



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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

### Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

June 18, 2011

PSU Cascade Campus

Teleconference number: 888-272-7337, Conference ID: 2271852

#### Attendees

**Chair:** Clifford Walker/Carlos Richard  
**Vice Chair:** Lorraine Wilson/Samaura Stone  
**Commissioners:** Karol Collymore, Judge Kemp, Phyllis Rand, Willie Woolfolk, Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe  
**Guests:** Alexandra Arnhold, OCBA Public Policy Intern  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was established. The OCBA welcomed new Commissioner Karol Collymore. The Commissioners introduced themselves and their guest, the OCBA intern, Alexandra Arnhold.

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

**Motion (Monroe/Frederick): to approve agenda. Carried.**

#### **III. Review and approval of May minutes**

**Motion (Woolfolk/Wilson): to approve the minutes. Carried.**

#### **IV. Election of Officers: Chair and Vice Chair**

The OCBA considered Commissioner Isaac Dixon's request to allow him to vote in absentia because he is traveling during the meeting and cannot cast his vote electronically during the voting period. In anticipation of the OCBA allowing his vote, he has submitted his completed ballot to staff. After discussion, the Commission agreed by consensus to allow Commissioner Dixon's vote to be counted.

The Commissioners received ballots and envelopes in which to cast their ballots for Chair and Vice Chair. The slate of officers on the ballot for Chair included: Carlos Richard and Lorraine Wilson, with an option for a write-in candidate. The slate for Vice Chair included Samaura Stone and an option for a write-in candidate. Staff, Lucy Baker was agreed to serve as teller for receiving the ballots and counting the votes. Commissioners attending the meeting by phone were

instructed to immediately submit their votes by e-mail to Lucy who would see them using her Blackberry and enter them into the count.

The balloting was conducted, the votes counted, and the results of the election were announced:

- Carlos Richard was elected as Chair
- Samaura Stone was elected as Vice Chair

Chair Richard and Vice Chair Stone assumed their duties and the Commission welcomed them. Chair Richard thanked Commissioner Walker for his long term leadership of the OCBA that has seen the Commission grow in strength and scope.

#### **V. Legislative update**

Rep. Frederick reported on the final days of the 2011 Session. There is currently a delay in a number of Education bills, but votes will be taken next Monday. One of the votes that will be considered would privatize public education. The House did not pass Tuition Equity, Cultural Competency, and other bills along party lines. Rep. Frederick's bill on foster parents having access to training on the health and beauty needs of their diverse foster kids passed unanimously. It is clear that the organizing groups and Commissions will be back to push for passage of the defeated bills. The Urban League, APANO, and CAUSA are all mobilizing for the future.

Sen. Monroe discussed reapportionment. The legislature has been able to redistrict successfully. His district has changed size. Sen. Monroe is preparing to participate in the final votes in the Senate next week. All bills have now come out of the full Ways and Means Committee. There are a number of bills having to do with Corrections that are still delayed. He warned that if the economy declines, the budget they have passed will be in deep trouble, and the legislature would need to do cutting in February.

The Commission thanked the legislators for their report and their good work on behalf of the needs of communities of color in the legislature.

Rep. Frederick also discussed 3 tours he has recently taken of prisons. The facilities are dungeon-like and disturbing. There is currently no alternative to improve conditions. He considers it to be a huge problem and it is made worse by Oregon's challenges serving the needs of people with MH disorders. The Commission asked if there are advocacy groups for black prisoners? Yes, though the groups are small. He is concerned for the prisoners and those that work at these facilities.

#### **VI. New business**

Debriefing on the OCBA meeting with City Commissioner Nick Fish.

Chair Richard began the discussion. He noted that the audit has been very revealing and he considers it to be the start of resolution. That Commissioner Fish has begun to work with BOLI, DOJ and others is a good start.

Commissioner Walker does not understand why the City of Portland does not have any role in prosecuting wrong doing around housing. He does not know how the City could have no authority for protecting its citizens around federal law breaking for housing. He considers the City to be backpedaling on it.

Commissioner Woolfolk wants to see the Commission be effective. The wrongdoing has been historical and long standing. What can we do to be effective? What do we do with the data? Commissioner Stone agrees and wishes to hold officials accountable. She would like to see the OCBA take a position.

Chair Richard posed the question: What do we want as the OCBA position? Commissioner Kemp suggested that the OCBA prepare a position paper that addresses its expectations around Fair Housing including enforcement. Senator Monroe noted that there are City elections coming up and the OCBA would have the opportunity to hear from the candidates around their Fair Housing platforms. Commissioner Collymore cautioned the OCBA not to take on a slate of the expectations if they aren't prepared to push it with candidates, officials and the media. She volunteered to help with that.

Sen. Monroe proposed that the OCBA start by requesting Commissioner Nick Fish to meet with the about these issues. Discussion followed, including Commissioner Walker's interest in researching the City's authority to enforce Fair Housing. After discussion, the Commission decided that it will invite Nick Fish to the OCBA meeting in July and the Commission will develop a list of questions around enforcement and other issues to be addressed. It will also work to prepare a set of expectations around Fair Housing in Portland.

