

**Kate Brown  
Governor**



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2017, 9am – 12pm**  
**Concordia University**  
**2811 NE Holman Street**  
**George White Library, Room 120**  
**Portland, OR 97211**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Chair:** James Morris  
**Vice Chair:** Musse Olol  
**Commissioners:** Robin Morris Collin (phone), Kayse Jama, Lawanda Manning, Nicole Rowe, Senator Monroe, Representative Bynum  
**Absent:** Mariotta Gary-Smith  
**Guests:** Theresa Powell, Department of Human Services, Adults with Physical Disabilities  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

**I. Meeting Called to Order – Welcome to new Commissioners Lawanda Manning and Nicole Rowe**

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 9:18am. A quorum was established. He welcomed new Commissioners Nicole Rowe and Lawanda Manning.

**II. Review and approval of agenda**

MOTION (Monroe/Olol): To approve the agenda with the change that Ty Schwoeffermann is not available to speak on Tax Reform. CARRIED.

**III. Review and approval of OCBA April 2017 Meeting minutes**

MOTION (Bynum/Manning): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED. Commissioner Jama and Senator Monroe abstained.

**IV. Public Comment – there was no public comment.**

**V. Elections for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Morris conducted the elections for Chair and Vice Chair. There was only one candidate for each position identified at the March meeting, so the election was conducted by voice vote. Chair Morris called the vote for Musse Olol for Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous in favor. Chair Morris called the vote for James Morris for Chair. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Chair Morris and the Commissioners thanked past Vice Chair Robin Morris Collin heartily for her exemplary work and strong leadership in support of equity for the Black and African American community, including submitting testimony on many occasions, and drafting letters and for her leadership. Vice Chair Olol began his duties immediately.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. OCBA vacant position**

OCBA currently has one vacant position and the next Senate confirmation hearing will be in September. OCBA is at its strongest position legislatively in the history of the commission. The Commissioners agreed that given their current focus it would be wise to actively seek an educator for this vacancy. Chair Morris asked that people submit names for the pool within the next 2 weeks. Representative Bynum recommended Mr. Irvin Brown, Vice Principal of Milwaukie High School. She will connect Chair Morris and Mr. Brown. Interest was also expressed in having a business person join the Commission.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Public Policy Research Internships update**

#### **1. OCAPIA/OCBA Public Policy Research Internship: Integrating immigrant professionals' credentials in Oregon's workforce**

Ennada Lagouit, the OCAPIA intern and Fulbright scholar, completed her internship and has summarized her report as a PowerPoint presentation. The importance of passing the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) emerged as a major stumbling block for immigrants to be recredentialed in Oregon. Victoria Demchak in the Governor's Office will meet with OCAPIA to discuss next steps and consider recruiting the next research intern.

Chair Morris reported that the Oregon Dental Board voted unanimously to allow a dentist's teaching hours to count towards 7500 hour requirement for a dentistry license. This is one way to support immigrants in the recredentialing process.

Oregon Commission for Women Chair, Dr. Barbara Spencer, and Lucy met yesterday with Scott Eckblad, Executive Director, OHSU's Center for Rural Health. The Center works with large coalitions of nurses, doctors, and other health professionals. He was interested to hear about the recredentialing internship and the Commission on Hispanic Affairs' mental health disparities public policy research project and would like to partner with the OACs.

### **B. Legislative discussion**

#### **1. Legislative reports from Commissioners and legislators:**

Commissioner Collin participated in the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) meeting a week ago. In the current session, EJ issues are most prevalent regarding transportation in Oregon. There is a movement to overhaul Oregon's Air Toxic's regulation, and to measure and monitor air quality in terms of human health and respiratory illnesses, such as asthma, and the level of particulate matter which impacts elderly people. Robin signed on to the movement on behalf of OCBA, as this has been a key issue for the Commission for several years. She will send a copy of the letter for OCBA to see.

The transportation package is a major bill. There are several facets to it, including a proposed public transit employee payroll tax, with the revenue dedicated to making

public transportation accessible to Oregonians statewide; and a Safe Walk to School program which would improve roads students use on their way to school. Senator Monroe added that the bill includes \$100M in funding per year to significantly increase public transportation across the state: buses that run all night, and more north/south bus routes.

Commissioner Jama reported on the bill put forth by the Profiling Task Force, HB 2355. If it passes, Oregon will be the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> state in the U.S. to collect granular, racial data on traffic stops by law enforcement. It will cost between \$3 – 4M per biennium. Senators Frederick and Manning have provided leadership on this bill which had a hearing in the Public Safety Committee. Senator Monroe reported the bill was assigned to subcommittee, which is a good sign the bill will continue to move forward.

