

KNOWLEDGE THE
LEADERSHIP ■ BLACK
COMMUNITY ■ INSTITUTE

www.TheBlackInstitute.org

Dear Members of the New York City Council,

We agree with the statement made by Council Member Rose on the inclusion of immigration as a topic to be discussed at the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit. According to the most recent census, foreign-born African immigrants represent over 1.6 million individuals residing in the United States. Moreover, the U.S. is the destination for 59% of Nigeria's high-skilled immigrants, along with 47% of those from Ghana and 29% from Kenya. In New York State alone, there is a population of 171,788 African immigrants, with 158,878 of those residing within New York City. These exact numbers though are highly debated with both African immigrant groups and former census workers claiming that in reality the numbers are significantly higher.

Dually noted, African immigrants are the most highly educated immigrant group, with 52.8% possessing a college degree, and 16.6% possessing graduate or professional degrees.

Even with these impressive statistics though, African immigrants make significantly less money on average per year than other immigrant groups possessing comparable educational merits, and are deported at alarmingly high rates.

We urge thus the passing of this resolution, to help give voice to those long-silenced African immigrant voices and bring justice to where justice is due.

Thank you,

The Black Institute

New York City African Immigrant Advocacy Campaign

May 2014

- Petitioning the NY Congressional Delegation to have White House include Immigration Reform in US Africa Presidents' summit

<http://www.change.org/petitions/president-of-the-united-states-include-immigration-reform-on-the-agenda-of-the-white-house-s-us-africa-leaders-summit-slated-for-august-2014-in-dc>

- Congressional African Leader's Breakfast in Harlem

June 2014

- NYC Public Advocate Tish James tours all 5 Boroughs on African Community Listening Tour.
- Congressional African Community Forum in the Bronx.

July 2014

- NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer tours all 5 Boroughs on African Community Listening Tour.
- Placement of 10 Africans as interns in NYC local, state and congressional offices.

August 2014

- All Borough Presidents are petitioned for an African Advisory Council (Similar to the AAC in Bronx)
- NYC Mayor's Office, Public Advocate and City Comptroller are petitioned for African Advisory Group in all 3 offices.
- NYC Africans are engaged in President Obama's invitation of 47 African President to DC

September 2014

- African Immigrant Heritage Month Celebration within City and State Government
- NYC Africans engaged in African Immigrant Legislative Week to include White House Forum and Reception

Contact us to join our efforts to ultimately get an Office of African Affairs within NYC Mayor's Office.



May 28, 2014

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BRONX, NY 10456
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pottalfiibhantal@yahoo.fr
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Pottal Fii Bhantal Fouta Djallon

Re: Request for voter
Registration forms

Attn: Board of Election

Kindly be advised that Pottal Fii Bhantal Fouta Djallon Inc. The Cameroon American Council and the Congressional African Immigrant Institute is requesting five Hundred (500) voter registration forms. Pottal Fii Bhantal ,the Cameroon American Council and the Congressional African Immigrant Institute are partnering with 10 African mosques City wide for our campaign to register 5000 New York City Africans for the June 24th and September 2014 Elections.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,

Respectfully,

Ahmadou T. Diallo /Pres Potal Fii Bhantal

Cameroon American Council:
Building Capacity, Relevance and Visibility

Congressional African Immigrant Institute:
National Advocacy for African Immigrant Priorities

Petition below generated nearly 500 signatures on Change.org:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/president-of-the-united-states-include-immigration-reform-on-the-agenda-of-the-white-house-s-us-africa-leaders-summit-slated-for-august-2014-in-dc>

- Petitioning President of the United States

Include Immigration Reform on the Agenda of the White House's US-Africa Leaders' Summit, Slated For August 2014 in DC.

Petition by:

The National African Immigrants and Refugees Health Advocate Program (AIR Health)

Dear President Obama,

Americans of African Immigrant heritage and our friends and allies; stand in solidarity in asking that Immigration Reform be on the agenda of your recently announced US-Africa Leaders Summit, slated for August 5 and 6 2014 and which will bring 47 African Presidents into Washington, DC.

