



# THE C-PAC INFORMER

Political Issues Impacting the  
Caribbean American Diaspora

Volume 6 Issue 1 Fall 2021

## Letter from the Chair

Dear C-PAC members and supporters,

We hope you all doing well. As we begin the season of thanksgiving and the pageantry of the Christmas holidays, let us pause to remember those that left us during this lingering pandemic. Let us also pause in gratitude for the gift of another season.

### Annual General Meeting

Our Board of Directors (BOD), together with our Advisory Board, have been working diligently to prepare for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the election of Officers. Our bylaws were amended earlier this year. The changes will allow us to ensure the seamless continuity of C-PAC. Because of these changes, all BOD positions will be up for election this year. And, because of the pandemic, the AGM will be postponed until Saturday, January 15, 2022. However, **NOMINATIONS** of officers will be accepted from December 1, 2021 – December 6, 2021; **VOTING** will take place via Survey Monkey from December 8, 2021 – December 16, 2021. The **RESULTS** will be announced during the AGM. We encourage all eligible members to consider running for office. You may access the bylaws here (<https://www.caribbeanpac.org/documents/CPAC-Bylaws.pdf>) to review the BOD positions and responsibilities.

### Who is eligible to run for office on C-PAC's Board of Executives?

Our annual in-person Founding Patrons Luncheon has served as the foundation for our annual membership drive and renewal. The restrictions brought on by the pandemic prevented us from hosting an in-person luncheon this year and last year. Consequently, we did not collect all membership dues in 2020. The BOD has decided that those members who were current with their dues in 2019 (but did not pay in 2020), and renew their membership in 2021, will be eligible for election to the Board. Of course, all members whose membership did not lapse during this time are eligible.

### C-PAC's Leadership in the fight for the Exoneration of the Rt. Hon. Marcus M. Garvey

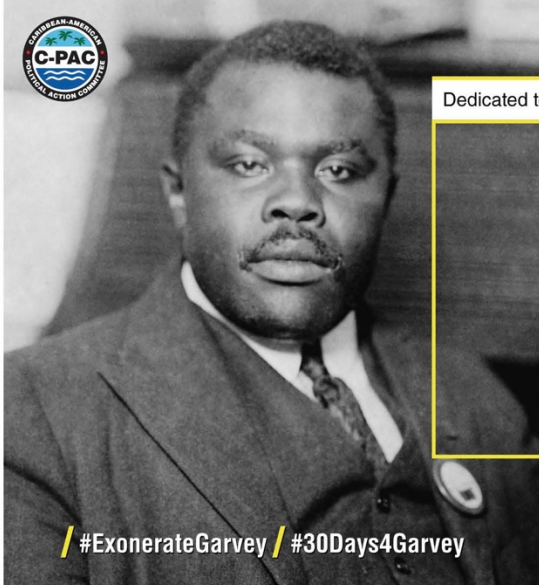
C-PAC promised to continue to the fight we began in 2015 (along with several organizations) for the exoneration of the Rt. Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey. We reiterated that promise again during our 2020 seminal Africans Unite Summit ([AUS DELIVER 1 - YouTube](#)). So, again with several organizations, C-PAC has embarked on a global campaign to petition President Joe Biden to grant a posthumous pardon to the Rt. Honorable Marcus Garvey. To that end, our goal is to gather the 100,000 signatures necessary to elicit a response from the President. The signatures must be collected within a stipulated 30-day period.

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022

Dedicated to gathering 100,000 (one hundred thousand) signatures **WORLDWIDE**

REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM  
**The White House and President Biden**  
FOR A POSTHUMOUS EXONERATION OF THE  
**Rt. Honorable Marcus Garvey**  
FOR HIS UNJUST PERSECUTION AND IMPRISONMENT  
BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN 1923

Signatures **MUST** be collected within a **30-DAY PERIOD**  
(February 1, 2022 – March 2, 2022)

SIGNATURE  
DEADLINE  
3.2.2022  
*It's time!*

Get your friends and family to sign at  
**justice4garvey.org**

Our innovative approach is to solicit Global Co-Chairs from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America for this worthwhile effort. “If we can get 20 thousand signatures from each of these regions we will meet our goal,” said Dr. Goulda Downer, C-PAC Chair, and architect of the campaign. The signature gathering will be conducted during the entire month of February 2022, which is Black History month in the U.S. Focused marketing awareness will begin in late-November of 2021 and continue through February 2022. Assuming that we are successful, we will then ask President Biden to honor the voices of our global citizens and make amends for the 1923 unjust persecution and imprisonment of the Rt. Honorable Marcus M. Garvey.

