Minutes of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission meeting 1/20/2023

Chairman Mark McCormick called the meeting to order at 2:04.
Commissioners present: McRoy, McCormick, Penn, Westbrook, Lewis, ED Knoell
Commissioners absent: New, Davis

The only order of business was to vote on the legislative priorities for the 2023 session. As per last week’s discussion, Commissioner Penn did put forth her votes for priorities bringing the final tally to:

Bail reform; 5 votes
Veteran’s Benefit Bill; 5 votes
Holiday for sales tax on school supplies; 5 votes
Driver’s License fines and fees; 4 votes
Policing and training, in-depth stop data; 3 votes

The question at hand was how to handle adopting this slate of priorities while reflecting that the Commission may not be unanimous in support of every issue. After discussing the options, the group decided to vote on each item and record those votes in the minutes to ensure the public was aware of the difference in approach to these topics.

The votes were as follows:
Bail Reform: move to add to the list of legislative priorities - Lewis moved, McCormick seconded
Ayes: Lewis, McCormick, McRoy, Westbrook
Opposed: Penn

Veterans Benefits Bill: moved to add – McRoy moved, Penn seconded.
Aye: Lewis, McCormick, McRoy, Penn, Westbrook
None opposed

Holiday for sales tax on school supplies: moved to add – McRoy moved, McCormick seconded
Aye: Lewis, McCormick, McRoy, Penn, Westbrook
None opposed

Driver’s license fines and fees: moved Westbrook, Lewis Seconded
Aye: Lewis, McCormick, McRoy, Penn, Westbrook
None opposed

Policing training, stop data: move to add – Lewis so moved, McRoy seconded
Aye: Lewis, McCormick, McRoy, Penn, Westbrook
None opposed

Executive Director Knoell agreed to notify the Commission when/if ever giving testimony on any of the legislative priorities. If any of the Commissioners dissents, that should be noted in the testimony. It is also noted that any individual Commissioner has the freedom to testify on their own behalf as a representative of their individual constituencies.

This vote is recorded in the minutes which will be posted on the KAAAC.org website.
The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.