



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, November 19, 2011, 9 – 11 AM**  
**PCC Cascade Campus, Student Center, Rm 303**  
**705 N Killingsworth St., Portland**

### Attendees

**Chair:** Carlos Jermaine Richard  
**Vice Chair:** Samaura Stone  
**Commissioners:** Karol Collymore, Isaac Dixon, Judge Kemp, Phyllis Rand, Willie Woolfolk, Clifford Walker, Lorraine Wilson, Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe  
**Guests:** Frank Garcia, Governor's Office; Cheryl Myers, Governor's Office; Linda Hamilton, BIG; Promise King, OLMV; Bahati Ansari, re: Creswell attack, Christine Fernandez, Re: Creswell attack.  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker

### **I. Call to Order and Honoring Phyllis Rand for her OCBA**

Meeting called to order by Chair Richard at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was established.

The Commission welcomed its guests. Frank Garcia from the Governor's Office and the Commissioners honored the work of Phyllis Rand on the OCBA. Her last meeting is in January 2012. Mr. Garcia read a letter of commendation from the Governor to Ms. Rand, thanking her for her long public service, beginning in 1959. It is appended to the minutes. The OCBA thanked Phyllis and presented a card expressing their gratitude for her support of OCBA's advocacy around health care access. Ms. Rand, who participated in the meeting by phone, accepted her letter and card and noted her appreciation working with the Commissioners.

### **II. Review and approval of minutes from 10-15-2011 meeting**

**Motion: (Dixon/Collymore): To approve the minutes with amendments proposed by Commissioners Wilson and Walker. Carried.**

Ayes: Collymore, Dixon Kemp, Rand, Richard, Stone, Woolfolk, Walker, Wilson, Rep. Frederick, Sen. Monroe

Nays: none

Discussion:

Commissioner Wilson requested a change in Section 3, October 2010, to add that there will be reports at all Commission meetings.

Commissioner Wilson requested a change to Section 4, Old Business, October 2010, on page 4 of the minutes. She noted that the minutes should reflect a discussion by the Commission regarding ODOT. At that time, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to write a letter to the Governor to express the concern of the OCBA that ODOT does not meet its diversity requirements.

The October minutes will reflect that a motion was made by Commissioner Wilson and was amended to re-engage ODOT before sending a letter to the Governor. This may include inviting ODOT to a Commission meeting, and reviewing their historical data and past correspondence. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Walker asked that the minutes reflect that Commissioner Walker disagreed with the Commission on the Dumas case. He believes that the Dumas case reflects a hate crime and that he will send a minority report to the Governor reflecting his view.

### **III. Review and approval of the agenda**

**Motion (Monroe/Kemp): To approve the agenda with the addition of an item on the process for developing the agenda under Review of Process. Carried.**

Ayes: Collymore, Dixon Kemp, Rand, Richard, Stone, Woolfolk, Walker, Wilson, Rep. Frederick, Sen. Monroe.

Nays: none

### **IV. Review of OCBA Processes:**

#### **1. Process for creating agendas**

The Commission reviewed the process for creating OCBA agendas. Currently, agenda items are sent to the Chair and the Chair prepares the agenda deciding which items to include on the agenda. It was noted that it is unclear what criteria are used for choosing which items are included and which are not. The Commission proposed that the OCBA expand the process to provide information to all Commissioners on what items have been submitted and by whom. Discussion followed on the process of submitting and approving agenda items and referring agenda items to Committee, where proposed items would be discussed and recommendations returned to the Commission. Pros of referring to Committee included having time for a full discussion of the item and shortening agendas of the full Commission so Commissioner reports can be heard. Cons included not having the subject discussed by the full Commission and not having all opinions voiced. Sen. Monroe suggested that at the end of each meeting Commissioners have an opportunity to suggest next agenda items. He noted that in other Boards on which he serves, that this has worked well.

**Motion (Dixon/Woolfolk): To include time on each agenda to propose agenda items for the next meeting. Carried.**

Ayes: Collymore, Dixon Kemp, Rand, Richard, Stone, Woolfolk, Walker, Wilson, Rep. Frederick, Sen. Monroe.

