

# THE GOVERNOR

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

[4 PA. CODE CH. 5]

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 1996-3]

### Governor's Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs

May, 10, 1999

*Whereas*, the history of African Americans in Pennsylvania reflects a diverse and unique blend of cultural, social, and economic influences which have had and continue to have a beneficial impact on life in the Commonwealth; and

*Whereas*, African-American citizens continue to gain access to avenues of economic development, including access to capital for business formation, educational opportunities necessary for effective business development and growth, and to established networking relationships, as well as to innovative techniques designed to encourage and promote minority business ownership; and

*Whereas*, to ensure numerous gains achieved over the years which have resulted in increased access to political, economic, and institutional systems, expanded opportunities in education and employment, and the passage and enforcement of important antidiscrimination legislation, African Americans are still confronted with systemic conditions which disproportionately affect this segment of our population adversely and limits opportunities; and

*Whereas*, a forum is required within which the unique needs and issues of concern that are prevalent in the African-American community and integrity of all of the citizens of our Commonwealth can be articulated and addressed.

*Now, Therefore*, I, Thomas J. Ridge, 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, do hereby reestablish, in the Office of the Governor, the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") as the Commonwealth's advocate agency for its African-American citizens as hereinafter set forth.

#### Annex A

#### TITLE 4. ADMINISTRATION

#### PART I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

#### CHAPTER 5. COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

#### Subchapter YY. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

#### § 5.701. Functions.

The functions of the Commission are to:

(1) Advise the Governor on policies, procedures, legislation and regulations which affect the African-American community and which will enable the Commonwealth to be responsive to the needs of the African-American community.

(2) 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 in contracting practices and procedures.

(3) Provide appropriate assistance and advice to the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, as may be necessary, to assist the

authority in its statutory duties and functions as the principal State agency for the promotion and encouragement of minority economic development within this Commonwealth.

(4) Serve as a liaison to Federal, State and local agencies to ensure that programs affecting African-Americans are effectively utilized and that benefits accrue equitably to members of the African-American community.

(5) Work with the Governor's Office and the African-American community to promote legislation which ensures the equitable treatment of all citizens of this Commonwealth.

(6) Serve as a resource for community groups on African-American issues, programs, sources of funding and compliance requirements within State government for the benefit and advancement of African-Americans.

(7) Assist local African-American community groups in developing strategies and programs which will expand and enhance the social, cultural and economic status of the African-American community.

(8) Work with the Bureau of Equal Employment Opportunity to strengthen the enforcement of the Commonwealth's antidiscriminatory hiring, retention and promotion policies.

(9) Promote the cultural arts in their various forms within the African-American community through coordinated efforts and advocacy.



*Governor*

**Fiscal Note:** GOV. 99-4. No fiscal impact; (8) recommends adoption.

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