

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 3-05 - A

WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1990's and continuing until today, several African countries have undergone severe civil war and political unrest, leading to genocide of many ethnic and religious minorities, as well as the exile of former government leaders and their families, creating hundreds of thousands of refugees and political asylees; and

WHEREAS, Several international humanitarian and international faith based organizations intervened in Africa's refugee crisis by arranging to resettle many refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sudan and Somalia to communities within the United States; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, political unrest throughout the Caribbean, especially in Haiti, created an additional refugee crisis within the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of African and Caribbean refugees have resettled in Philadelphia in recognition of its history of tolerance, freedom, and personal liberty, and to reunite with family members who came to Philadelphia earlier; and

WHEREAS, This recent African immigration is a new phenomenon with specific needs that must be recognized and validated through policies and programs designed and implemented in a culturally relevant manner with respect for language, gender customs, religion, and family order; and

WHEREAS, The Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM) is a viable organization that represents the leadership of the African immigrant community here in Philadelphia and that should assist with the creation of the Commission on African and the Caribbean Immigrant Affairs

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me in accordance with Sections 3-100(h) and 3-207 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

The Philadelphia Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs ("the Commission") is hereby established in the Mayor's Office, which Office shall pay, from appropriations made to it, all the expenses of such Commission.

SECTION 2. FUNCTION OF COMMISSION.

The function of the Commission shall be to encourage the development and implementation of policies, programs, and practices specifically intended to improve

conditions affecting the cultural, social, economic, political, educational, health and general well-being of African and Caribbean immigrants, refugees, and asylees residing in Philadelphia. The Commission shall make recommendations with regard to the Mayor and all appropriate officers and agencies of the City, all relating to the improvement of conditions in Philadelphia for African and Caribbean immigrant communities.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall be composed of nine (9) members, who shall serve without compensation. The Mayor shall appoint the members of the Commission as follows:

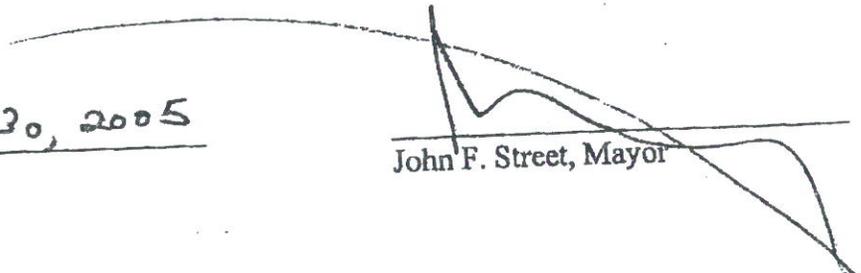
- (a) The President of City Council or his or her designee;
- (b) The Executive Director/Leader of the Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM) or his or her designee.
- (c) Seven (7) other members appointed by the Mayor.

SECTION 4. COMMISSION OFFICERS.

The Commission chair and all other officers of the Commission will be elected by the Commission from among its members.

SECTION 5. This Order shall be effective immediately.

June 30, 2005
Date



John F. Street, Mayor