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Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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OCBA Statement on hate and discriminatory profiling

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) is alarmed and extremely concerned with the increasingly blatant acts of hate and discriminatory profiling against members of our African-American and Black community simply because of skin color.

Recently, we have witnessed Mr. Massey, a registered guest of the Portland Doubletree Hotel, harassed by hotel staff then, with the aid of the Portland Police Department, evicted from his hotel room. We have recently witnessed members of the Roberson’s family verbally assaulted being called the N word multiple times by a knife wielding woman in McMinnville because of where her car was parked. A woman called police on a state Representative who was simply campaigning, and the list goes on and on. The common factor triggering all the bias and hate was skin color.

Given Oregon’s targeted racial history, it is crucial that we as Oregonians unify and continue to fight against hate, fight against bias, fight against hurtful racist rhetoric all designed to keep us separated. OCBA recognizes the importance of the many contributions of all Oregonians, past, present, and into the future. We also recognize that Oregon’s diverse population is growing, which is a huge plus. Different diverse backgrounds and cultures makes us strong not weak. Therefore, we must hold ourselves and the business community to the same levels of accountability, including the actions of their employees.

This accountability must also extend to the Oregon Legislature and law enforcement. We support and call on our policy makers to make investments in better laws protecting Oregon’s diverse communities, and their implementation. The low levels of hate and bias crimes reported by law enforcement throughout much of Oregon does not reflect the day to day experiences of diverse Oregonians. The law must be adjusted to make sure that the victims of hate and bias can be confident that they will be heard and provided with the necessary services and support to avoid further victimization.

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs encourages all Oregonians to speak up, stand-up, show compassion and love for one another. We must expect and demand commitment and accountability from leaders in every sector to increase enforcement of policies, frequency of policy review for equitable outcomes, and implement related procedures, training, and commitment of resources for real diversity, equity, inclusion, and combating racism in all forms.

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