of African-Americans and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States. The Commission shall schedule activities and discussion between state and community leaders on issues affecting African-American communities; and
 - H. Subject to the availability of funding, organize one or more annual, state-wide Town Halls centered on African-American affairs.
7. The Commission may apply for, accept, and receive grants and private gifts of money or property to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Executive Order and to supplement its legislative appropriation.

8. The Commission shall make a written annual report giving an account of its proceedings, transactions, findings and recommendations to the Governor and the legislature and may submit the recommendations to the legislature in the form of proposed legislation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Janet Napolitano
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on the 27 day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Seven and of the Independence of the United States of America in the Two Hundred Thirty-Second.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
SECRETARY OF STATE