Senator Monroe discussed objections to the proposal to build a new women's prison. Eighty percent of the inmates are there because of theft and embezzlement, not violent crime and he and Senator Winters have demanded more reasonable alternatives. Representative Bynum also supports an alternative solution and wrote an Op-Ed in Clackamas Review that called out the stark difference between the state spending \$144 per day on an inmate between \$9 and \$12 per day for a student. Forty percent of incarcerated people have a child in foster care, and foster children often end up in prison, which only perpetuates the cycle of poverty and incarceration.

Senator Monroe commented on HB 2004: The bill is still alive, and many amendments were submitted. Another bill gives cities the ability to designate 25% of new residence construction will be low income. The bill does not include rent control. It proposes a state fund that would be based on a tax on new construction.

## 2. Tax Reform packages

Sen Monroe reported that the healthcare provider tax bill passed in the House, which will bring a new source of revenue to Oregon in the form of federal tax dollars. Oregon has done better job of implementing the Affordable Care Act than any other state. The provider tax will prevent 350,000 Oregonians from losing their health care. The Senate will vote on the bill on Wednesday. It is expected to pass.

Speaker Kotek and Senator Hass have agreed on a revenue package, which will add approximately \$300M to the state's education budget. A 60% majority vote is required to pass this bill. The Joint Tax Reform Committee was created this session and has a proposal on the table for a gross receipts tax that would account for less than 1% of sales no matter what the industry. This bill could bring in \$600M this biennium. The existing corporate tax would be increased for 18 months and then replaced. The business community has not agreed with this proposal. Legislators strongly prefer settling the matter in the House and Senate, rather than another ballot measure, which is inefficient and costly.

## 3. Ratification of e-votes by OCBA to support specific bills with testimony

Lucy read the e-approvals of specific bills for OCBA support to be ratified:

- a. HB 2004 – Renters' rights – 90 days' notice
- b. SB 360 – Community service to reduce court fees
- c. SB 356 – Letter requesting hearing for changing intimidation crimes to bias crimes

MOTION (Bynum/Jama): To ratify these e-votes as read into the record. CARRIED.

4. Bi-weekly legislative update meeting

Lucy reviewed the OCBA's testimony and OAC's testimony for the 2017 Legislative assembly: 33 testimonies submitted to date, in six of the seven strategic priority areas. Lucy commended Ty on the amazing job he did on these informative and timely update calls.

C. Ethnic Studies bill – passed out of the House and Senate, on to the Governor's desk for signing.

D. Initiating an OAC Joint Education Committee and meeting with Dr. Tukufu

Lucy provided an update on the new Education Committee that Ty was developing. Dr. Salam Noor, Deputy Superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), is eager to introduce the Commissioners to Dr. Darryl Tukufu, ODE's new Assistant Superintendent, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. A special meeting will be set up between Dr. Tukufu and OAC Commissioners who are champions for education on their respective commission.

E. Planning for a Joint OAC meeting

Representative Bynum and Commissioner Manning volunteered to be on the committee to plan the OAC's annual joint meeting this summer or fall.

**VIII. Commissioners Reports:**

Chair Morris reported that a round of judicial appointments is coming up and he knows of four Black Oregonians who are actively pursuing the appointment. He expressed concern about the low probability of any of these four being appointed. Commissioner Collin suggested meeting with sitting and past Black judges (Judge Nelson, Judge Walker and Judge Haggerty) to learn how the OCBA can support an increase in the number of Black judges being appointed.

Chair Morris is also involved in the formation of a new Black Chamber of Commerce that welcomes Africans as well as Black business members. There will be a press release in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Collin acknowledged the stabbing prompted by racist comments on the MAX train in late May. She authored a letter on behalf of the OCBA requesting a hearing for SB 356, to change intimidation crimes to bias crimes. She expressed concern about the lack of surveillance by law enforcement of known violent White extremists and supremacists and will ask the other OACs to collaborate on a letter or an Op-Ed piece, with a cc: to the Governor and law enforcement. It was noted that Black gang members in prison are tracked after being released and that policy could be developed to do that for White supremacist gang members. Commissioners agreed that this incident raised a number of issues to be addressed.

Good in the Hood is next weekend in North Portland and Commissioners were urged to support this event.

**IX. Administrator's Report**

Lucy announced that Ty has resigned for personal reasons, effective 5pm yesterday (June 16).

A. OACO Budget update/Financial Report – Lucy reported that the budget bill (SB 5501) will be approved soon with some significant reductions to the OACO budget and that the OACO budget

may also receive some additional funds to help backfill a portion of the reductions in the final “Christmas Tree” (HB 5006) bill.

B. Nancy will submit all Commissioners’ travel reimbursements by the end of June.

**X. For the Good of the Order:**

A. Next mtg Saturday, 8/19/17, Concordia U Campus, 9am–12pm, White Library Room 120

**XI. Adjourn** - Chair Morris adjourned the meeting at 11:11am.