



MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, April 17, 2010

9 – 11 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall Room 112

705 N Killingsworth St.

Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice Chair: Mariahm Stephenson
Commissioners: Representative Lew Frederick, Senator Rod Monroe, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Jermaine Richard
Absent: Jennifer Doncan, Willie Woolfolk
Staff: Joy Howard, Daniel Rodriguez
Guests: Daniel Franks (Portland Media), Pam Richmond (Portland Media)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:11 a.m.

II. Approval of March 20, 2010 minutes

- 1) Revision: section III change to "BOLI **compared to** Attorney General"
- 2) Vote: Representative Frederick motioned to accept the minutes with revision; Commissioner Rand seconded, approved unanimously

III. Review and approval of citizen complaint intake form and process

- 1) Comments:
 - a) Senator Monroe – The role as a commissioner is similar to that of an ombudsman, there is no authority to discipline, but you can listen and refer citizens to other entities.
 - b) Chair Walker – Implementing the complaint intake forms will allow the Commission to get a better feel on how the community views OCBA.
 - c) Representative Frederick – OCBA should look at ways complaint forms are done in different civil rights and human service relations organizations. Determine what the primary focus of OCBA is and use that when determining complaint process.
- 2) Vote: Approval of citizen complaint intake form and process motioned and approved unanimously.

IV. Taking a stand on the Dumas case and to what extent

- 1) Comments:
 - a) Chair Walker – Given the specific details of this case, would like OCBA to further proceed.

- b) Senator Monroe – Need to make sure OCBA is not getting in the way of BOLI in an active investigation.
- c) Daniel – Danny Santos is looking into this case and to what extent OCBA should be involved
- d) Commissioner Richard – Would like OCBA to focus on the issue regarding Mr. Dumas following the policies in restraining the inmate which was the issue in his termination of Dept. of Corrections.
- e) Representative Frederick – Urged the Commission to use caution in labeling this as a hate crime because Dept. of Corrections would not consider it as that. Find out what a hate crime is, and how it's prosecuted and the process and trial that was done with the Dumas case.
 - i. Chair Walker responded that he has researched issue of a hate crime and according to the ORS, the Dumas case is a hate crime. He also encouraged commissioners to contact the Dumas' directly for further information regarding case.

2) Action:

- a) Chair Walker – Will continue to be engaged in case and will meet with the Attorney General (AG) to pursue conversation
 - i. Commissioner Richard - What are the next steps after meeting with the Attorney General? Would like another commissioner present at meeting with AG.
 - ii. Senator Monroe recommended Representative Frederick also attend meeting with Chair Walker and AG.
 - iii. Daniel – Pursuit of the Governor's Pardon can be done on parallel track with AG meeting
- b) Representative Frederick agreed to make revisions to AG letter and send to Joy

V. OACO Updates

- 1) Recruitment for full time Administrator
 - a) Hope to get position announcement posted by next week. The Commission Chairs want it to stay open four weeks. Hoping to identify candidate by end of June
- 2) Office Lease
 - a) DAS and PSU are in active negotiations to secure space at the PSU University Center Building in downtown Portland. The current office location lease is up June 30, 2010.
- 3) Archiving
 - a) OCBA has one five drawer file cabinet of items that need to be looked through and either archived, moved to the Retention Office, saved, or thrown out. Each commission is asked to assign two to three representatives to come to the Office and go through their things.
 - b) Representative Frederick stated there are companies in Portland that may be able to assist in putting pictures and cassette tapes on electronic storage devices
- 4) KPM work sessions
 - a) There will be a series of work sessions to prepare for the Annual Performance Progress Report which is due on August 2, 2010. Each

Commission is asked to have their Chair and another representative at the table for these. The first meeting will be on April 27 in Salem.

- i. Vice Chair Stephenson volunteered to be present at work sessions
- b) Senator Monroe reiterated the importance of the APPR to legislators and encouraged commissioners to be prepared

VI. Guest, Community Comments

1) Pam Richmond – Portland resident

- a) Precedent for enforcing laws into prison environments is poor. Why are inmates allowed to riot and promote hate crimes? One in four black males are incarcerated. These same men return back to same community when released from prison which often causes them to fall back into the same criminal pattern, because their in the same environment.
- b) Chair Walker added that there is virtually no challenge to authorities in the prison system. Crimes in prison shouldn't be any less important.

VII. Good of the Order:

1) Commissioner Recruitments

- a) There are currently four vacancies on OCBA. Commissioner Rand's term expired last year and she was in one of those vacant positions, but did not reapply during this cycle of interest form submissions. OCBA received four interest forms. Joy asked commissioners to review the interest forms and let her know which candidates they would like considered during the Senate confirmation process.
- b) Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Rand stated that she was confused by the interest form submission process and would like to be reappointed to the Commission.
- c) Vote:
 - i. Senator Monroe motioned to have Commissioner Rand re-submit her interest form and be considered and the other four candidates be considered for the vacancies and appointments later in the year. Vice Chair Stephenson seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Note: Joy will check with Nancy Goss-Duran to be sure this is allowable before proceeding.

2) Upcoming Events:

- a) YWCA conference – April 30, 2010
- b) Women of Achievement nominations – April 30, 2010
- c) Joint Commission meeting – May 4, 2010
- d) Diversity Conference – September 21-22, 2010
 - i. Commissioner Richard volunteered to be presenter for OCBA

3) Next meeting agenda suggestions

- a) Commissioner Richard – Trip to Southern Oregon: he will work with Commissioner Woolfolk on date, agenda, location, and other planning details

- i. Meeting/forum will occur before Fall/Winter weather hits
- ii. OACO will look into per diem rates and van pool options

VIII. Adjournment at 10:55 a.m.