At the July OCBA discussion with Nick Fish the Commission wants to learn:

- 1) What the complaint process is and the expected timeframe for its investigation and resolution.
- 2) What the process is for enforcement, and who will enforce?
- 3) Some Commissioners wish to demand that the City take an active role in enforcement.

#### Need for accurate data:

Chair Richard considers having accurate data as the foundation of the OCBA actions and will be working with Commissioner Woolfolk to grow the number of statistical reports and data that the OCBA has available to it.

#### Growing OCBA visibility

Commissioner Kemp discussed the importance to OCBA of growing visibility in the Black community. They expect OCBA action on key issues like Fair Housing. As OCBA takes action on this or other subjects, it is an opportunity to grow its visibility with the public. Partnership and action by the OCBA with on Fair Housing is a good place to begin. He would like to see the OCBA Facebook page be used for public information/engagement on the issues, and also that partnership with the Q Center to engage Black and Gay communities could be explored. This includes Juneteenth and Gay Pride celebrations. He would like to grow OCBA's presence at a variety of events in Oregon and get the OCBA on

calendars. Commissioner Stone would like to work on that as well. First steps include:

- The OAC office contacts Commissioners to identify key events.
- Commissioners develop talking points about OCBA for addressing groups.
- Commissioners Kemp, Stone, Richard and other interested members convene a committee tasked with increasing OCBA public outreach and awareness.
- Develop a calendar to increase OCBA's visibility

#### Tracking money allocated for our Communities

Commissioner Woolfolk wants to know what OCBA can do to track ODOT stimulus funding and funding for Head Start. During tough economic times, the Black community needs to know that funds allocated for communities of color are being expended and used appropriately. After discussion, the following next steps were chosen:

- Ask Mathew Garrett, Director of ODOT to attend the August OCBA meeting to discuss contracting and also invite the other Commissions to attend.
- Work with Rep. Frederick who has been tracking contracting with Sen. Monroe. They have been meeting with ODOT and others to find out the data. He has put a budget note on the DAS and Governor to report back before the February session. Out of 2800 contracts issued, 3 were to minority owned firms and of those, none were Black or Asian owned business. Rep Frederick noted that ODOT is not the only state department with requirements for awarding contracts to minority and woman owned firms. Cheryl Myers in the Governor's office will also be a helpful contact.

#### Setting the agenda with legislators:

Delay until Commissioner Dixon can lead the discussion

#### Debriefing on meeting with Mayor's office and Fanny Savage.

Commissioner Walker discussed the meeting he had helped initiate for citizen Fanny Savage and the Mayor's Office. The subject of the meeting was to help Ms. Savage find resolution to barriers preventing her from returning to her home state of MN. Commissioner Walker related her complex interaction with the police, incarceration for 4.5 months with little substance to her charge. The OCBA arranged the meeting with the Mayor's office and video taped it to tell her story. It appears that she has been held and now has a record for no discernable reason. She feels that she was coerced. Commissioner Walker invites any Commissioners who wish to work continue to work with him in assisting Ms. Savage. He has requested police records and his goal is to return her to Minnesota to live near her family and friends. Commissioners Kemp and Wilson also attended the meeting at the Mayor's office. Commissioner Kemp considers the situation is a trail of missed opportunities for resolving it. Commissioner Walker would like to provide interpretation for another 2 hours for Ms. Savage to have her story be fully told in order to resolve her issue.

#### Voter registration, Community voting and committees

Vice Chair Stone will be reaching out to interested OCBA commissioners to join her in a community campaign for voter registration. Details will follow.

Best Practices in Minority Contracting: Final report on OCBA Public Policy Internship

Alexandra Arnhold, MS, Hatfield School of Government, PSU.

Alexandra Arnhold reported on her 3 month Master's Public Policy Internship between the PSU Hatfield School of Government and the OCBA. She focused on contracting Systems and studied Tri-Met's practices as an example of effective practice in minority contracting. As part of the research, Ms. Arnhold interviewed Bruce Watts, Tri-Met, and Sharon Hendricks, minority contractor. Tri-Met used an RFP process to screen in qualified candidate contractors. The process was focused on identifying minority contractors who met the contracting criteria and could deliver a good product and not primarily on low bid. Tri-Met also hosted ongoing conversations and provided technical assistance for the potential contractors. The complexity of the bidding processes can also barriers to successful minority contracting which the Tri-Met process helped contractors overcome. She identified 3 processes that were essential for effective contracting with minority owned firms: the legal process, the trades/journeyman process, and the social-cultural portion of the process. Alexandra's final paper will be posted at the OCBA website during the summer.

The OCBA congratulated Ms. Arnhold on her outstanding internship and report and thanked her for her good work. Rep. Frederick noted that he will be using her final report in the February legislative session as he works to show other governmental agencies that these processes can work for creating capacity.

**VII. Commissioner Updates or announcements**

Commissioner Rand shared a policy paper with the Commission from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) covering the health, security and wellbeing of diverse communities of seniors. She considers it to be one of their most inclusive policy pieces to date. See it at:

<http://www.n4a.org/files/advocacy/campaigns/policy-priority-11.pdf>.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**Motion (Frederick/Collymore): to adjourn. Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05