Our exoneration committee global Vice-Chairs, Dr. Ayize Sabater, Dr Elaine Knight, and Ms. Madia Logan have been working for months to finalize logistics for the campaign. Ms. Keilia Phillips is our media contact.

C-PAC’s previous attempt during the Obama administration was insufficient to get a response from the White House. We encourage everyone to support this historic effort by encouraging everyone in their communities and social networks to sign the petition beginning on February first and throughout Black History month. Visit the website [www.justice4garvey.org](http://www.justice4garvey.org) for more information.

*“I trust that you will so live today as to realize that you are masters of your own destiny, masters of your fate; if there is anything you want in this world, it is for you to strike out with confidence and faith in self and reach for it.”*

— Marcus Garvey

# 2021



## Annual Founding Patrons' Luncheon

Our Founding Patrons Luncheon was once again virtual this year because of COVID-19. Our focus was a forum on the Emergency in Haiti and the Haitian Crisis at the U.S. Border. The forum, which was presented via Zoom, was streamed live. Three hundred and sixteen persons from around the globe participated. Ambassador Curtis A. Ward, Former ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations; Rev. Joseph Constant, President, Haiti Micah Project; Dr. Alix Desulme, President, National Haitian Elected Officials Network; Dr. Thelma Phillip-Browne, Ambassador of the Embassy of St. Kitts and Nevis in Washington, DC, were the panelist. The forum was moderated by immigration attorney Jaye Ann Lowe, who also serves as C-PAC's Advisory Board Vice-Chair.

The forum began with the welcome by C-PAC Chair, Dr. Goulda Downer, followed by prayers in Haitian Creole and English by panelist Rev. Joseph Constant. This was followed

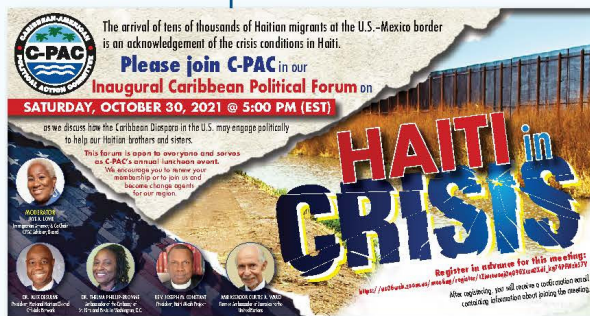
by the panelists speaking to the rich, deep, history of the Haitian people, and their many contributions to the world <https://youtu.be/Frn2dRV59jU>. The focus then shifted to the current conditions in Haiti followed by the historical reasons for those conditions, and their impact on the migration of Haitians, in significant numbers to the U.S. border. We discussed how members of the Caribbean Diaspora, resident in our region, may coalesce around a common effort to help and support Haitian kin at the U.S. Border. We determined that the best way to do that, would be to petition

municipalities and counties in our region to welcome their relocation here. This is not a new approach since welcoming cities have already been established elsewhere in the U.S.

To that end, we have developed a petition ([available via this link](#)) for that purpose. We encourage everyone, especially members of the Caribbean diaspora to sign it. Armed with your petitions, we will seek meetings with our regional leaders - Governors, Mayor, County Executives- to request that they consider our appeal.

*"People should join C-PAC to make it a more powerful and effective body. Anything you want out of C-PAC can be accomplished as C-PAC becomes stronger and more representative of the Caribbeans in the Diaspora".*

— Comment from a Forum participant



*We discussed how members of the Caribbean Diaspora, resident in our region, may coalesce around a common effort to help and support Haitian kin at the U.S. Border.*

## C-PAC's OWN ROY LAYNE

### ...in his own words

I have served on the Board of Directors/Trustees of various nonprofits over the years. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), the opportunities to serve, are numerous. There are many such requests that I have declined. However, in 2008, I volunteered to become the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC). I expected to serve for one, or at the most, two terms. But I have been reelected numerous times and continue to serve in that position. As a Founding Patron of C-PAC, it has been a pleasure, and an honor, to serve the organization and the Caribbean-American community in that capacity. However, due to a change in my career path, I will be vacating the Treasurer's chair shortly.

