



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
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## MINUTES

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, July 23, 2011**  
**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**PCC, Cascade Campus**  
**705 N. Killingsworth, Terrell Hall Rm 112**

### ATTENDEES

**Chair:** Carlos Richard  
**Commissioners:** Karol Collymore, Judge Kemp, Phyllis Rand, Samaura Stone, Clifford Walker, Lorraine Wilson, Willie Woolfolk (phone), Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe  
**Speakers:** Commissioner Nick Fish; Brad Avakian, BOLI  
**Guests:** Maloy Good, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Council of Portland; Kate Newhall, Legislative and Communications Director BOLI;  
Nick Fish, Commissioner, City of Portland;  
Daniel Ledezma, Policy Director, Commissioner Nick Fish's Office;  
Cheryl Myers, Director, Office of Minority, Women and Business  
Emerging Small  
**Staff:** Nikole Hannah-Jones, The Oregonian  
Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. A quorum was established.

### **II. Adoption of agenda**

**Motion: Monroe/Walker to adopt the agenda – Carried**

### **III. Approval of June 2011 minutes**

**Motion: Monroe/Walker to approve the minutes as corrected – Carried**

The Commissioners listed several corrections to be made to the June 2011 minutes:

- Lorraine 6> New Business....Data very revealing, start of resolution . Data = audit, pls clarify.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> para, 6th. "City has no authority..." not clear what that means. Walker: City has ordinances against unfair housing, and they are enforced. Comm wasn't enforcing this PARTICULAR ordinance when it enforces other. Correct grammatically – double negative.
- 5<sup>th</sup> para: Monroe proposed meeting.... "meet with commission"
- Last line of same para – who is "it"? The Commission is the it
- 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence – partnership and actions... grammatically incorrect. Partnership and action by OCBA (take out "on")
- P4 4 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet: budget note – "he" was Rep Frederick

- Debriefing and Fanny Savage – Commissioner Walker invites...correct
- Commissioner Kemp – resolving it – “it” means? The issue with Ms. Savage
- Pg 5, best practices, 2<sup>nd</sup> para, “Complexity can also barriers”...what does this mean? The complexity of the building process can also be a barrier.. with the Trimet process. Goes from Trimet – helps Trimet overcome
- “Collymore” wrong on last page.
- Pg 4 – it is under ...2<sup>nd</sup> bullet, “Out of the 2800...”, should be 4 (not 3).

#### **IV. City of Portland Fair Housing**

The Commission welcomed Portland Commissioner Nick Fish, Commissioner-in-Charge, Portland Housing Bureau, City of Portland.

Commissioner Fish reviewed some key points regarding the Fair Housing Audit and the subsequently developed Fair Housing Action Plan.

Regarding the Fair Housing Action Plan the basic plan is:

1. Test annually to know if barriers to fair housing exist
2. Go after those landlords that discriminate (bad actors)
3. Establish a Fair Housing Advocacy Commission to monitor compliance, handle the testing process, as well as expand the scope of education and outreach.

Commissioner Fish also clarified that the audit was known to be a snapshot of the current state of fair housing, it was not a scientific sample or study. But it does give a clear indication of the challenges.

The OCBA had a number of questions and discussion. Questions included:

- How the implementation plan will assure better outcomes than the current situation.
- How the City will address the situation of people not knowing where to go or how to report discrimination
- How the City will enforce fair housing laws
- After many years of being neglected, Fair Housing will become a front burner issue.
- Whether housing discrimination would be charged as a Hate Crime under the Oregon law. It appears to fit the description of a hate crime in the statute regarding inconveniencing the people attempting to find housing.

Commissioner Fish noted that the primary way to assure better outcomes and enforcement is to be involved. He asked for the OCBA’s cooperation in helping to implement this plan. He stressed strengthening relationships and educating the public.

He thanked the OCBA for their continued interest in assuring Fair Housing in Portland and invited them to be a partner in improving outcomes and oversight of the plan implementation.

The Commission welcomed Commissioner Brad Avakian, Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Commissioner Avakian explained that BOLI is the chief law enforcement in housing and discrimination in a public place, with no jurisdiction over criminal laws. He never heard of anyone proceeding under the Hate Crimes statute in a housing case, but this could be a possibility.

Commissioner Avakian gave a brief overview of how complaints are processed by BOLI.

Audit testing, such as the City ordered, is not a primary tool for collecting evidence.

The Commission thanked Commissioner Fish and Commissioner Avakian for their presentations and noted that they look forward to working together on improving Fair Housing in Portland and statewide.

**V. New Business**

- a. City of Portland Minority Contracting Evaluator Program  
Tiffani Penson, Program Coordinator

Tiffani Penson briefly described the City of Portland's Minority Contracting Evaluator Program.

In Dec 2009, Council passed resolution for a people of color to make up 1/3 of every City Bureau. Tiffani encouraged the audience to participate in this program, because by bringing community in they can be at the table and be a part of the decisions.

Tiffani can be reached at 503.823.7785 or email her at

[MEP@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:MEP@portlandoregon.gov) Interested parties can sign up directly through the Alliance of Minority Chambers website at [www.minorityevaluatorprogram.com](http://www.minorityevaluatorprogram.com)

The Commission thanked Tiffani Penson for her time.

- b. Rep Frederickon added that the US Attorney has set up a hotline to call if you have encountered police discrimination: 503.471.5577

**VI. Adjourn**

The OCBA adjourned by common consent at 11:14 am.