Why should Immigration Reform and Diaspora Affairs be on the US-Africa Leaders Summit Agenda?

1.) U. S. based African Immigrants Contribute Significantly in USA:

Per US Census, African immigrants are not only the most educated immigrants when upon arrival into the United States; their first and second generation offspring are also the most educated Americans! So in order to fully fulfill President Obama's vision of America out-performing and out-innovating the rest of the world, President Obama needs to engage with America's most educated community.

Fact: With 'papers' and less deportation, Africans can contribute much more in the U.S.

2.) **U. S. based African Immigrants Contribute Significantly in Africa:**

Per the World Bank, African immigrants not only put in billions of dollars into the United States tax revenue system, they send billions of dollars 'back home' to Africa. These remittances are reports suggest are higher than all of foreign aid.

Fact: With 'papers' and less deportation, Africans can contribute even more in remittances into Africa.

3.) **The White House Long History of Engaging Diaspora and Foreign Dignitaries on Immigration**

On May 3rd in 2013, President Obama was in Mexico and in his speech discussing the relations of USA and Mexico, President Obama talked about the contributions Mexicans who migrated to the USA have made and why immigration reform is critical for Mexico and USA.

On March 14th 2014, The Irish Prime Minister of **Ireland** to the White House and immigration was part of the agenda and as the Irish PM puts it "We've got 50,000 (Irish immigrants) here in America, undocumented. And what we want is a process of legalization, where they pay their taxes, pay their way, raise their families, travel home and travel back".

On April 25th 2014, President Obama was in **South Korea**, where he discussed the merits of comprehensive immigration reform during his weeklong trip to Asia.

And on May 3rd 2014, exactly one year since President Obama made his immigration pitch in Mexico; Vice President Biden celebrated immigrants and children of immigrant at a graduation in Miami. He later met with Caribbean-American business leaders at the 'Jamaica's Island Restaurant to discuss the impact of immigration in the Caribbean community.

Fact: If The President Obama can discuss Immigration Reform abroad in Latin America and Asia; if he can meet the PM of Ireland on immigration, and if he can have Vice President Biden engage with the Caribbean Diaspora on immigration- surely President Obama can discuss Immigration Reform with 47 African Presidents here in Washington, DC.

We are calling on the White House to include Immigration Reform unto the agenda of the August 2014 US -Africa Leader's Summit. The fact is, Americans of African Immigrant heritage and recent African immigrant are a strong determinant for US-Africa policies on Development, Diplomacy, Defense and Trade Deals.

Kind regards,

The National African Immigrant Health Advocates Program (AIR Health)
The Congressional African Immigrant Caucus Institute
Cameroon American Council

Draft Letter from Members of Congress seeking support from their colleagues:

Prioritize Immigration Reform at the U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit

From: The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
Sent By: matthew.alpert@mail.house.gov
Date: 5/23/2014

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in sending a letter to President Obama urging him to add comprehensive immigration reform to the agenda of the U.S.- Africa Leaders Summit.

In just a few months, President Obama will convene this first-ever, historic event. With 47 nations invited, this is an important opportunity to develop better relationships, discuss pressing issues, and to coordinate policy priorities.

However, when the conference was announced a few months ago, one important issue was not prioritized: immigration reform. We believe that this is an unfortunate oversight. Foreign-born African immigrants represent more than 1.6 million individuals residing in the United States, and the current immigration system has serious consequences for these individuals and their families. From family visa backlogs to our current deportation policies, comprehensive immigration reform will have a positive impact on this diverse community.

Many of the President's previous meetings with foreign leaders have featured a discussion of comprehensive immigration reform. We believe that prioritizing this same topic at the upcoming summit will highlight the need for congressional action across a wide number of constituencies.