The performance of the Treasurer of a Political Action Committee (PAC) is of critical importance to the success of such an organization. The Chair or President has the ultimate responsibility for the organization,

but the Treasurer is responsible not only to the members and the Board, but also to the responsible governmental jurisdictions, in C-PAC's case, the District of Columbia Office of Campaign Finance (OCF). The Treasurer's key responsibilities include safeguarding, recording, and reporting the finances of the organization. A Treasurer's failure to execute these responsibilities effectively and efficiently has been the downfall of many organizations. A Treasurer is often the hardest working member of a board. For these reasons, and the legal responsibility imposed on the Treasurer by the OCF, many members of a PAC are reluctant to seek the Treasurer's position. During my tenure as Treasurer, I was once summoned to the OCF to explain why C-PAC should not be fined for the late (by a couple of days) filing of a report.

It is my view that a person should serve an organization for the right reasons, and in a position for which they have the requisite knowledge and

experience. They should surround themselves with good people who are willing to do their part. I have always enjoyed giving of my time to others in various capacities. My strength in financial management, and my training and experience as a CPA, is invaluable in the performance of a Treasurer's functions. Honesty and trustworthiness are attributes that must compliment these "technical" skills.

I will continue to serve C-PAC as best I can. I encourage others to join C-PAC - or other organizations - for the right reasons, and not for the purpose of enhancing their resume. Like me, I'm sure they will find the experience rewarding.

Sound financial planning is critical to an organization such as C-PAC. The Board of directors and members offer our heartfelt thanks to our treasurer, Mr. Roy Layne for his years of service girded with his high degree of fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency. Thank you, Roy!

## The Caribbean on the Move



Last year we celebrated the historic firsts for many national, newsworthy events including the first woman to hold the post as the Vice-President of these United States of America. VP Kamala Harris (D) continues to break barriers. On Friday, November 15, 2021, she became the first woman to be given presidential powers when she acted as President for approximately 85 minutes while President Biden underwent a medical procedure. Joining her in these "firsts" is Winsome Sears (R), who is the lieutenant governor-elect of Virginia. A former marine, Sears is the first female lieutenant governor and the first woman of color to win statewide office in Virginia. Both Harris and Sears are of Jamaican heritage. C-PAC Celebrates these trailblazing women of the Caribbean.

*Left: Vice President Kamala Harris*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Chair

Dr. Goulda Downer

### Vice Chair of Finance

Suzanne Matthews-Williams

### Vice of Membership

Max Levasseur

### Treasurer

Roy Layne, CPA

### Vice Chair Communications

Mark Beckford

### Vice Chair-at-Large

Dr. Frankie Jefferson

### Executive Secretary

Marvena Simmons

## ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Ivan Walks (*Chair*)

Jaye Ann Lowe, Esq (*Vice Chair*)

Dr. Donna Christensen Ret. Cong.

Dr. Rudolph Douglas

Carmen Edwards

Tonya Fasusi

Chris Gardiner, C-PAC (*Co-Founder*)

Dr. Allan Johnson

Luigi LeBlanc

Jacqueline Sealey

Dr. Solanges Vivens

Curtis Ward, Esq

## C-PAC Newsletter Committee

Goulda Downer  
Denise Bailey  
Jhanel Hart, Esq.  
Jacqueline Sealey

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share with us some things you would love to see! Have an idea? Send us a message!

### STAY IN TOUCH

Have you liked our Facebook page?



Follow Us @CPACDMV



Email: [Cpac.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:Cpac.dmv@gmail.com)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/caribbean-american-pac>

<https://www.instagram.com/cpacdmv/?r=nametag>



### STAY INVOLVED

C-PAC celebrates 16 years. Follow us on social media on how you can get involved in our activities this year.

### ADDRESS

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Suite 300  
Washington, DC

### PHONE

202-349-1498

### WEBSITE

[www.Caribbeanpac.org](http://www.Caribbeanpac.org)

## »» Upcoming Events ««

C-PAC thrives because of the commitment and service of our members. We look forward to your active participation in the life of C-PAC

### I. ELECTIONS:

- i. NOMINATIONS of officers will be accepted from December 1, 2021 – December 6, 2021
- ii. VOTING will take place via Survey Monkey from December 8, 2021 – December 16, 2021.

### II. Please join us for the Annual General Meeting on

Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 12:00 -2:00 PM (EST)