



**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**  
**Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room**  
**16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tigard OR 97224**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Chair:** Jamal Fox  
**Vice Chair:** Lawanda Manning  
**Commissioners:** Angela Addae, Djimet Dogo, Ben Duncan, Musse Olol, Representative Janelle Bynum  
**Absent:** Mariotta Gary-Smith  
**Guests:** Nafisa Fai, Pan African Festival; Senator James I. Manning, Jr  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Vice Chair Manning called the meeting to order at 9:30 and requested roll call. A quorum was established. The Commission welcomed visitors, Nafisa Fai and Senator Manning.

**II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes**

- A. Review and approval of the April agenda – The Environmental Justice Task Force agenda item will be postponed until Commissioner Reports at 11:05am.  
MOTION (Fox/Bynum): To approve the agenda. CARRIED.  
B. Review and approval of OCBA February Meeting Minutes  
MOTION (Bynum/Fox): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

**III. Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Pathways to re-credentialing  
OCBA has supported the 2 bills related to re-credentialing: Establishing an Office of New Americans in the Governor's Office, and also a re-credentialing hub in the OACO. Sen Dembrow is meeting with resettlement agencies such as IRCO (Immigrant Refugee Community Organization) and LCSNW (Lutheran Community Services NW), to make sure all are working together, not siloed. Rep Bynum has a bill coming to the Senate that is similar but more aggressive, military can receive a provisional license, but there is some level of judgement for licensing board to approve proficiency. Rep. McLain is on the bill. And also mentioned natural hair hairstylists.  
B. Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) meeting review

Commissioner Duncan shared an update with Commissioners from the EJTF which advises policy makers at the state level, and Governor Brown, around issues of environmental equity and environmental justice among historically under-represented communities, including communities of color, women, LGBTQ and others... Legislatively, the Task Force has prepared a list of bills they believe promote EJ and equity issues on environmental concerns in the 2019 session, and will share them with the OCBA.

The EJTF has welcomed a number of new members over the past year and are refining their orientation to include the complexities of the work and their key processes. The EJTF meets quarterly around the state, and shares OCBA's interest in connecting the Black community with the work. The TF would like to work with OCBA to consider stronger ways to connect around community engagement and environmental policy work. The Commission thanked Commissioner Duncan for his report, willingness to represent OCBA on the EJTF, and his dedication to the work. The Commission looks forward to working more closely with the Task Force, with Ben's guidance.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Legislative discussion**

#### **1. Submitted testimony e-votes ratification**

Vice Chair Manning requested that Nancy Kramer read into the record the testimony below that the OCBA had reviewed and approved since their last meeting on bills they had agreed to support. Vice Chair Manning thanked all the Commissioners for being attentive to the e-discussion of bills and their willingness to help write testimony for the OCBA and also joint testimony from the OAC's. These were:

- i. Invited Testimony – Joint Interim Committee on Housing Disparity 4/2/19
- ii. HB 2023 – Ethnic Studies 2.0
- iii. HB 2973 – OAC four-year terms
- iv. SB 855 – Pathways to re-credentialing
- v. SB 856 – Office of New Americans
- vi. SB 966 – Hearing before juvenile transfers to DOC
- vii. SB 968 – Eliminate juvenile life sentence without parole
- viii. SB 969 – End automatic waiver of youth into adult court
- ix. SB 1008 – Second look for juveniles
- x. HB 2562 – Title IX Coordinators
- xi. HB 3409 – Intimidation at scholastic activities

**MOTION (Bynum/Fox): To ratify e-votes to approve testimony for the above bills.**  
**CARRIED.**

#### **2. HB 3310 – Oregon Voting Rights Act (OVRA) update**

Representative Bynum reported that she is optimistic regarding the voting rights bill. Senator Manning is a sponsor of this bill, which the OCBA has supported from its inception.

#### **3. Review and prioritize OCBA 2019 bills of interest**

At Vice Chair Manning's request, Nancy described the process of review and support for the list of 2019 bills of interest to OCBA. The list was generated using the set of search words prepared and approved by the Commission. The Commissioners reviewed the bills and agreed by consensus to add SB 770.

Discussion followed with consensus by the Commission on bills they will support with testimony for the following legislation:

SB 854

HB 3064 – Chair Fox had a question about this one. Sponsors Rep Piluso, Sen Winters, Sen Manning. Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) creates an advisory committee or task force on public safety. Justice Reinvestment funds to reduce jail bed nights, amendment to give positive reinforcement to those counties doing the work. Racial, ethnic and gender diversity will be taken into account when appointing members.