Nays: none

## **2. Process of Roll Call voting**

Chair Richard noted that using roll call voting on every issue is time consuming. The Chair entertained a motion to end the requirement for a roll call vote.

**Motion (Collymore/Kemp): To no longer require a roll call vote and generally use voice votes unless requested otherwise. Carried.**

Ayes: 8

Nays: 1

Abstain: 1

## **3. Recording OCBA meetings**

The Commission considered whether recording of the OCBA meeting is time consuming for staff and reaffirmed that it is not. It is a record for staff to use to prepare accurate minutes and to provide backup if staff is unavailable.

**Motion (Collymore/Kemp): To end recording OCBA meetings. Failed.**

Ayes: 3

Nays: 6

Abstain: 1

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **Bylaws Committee**

Commissioner Dixon reported. He will send a marked up copy of the OCBA Bylaws to all Commissioners shortly for comment. The copy will include all proposed edits to the bylaws that he has received from Commissioners to date.

### **Legislative Committee**

Commissioner Wilson reported. The Committee discussed her conversation with Sen. Monroe on the legislative process. The entire legislative and budget session will occur during February 2012. The OCBA must pay close attention to the budget process to assure that OACO remains in the State budget. The Advocacy Commissions office will support OCBA by tracking its legislation of interest using weekly reports. Commissioner Wilson referred all to the Governor's webpage that shows the legislative agenda. Rep. Frederick reminded the Commission about attention to the Committee meetings. Budget notes for programs are handled in Committee. The OCBA Legislators will send Commissioner Wilson notices of legislative issues of interest and provide some feedback to the Commission.

The Committee report is attached as part of the minutes.

#### Outreach & Visibility Committee

Commissioner Kemp reported on the September meeting of the outreach committee. The committee considered media outreach and the OCBA Facebook page, as well as community involvement strategies. He will work with staff to schedule its next meeting.

The Committee report is attached as part of the minutes.

#### Advocacy Committee

Chair Richard reported. He and the other Commission Chairs met with Rep. Tina Kotek on 2013 legislative session efforts on Section 8 housing discrimination. The focus of the discussion is on addressing landlord discrimination. He also is working to receive answers to the OCBA's 12 questions from Commissioner Nick Fish and Commissioner Avakian. He noted that Commissioner Woolfolk is interested in seeing if there is an overview of best practices on ending housing discrimination.

#### Executive Committee

Chair Richard reported that the Executive Committee has not met.

- VI.** Discussion of Creswell Incident, General discussion on hate crimes, Discussion of partnership with Urban League. Commissioner Walker called for a roll call vote.

**Motion (Collymore/Stone): To table discussion of 3 agenda items due to time constraints to next meeting. Carried.**

Ayes: Collymore, Dixon Kemp, Rand, Richard, Stone, Rep. Frederick, Sen. Monroe.

Nays: Woolfolk, Walker, Wilson

It was agreed that these items will be first on the agenda at the next OCBA meeting.

- VII. Administrator's Report: OACO Budget reduction options.**

Lucy Baker presented options for reducing the OACO budget in response to a request from the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO). All state agencies are being asked to submit 3 options for progressively reducing their budget by 10.5% in 3.5% increments. In OACO's case, this could mean up to a \$40,000 reduction that includes increases in staff furloughs, reducing telecommunications by relying on Blackberries and Free Conference Call, and reducing services fees and rent. Commissioners reviewed the proposals and noted that e-fax might also be an area to explore as more economical.

Lucy also reported on the loss of travel funding for Commissions and staff in the OACO budget. Because of budget cuts that have already occurred in the current biennium, travel was reduced from \$11,000 to \$3,000 before the agency received its line item budget from the State Controller's Office in September. It will mean that each Commission and the Office have \$650 each

for travel reimbursement for the entire biennium. Unless a Commission takes other steps to increase its available travel budget, there will be no further reimbursements for travel this biennium for Commissioners or staff. Other steps could include transferring stipend allotments into travel, or raising Other Funds to supplement travel or other work of the OCBA.

