



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, September 19, 2009

9 – 11 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall Room 107

705 N Killingsworth St.

Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice-Chair: Everette Rice
Commissioners: Mariahm Stephenson, Jennifer Doncan, Carlos Richard, Phyllis Rand
Staff: Helen Hoang
Guests: Dan Handleman, Officer Deanna Wesson

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:10am
- II. Review of Agenda, Changes if necessary
 - 1) No changes or additions
- III. Approval of August 22, 2009 minutes
 - 1) **Motion:** Vice-Chair moved to accept the minutes; Commissioner Rand seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in approval
- IV. OCBA Priority updates
 - 1) Project Clean Slate: Commissioner Richard
 - a) Commissioner Richard has made numerous attempts to contact Mr. Peters and Mr. Davis to set up a meeting in Marion County, as discussed in last month's meeting. Commissioner has not been successful in making contact
 - b) Recommendation: work with a new group of stakeholders who may be more ready to collaborate. Work with Roy Jay and Joe Nunn directly to get an update on the progress
 - i. OCAA wants to collaborate
 - ii. Consider asking the other commissions for their interest
 - c) **Action:** Once consensus is obtained regarding involvement from the other commissions, the Office will draft a letter to formally invite Project Clean Slate in Multnomah County to come to a meeting with all the four commissions. Letter will contain all commissions' chairs

2) Stimulus Funds

- a) Early Childhood Education: Mariahm Stephenson
 - i. Link has been set up on OCBA website for Head Start locations throughout Oregon and enrollment procedure
 - ii. Director of Albina Head Start was invited to the meeting but had a scheduling conflict
 - iii. Mr. Hicock was also invited to attend the meeting to discuss Middle College, a program at Jefferson HS aimed at freshmen
 - a) Chair Walker suggested inviting Mr. Harold Williams to talk about encouraging black kids to attend college
 - iv. Commissioner Richard requested clarification regarding the scope of the original priority. Is it broadening to encompass education as a whole? What is the specific focus?
 - a) Commission Stephenson's response: perhaps create sub-committees to look at education as a broad category
- b) New Hires (older workers): Jennifer Doncan
 - i. No new reports
- c) Disparity in funds to minorities (ODOT Report): Willie Woolfolk
 - i. Commissioner not present; no new reports

3) Police Racial Profiling: Clifford Walker

- i. Mr. Chair attended a City of Portland meeting regarding racial profiling. He had a chance to speak with Mayor Adams and invited the Mayor to have a forum to discuss race. Mr. Chair will be meeting with City Commissioner Fritz to plan this meeting
 - a) Mr. Vice-Chair and Commissioner Richard expressed an interest in attending this forum

4) Health Care: Phyllis Rand

- a) Commissioner Rand gave a brief report on healthcare at the national level
- b) Update on Gubernatorial candidates and their position on health care
- c) Commissioner Richard proposed that OCBA draft a letter to Dr. Goldberg at DHS that supports OHP/Healthy Kids and the expansion of health care
- d) Chair Walker suggested reaching out to Representative Greenlick to give a presentation
 - i. Commissioners opted to hold off on this since the expansion of OHP has already been passed and put into law
- e) **Motion:** Vice-Chair moved to have OCBA draft a letter to Dr. Goldberg to show support for the expansion of OHP/Healthy Kids; Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Vote was unanimous in approval

- V. Administrator's Report to Commission
 - a) OACO updates
 - i. Joint Commissions Meeting Agenda
 - ii. Budget for 2009-11 will need to be decreased by approximately \$13,000 in its S&S line item. This will greatly impact reimbursement for commissioners (travel) and office operations (800-number for conference calls, meeting room rentals, etc)

- VI. Chair's Report to Commission
 - 1) OCBA fundraiser to increase its Other Funds
 - a) Consider a solicitation letter for donation
 - i. Commissioner Stephenson to consider taking the lead

- VII. Old Business
 - 1) Review of Bylaws
 - a) Copies were made by the Office and distributed to the commissioners

- VIII. New Business
 - a) OCBA Driven Legislation
 - **This note taker left at 11am, before this discussion occurred*****

- IX. Guest, Community Comments, Commission Guests
 - 1) Dan Handleman from Cop Watch presented his report on police racial profiling
 - a) Some findings: while the black population is approximately 8%, they were involved in:
 - i. 14% of traffic stops
 - ii. 24% pedestrian stops
 - iii. 29% use of force
 - iv. 34% had police point a gun at them
 - b) Recommendations: hire more officers of color who represent the community; more training on cultural competency; officers will now give out business cards during official stops
 - c) Commissioner Richard questioned whether the union has been approached to collaborate in the training of officers

 - 2) Officer Deanna Wesson shared her experiences and challenges of working with the black community
 - a) Officer Wesson, who grew up in the Jefferson neighborhood, cites one of the biggest challenges of being an officer in Portland is working with the black community.
 - i. Community forums have been very successful with Latino, Russian and other immigrant populations.
 - ii. There still exists resentment and mistrust of officers in the black community. She reports that, often, the black

community will harbor resentment for an incident that occurred many years ago instead of working with the police to find solutions and move forward

- X.** Final Thoughts: ****This note taker left at 11am, before this discussion occurred****
- Comments
 - Next meeting suggestions
 - Agenda suggestions
 - General discussion
- XI.** Adjournment ****This note taker left at 11am, before this occurred****