American Friends
Service Committee

Ohio Global Village Initiative · 915 Salem Avenue, Dayton, OH 45406 · 937-278-4225 · afsc.org

April 11, 2016

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

Subject: New African Immigrants Commission (NAIC)

We are pleased to inform you that the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has been engaging the African immigrant constituency in Ohio since 2002. Currently, AFSC is engaging African immigrants and the faith community with a view to advocating for the full implementation of the New African Immigrants Commission (NAIC). We strongly believe that NAIC will be instrumental in fostering immigrant entrepreneurship and integration in Ohio.

In 2009, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio enacted NAIC through the House Bill (H.B. No. 432) whose purpose was “to establish a New African Immigrants Commission to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the State’s sub-Saharan African population.” In this regard, the constituency is very concerned about the long delay in the appointment of African residents to the Commission. The Ohio Revised Code stipulates, among other things, the following provisions:

1) Section 4112.31. “The New African Immigrants Commission shall gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and programs concerning sub-Saharan African people.”

2) Section 4112.32. “There is hereby created the New African Immigrants Commission consisting of eleven members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.”

3) Section 4112.33. “The office of new African immigrant affairs is hereby created; The office shall be accountable to the New African Immigrants Commission; The chief administrator of the office shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission.”

On the whole, the African constituency is particularly inspired by your message of hope for immigrants and they are determined to make positive contributions to socio-economic development in Ohio. We therefore, urge you to appoint all eleven African immigrants to the New African Immigrants Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

Sincerely,

Migwe Kimemia
Program Director