



**Advocating for Equity and  
Diversity throughout Oregon**  
421 SW Oak Street  
Portland, OR 97204  
O: 503.302.9725  
E: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)

May 17, 2022  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact Kyl Myers: 971-345-7317

## **The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs Statement on the Mass Shooting in Buffalo**

PORTLAND, OR – The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs today released the following statement:

The OCBA mourns the devastating loss of life in Buffalo, New York and condemns the terrorist attack on innocent Americans. The mass shooting on Saturday left families and friends without loved ones and was clearly a targeted and racially-motivated attack intended to intimidate Black communities not just in upstate NY, but across the country.

This unacceptable violence is rooted in and fueled by white supremacy ideology and provides a call to action for everyone in our community and throughout our country to stand up to the pervasive endemic of racism and discrimination that permeates our society. We must collectively stand for and work towards justice in our communities. We must be builders and not breakers. For those in our Black communities, we will support, comfort, and continue our enduring vision for liberation. For accomplices and allies, this is a moment to stand up for justice and work to end the poison of anti-Blackness.

Buffalo may seem very far away from us, but here in Oregon, anti-Blackness permeates with harmful and deadly results. Findings from the [2020 Bias Crimes Report](#) from the Oregon Department of Justice reveal that of the 1,101 reports made to the Bias Hotline, a majority were reports of race-based targeting, and a majority of those were anti-Black/African American bias.

In just the past year, throughout the state, Black youth have been subjected to racial abuse in [Newberg](#), [Mollala](#), [Gladstone](#), and [Clatskanie](#). [Barry Washington](#), a Black man,

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

#### **Chair:**

Jessica Price, Esq.

#### **Vice-Chair:**

Dr. Silky Booker (H.C.)

#### **Commissioners:**

Djimet Dogo  
Benjamin Duncan  
Kenny Farley, Jr.  
Liz Fother-Branch  
Mariotta Gary-Smith  
Torrey Sims

#### **Legislative Members:**

Senator James I. Manning

#### **Oregon Advocacy Commissions**

##### **Office Staff**

Albert Lee, Executive Director  
Nancy Kramer, Policy & Research  
Dr. Kyl Myers, Public Affairs  
Ava Stevens, Executive Support

was killed in Bend in December 2021 for talking to a white woman. [Titi Gulley](#), a Black transgender woman, was killed in Portland in May 2019. Sadly, these are only a few of the examples within our state.

The Oregon Department of Justice [Bias Response Hotline](#) is available to help you understand your options, make choices about next steps, and receive support in the aftermath of experiencing or witnessing bias. Call 1-844-924-BIAS (1-844-924-2427) to speak with a trauma-informed operator.

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs was established in 1983 and serves the people of Oregon to empower and support the Black community. The OCBA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Black Oregonians. We urge you to join us in our ongoing work to bend the moral arc towards justice and stand in solidarity for love and against the hateful and violent rhetoric of white nationalism.

We invite you to attend OCBA's [next Public Meeting](#) on Saturday, June 4th at 9:30 a.m.

###