**Transcript**

December 13, 2024, 10:33PM

 **EOM-PRESS-CONF** 0:06
Thank you to all of our Commissioners and a huge thank you to our associate director, Kai Shakeland, who have all worked, tireless tirelessly to put together some resources specifically for our Caribbean immigrant Community this afternoon. Following tonight's meeting, I also have a copy of the state of washing.
DC.
Constitution and some pins and some other resources.
For everyone tonight. And yes, I did say the state of Washington DC, so we can look at the Constitution and see if we do become a state what we're expecting.
So I'm gonna go ahead and move on.
Because of time.
To the next participant, the speaker. Next we will have.
Next, we will have the review of resources provided by DC government.
We'll start with Commissioner Dan Baker.
Good evening everybody.
So we know that there are some times coming up in this area where we don't know what's coming down the Pike. And I know that there's lots of constituents because especially those who are immigrants who might think that there might not be resources for them anymore or the.
Resources might be going out the window, but Mayor Muriel Bowser is very much in support of immigrants, and there's a handy.
Worksheet out that can be sent to you, or you can find it online. Sorry.
So Mayor Bowser, a friend of immigrants, and let's all, she said.
Let's all work together to provide the most security possible for our DC neighbors and to pressure Congress to provide pathways to citizenship for our dreamers, for our TPS holders, for our law abiding long standing CC residents.
So you might think benefits are going away.
They are not just to give.
This is worksheet is a refresher on what is available to you like.
Offering limited driver's license for those who do, regardless of your citizenship status.
And also, many immigrants are entrepreneurs.
So there are many grants that are available that although you might not be a citizens of this country, still would qualify.
There are a lot of other resources in leadership and advocacy, including education, policing, and just to know that the Department of Corrections does not hold a person's past their scheduled release time even if ice is interested in the person, there are many language access programs available espe.
Through the Office of Human Rights.
So to make sure that DC is accessible and welcoming to all.
And the workshop worksheet also has phone numbers for city services and support, including the Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs for our Latino Caribbean Sisters and brothers, the Mayor's Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Mayor's Office of African Affairs. And then you have the.
List of Mulchers which we'll present to later on.
Again, there are many sources, and if obviously you don't know mocha, here we are and you can go to.
Mocha.dz.gov to get more information.
Thank you, Commission.
Next we'll have Commissioner Mona Phillips.
So just bridging off of Commissioner Baker was discussing the resources that are available for the Community.
I'm gonna go ahead and just name off the the leaders in the community that you wanna contact in case if you have any issues or any questions, we're gonna start with ward one, the manager, Anthony Robertson, the liaison.
Is Stephanie Evan cooler?
So I apologize if I see the name more too.
Is to dye a beelin.
Who is the manager?
In Ward three is the manager is Kendall Gusen, and the liaison is Williams Owen Cox.
Ward 4 is Janelle Escobar.
OK. And also the word for is the liaison is Leticia Acasa in Ward 5, the managers Anthony Black and liaison is Christians. Stargate and Ward 6.
Marcus Manning is the manager.
The liaison is Noah Glasgow and Ward 7. The managers Leticia Atkins.
And the liaison is Eric Mullins.
And finally, in Ward 8, the managers, Wendy Glenn.
And liaison is Eugene Keno.
Thank you, Commission.
Next we'll have Commissioner Janelle Andrew.
With the social services and economic development resources one pagers. OK.
Good afternoon, everyone.
Andrew, I'm gonna just go with some of the social services that the district offers.
As you know, the district wide range of social services is aimed at improving the quality of life, promoting the economic stability and addressing various Community needs.
This is a list of key social services provided.
Including the website, the website will have detailed information about eligibilities services available and how to apply to receive services.
The one Department of Human Services, DHS.
They provide family, financial assistance, food programs, emergency services and families.
And there's the office of Disability Rights.
They advocate and resource advocate for people, disabilities and provide resources for assessing those processes, ensuring accessibility and rights on the AAA, and it's a Department of Aging and Community Living.
DACL and they serve the seniors in the city, including transportation assistance here, giving services main programs and Wellness programs.
Of older adults and people with disabilities.
Department of Transportation Wichita Public transportation.
So she and safety programs like sharing services and safety initiatives can ensure access.
Services for people with disabilities who can't be regular public transportation.
There's the Department of Disability Services support that provides support for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities, including job training and community programs.
There's also legal aid society and of the District of Columbia, which provides free legal assistance for low income residents.
Family law, housing issues, public benefits and employment law.
And last on this list is Family Services agency and they provide family support services, including case management, counseling and programs for children and families in need.
These all have websites associated to them.
