



Executive Order 2022-5

August 25, 2022

Establishing the African American Ambassadors Group

WHEREAS, in May 2020, Mayor Elorza convened the African American Ambassadors Group (AAAG), a group of faith leaders who served as a direct line of communication between the community and the Administration to ensure equitable access to COVID-19-related care and resources; and

WHEREAS, the AAAG has since expanded, establishing subcommittees that provide African heritage and Indigenous people and allies the ability to make strategic recommendations to close racial equity gaps in related subgroups citywide; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2020, Mayor Elorza, joined by members of the AAAG and community members, enacted a community-driven Executive Order committing the City to a process of Truth, Reconciliation, and municipal Reparations for African heritage and Indigenous people in Providence; and

WHEREAS, the AAAG had a leadership role in establishing other policies and programs including: the removal of the term "plantations" from all City documents and oath ceremonies and from the State of Rhode Island name; declaration of Juneteenth as a City holiday to recognize the emancipation of slavery and honor the history, perseverance, and achievements of Black Americans; and the creation of the Providence Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Department; and

WHEREAS, the AAAG is an established group of community leaders who protect, uplift, celebrate, and empower the African American community in Providence by developing and advancing the City of Providence policies that dismantle oppressive systems and extinguish racial, social, and economic equity gaps for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the AAAG currently meets virtually three times a month, for 90 minutes per meeting, with at least 10 City of Providence staff members and community members, with Mayor Elorza joining meetings twice a month; and

WHEREAS, all three 2022 Mayoral candidates, including Gonzalo Cuervo, Nirva LaFortune and Brett Smiley, committed on June 15, 2022, at the Arts + Culture Providence Mayoral Candidate Community Forum to continue meeting with the AAAG at the frequency that we have currently established; and

NOW THEREFORE, do I, Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of the City of Providence, order the following, effective immediately:

1. The African American Ambassadors Group is hereby formally established as a permanent entity by this Executive Order.

This executive order shall remain in full effect until it is repealed.

So Ordered:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor