

Agenda Item 572

TESTIMONY

2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN

CIVIL RIGHTS TITLE VI PLANIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Chabre Vickers	5015 NE 33 rd Ave #7 Portland, OR 97211	Chabre.Vickers@ bbbsnorthwest.org
✓ Glenn Bridger	940 SW Vivant Pl Portland 97239	glbbridger@teleport.com
XXXXXXXXXXXX		

Dear City Council,

The City of Portland's Civil Rights Title VI plan is critical for ensuring that all Portlanders can access, participate in, and benefit from Portland's programs, services, and activities.

I would like to applaud the City Council's focus on Civil Rights at a time when our city is diversifying and aging unlike any time in our history.

In particular, I would like to recognize the effort that Shoshanah Oppenheim – the ADA and Title VI Program Manager – has put behind this work. She has made both programs more robust and she is already addressing areas that have needed refinement in order to better serve people of all ages and abilities.

The disability community, in particular, has been consulted and engaged in the process of bringing the Title VI Plan to Council and we feel that we have a good partner in Shoshanah. She is committed making sure persons with disabilities are at the table and involved in advancing Civil Rights.

It is also important to note that our population will age in an unprecedented manner over the next 2+ decades and the increases in the number of persons with disabilities who are living in community will require continued diligence from government, higher education, and the private sector.

Both the Portland Commission on Disability and Portland's Age-friendly project are working with policymakers and citizens to advance Portland's status as a leader in creating a thriving and livable city, whether you are pushing a stroller, riding in a wheelchair, or cycling down the street.

We trust that the City will continue to engage in these efforts in an attempt to meet the spirit of the ADA and our Civil Rights obligations.

Finally, I would like to offer, on the record, my support of the Office of Management and Finance's current drafting of Administrative Rules that will mirror the Title VI program and provide a streamlined ADA complaint procedure, as well as the Civil Rights Program's leveraging of training opportunities and increased resources focused on the ADA Program.

Sincerely,

Alan DeLaTorre, Ph.D.

Portland Commission on Disability

Institute on Aging, Portland State University



186101

Dear Mayor Hales and City Commissioners:

The Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) is a partnership of over 90 diverse organizations and thousands of individuals working together to create a more healthy, equitable, and sustainable Portland metropolitan region. CLF has long been engaged in research, education, and advocacy to advance equity in public decision-making.

The Title VI Plan was developed following the guidance of the Portland Plan as well as the Racial Equity Strategy Guide, which was created to assist the City in institutionalizing equity across all bureaus by developing a common framework and strategies for consistent practice. CLF participated both on the Creation Committee for the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and in the Partners for Equity working group, led by the Urban League of Portland, which developed the Racial Equity Strategy Guide.

It is timely that the City is considering the Title VI plan in the same week that CLF is releasing the Regional Equity Atlas 2.0 project. The Equity Atlas is a tool that enables us to understand how well different neighborhoods and populations across the region are able to access the resources and opportunities necessary for meeting their basic needs and advancing their health and well-being. We have already begun discussions with multiple bureaus on how the data and analysis in the Equity Atlas can assist the city in assessing and addressing inequities.

The city's Title VI plan is an important guide for providing access to the services and benefits of the City to all Portlanders. While CLF was not deeply involved with the development of the plan, we appreciate the importance of this policy and the effort behind the current plan to design a strategy that moves toward accountability throughout the city, and a public process that supports meaningful participation.

We look forward to continuing to work with the city to institutionalize equity in policy, practice, and investments, and appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this important plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mara Gross", is written over a horizontal line.

Mara Gross



Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF)
 3920 North Kerby Avenue
 Portland, OR 97227-1255
 503.249.1721 ext. 230

June 10, 2013

Dear Mayor Hales and Members of Portland City Council,

I write on behalf of the Portland African American Leadership Forum in support of the City of Portland's proposed Title VI: Civil Rights Plan. We believe this plan represents a concrete step towards both ensuring that African Americans and other linguistically and culturally diverse populations experience equitable treatment through addressing discriminatory behavior and systems, and also ensures the city is in compliance with the federal law.

As you are aware, communities of color in Oregon experience grave disparities and inequitable levels of treatment across a wide range of determinants – education, economic development, health, housing and employment. In particular, the African American community has faced continued upheaval and devastation since our migration here due to the ongoing discriminatory systems of development by city government and the general population. Over the last 60 years, 3 vibrant black business districts and 4 communities have been scattered, including the most recent gentrification and displacement of African Americans living in North and Northeast Portland.

Yet despite these grave systemic inequities, our community continues to remain resilient, with our population, along with other communities of color, growing at rapid rates. While the white population increased by 30 percent over the last 11 years, the Latino population grew by 280 percent, the Asian Pacific Islander population by 98 percent, the Black population by 66 and the American Indian population by 59 percent. These changing demographics, coupled with the grave disparities currently experienced by communities of color in Oregon, call for urgent action by the City of Portland to implement a plan for addressing Title VI law and the persistence of systemic inequities.

The success of Title VI plan will be based upon sound implementation. PAALF, therefore, has the following expectations for the program:

- Ensure meaningful involvement of community by including substantial representation of culturally diverse community groups at the development, implementation and evaluation stages of the Title VI program
- Develop and implement culturally and linguistically-specific awareness and education campaigns about the Title VI program to ensure communities are aware of their legal rights
- Allocate substantial budgetary support to the program, with a focus on ensuring staff across city bureaus are adequately implementing Title VI law in addition to centrally



located staff focused solely on Title VI that will act as an accountability body to support the compliance of individual bureaus.

- Develop metrics and benchmarks for evaluating the Title VI program based upon priorities set by culturally-diverse communities that can be reviewed and tracked consistently over time.

PAALF is appreciative and in full of support of the City of Portland's commitment to addressing Title VI law. As you know, history has proven that failure to adequately address Title VI will not only result in continued inequities among culturally diverse groups, but also the potential loss of federal funds or lawsuit. PAALF, therefore, looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to ensure sound implementation of the program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Cyrenea Boston Ashby
PAALF Director

CC: PAALF Executive Committee

(Tony Hopson, Sr., Maxine Fitzpatrick, Carl Talton, Tricia Tillman, Serena Wesley, Inger McDowell, Irene Schwoeffermann, Chabre Vickers)



186101

AUDITOR 06/07/13 PM 4:50

Friday, June 7, 2013

Dear City Council:

The City of Portland's Public Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC) serves as a key component of the City's public involvement team. Our members have expertise in public engagement and represent a wide variety of the communities in Portland. The PIAC works to improve the quality and consistency of public involvement across City government by creating clear guidelines for how Portland's City government engages the public on decisions and outcomes that impact their lives. Our efforts are critical to supporting the City in becoming a more truly representative, responsive, and accountable government. The Civil Rights Title VI program is vital in achieving these goals and we urge the City Council to adopt and implement the program.

The plan highlights how important public involvement is to providing services and programs equitably to the residents of Portland.

We strongly support the following tenants of the plan that support good public involvement and access to services:

- Ensuring that all persons are able to receive the benefits, services, and opportunities of City programs and investments without regard to their race, color, national origin, age, gender disability, economic status, or limited English proficiency, and working towards eliminating discrimination.
- Ensuring early and meaningful public involvement in City decision making processes.
- Requiring Bureau directors to ensure that the public is provided an opportunity to be engaged and involved in the decision-making of the bureau and annually report the engagement of protected classes in community outreach and involvement.
- Developing a Citywide policy for outreach for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- Providing annual reporting on the progress of the goals listed in the Title VI plan.

We are painfully aware that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed 49 years ago and the struggle for equity continues. The Title VI Plan alone cannot ensure equity, but together with the work of the PIAC, Human Rights Commission, Portland Commission on Disability, OEHR,

and the Citywide Equity Committee (CEC), our commitment to improving the quality and consistency of public involvement is strengthened. The concept of equity and civil rights relies upon the ability for government to involve the communities that are affected by a proposal or decision. Therefore, public involvement is a critical ingredient in both equity and civil rights work. Civil rights is the union between equity and public involvement.

The members of the Public Involvement Advisory Council urge the Portland City Council to direct the Office of Management and Finance (OMF) to institute the Civil Rights Program and implement the Title VI plan and for all bureaus to work cooperatively with OMF in order for the City of Portland to fulfill its legal obligations

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Public Involvement Advisory Council



Citywide Equity Committee

Date: June 2013

To: Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Steve Novick
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

AUDITOR 06/07/13 PM 4:51

Re: City of Portland Title VI Plan

The Citywide Equity Committee (CEC) was established on September 12, 2012 by resolution which passed unanimously by City Council.

The CEC works in collaboration with the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR) to facilitate, coordinate, and lead a citywide effort to shift internal City culture by promoting the recognition and removal of racially inequitable policies and practices. The CEC has a total 41 members from all City bureaus and the Portland Development Commission.

The CEC envisions a City that conducts business with the public in a racially equitable manner and empowers its employees to create, support, and champion racial equity in their own bureaus and throughout the City.

The CEC recognizes that a progressive and dynamic Title VI Civil Rights program is an important tool to support this vision. It also supports the approach to equity outlined in the plan including:

- proactively preventing discrimination and ensuring non-discrimination by all City programs;
- ensuring that all persons are able to receive the benefits, services, and opportunities of City programs and investments without regard to their race, color, national origin, age, gender disability, economic status, or limited English proficiency, and working towards eliminating discrimination;
- training City staff about the regulations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and educating the public about how to access these protections; and
- providing annual reporting on the progress of the goals listed in the Title VI plan.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed 49 years ago and the struggle for equity still exists. The Title VI Plan alone cannot ensure equity, but together with the work of the CEC, Human Rights Commission, Portland Commission on Disability, OEHR and the Public Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC), our commitment to providing access to opportunities to all Portlanders is strengthened.

We urge the Portland City Council to direct the Office of Management and Finance (OMF) to institute the Civil Rights Program and implement the Title VI plan and for all bureaus to work cooperatively with OMF in order for the City of Portland to fulfill its legal obligations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Citywide Equity Committee



Office of Equity and Human Rights

186101

Realizing Equity. Enhancing the City of Portland.

Portland Commission On Disability

Executive Committee

Joe VanderVeer
Chair

Nicholas Johnson
Vice Chair

Jan Campbell
Chair Emeritus

Nyla McCarthy
Chair Emeritus

Travis Wall

Lavaun Heaster

Jewls Harris

Alan DeLaTorre

Re: Title VI Plan

April 29, 2013

AUDITOR 06/07/13 PM 4:51

Greetings Mayor and Commissioners,

The Commission on Disability wishes to express our support for the draft Title VI Plan under consideration.

Over the last 2 months, Shoshanah Oppenheim, the Title VI program coordinator, presented the draft plan to our executive committee, as well as our full commission and subcommittees on separate occasions. We appreciate the work that went into this plan and we believe it will help to move the City forward on its equity agenda.

We support the City's efforts to actively engage the community regarding the City's responsibilities and obligations in ensuring equal opportunity and access in City programs, services and infrastructure. We agree that this outreach is a necessary step toward meaningful action to address Portland's long-standing equity issues.

We hope that in the implementation of this Title VI Plan, the City will sincerely strive to be proactive in addressing known issues. We realize that oftentimes problems are identified through the formal complaint process and we recognize that enforcement of civil rights statutes has, traditionally, been a complaint driven process. However, on ADA related matters concerning people with disabilities, we strongly encourage Council to be as proactive as possible in identifying and correcting problems before they become formal complaint issues.

Our commission will continue our efforts to advise Council, the Bureaus, and the OEHR on recommendations for proactive initiatives, as we continue our work to remove the barriers to full inclusion and participation for people with disabilities in our community.

In solidarity for a more equitable Portland,

Joe VanderVeer
Chair, Portland Commission on Disability

Dante J. James, Director

Charlie Hales, Mayor

421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 500 Portland, OR 97204

www.portlandonline.com/equityandhumanrights