For more information, you can visit the website or contact agencies.
For specific assistance, contact local.
Thank you, Commissioner.
We can also just to let everyone know, we can put these resources on a link on our social media and we can also add them to our website.
So if folks don't have social media, but they can actually access the website and also provide you all copies if you need it within your respective jurisdiction.
Also, I would like to go over resources for economic development, business and nonprofit.
1st and which I like a lot for this list is business Resource Center VRC because that means that before they.
'Re resourceful. They treat you as your business, like a new one, baby.
So the website is www.dc.code.
There, there's a lot of resources in DC for businesses, so I'll continue the list business, Resource, Office brand and funding opportunities out for licensing.
Programs tax incentives.
How much size www.osse.dc dot?
Then there's an economic development initiative.
Which focus on neighborhood revitalization and commercial real estate assistance, improve local communities and attract investment.
That website is www.dmped dot dc.gov.
It's nonprofit support, which provides nonprofit grants, technical assistance to strengthen nonprofit organizations.
The website for that www.cfo.dc dot.
For businesses startups.
DC Office business incubators and accelerators and access to capital to support small businesses and startups. In April to website for that, WWW.
Dcedc.dc.gov licensing and Concierge Protection DLC P provides licensing and consumer protection support for businesses and residents.
Www.dcr8.dc.andofcourse also taxi regular OTR, which is just the business.
Individual tax services included filing payments, refunds and tax incentives.
The website for OTR is www.otr.cfo.gov.
So if you go through the business Resource Center table I have guide you to these other organizations.
There's also there's no resources for nonprofits to help with clients, business assistance, community outreach and legal support.
Community Foundation.
They they offer grants and building. That's www.cfncr.org Capital Impact Partners funded for nonprofit growth www.capital impact that would DC government grants for community arts, education and social services.
There's a DC.
Partnership and runs development.
You have to Google development. The nonprofit run table provides leadership, advocacy, and network and support as www.nonprofitroundtable.org.
So in DC, well, it's yeah, outreach programs are involved in.
I encourage everyone to sign up with.
To be able to provide volunteer services to support community.
So PC is www.serve.dc.gov DC Center office free legal services for that profits.
Their website is www.dcbar.org slash.
P RO-UNO.
That would.
And finally, DC Volunteers, volunteers, lawyers project. They provide free legal help.
These are the DCB lp.org. Again, if you need support or additional information on new services, you can contact local so we can direct you provide you with.
Better information.
Thank you. Thank you, Commission.
Next, we'll have Commissioner Monica Brochet talk about public PC health link. OK.
Good evening everyone. I'm not too and I'm here. Happy to talk about the DC health link.
So anyone who's in need of health coverage should apply online at dchealthlink.com, and it'll take you through the process of what documentation, what documents are needed.
And even if you're not Aus citizen, you can still apply and show your immigration documents once you go through that process, it takes about one to two weeks, and then they'll let you know if you qualify or how you qualify for any health plan. You can also apply.
For different program that will help you because for your premiums.
And free or low cost coverage for Medicaid. And even if you make as much as $94,000 a year.
You can still call this possibility.
Still call for low cost program so again I can call their customer service number and all informations on dchealthlink.com. There's even a number for that you can talk to someone that speaks Spanish.
And then should I go go into their OK. And the other exciting thing, my background is education administrator administrator.
About it best which is happening tomorrow to the left page.
FS, which is at the Armory tomorrow from 12:50.
So that is to come out and hear about all the different programs the city offers for public schools in pre K3 through grade 12 and they'll have guidance on the lottery process and what that is in DC schools, the parent Advisory Council.
They'll even have new children.
Get routine vaccines, flu and COVID shots for adults as well.
They'll have free meals provided by DC Social kitchen and much, much more.
You can register on myschooldc.org events and I'm sure they'll let you in.
You don't register.
Please try to register again at DC Armory at the Stadium Armory Metro.
Tomorrow for 10 between 10:00 and 1:00.
I got years ago and it's very helpful. So I've asked anyone children to please try to stop by tomorrow.
Thank you, Doctor Rosen.
Umm. Next we'll do the Lisa Health bank immigration status list.
That's the orange page at the back.
I.
So for the eligible immigration status list, this list answers the questions about eligible immigration status.
So for immigration status, lawful permanent residence.
Refugees parole into the US granted unemployment authorization document.
Individuals with non immigrant status includes worker visas, student visas, U visa T visas and all other visas.
Deferred action status DAG recipients DC health plan actually had a meeting this morning with us to go over DACA recipients.
Some questions that were answered were what, if in the new administration, there was something written to get rid of an executive order to get rid of DACA because of DACA status. They cannot do that.
