

## **Caribbean Consulates in Philadelphia celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month**

The Consulate of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Consulate of Jamaica celebrated Caribbean American Heritage Month in Philadelphia with several events.

Caribbean American Heritage Month (CAHM) was first proclaimed by President George Bush in June, 2006 and has been celebrated every year since. CAHM celebrates the contribution and heritage of Caribbean Americans in the United States. The Caribbean Community in Philadelphia covers a wide diversity of cultures and people; from the English speaking countries of Jamaica and Trinidad, to the Spanish speaking countries of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic to the French speaking countries of Haiti and Martinique.

Caribbean American history includes such visionary leaders as Jamaica's National Hero Marcus Garvey and Shirley Chisolm, the first black Congresswoman in the United States. Currently, the community takes pride in the first female Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, whose father is from Jamaica.

St. Kitts and Nevis Honorary Consul Worrell Nero spoke at the meeting of the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs joining several Caribbean organization leaders. Honorary Consul Nero spoke about the impact of several St. Kitts and Nevis nationals on history of the United States including the first United States Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, who was born in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Jamaica's Honorary Consul Christopher Chaplin addressed the inaugural launch of CAHM at PECO and the launch of its staff volunteer organization CADERA. On hand were PECO President and CEO Michael Innocenzo and other senior executives. In a question-and-answer format presentation, Mr. Chaplin responded to questions from the moderator and the audience and discussed his role as Honorary Consul and the Consulate's and Jamaica's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Both Honorary Consuls attended other events celebrating CAHM included a Caribbean Business Forum as part of the Odunde celebration.