

From: [Umpstead, Keahna \(CAAA\)](#)
To: [Kerney, Charlotte \(CAAA\)](#)
Subject: FW: WA Department of Commerce and CAAA Advisory Committee
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026 8:53:47 AM

From: Linda Smith <linda-smith1@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 5:51 AM
To: Griffin, Michelle (COM) <michelle.griffin@commerce.wa.gov>; Todd, Joseph <jtodd@bellevuewa.gov>; Prince, Ed (CAAA) <ed.prince@caaa.wa.gov>; Umpstead, Keahna (CAAA) <keahna.umpstead@caaa.wa.gov>; Auzimuth.Jackson@leg.wa.gov; derick@besrwa.org; dpayne@ci.olympia.wa.us; mjj22@uw.edu; Sardinas, Paula <paulasardinas@fmsglobalstrategies.com>; sgray@thenbcf.org; info@thenbcf.org; Bailey, Michael (CAAA Commissioner) <michael.bailey@caaa.wa.gov>; Retlin, Cary (COM) <cary.retlin@commerce.wa.gov>
Cc: Dr. Linda Smith <linda-smith1@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: WA Department of Commerce and CAAA Advisory Committee

External Email

Tuesday, December 1, 2025

Greetings: First, to the African American Affairs Committee, Mr. Todd and honorable committee members, Ms. Griffin and Staff, I am honored to serve on this committee. As a descendant of chattel slavery and growing up in the South in deep racism, this process is so important for repairing harm that has been done historically over four hundred years to Black people. I also thank you Ms. Griffin for the reminder of the confidentiality of the process and of our agreement to honor that. I respect the process because it is who I am. I have served as Director of Human Resources for many years of a government agency and served on many selection boards, even for my city government. I have maintained confidentiality throughout the years and respect processes and will always honor that.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated: "there comes a time when silence is a betrayal of our soul. He also says, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because

conscience tells him it is right.” I believe that moment exists. I believe it is important to not be silence and that Justice is always about doing the right things. As I do not know the official awardee, I don't know how other people voted on their individual rating, but what I expected and thought would happen that another conversation would take place before a contractor was awarded where more objective conversation could have taken place. Individual ratings are always subjective.

With that said the community is in upheaval about the awardee. Somehow, they have received the information about the awardee and it is creating very negative vibes and dissension in the community. It is not just one person, but groups of people that are disseminating the information on social media, and to vary circles. I know that we are in the protest period.

My understanding of reparation is to repair harm. This process is intended to repair harm that has been done not to create more harm. If what is being done is a deterrent to the community, as a Leaders of the Black Community and of good moral conscience I believe more discernments must take place.

I humbly request that we **PAUSE** this process before we move forward. No decision is worth damaging an already damaged relationship. I am not willing to sacrifice my soul nor my community for the sake of proving a point. Thank you for listening and hearing my voice and voice of the community. Justice is always right at any given moment.

Thank you for listening to the voice of the people.

Dr. Linda M. Smith
Sr. Pastor Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist
Church

Executive Director, Renton King County Alliance
for Justice
Board member, SAARC

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr.

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Griffin, Michelle \(COM\)](#)

Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 2:04 PM

To: [Todd, Joseph](#); [Prince, Ed \(CAAA\)](#); [Umpstead, Keahna \(CAAA\)](#); Auzimuth.Jackson@leg.wa.gov; derick@besrwa.org; dpayne@ci.olympia.wa.us; linda-smith1@comcast.net; mjj22@uw.edu; [Sardinas, Paula](#); sgray@thenbcf.org; info@thenbcf.org; [Bailey, Michael \(CAAA Commissioner\)](#); [Retlin, Cary \(COM\)](#)

Subject: WA Department of Commerce and CAAA Advisory Committee

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: <https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/j/87366006531?pwd=uJWyo07NSRdaBVR36TiMomKfa9tUjH.1>

Good afternoon everyone,

I am conducting the debriefs for the unsuccessful bidders this week. Once the protest period ends, then I will send you all the name of the Apparent Successful bidder.

This meeting on 12/10/25 will be to discuss the prioritization of any new funding for the study.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Griffin, Michelle (COM) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/j/87366006531?pwd=uJWyo07NSRdaBVR36TiMomKfa9tUjH.1>

Meeting ID: 873 6600 6531

Passcode: 917014

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,87366006531#,,,,*917014# US (Tacoma)

+19712471195,,87366006531#,,,,*917014# US (Portland)

Join instructions

<https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/meetings/87366006531/invitations?signature=Z0ejsQEsWdV0RjmCuc2WwE64h04XflvuMpbLnanlyWl>