You would have to go through the proper channels.
An executive order would never get rid of DACA.
And anyone under?
Daca, any recipients are eligible to apply for health insurance, et cetera.
Way beyond.
Beyond the open enrollment, so open enrollment does end at the end of January, but for any doctor recipients, that's perfectly fine.
They can enroll anytime and they have people to help specifically for those recipients. And also you do not have to prove that.
You have like.
Immigration status. If you're a doctor recipient, you just have to prove that you're one of the recipients.
So you don't have to give them anything when it comes to that and they will not export any future as well.
Cuban Haitian entry.
Conditional entry before 1980 battered spouse, child or parents digital trafficking, special immigrant visa holder.
Granted, withholding of deportation and withholding of removal.
Umm, violence against Women Act, members of of federally recognized Indian tribe, or American Indian born in Canada.
Wow, citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau, who are living in the US lawful temporary residence, temporary work CPSDDD Special Immigrant juvenile classification.
Family unity beneficiary.
For seven statuses.
It's a lot of permanent resident, special immigrant, juvenile classification.
Begin with trafficking visa children under 14 with a pending application for asylum and if you have any questions about the actual.
DC health plan then, if you are eligible, there's actually a telephone number on the back of the page that you can call for the customer service and they go into specificity of if you have a permanent resident card.
The types of IDs you can bring on to them to do this as well.
And yeah, thank you.
Thank you, Kai.
So one of the things that we wanted to do is.
With the current climate is make sure that we share resources in reference to health. So regardless of your status, you can get health insurance. We wanna share resources in reference to housing.
Wanted to share especially resources.
For small businesses, nonprofits, thank you, Commissioner and legal resources, because those are questions that we're getting.
So I would like to ask that obviously I know everyone has a full time job, but if there are constituents that come to you and say, hey, I'm having this issue that we first try to see, is there a resource we can connect them with?
But we get their information and say this is what's going on with this person and then we connect them to one of these resources and then our office or one of the mowers probably can follow up and see, hey, what's going on with this particular constituent? It is.
Extremely important that everyone knows who their mocker is in their ward and to build relationships with these movers. The mokers, I would say.
You know, they're the ones getting up, let's say, at 4:00 in the morning. If there's a fire.
And they're checking on the constituents and we have a fire. But one of our constituents, it was what was the restaurant?
The Jamaican restaurant that caught on fire.
So the first people, right?
Right. So jerk at night, the one that caught on fire was H2H 3H3.
It's not war five.
It's actually 7.
It's ward 6.
I keep thinking it's Ward 5, but it's it was. It's ward 6.
So what we hope in a situation like that, we have a Caribbean restaurant in Ward six. We want to make sure the Ward 6 motors know we want to make sure the Commissioner for Ward six knows about it and that the business owner feels, hey, I'm being connect.
To.
Resources and he might based on 'cause, we have a good relationship with that owner. He might also know of a lot of Caribbean immigrants that come in that ask questions and need resources and help.
So we just wanna make sure that we all, even though we don't have all the tools we can connect folks to the tools that can help them before I move on any particular questions or comments about anything we discussed tonight.
I have a question.
I'm sorry. Can we introduce ourselves to you when we're saying sure, yes.
Word 7. Thank you.
I have a question. I don't want to give us any more work.
Yes, because I think this is such a great resource in the community.
Yes, we all go to Caribbean restaurants and yes, do you think maybe on one page you know we could take, I don't mind taking some plot is wrong.
I'm leaving in some of those establishments.
That's a great idea.
I don't know how to get all I know.
Yeah. The what's going on?
So Commissioner Smith actually has a mock up of doing that one pager.
Which she shared with us.
Thank you, Commissioner Smith.
So once that's completed, we can probably do it like that.
Yeah. Might that be?
It might be back to front.
That's OK, because at least they'll have something.
And right, right, yes. The only thing I wanna be.
Concerned with is if we send out something like this, OK, we have support of immigrants. Mayor, Mayor Bowser, so we know this is good for us. Mopers this is good for us.
We'll just double check everything to make sure it's good.
We don't want someone going somewhere and assuming that because it came from the mayor's office that it's so. We'll just double check that that's the right.
Resources.
That's what I was thinking back.
Maybe we should website, maybe one of our tasks.
Like you said, be adding things in. I don't know is having the one page or yes is great but having something a little pamphlet.
Where when we're doing these?
Tabling events, we just have something that we can constantly give folks.
But yeah, the one page was a great one with websites. Yeah. OK.
Are all these websites linked on our page in some way?
I which page are you looking at?
I can't hire official.
Oh, the main career? No. So.
