



African Diaspora for Good Governance PAC

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Virginia House of Delegates
General Laws Subcommittee #1 Hearing
Thursday, February 3, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Hon. Chijike Ndukwu
National President

Chuks D. Eleonu, Sr.
Executive Director

SUPPORTING HB 952

African Diaspora for Good Governance advocates for policies, programs, and services that addresses key priority issues affecting African immigrant communities and their households who now call America home. We also educate our immigrant communities on the vital importance of Voting en-bloc and speaking with One Voice. For more details about ADGG, please visit us online at adgg.org -or- adggpac.org

African Diaspora for Good Governance strongly supports House Bill #952 – calling for the establishment of a Virginia African Diaspora Advisory Board. We thank Delegate Maldonado and this committee for taking the bold step in considering this long overdue legislation.

With a growing population of over 5 million living here in the U.S. (according to the Census Bureau), **African Diaspora has reached a critical mass and should be granted the same opportunities its Latinx and Asian communities currently enjoy.** It is a misnomer and a farce to say or assume that African Diaspora and African Americans are one and the same. To the contrary, African Diaspora have other serious issues beyond those it shares in common with African Americans. For example, African Americans do not have immigration and visa problems; and Latinx are not the only ones that have “ethnicity” when filling out job application forms !

Many African Diasporans live and vote in the DC-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) region. Many are high income earners and operate successful small businesses. The State of Maryland has an African Affairs Commission, so does Montgomery County, MD, the City of Philadelphia, PA, and the District of Columbia. It therefore makes sense to establish a similar Advisory Board in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Furthermore, **African Diaspora are not fully represented in the jurisdictions where they live.** Based on the 2020 Census, of all the Black population in the DMV region, African Diaspora make up the following percentages in these Virginia localities, as follows: Arlington & Alexandria Counties – 46%; Prince William County – 29%; Fredericksburg – 29%; Loudon County – 21%; Charlottesville – 34%; Henrico County – 18%; Safford County – 17%; Spotsylvania County – 17%. In Maryland and DC: Montgomery County – 32%; Prince Georges County – 53%; Baltimore County – 41%; Howard County – 27%; and the District of Columbia – 32%.

African Diaspora have key priority issues that are different from those shared by African Americans !

Establishing a Virginia African Diaspora Advisory Board would place this underserved community at par with its Latinx and Asian community counterparts, without diluting the African American Advisory Board.

Signed – Chuks D. Eleonu, Sr.