

IMA Town Hall Gathering

Dunbar Cultural Center

December 15, 2014

MINUTES

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Pastor Otis F. Brown, Jr., (IMA President)

Reading of Minutes – Secretary read the November 17, IMA Town Hall meeting – No changes were voiced/submitted to the Secretary.

Pastor Amos L. Lewis opened the meeting and thanked the Tucson Urban League for sponsoring tonight's meeting. Announced that all 2015 Town Hall meetings will be held at the Dunbar Cultural Center due to available parking and rental space coupled with a lower rental rate. Pastor Lewis requested churches, organizations or individuals to volunteer to sponsor upcoming meetings in the amount of \$325.00. Pastor Lewis spoke to the concern of IMA Pastors about the Monday meeting dates and to a name change of the IMA Town Hall Meeting. Concern was raised about encouraging other people to attend who may think that this is for church people only. Pastor Lewis stressed that we are an inclusive group of all who wish to focus on our local African American agenda which makes things better for everyone in the community. Also asked for feedback on the IMA guidelines, share ideas because this is work in progress. Pastor Lewis pointed out the designated table for distribution of information of interest to the African American community.

Later, Pastor Lewis asked domain leaders to introduce themselves and assigned areas to convene their Domain meetings. Domain leaders were asked to reconvene with a verbal and written report at 7:00 PM. All Domain deliberations began with their Leaders discussing their agenda, domain goals/issues.

Pastor Lewis reconvened the participants and each domain provided highlights/results of their meeting as follows:

Communication Action Team (CAT) – Domain Leaders gave highlights and results @ **7:00 p.m.**

a. Arts and Culture – Barbea Williams

- Reported on working with Black Lives Matter Conference to be held January 17, 2015 at the U of A.
- First domain meeting; in the process of recruiting others to attend.
- Discussed a song that captured all who believe in freedom

b. Business – Bill Madison

- Discussed fundamental changes that need to be addressed to include how to save, invest and getting out of debt.

Business cont'd

- Also discussed three must haves (cash, credit and collateral) before approaching a bank for a business loan.
- Continued discussion on African Americans buying existing businesses instead of investing in startups.

c. Communication - Pastor Amos L. Lewis

- Church directory is still being developed.
- Discussed developing an IMA Town Hall postcard for distribution at the MLK celebration. Later to be developed into a brochure.
- Continuing to input names and email addresses for town Hall participants

Results:

- Completed and distributed a hard copy of the African American Calendar of Events but still looking for more dates
- Posted pictures of Town Hall meetings on the IMA website.
- Communication domain will not be producing an AA business directory but will encourage information input on the website currently maintained by Barney Murray www.Tucsonblackpages.org
Businesses are encouraged to go to this website and input your information. Organizations are also encouraged to input their data on www.sabineonline.org for current events and organization listings. If unable to input information, please contact Barney Murray, Website owner, BHMurray@BHMurray.com 520-390-4723.

d. Criminal Justice - Pastor DaMond T. Holt

- Continued to stress the importance of Recruiting African Americans in law enforcement; establishing rapport between law enforcement and the community; and reforming law enforcement policies

Results:

- Recruiting update – 12 AA candidates with 4 going through the Police academy now.
- Rapport update - D Leaders will be present education on ideas to reduce law enforcement complaints and getting to know the community by participating in youth activities i.e. present at Boys and girls club activities. D Leaders scheduled to meet with the Police Chief this week.

Criminal Justice cont'd

- Reform Update: domain will focus on affecting and changing policies that impact the AA community negatively

e. Education - Pastor E. J. McDowell

- Discussed volunteering to organize summer programs for kids

Results:

- D Leader met with TUSD Asst. Supt Eugene Butler and discussed various topics of interest to the African American community
- Sent survey form to pastors to distribute to parents. Will bring sign-up sheets to the next Town Hall meeting for volunteers to assist students.

f. Health and Wellness - Rev. Gregory Baldwin

- Discussed and identified health topics needed in the African American community.

Results:

- Participants will identify AA in the community with the skill sets needed to assist in Mental health, Nutrition, Health education and Budgeting.

g. Political Action - Deborah Embry

- Discussed mobilizing the town Hall around issues and putting together a mobilization plan to implement when needed.
- Consistently make an effort to man a table at AA events to register to vote
- Discussed amending Stand your ground law in AZ
- Increasing the number of AA candidates for city and county positions

Results:

- Encouraged domain leaders to use the goal sheet developed by the PA domain to monitor their goals
- Appeared at the City Council meeting and spoke on Ban the box on city applications. City approved the action.
- Planned Black Lives Matter Protest for Saturday, December 20 in front of Prince Chapel Church at the Electric Light Holiday Parade. More details will be sent.

h. Religion - Apostle Warren Anderson, Jr.

- Discussed the Interfaith community of churches will have a MLK service. More details to be developed.

Religion cont'd

Results:

- Thanked participants at the recent Thanksgiving service held at Friendship MBC.
- Visitations to assisted living, and other shut in facilities has been expanded to see as many people as possible.

Pastor Lewis thanked Domain leaders for their report and made the following comments:

- IMA will have a table at the MLK celebration with Town Hall information
- Encouraged Town Hall participants to invite others to attend the meetings

- Need for financial sponsors of upcoming meetings. October 2015 expenses have a commitment.

- 85 people in attendance at the meeting tonight

-Emphasized attendance at the Domain leaders meeting and the change in meeting date for January's meeting of January 26. See calendar.

-Requested additional IMA Town Hall Calendar dates.

-Please review the IMA Town Hall Community Calendar of Events for 2015.

Comments from the participants included:

- Need to work with the Prosecutor's office; recruiting candidates for the sheriff and Highway Patrol as well.

-Announced next year's vacancies for Mayor and three City council seats

- No comments from Public Information Officers - Pastor DaMond T. Holt and Pastor D. Grady Scott.

Adjournment in Prayer - Apostle Warren Anderson, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances B. Miller, Secretary
IMA Town Hall

Documents rec'd:

-IMA Town Hall Calendar 2015

-IMA Political Action Domain work Plan

-National Urban League 10-Point Journey to Justice Plan.

-Dec 15, 2014 domain Agendas for: Education, Communication, Health and Wellness

-Dec 15, 2014 domain minutes/reports for Business

-Dec 15. 2014 sign in sheets