We would put in a special request to get any of this information on our particular pages.
So our social services health.
Commissioner Francis has a question. Go ahead.

 **Alecia Haughton-Francis** 23:37
Yes, I was just gonna say, you know, first of all, all of the information and resources that was provided tonight.
Bravo, everyone.
I I can't wait to get my hands on it so that I can also have that just to, you know, in my back pocket.
But I was gonna piggyback on on what was just said about passing them out.
I think once we get a go ahead of something that the mayor's office is is okaying, maybe we could have a social media campaign where every.
Day we take a certain part of it and post it because we did get a lot of people who.
A traffic who signed up to be a part of our social media campaign, and so even though you may not be going to a certain establishment or be, you know, out and about, but I think the power of social media is also very important.
And then we could use that leverage that to get information out to our constituents that way as well.

 **EOM-PRESS-CONF** 24:32
Yeah, I think that's a great idea, Commissioner.
So we so two things.
We have one is to try together, one pager said.
Commissioner Ashley Smith was already working on something, so we have that and then we just need final approval and then, with Commissioner Frances stated, maybe a social media blitz one thing per day or one thing per week to start off saying, hey, did you know in just some?
Information. So I think that would be where you think.
Yeah, I was just thinking about a social media post over here.
It's too much information, right?
Any other questions, comments.
And reference to any of the things we discussed so far.
Alright, looking good. Any new business commissioners?
From the war, anything you're hearing from.
Constituents.
I'm sorry, go ahead.
I would think that this morning I went to the office.
I was with Councilman Charles Allen.
It's early in the morning, but you get one-on-one time with the Council person, so it's really good for constituents to go out and speak. You know, if they can take advantage of office hours, I'm not sure the other other council members do, but I know Char.
Allen does them. I think once a month. So if you're having any issues, although you can come to Mocha as well.
The council members would love to hear from you guys so that I did get to attend this morning and it was, you know, definitely one-on-one time with them, I think.
Thank you for saying that. I think that is a great point.
Not only should you know your motives on the mayor's side, you should know who your council members are.
And you should ask them.
Baker said.
Visit your Council members to advocate for whatever interests you might have in your particular ward.
So I hope everyone knows who their Council member is and that actually segues into something that I wanted to talk about tonight, but I forgot.
But you reminded me so thank you.
Which is we have a new Council member.
That will be overseeing our office. So as you all know, our office was started in 2022.
And we have Councilmember Cham White.
And now I believe this 2025 will have Council member Matt Fruman, which is Council member for Ward 3.
So This is why I'm looking at you.
Ramona Phillips.
So we have.
So I believe Commissioner Frances and Commissioner Florent did excellent work actually also Commissioner Huggins, with award a Council member.
Now we have a new Council member who's from Ward 3.
And one of the things I definitely see with the Council members when you are showing that you're doing things within their ward, sometimes they they are more know that you exist.
I did say hi to Commissioner Fruman, I think last week.
Of course, we know each other.
But when I saw that he was going to be overseeing our office, make sure, hey, I see you're overseeing our office. And the first thing.
That he said to me, is yes, I'm excited and I want to see the carnival.
I never mentioned no carnival.
The first thing he said to me.
So I'm glad that we have participants here today that actually I think all of us have been probably to Carnival growing up in Washington, DC and we have one of our.
Guests constituents here that.
So sorry.
So I'll put you on the spot here, but we we're getting a lot of feedback about the carnival. So it's nothing new.
That's the best way everywhere to go.
Yes, yes.
So I I I was actually shocked that that was the first thing he said to me.
Is he when the car I say you and everyone else, so that should tell us.
Maybe in 2025?
And I know some of us feel like we're talking about this very important immigration issues, but at the same time, yes, our culture, our music, our food is something that we got to continue to push forward and let folks know. This is one part of all of us.
Including.
These resources that our constituents need.
Yes, yes, correct Commission.
So this week I testified in front of the Commission.
Baker, could you state which board you're from, and I can think of from Ward 6.
So I just wanted to encourage everybody to if you get the opportunity to testify in front of City Council when bills are are up for or for anything, right, because it does put us in the forefront of.
And and our faces get in front of this.
DC City Council, and especially when it comes to advocating for Caribbean constituents.
But this week was about the State Act, which is a secure apartments for everyone. For those who live in apartment buildings, we know that prime in DC is up and it's going to hold property managers accountable and also make the DOB start the Department of Buildings start to.
Security assessments within apartment buildings and also advocate for apartment for property managers to make sure that exterior and interior locks work on apartments and also if there have been a seizure of weapons or prostitution or drug sales twice within a particular time, then they are, they'll actually kind.
