



Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs

Special Call Meeting

Virtual ZOOM

Thursday, August 21, 2025

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Curtis Ward
Vice Chair Luis McSween
Dr. Melissa Buckley, Member
Gabriel Christian, Member
Samantha Howard, Member
Anderson Jean (New)
Elaine Simon, Member
Kasandra Tucker, Member

Commissioners Absent:

Habacuc Petion, Member
Dr. Carla Sewer, Member

Guests: N/A

GOCI Staff: Silvia Gomez Decja, Admin. Director- Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant – (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

- ❖ Chair Curtis Ward, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Chair Curtis Ward provided the reason for this special meeting. He also introduced our new commissioner, Anderson Jean.

III. Motion to accept "Maryland Caribbean Voices" forum proposal:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
To accept the proposal for a forum called "Maryland Caribbean Voices".	Gabriel Christian	VC Luis McSween	7Y-0N-0A

Discussion: Commissioners Dr. Melissa Buckley and Samantha Howard presented their proposal for this event. This proposal is to consider hosting a Caribbean Voices Forum. The event aims to create a 90-minute virtual forum on identity, wellness, and belonging for the Caribbean diaspora in Maryland. The group discussed panelist selection criteria, event logistics, and promotional strategies. This virtual event has been scheduled for October 30, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. The commission would like this event recording posted to the website and YouTube.

IV. Motion for Adjournment:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Adjournment of meeting at 7:50 p.m.	Dr. Melissa Buckley	Samantha Howard	8Y-0N-0A