

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County  
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## MCAAE Meeting Summary

April 19, 2024

**Members in Attendance:** Rita Howard, Claudette Thomas, Paul Mitchell, Charlotte Antoine, Dr. Abey, Pamela Williams

**Members Absent:** Paula Williams, Sheila Mary

**Guests:** Deborah Hughes, Urban League

**ADS Staff:** Michael Adusha, Eldad Mekuria, Dinah Stephens, Karen Winston

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### I. The Top Six Scams for 2024

The MCAAE Financial Literacy & Fraud Awareness committee (Paula Williams and Rita Howard) presented information on the top six 2024 scams targeting older adults and how to avoid being duped by them.

#### Check Cooking Scam

Remember to:

- Avoid the use of paper checks; use credit cards instead.
- Destroy old check stock by shredding or burning.
- Should you continue using checks, drop your payments off inside the post office.
- Monitor your checking account frequently.

What to do if you suspect you've fallen prey to this scam:

- Notify your bank immediately.
- Contact the authorities (police, Federal Trade Commission).

#### Voice Print Scam

Remember to:

- Be cautious when taking calls from even recognized numbers, as they can be spoofed.
- Better yet, don't answer your phone at all. Let callers leave you a voicemail or send you a text.

What to do if you suspect you have fallen prey to this scam:

- Contact the authorities (police, Federal Trade Commission).

#### Delayed Action Sweepstakes Scam

Remember:

- If it seems too good to be true, it likely is.
- Never give out personal information (banking information, social security numbers, etc.).

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If you suspect you have fallen prey to this scam:

- Contact your bank immediately.
- Contact the authorities (police, Federal Trade Commission).

**Virtual Celebrity Scam**

Remember:

- If you get a direct message from someone claiming to be a celebrity, they're likely not; be skeptical.
- If you get an offer from a celebrity 'manager' to connect you to their client's personal account, don't fall for it. The 'celebrity' at the other end of the line is likely an imposter.
- The wealthy Nigerian prince is likely neither, you're being scammed.

What to do if you believe you have fallen prey to this scam:

- Contact your bank /credit card company immediately.
- Contact the authorities (police, Federal Trade Commission).

**Multistage Grandparent Scam**

Remember:

- Scammers will provide a case number for the grandparent to reference; they'll tell you to contact your attorney.
- When you call back and reference the number, they know you didn't call your attorney and that you'll be compliant.
- Call or text your grandchild on their regular phone number and see if they really are in trouble. If you can't reach them, contact other family members for verification. Scammers are counting on you to keep this a secret.

What to do whether or not you believe you have been scammed:

- If you have given bank/credit card information, contact your financial institution.
- **Contact the authorities (police, Federal Trade Commission).**

**Paris Olympic Scam**

Remember:

- If you get a call from a friend or relative that they have an emergency, be skeptical. Hang up and contact them at their regular phone number for verification.
- You can also try and verify by contacting others who would know whether the person went to Paris for the Olympics.
- If you are purchasing tickets, do so via a reliable, established vendor.
- If you receive communications concerning your Olympic tickets, examine the address carefully and don't—under any circumstance—give out your ticketing account ID and/or password. NEVER give out your banking information.

If you believe you have become a victim of this scam:

- Contact your financial institution.
- Notify the authorities (police and/or Federal Trade Commission).

## II. Committee Reports

### Financial Literacy Fraud & Awareness – Paula Williams, Rita Howard

- Planning a workshop on financial/budget awareness
- Will also write an article that will be submitted to the FACTS and Medium newsletters

### Social Connectivity - Charlotte Antoine and Shiela Mary

- Discussed the impact of loneliness on older adults
- Encouraged establishing supportive relationships with neighbors and young people

### Recommendations on how MCAAE could address loneliness/isolation

- Plan an event, e.g., an intergenerational event
  - Grandparents Day planning – Plan an intergenerational event for September.
- Refurbish laptops that are no longer being used and distributed to older adults for digital connectivity.

### Affordable Housing Committee - Claudette Thomas, Paul Mitchell, Benjamin Abe

- Attempting to contact Africatown to learn more about their housing projects and involvement for older adults and perhaps plan an event.
- Would like elders to be represented in planned community discussions
- Deborah Hughes is a housing counselor with the Urban League and discussed how HUD funds are used to support housing needs for all families.
- The One Seattle Comp Plan was recently released for public review. The Plan proposes:
  - Rezones for most of Seattle
  - Goal - to create more affordable housing options and more housing stock
  - The plan seems to have missed consideration of older adults and needs to consider accessible housing and aging in place
  - Members were encouraged to attend - **April 29, at 2p.m., the Age Friendly Seattle is planning a forum at the Pike Place Senior Center to provide input to the Com Plan.** The deadline for input is May 6. Karen will email information.
  - Dinah also encouraged a letter from the MCAAE. Rita agreed to write a letter and will email a draft to all members for input before sending.

### ADS Advisory Council (AC) Liaison – Pamela Williams

- Reported on April AC meeting. A presentation was provided on community transportation. She will email information on transportation resources.
- She also reported that the SHA Sect. 8 voucher program is now open.

## III. Age Friendly

- Comp Plan event
  - Members were encouraged to attend - **April 29, at 2p.m., the Age Friendly Seattle is planning a forum at the Pike Place Senior Center to provide input to the Com Plan.** The deadline for input is May 6. Karen will email information.
  - Dinah also encouraged a letter from the MCAAE. Rita agreed to write a letter and will email a draft to all members for input before sending.

- Civic Coffee Event
  - Topic: Summer Entertainment & Activities
  - **In person** at the Chinese Information and Service Center: Address: 611 S Lane St, 3/F, Seattle, WA 98104
- In March, AFS launched a social connectivity learning network.
  - Convened first meeting, meetings will be ongoing
  - Planning in-person events in July and September
  - Planning a presentation re tech needs of older adults
- Recommendations on how MCAAE could address housing needs
  - Conduct outreach on information about housing resources.

#### **IV. Upcoming 2024 Meeting Topics**

- May – Anti-ageist training
- June – Juneteenth - Potluck & presentation event
- July - Reversed mortgages – Urban League
- August – Committee Reports & Updates