Of get a liaison to deal with the property managers and of course a lot of the landlords were against it because they felt like a lot of.
Of course.
That it would be.
Fines depended on the on the landlord, but of course, at the end of the day, the landlords tend to not live in apartment buildings and as a person who advocates for tenants associations as I'm a tenants association president, it really made a difference because the Council had not.
Taken tenants associations into consideration in crashing the bill, so just wanted to emphasize how important it is to to testify when these bills do come.
Thank you, Commissioner, and bringing up.
Public safety.
I know we spoke at one of our meetings previously about the camera incentive programs and I'm very shocked to find there are a lot of folks that still don't know about these cameras incentive programs.
So I want to push the Public Safety Committee.
We have these toolkits and you can become a camera ambassadors.
And so we so we want to 'cause this is free.
This is what $600.00 up to six up to five. Is it 5?
500 residential and it's a.
Seven for umm, business.
So we, yes, when did you say the information is hard to find?
So we gotta make sure our public safety chair and committee know these numbers and get this information out because like, yes, 500 to 800 and you live in an apartment building, you can get a camera, which I didn't even know, that part that you can get.
A. So we have.
I don't want to say, as you're speaking about crime and public safety, this is just.
Yeah, one of the tools that we wanna push for 2025 is that our folks get these camera rebates and it is not.
Automatic that you have to give the footage over to the Police Department.
That was the issue that people had.
Yes, they did not want to just automatically sign. No. Yes, you if if a crime occurs and it's caught on your camera and you want to give that information, you can, but it is not automatic and they don't have a connection to your.
Station when it comes to that service.
And that's how I actually need to do it again.
I have a new system but.
They really pump it up because also we've had a lot of crime in our stores.
We have over 4000.
Thank you.
So testifying works because, like you said, the Council members get to know us and you push. Yes, Council member Fruman is and we want to see the work that we're doing.
And it also helped.
Like you said, I didn't even know the tenants association.
They weren't recognizing me.
That is it for.
Services person for the Council member and that's a great good to build a relationship with the County Council, right? So.
We we will.
It's online, but we'll add that to maybe our sheet, all the Council members information in there, as you said.
Doctor O'Shea, the constituent services person.
Kai, before we wrap this up, are there, is there anyone online that has any questions or comments?
Can you guys hear us?
Thank you, Commissioner Frances. Any questions, comments.

 **Alecia Haughton-Francis** 34:19
I just wanted to say, you know, I really just really, really satisfied and and really appreciative of the information that we got tonight.
I'm actually in Florida and I will tell you that the conversations that I'm hearing from people here about how concerned they are about immigration issue and not feeling supported by their the governor or or the the powers that be here is is frightening.
So, you know, kudos to our.
City leadership to the mayor, to to all of you who are doing all this work to ensure that, you know our fellow immigrants who are in DC, know that there are resources out there to help them as we are facing the unknown.
And so I I really am just just want to say thank you so much to everyone who presented tonight. And as I said previously, I can't wait to get my hands on this information and help out in any way we can because I think what we will be.
Probably.
A leader in this area showing the rest of the country that regardless of what is coming, you know if we have, if you're prepared and you know, we could be thought partners with other constituents and stuff to come to, to get this kind of information out. So I
am really excited about this thing, you know.
Thank you again to everyone who put that work in for today's meeting. It's very informative.

 **EOM-PRESS-CONF** 35:44
Thank you, Commissioner Frances.
I I think you're spot on because we have a lot of folks that come to Washington DC just to get resources because we are working together with the mayor, the Commissioners.
To take care of our community.
So it's a lot of work, but.
We just don't want, excuse me.
We want our community to know that we have their back.
I'm sorry guys.
You like? Just drink the water that's in front of you.
Right.
Yeah.
So unless there are any other questions, we don't need to prolong this meeting any longer than necessary.
I would like to ask is the holiday tree still downstairs from last night 'cause we could take a nice little holiday photo in front of that tree. I have no idea.
OK, we can do a trip. OK. OK.
No. Well, we can wrap up. OK. 'cause, I I don't think there's any other questions right now.
No, everyone feel good.
This is what happened when you just went in.
The Commission's on point high is on point.
I don't know about the director, but.
Yes, yes.
So officially, yes, we are officially closing out the meeting.
Guys, thank you so much.
We're just going to take a nice little holiday picture and we will put your faces on those.
Meeting adjourned.
Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

 **Alecia Haughton-Francis** 37:21
Hey.

 **EOM-PRESS-CONF** 37:22
Actually, Kai did you?
Oh, there is. Wait, please. Sorry.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** stopped transcription