HB 3216 – worked with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and put unlawfully summoning a police officer in the civil code, with a \$250 fine if found guilty. A case can be brought to small claims court under certain conditions. It passed out of committee unanimously.

SB 577 – DOJ to collect data on bias crime, and data turned over no later than 9/15/20. Extension of Attorney General, traveled statewide on a roadshow and learned that not every county is reporting hate crimes. Important that they be documented and reported. Identifies who is noncompliant in reporting these crimes. This bill would increase penalties for bias crimes.

SB 278 – affects former foster children, so they can secure affordable housing as renters. Foster children not graduating high school, and many are in Oregon Youth Authority custody. More foster homes and housing are needed, and many youth do not go to college. A suite of bills to address the problems that occur with kids in foster care system. Homeless population between 16 – 25 years old consists of: justice involved youth, wards of the state, LGBTQI kids. Oregon Housing and Community Services runs a program that yields a certificate. Urban League graduated a class of 10 people for this program. The risk premium is what is challenging.

SB 745 – discussion about what “transition services” means. Educate youth and family on how to reintegrate the youth with community. Also important that culturally-specific organizations be involved with the youth and family.

HB 2242 – The communities Commissioner Olol supports has large issue regarding energy bills.

Nancy Kramer will enter these updates into the BillTracker application the OACO uses to track bills for the individual Advocacy Commissions.

HB 2020 – was also discussed. The Commission will wait for a future meeting to consider this bill for testimony, as they seek clarity on several questions regarding assuring equity with Cap and Trade strategies.

4. Urban League Joint Lobby Day 2/25 debrief. Tabled. Snow impeded the Commissioners who hoped to attend from joining the lobby day at the Capitol.
- B. “Invest in Oregon” presentation, Our Oregon – Joseluis Jimenez, Field Organizer  
Mr. Jimenez was unable to attend for the presentation.
- C. OCBA Biennial Report 2017-19: The draft reviewed by the OCBA as its last meeting is ready to send for a professionally formatted draft.

- D. Pan African Festival 2019 requests – Nafisa Fai  
Ms. Fai discussed the upcoming third Pan African Festival. It grows economic development through celebration. Black-led movements are successful, and the Festival has grown every year. The vision is to create a similar economic outlet as the Portland Mercado, for Black-led businesses and vendors. Want to elevate the idea to a mall for African food/soul food. Also interested in African/Latinx food. Looking at expanding the number of vendors at the Festival, due to an increase in interested vendors, and plans to close part of a street this year. Looking to build a relationship with the OCBA, and have a coordinated conversation about redefining money to Black-owned business.

The OCBA agreed that it will support this important effort with a \$500 sponsorship and thanked Nafisa for her vision and passion around the Festival. They asked her to return as she and the Festival planners solidify their next steps for making the Mercado model establish itself for Black vendors in celebration of Pan African cultural and culinary experience to the Portland scene.

**VI. Commissioners' Reports** – Commissioners reported on activities earlier in the meeting.

**VII. Administrator's Report**

- A. OACO Budget hearing – Lawanda and Lucy. Vice Chair Manning, along with the other OAC Chairs and Administrator, presented the OACO budget and the OAC accomplishments in their statutory charges to the Joint Ways and Means (JWM) General Government subcommittee in February. It was well received and she is hopeful that the 2019 Legislative Budget will include the OACs' request to make the OPA3 position (Connie) full time. The JWM Co-Chairs have requested that as part of the OACO's budget requirement that the OAC's study folding the OACO into a larger state office. The Chairs have met to discuss this and are concerned about the importance of autonomy and independent voice for the Advocacy Commissions. They plan to meet with the Senate President's Chief of Staff, and later with the JWM Co-Chairs to talk this through.
- B. OACO Administrator recruitment – Lucy will be retiring on October 1<sup>st</sup> after nine years of service. Human Resources (HR) Executive Recruitment will begin soon and the Chairs and Vice Chairs, along with Sophorn Cheang from the Governor's Office, will be meeting with Department of Administrative Services HR to review the job requirement in advance of its posting this summer. The position and its duties were last reviewed in 2009.

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

- A. Next mtg Saturday, June 8, 2019, Oregon State Bar, 9:30am – 11:30am  
B. Announcements – Nancy announced a request for testimony for SB 420. Lucy will check email on Sunday to see if Commissioners would have additional talking points.

**IX. Adjourn** – Vice Chair Manning adjourned the meeting at 11:36am.