

My name is Alphonse Wright. I am the Treasurer for the African-American Affairs Commission. This commission should not be cut! I could tell you about all the contributions, the accomplishments and the difference the African-American Affairs Commission has made. Anything I would share with you in that regard, you probably already have knowledge of it.

The forces that propelled the Legislature to enact this Commission are still alive today. The African-American Affairs Commission is still very much needed. As we state in 'Why The Commission Is Needed', "Although measurable gains have been made, disparities particularly remain in education, health, and within the labor markets. The Challenges facing African-Americans are numerous and this Commission's mission, in spite of the gains, has not yet been met. The Commission is an integral force in the effort to eradicate race-based disparities in the state."

The African-American Affairs Commission's voice is still needed to quell those forces that had the Legislature bring this Commission to life. The Commission is a way of life, a way of being and a faith to move progress forward in the African-American community.

My daughter said it best. "It might be genetic---but in my home, you live your faith. You see, my father taught me that God is in all of us. Once you open yourself to the divine in others, it becomes impossible to sit back and watch the destruction of human dignity on a daily basis. In the image of Dr. King, in the image of my father, I call myself a spiritual strategist, laboring each day for a better world." I liken The African-American Affairs Commission to a spiritual strategist, laboring each day for a better community and a better world. Let us continue to live in this manner.