The budget reduction proposals have been submitted to the State LFO and Budget and Management Office (BAM). They will be presented to the Legislative Joint Ways and Means Committee for their consideration in February 2012. The Commission Chairs will be sending a letter to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) requesting a reduction in the amount OACO is charged for Government Services (payroll, IT, HR, accounting, etc) or to provide free rent to OACO for a year as part of its budget reduction strategies. They are asking the Commission legislators to consider co-signing the letter to DAS.

The Commissioners thanked Lucy for her work on the budget reduction options.

#### **VIII. Public Remarks/Testimonies**

Bahati Ansari addressed the Commission by phone from Albuquerque. She is the grandmother of the student beaten in Creswell, Oregon. Ms. Ansari thanked the OCBA for their interest in the Creswell case and in working to bring hate laws and protections to the forefront.

Her grandson was attacked by 2 men and he was beaten during a tirade of racial epithets. Ms. Ansari lived in Oregon for 18 years and she worked successfully to create Hate Free Zones for schools. But when hatred is involved in violence, there is still little protection. She feels OCBA and Oregon needs to review the application of the hate crime bill. When she received the call regarding her grandson, she had no real place to call. And, as she made inquiries, no one really knew where to call regarding a hate motivated crime. She is honored to speak with the OCBA and will make herself available to discuss the subject with the Commission. She thanked Commissioner Wilson for reaching out to her.

The Commission thanked her for sharing her concerns. Commissioner Walker noted that he has felt the urgency and he will work to keep the issue of hate crimes in the forefront. Commissioner Wilson reviewed the Police Report of the Creswell incident and found it very concerning and disturbing and noted that it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Chair has tabled discussion of the Creswell incident, even though it was noted the urgency of the situation. In the police report states, that the assailant called the young man a nigger and confessed that he did it in order to anger the young man and force him to fight. There are laws but they do not stop behavior. There must be an understanding that the laws are for protection and the intimidation law does not protect anyone. The Commission thanked Ms. Ansari for her comments.

Linda Hamilton addressed the Commission. She is a member of Blacks in Government (BIG) in Eugene, and is the Chair of the Eugene Human Rights Commission. She noted that Black citizens are affected by the achievement gap in education, are overrepresented in prisons, and suffer from hateful speech and hate crimes in Oregon. She asked the Commission to support the reintroduction of SB44 that improves protections for the Hate Crimes. As a child she was called a nigger often. She feels the OCBA must address the hate crimes issues and education gaps. She hopes that OCBA will make it a priority to have SB44 re-introduced in the legislature and take a strong stand in support. The Commission thanked Ms. Hamilton for her comments. Commissioners Walker, Collymore and Wilson noted the importance of Hate Crimes and improving protections. They look forward to participating in the work of the OCBA on the topic and urge that it is addressed soon.

Promise King addressed the Commission. He is the Executive Director of the Oregon League of Minority Voters (OLMV.) The OLMV recently hosted their annual dinner and each Chair of the Advocacy Commissions addressed the audience on the needs for their communities. He thanked the Commission for attending the OLMV dinner. He offered his media consultant experience to help the Commission raise awareness. He wants to call out race issues and racial hatred. At the last OLMV meeting they agreed to work with the Commission on race issues. Mr. King wants to work jointly to improve race relations. He thanked Frank Garcia, Senator Monroe and Representative Frederick for their support over the years on Civil Rights. The Commission thanked Mr. King for his comments.

The Commission discussed how it will work on Hate Crimes. After some discussion the Commission decided that it will designate a Hate Crime Subcommittee within the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Walker will serve as Chair of the Hate Crimes Subcommittee. Commissioner Collymore volunteered to serve on that Subcommittee. Frank Garcia noted that he and the Governor's Office are supportive of work on hate crimes and civil rights. Frank wishes to be supportive and engaged around the Commissions' work on hate crimes.

## **XI. Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned by common consent at 11:40 am.

Attachments:

Commissioner Rand Governor's Commendation

OCBA Outreach Committee notes

OCBA Legislative Committee notes