



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, May 19, 2012

PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 112
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Isaac Dixon

Vice Chair: Open

Commissioners: Karol Collymore, Judge Kemp, Clifford Walker, Lorraine Wilson, Willie Woolfolk (phone), Representative Lew Frederick, Senator Rod Monroe

Guests: Linda Hamilton, Blacks in Government (BIG), Eugene (phone); Samaura Stone, Office of US Senator Jeff Merkley

Staff: Aleksandra Snider, Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Labor
Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9 am. Roll call was taken. A quorum was established. Guests were introduced.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Commission reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Walker noted that he had requested that discussion of a specific complaint be added to the agenda but was prevented from doing so due to an ongoing investigation. He requested a written copy of the investigation process.

The following change was proposed to the agenda:
City of Portland housing discrimination be moved to New Business.

MOTION (Collymore/Kemp): To approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED. 6 yes, 1 nay: Walker, 0 abstaining

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of OCBA meeting of March 17, 2012.

MOTION (Monroe/Walker): To approve the 3/17/12 minutes with the addition of adding "Hate Crimes" to the name of the Internship currently identified only as "Civil Rights". CARRIED.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of OCBA Special Meeting of April 28, 2012.

MOTION (Collymore/Kemp): To approve the 4/28/12 special meeting minutes with the change of “did not speak” to “was not heard” in the section on attendance.
CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment

Commissioner Walker asked to address the Commission as a member of the public regarding the subject of the current investigation. After some discussion of process, the Chair did not entertain comment on that subject.

There was no further public comment.

V. Old Business

Financial report: OACO Administrator Lucy Baker discussed the March General Fund (GF) report for the OCBA and the OACO.

The expenditures for the Advocacy Commission Office are close to expected in all areas except for Data Processing and Attorney General (AG) costs. In these areas there is significantly more spending: the first because of an overlooked budget item when the OACO current budget was being prepared by Budget and Management in 2010, and the second because of investigations by the AG’s office for Commission business. Overall, the budget is very tight, but should suffice for the remainder of the biennium.

The GF expenditures for the OCBA and other Commissions are also very tight. The OCBA had expended more than budgeted for transportation before the travel budget was cut as part of budget reductions for all state agencies in the Fall. The short fall will be taken out of the overall OACO budget, but no further travel reimbursement is being approved. Commissioner Wilson asked if there is statutory wording that requires travel reimbursement be provided to Commissioners. Senator Monroe noted that there is no requirement for travel reimbursement and Representative Frederick agreed.

Governor’s Executive Order No. 12-03 - Promoting Diversity & Inclusion Opportunities for Oregon Minority-Owned, Women-Owned and Emerging Small Businesses

Commissioner Wilson discussed the Governor’s executive order that was signed in February. The order uses the term “aspirational targets” for minority contracting and she noted it seems too vague to have much impact for change among Black contractors. Representative Frederick commented that government is no longer allowed to set official goals for minority contracting, but this wording is the Governor’s and Attorney General’s effort to assure that some positive wording is

applied to contracting. Within the Governor's staff there is an aggressive effort to address the poor outcomes of the past several years when black businesses received none of the Federal stimulus funding and few contracts went to minorities. Commissioner Wilson and Rep. Frederick feel the OCBA must watch how this effort goes, work closely with the Governor's staff and monitor the outcomes of ODOT and others for success in minority contracting. Commissioner Wilson noted that Hate Crime reporting, training and tracking is also inadequate. Commissioner Walker also reported that he had attended a training that was intended to include information on hate crimes and was unimpressed. The Commission agreed that monitoring agency success in the areas of hate crime reporting, diversity in recruitment of public safety officers, and improved minority contracting outcomes are all important areas for the OCBA to take on.

Because Mr. Steiner had been invited to speak at 10 am under New Business and it was that time, the Commission moved to New Business.

VI. New Business

Oregon Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP) – Ron Steiner

The Commission welcomed Ron Steiner, President of [OADP](#), and Katherine Ginsburg, Secretary of the OADP Board.

Mr. Steiner noted that he had last presented to the OCBA in July 2010, when the OCBA provided him with a resolution in support of the work to find alternatives to the death penalty in Oregon. He explained that while the work of the OADP started 20 years ago, the Governor's recent moratorium against carrying out the death penalty had increased awareness of the issue.

OADP reaches out to communities of color and also partners with Amnesty, ACLU, Ecumenical Ministries, etc., to increase interest in alternatives to the death penalty. Prisoners of color are over represented in death row populations, and a number of death row inmates have had their sentences overturned because they were found to be innocent. In Oregon the death sentence requires a vote by the citizens repeal, not a vote of the Legislature. California is making progress: the topic is on the ballot for 2012. It is very expensive to keep people on death row. In Oregon it costs \$20 million annually. There have been times when Oregon did not have a death penalty, but it was reinstated in 1976.

Mr. Steiner and OADP are seeking support for the cause, help with education about the death penalty, and assistance in bringing a vote to the ballot in 2014 in Oregon. An initiative takes 116,000 signatures to be allowed onto the ballot. He opened his discussion to questions from the Commission.

Sen. Monroe noted that he has been a supporter of eliminating the death penalty for many years. The death penalty is irrevocable and government can make mistakes. In answer to other questions, Mr. Steiner answered that in Oregon there are 36 men and 1

woman on death row, 22% being non-white, and 4 individuals being African American. The OCBA could help by updating their support of the work of the OADP. Lucy Baker will send the 2010 OCBA resolution and the OCHA letter to the Governor to members of the OCBA for their review and choice on which type of current support they wish to provide. The Commission thanked Mr. Steiner for his report.

By-Laws

In the interest of time, the Commission agreed to move the discussion of by-laws to the next meeting

Aleksandra Snider, Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Labor

The Commission welcomed Aleksandra Snider from US DOL. She described the Equal Employment Opportunity laws that the agency enforces regarding minority and women contractors and the complaint process. She clarified that her unit of 6 Compliance officers conducts investigations only on federal contracts and shared an informational sheet. The protected classes they investigate include veteran status, race, gender, and disability. They also do site visits. The US DOL collaborates with BOLI and the EEOC. The Commission thanked her for her presentation.

The Commission welcomed guests:

Linda Hamilton of Blacks in Government (BIG) in Eugene discussed its upcoming diversity conference on June 7th, 9 am – 3 pm. She asked OCBA to consider sponsoring a table of 8 and to provide her with information on the OCBA priorities. Linda offered to share the information in digital format with Lucy Baker to distribute and also will provide a link to the State of Equity Report. Ms. Hamilton wishes to be added to the OCBA mailing list.

The Commission welcomed Samaura Stone from US Senator Jeff Merkley's Office.

Deferring other agenda items

The Commission agreed to defer remaining agenda items to the next meeting with the stipulation that the hate crimes internship can still move forward. Lucy noted that the intern has been selected by Professor Carrasco, the supervising attorney, and is starting his assignments. Topics for the intern already include researching police training, the relation between hate crimes and hate speech and other issues identified by the OCBA. Commissioner Walker will be working with the intern when the intern is preparing to begin those sections.

VII. Adjourn

MOTION (Collimore/Kemp): To adjourn. CARRIED.

The Commission adjourned at 11:10 am.