If you have any questions, or would like to sign on to this letter, please contact Matt Alpert in Congressman Serrano's office via e-mail at matthew.alpert@mail.house.gov, or Asi Ofofu in Congresswoman Clarke's office via e-mail at asi.ofosu@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

José E. Serrano

Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Member of Congress

Draft Letter from US Congress to President Obama:

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We would like to applaud you for taking the step to host the U.S. - Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. on August 5 and 6, 2014. Strengthening the partnership between Africa and the United States is of the utmost importance to the future prosperity and security of our peoples. The proactive steps your Administration continues to take in the name of cooperation and mutual development deserves the full support of Americans and their elected officials in Congress.

This summit is an important opportunity to bring diverse constituencies together to discuss policy issues and to better develop ties between the United States and the 47 African nations invited to the conference. Unfortunately, we have been saddened to learn that the summit does not intend to spend significant time focusing on an issue that we believe is vital to our policies in Africa: immigration reform. We believe that inclusion of this topic for discussion at the summit will strengthen the ties between all the parties involved, and will help bring to light the need for comprehensive immigration reform across a wide number of constituencies.

According to the most recent census, foreign-born African immigrants represent over 1.6 million individuals residing in the United States. Throughout our history, immigrants from Africa have played an important role in revitalizing neighborhoods, starting small businesses, and improving local economies. The African community is an indispensable element of American culture and society, and continues to contribute to the prosperity of our nation.

However, our current immigration policies have had a negative effect on immigrants from African nations. Family immigrant visa backlogs, problems in asylum and refugee processes, student visa issues, and our ongoing deportation policies have created great difficulties for African immigrant communities. These concerns have serious financial and familial consequences for all involved- whether here in the United States or in the countries invited to the conference.

Many of your previous meetings with leaders of other nations have included a discussion of the need for comprehensive immigration reform. We believe that such a discussion at the U.S. - Africa Leaders' Summit will help better coordinate policies and improve relationships between all of the parties involved. We urge you to include and prioritize the need for comprehensive immigration reform at the upcoming summit.

We appreciate your consideration of our request, and sincerely hope that your administration will allow for a sincere conversation regarding immigration reform during the upcoming summit.

Sincerely,

1. African immigrant challenges like the possibility of the elimination of the Diversity Visa lottery within the current immigration reform bill.
2. Other challenges Africans face are the disproportionately low numbers of work permits for internships and part time work by our international students from Africa.
3. Disproportionately low percentages of Africans on work visas such as J1 (temp work visas), H1B visas etc.
4. African immigrants and Diaspora hardly engages/meet with President Obama on US African policies and with visiting African foreign leaders.
5. Our contributions such as remittances into the African continent and sweat equity into the diaspora such as African immigrant medical missions back into Africa etc.

