



Statement on Coronavirus Pandemic – May Conference of Grand Masters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 13, 2020

New York —The President of the Conference of Grand Master, Prince Hall Affiliation, Inc. Dorian R. Glover issues the following statement regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Thirty minutes ago, Governor Charlie Baker announced that the state was issuing guidance that bans gatherings of more than 250 people in Massachusetts.

“Tuesday March 10, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced a state of emergency in response to the spread of the coronavirus on Tuesday, after officials announced 51 new presumptive positive cases of the virus. The total number of confirmed and presumptive cases in the state is now 92. Yesterday, March 12th, the number is said to pass 100.

Additionally, Person-to-person spread is beginning to occur in Massachusetts, officials said, meaning that the virus has spread beyond people who contracted the disease overseas.” We have contacted the: Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC); Massachusetts Governor’s office; and Springfield Massachusetts’ Board of Health.

We live in interesting times that challenge the traditions of our time-honored institution. We are deeply concerned about the daily reports of the coronavirus epidemic across the country and more specifically in Massachusetts...**more importantly, we are concerned about our membership.**

We are a global body of leaders, and one with an aging population...two factors that make it increasingly unsafe to meet without putting our membership in harm’s way. As the President of the Conference of Grand Masters, I am not willing to risk the lives of our membership or their families. I am thankful to Most Worshipful Jeffrey M. Coaston, Grand Master (Mass.) for his continued steadfast leadership and support in this effort.

For litigation purposes, this letter is not intended to be a Cancellation Notice. Considering Massachusetts Governor Baker’s statement moments ago, we will inquire into Conference’s contractual obligations. Information and next steps will be released in the coming weeks.

Attached is a factsheet to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We pray for you, your families, and your jurisdictions during this international crisis, and ask that you take every precaution to protect those you love.

Fraternally,

Dorian R. Glover
President