



MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, September 18, 2010

9 – 11 AM

Concordia University

George R. White Library, Community Room

2811 NE Holman St., Portland, OR 97211

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice Chair: Mariahm Stephenson (*phone*)
Commissioners: Representative Lew Frederick, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Jermaine Richard, Samaura Stone, Willie Woolfolk (*phone*), Lorraine Wilson
Absent: Jennifer Doncan, Phyllis Harris-John, Senator Rod Monroe
Speakers: John Charles, William Coleman, Jamin Dumas
Guests: Barbara Dumas

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker

II. Approval of August 19, 2010 minutes

- 1) Corrections:
 - a. Add another "e" to Frederick
 - b. Update State of Black Oregon: sentence 1 line 2 "that will HELP commissioners as they advocate
 - c. Correct spelling "Stevenson's" to Stephenson's
 - d. Update information regarding child neglect
- 2) Motion: to not approve the minutes as presented, but for the purposes of working—Richard/Wilson. Carried.

III. Commissioner Areas of Interest

- 1) Woolfolk
 - a. Interest – Stimulus package: needs the numbers on how the funds are impacting our community
 - b. Solution – Let administrator know what numbers are wanted so they can seek it out. OCBA will share the responsibility with reporting the findings to the community.
 - c. Comment – In order to do our job, we need to see the numbers.
- 2) Richard
 - a. Interest – Track bill and pieces of legislation that affect the African American community.
 1. How does this affect the African American community?
 2. How do we get information out to the state and community on what's going on?

- b. Comments – Collaborate with other entities to see what we can do with legislation that impacts us. Take the opportunity to make these issues more visible.
- 3) Stephenson
 - a. Interests
 - 1. Early Childhood education: Head Start programs needing to increase the eligible number of children in the program
 - 2. Race/equity taskforce improvements
 - 3. Environmental Task Force – bring up key issues of concern in African American communities
- 4) Stone
 - a. Interest – Outreach in African American CASA’s
- 5) Rand
 - a. Interest – Health Care and how the budget cut will impact the community
- 6) Wilson
 - a. Interest – Achievement gap in education
 - b. Comment – OCBA is leading the way to bring organizations together to work smarter versus harder
- 7) Walker
 - a. Interests
 - 1. Structure commission and meet goals
 - 2. Disparity issues in criminal justice system
 - 3. Remove signs and symbols that are oppressive. Slave traders and racists are still seen as nation heroes and leaders.
- 8) Rep. Frederick
 - a. Legislative Concept Requests – submitted eight requests (6 were from Rep. Frederick and 2 were by others)
 - 1. Four requests included Police excessive force
 - 2. Three requests went to the Judiciary Committee with Jeff Borketz??
 - 3. Four requests regarding – investigation/drug testing, training, definition of excessive force, and evaluation of police involvement
 - b. Other legislative issues:
 - 1. Benzene pollution issues
 - 2. Early childhood education – significant cuts with head start and early child hood education
 - c. OCBA Interests
 - 1. Communicating issues in the community. Today alone there were four meetings relation to the African American community
 - 2. Political Races – We need to know what people are saying and understanding how the candidates are planning to handle issues including work, school, and other areas of interest
 - 3. Partner with and support communities that are hosting events/meetings.

IV. Presentation: Claims of unfairness in state agencies

- 1) Mr. John Charles – Former Youth Authority Officer
Formerly worked for MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility and was fired in 2010. Mr. Charles was convicted of harassment and official misconduct. He stated OCBA needs to be involved on this issue and obtain the facts before a decision is made. Mr. Charles case is pending in the appeals process.

Commissioners viewed a video provided by Mr. Charles to see if they are interested in working with him on his case.

Possible Solutions:

- a. Bring awareness to the issue
 - b. Hold a press conference
 - c. Forum with media
 - d. Strategize on how it can be put together
- 2) Mr. William Coleman - Former State Correction Officer
Mr. Coleman says he was wrongly fired from his job as a correction officer. To see full story, see Mr. Coleman's page on YouTube.

END OF NOTES/TAPES