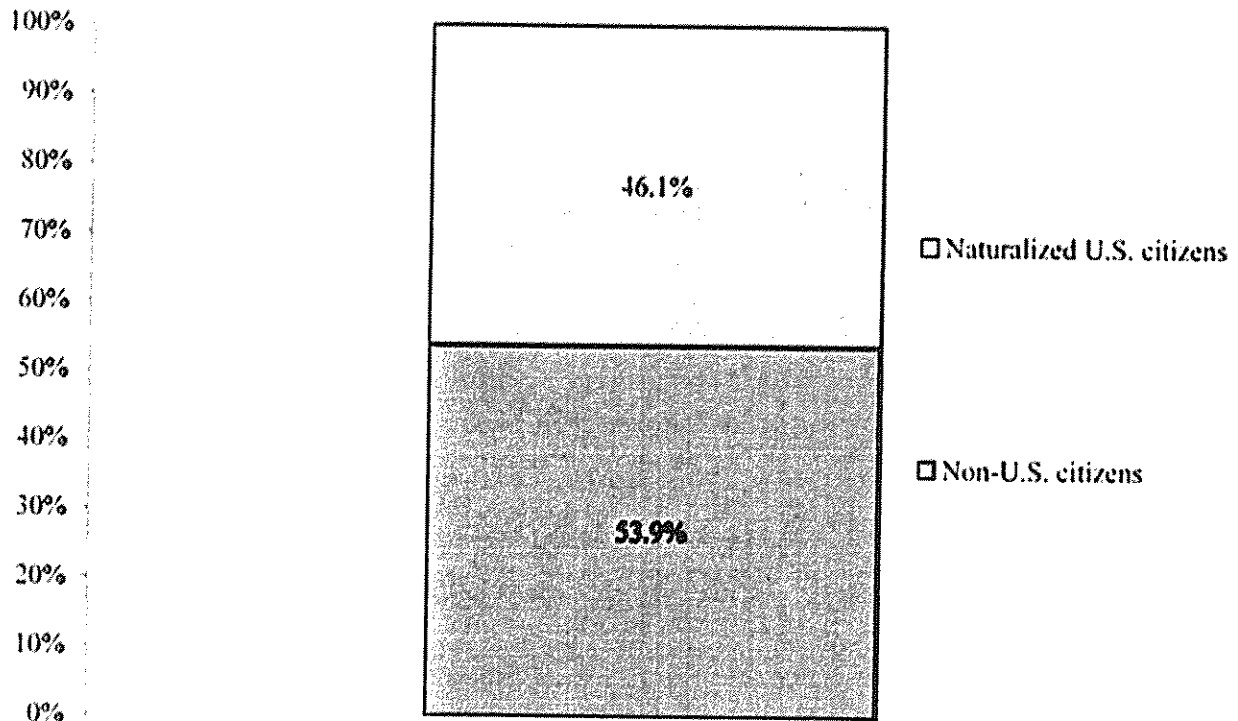
In your service,

Sylvie Bello
CEO, Cameroon American Council
President, Congressional African Immigrant Institute

Jennifer Gray - Brumskine
jbrumskine1986@gmail.com
347 579-6509

WE VOTE

Figure 4: African Foreign-Born Population by Citizenship, 2010



Source: 2010 American Community Survey, Table S0504: "Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: Africa, Northern America, and Oceania."

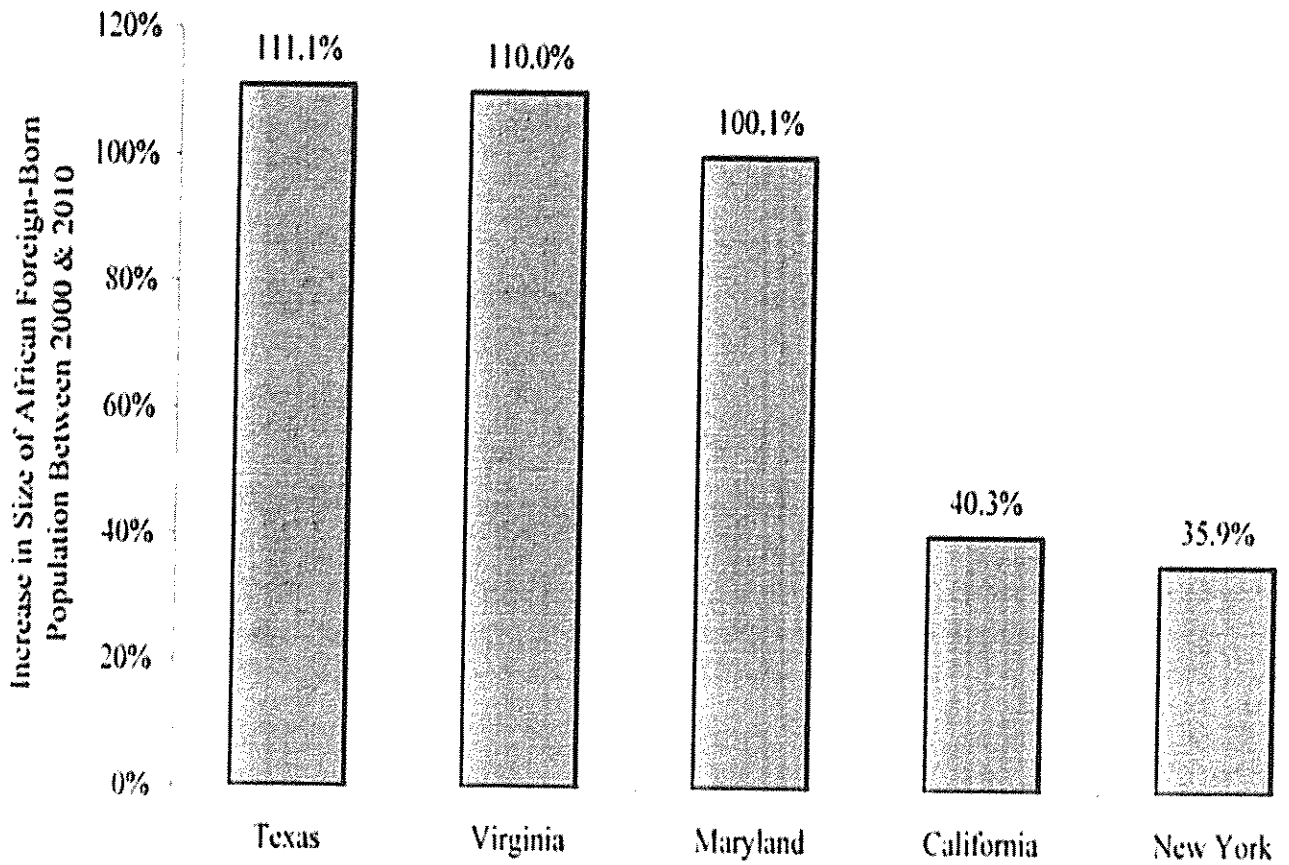
Nearly half of African immigrants are naturalized U.S. citizens.

