



Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Executive Order 2023-10 – Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs

Date: June 6, 2023

A blue ink signature of Josh Shapiro, the Governor of Pennsylvania.

By Direction of:
Josh Shapiro, Governor

WHEREAS, African Americans in Pennsylvania make unique, diverse, and valuable contributions to the culture, society, and economy of Pennsylvania, which have a beneficial impact on life in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is committed to providing equality and opportunity for all Pennsylvanians, including increased access for African Americans to civic, economic, and educational opportunities in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the African American community are acknowledged, while it is recognized that challenges are still faced by many African Americans; and

WHEREAS, it will benefit the Commonwealth to define and address the unique contributions, needs, and concerns of African American Pennsylvanians, in order to improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby reestablish, in the Office of the Governor, the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") and, further, order and direct the following:

1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Commission is to gather information regarding African American Pennsylvanians' experiences and needs; review, evaluate, and assess programs affecting them; provide the Governor with information and recommendations regarding how best to meet their needs; and provide information about programs and services that may be relevant to African American Pennsylvanians' needs.

2. Responsibilities.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.** Review and recommend to the Governor policies regarding issues that affect African American Pennsylvanians.
- b.** Work with the Governor's Office, at its request, to engage with federal, state, and local agencies to promote effective utilization of government programs impacting African Americans.
- c.** Communicate with communities throughout the Commonwealth about activities and initiatives of the Administration that impact African American Pennsylvanians.
- d.** Compile information about programs, scholarships, mentoring programs, sources of funding or other resources for the benefit and advancement of African American Pennsylvanians.

3. Composition of the Commission.

- a.** The Commission shall consist of no more than 30 voting members, who are representatives of the Commonwealth's African American community or have an interest in its success, and bring relevant experience, expertise, and perspective to the Commission.
- b.** The Governor shall designate one Commission member to serve as Chairperson of the Commission. The Governor may also designate one Commission member to serve as Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- c.** The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Commission, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Executive Director shall prepare agendas, timelines, and meeting schedules; convene meetings; oversee the activities of the Commission; and act as the Commission's liaison to the Governor's Office through the Governor's relevant designee.
- d.** The Governor may appoint one or more non-voting honorary members to the Commission in addition to the 30 appointed members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Honorary members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of travel or related expenses. Section 4.d. of this Executive Order shall not apply to honorary members.

4. Terms of Membership.

- a.** Members of the Commission shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- b.** Voting members of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and may continue to serve until their successor is appointed.
- c.** Should a vacancy occur on the Commission, the Governor may appoint a successor to complete the term of the vacancy.

- d. A voting member, who is absent from two consecutive Commission meetings without excuse, shall forfeit membership on, and be removed from, the Commission.

5. Compensation.

Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service, except that voting members may be reimbursed for reasonable travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

6. Relationship with Other Agencies.

All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance and support as needed by the Commission to fulfill its responsibilities as set forth in this Executive Order. Independent agencies, state-affiliated entities, and state-related institutions are also strongly encouraged to work with the Commission to support its mission.

7. Reports.

The Commission shall submit to the Governor an annual report outlining its activities and accomplishments. The Commission may submit other reports, at the request of the Governor, on issues affecting African American Pennsylvanians.

8. Procedures.

- a. The Commission is authorized to establish rules and procedures for the effective implementation of its responsibilities, consistent with this Executive Order.
- b. The Commission is authorized to establish subcommittees with specific purposes and goals set forth when established. Subcommittees may include advisory non-members, if approved by the Commission Chairperson. Subcommittee advisory non-members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of travel or related expenses.
- c. A majority of currently serving voting members in attendance at a meeting of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

9. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

10. Termination Date.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Governor.

11. Rescission.

Effective immediately, *Executive Order 2015-07*, dated August 4, 2015, is hereby rescinded.