46.1% of African immigrants were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2010, compared to 43.7% of the foreign-born population as a whole {Figure 4}.

WHO WE ARE

AFRICANS ARE A GROWING MINORITY

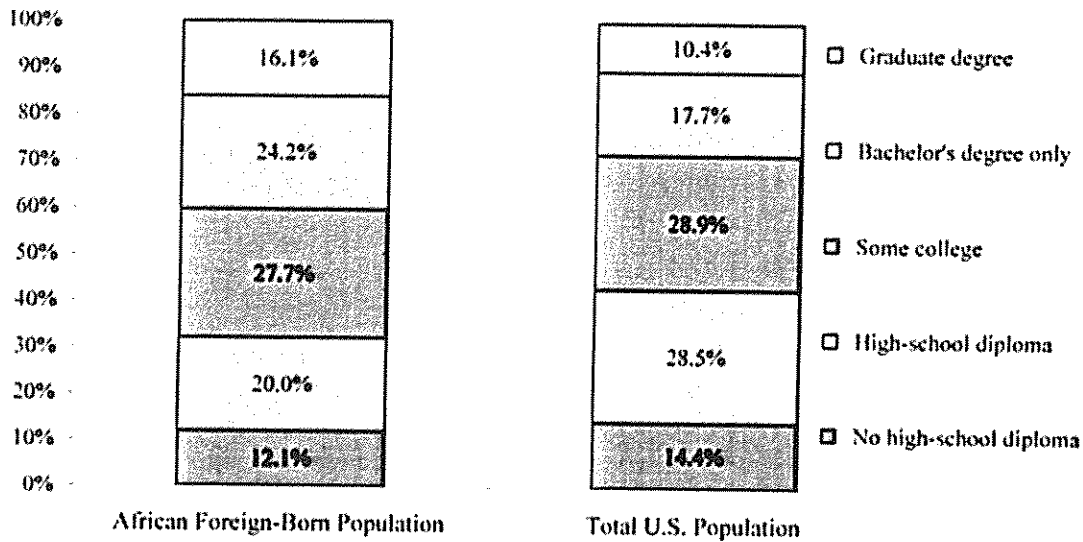
Figure 8: Increase in African Foreign-Born Populations in Top-Five States, 2000-2010



Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3, Table DP-2; 2010 American Community Survey, Table DP02.

AFRICANS HAVE GOOD JOBS

Figure 12: Educational Attainment of African Foreign-Born Population & Total U.S. Population, Age 25 & Over, 2010



Source: 2010 American Community Survey, Table S0504: "Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: Africa, Northern America, and Oceania"; Table DP02: "Selected Social Characteristics in the United States."

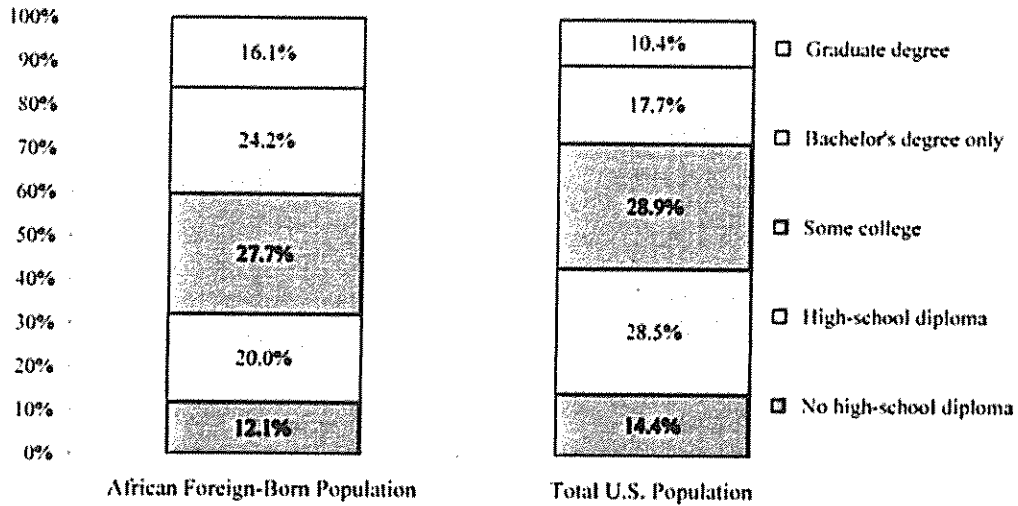
More than one-third of African immigrants work in professional jobs.

37.7% of employed African immigrants age 16 and over worked in management, business, science, and arts occupations in 2010 {Figure 13}.

- One-quarter (24.8%) of employed African immigrants age 16 and over worked in service occupations in 2010, while one-fifth (19.8%) worked in sales and office occupations {Figure 13}.

AFRICANS ARE WELL EDUCATED

Figure 12: Educational Attainment of African Foreign-Born Population & Total U.S. Population, Age 25 & Over, 2010



Source: 2010 American Community Survey, Table S0504: "Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: Africa, Northern America, and Oceania"; Table DP02: "Selected Social Characteristics in the United States."

Two-fifths of African immigrants have a bachelor's degree or more education.

Just under one-fifth (16.1%) of African immigrants age 25 and older had a graduate degree (in addition to a bachelor's degree) in 2010. In comparison, 10.4% of the U.S. population as a whole age 25 and over had a graduate degree in 2010 {Figure 12}.

Nearly one-quarter (24.2%) of African immigrants age 25 and older had a bachelor's degree only in 2010. In comparison, 17.7% of the U.S. population as a whole age 25 and over had a bachelor's degree only in 2010 {Figure 12}.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 07-22-2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BAH IBRAHIMA

Address: 105 E 192 104 68 AP 143

I represent: 1347-827 6894

Address: POTFAL

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/7/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DOMINIC TARNIA

Address: Brooklyn NY

I represent: Cameroon American Council

Address:

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SYLVIE BELLO

Address: Harlem, NYC

I represent: Cameroon American Council

Address: Harlem, NYC

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: July 22, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennifer Gray-Brumskine

Address: 171 Wellington Ct #16 Staten Island 10314

I represent: Liberian Immigrant on Staten Island

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 07/22/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeremy Mack

Address: 23 Strong place, Brooklyn, NY, 11231

I represent: The Black Institute

Address: 39 Broadway, NY, NY, 10007

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms