



CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

February 26, 1965

The Honorable Terry D. Schruck
Mayor of the City of Portland
303 City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mayor Schruck:

The Intergroup Relations Commission has reviewed the present needs of our community and its pressures and tensions. We feel professional assistance is urgently needed if the Commission is to properly carry out the functions relating to it during these days of accelerating change.

The original intent of the ordinance creating this Commission and certainly the needs of the times demand the existence of an official arm of the city's government to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding to today's problems. To do this, it is necessary for this Commission to reappraise its operating procedures and realign them.

In Portland today, various parts of city government share difficult and complex problems in areas of intergroup - interracial relations. School District No. 1 is engaged in a very thorough and thought-provoking study in relation to education or lack of education provided for Negro youngsters. The Portland Police Department is concerned with racial tensions, potential unrest and the general problem of public relations with Portland Negro citizens. The Metropolitan Youth Commission is concerned with the increase of juvenile delinquency and "drop-outs". The Portland Housing Authority is concerned with its practices in relation to availability of housing to Negro applicants, concentration of Negro or white occupants in any particular housing units, and the increase or decrease of white or Negro students in schools adjacent to three housing projects. It is concerned about Negro-white relationships among tenants.

A large number of civic and fraternal organizations attack this tremendous problem of intergroup relations with no official coordinating or recognition by city government, with resulting overlaps, gaps and competition in their services. Church groups whose social conscience has finally been shaken into awareness are demanding from government full cooperation in the field of integration and intergroup relations.

February 26, 1965

In spite of an ever-greater number of individuals, government agencies and organizations becoming aware of our social problems, and their awareness spurring them into action, we find no coordinating body, either private or governmental, giving leadership to a unified action of equal citizenship for all. This Commission is the only agency within the City of Portland structure that can accomplish this coordination and professionally serve government and administrative agencies such as the Police Department, Portland Housing Authority, Metropolitan Youth Commission and Park Bureau.

We cannot do this with present resources. To accomplish any positive program, it will be necessary for this Commission to be budgeted to establish an Executive Director. The Director, with secretarial staff, could on a day-to-day basis build a program as charged by the city ordinance.

The City of Portland would not be alone in adding such a position; in fact, it is now the only major city without such a staff. Many cities, some with an even smaller percentage of Negroes, have created such a position -- and profited by doing so:

Des Moines, Iowa Commission on Human Rights: Staff consists of Executive Secretary and Assistant, and office secretary.

Toledo, Ohio Board of Community Relations: Executive Secretary and Assistant.

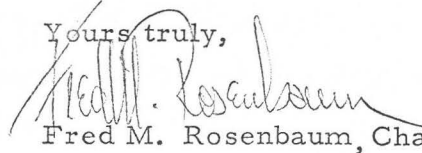
Gary, Indiana Fair Employment Practices Commission: Executive Secretary.

Seattle, Washington Human Relations Commission: Executive Director, Assistant Director, and Steno Clerk.

It would be expected that the Executive Director of your Commission would be a mature individual with a background of training and experience to qualify him to maintain a tension-free atmosphere so necessary for the continued progress of our city, and formulate a program of public education and administer it.

We ask you to authorize the development of a budget to establish such an office. Your Commission respectfully submits an urgent plea that you give this recommendation your fullest attention. The creation of a professional staff for the Intergroup Relations Commission will truly fill the needs of the times, and keep Portland in the forefront with many other communities already fulfilling their responsibilities in the field of intergroup relations.

Yours truly,



Fred M. Rosenbaum, Chairman
Commission on Intergroup Relations

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY



TERRY D. SCHRUNK
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

November 22, 1966

PRESS RELEASE

TO: All News Media
FROM: Mayor Terry D. Schrunk

In March, 1948, a City ordinance became effective which created the Inter-Group Relations Commission. On April 28, 1966, the name of this group was changed to Portland's Human Relations Commission. In August of this year, when the City Council found that the activities of this Commission made it necessary to appoint a full-time Director to administer the Commission's program, provision was made for this position and the financing of it. This change was made by City Ordinance and passed by the Council in September.

Under the provision of this Ordinance, I am now announcing the appointment of the Director who will take office on December 1st. He is Mr. Russell A. Peyton, of 7046 S. W. 62nd Place, Portland.

According to the Ordinance, these are the duties of the Commission:

"It shall be the duty of Portland's Human Relations Commission to study and investigate problems arising between groups in the city of Portland which may result in tensions or discrimination on account of race, color, religion, or national origin or descent; to formulate and carry out a program of public education with the object of decreasing and eliminating any such tension and discrimination; to investigate any complaints of discrimination filed with or referred to said Commission so as to obtain the greatest possible cooperation from all persons or groups in eliminating such discrimination, which investigation shall be available to any commissioner with whom is lodged such complaint and to the Municipal Court in the event any municipal judge requests such investigation and report; to recommend to the City Council any changes of law which the Commission deems beneficial and to cooperate with and secure the cooperation of other organizations or civic or fraternal or other groups within the City, and in general to promote tolerance and understanding among all groups within the City."

RUSSELL A. PEYTON
7046 S. W. 62nd Place
Portland, Oregon
246-1603

BORN: August 6, 1903 Ramsey, New Jersey

EDUCATION: High School Passaic, New Jersey
University of Oklahoma - B. A.
Tulsa Law School Tulsa, Oklahoma 2 years

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

1928-1942	Technical and Business, Petroleum Industry
1942-1948	Kaiser Industries, Marine Testing & Inspection
1948-1954	Part-time Housing Research with Urban League - travel
1954-present	Civil Rights Division, Dept. of Labor, State of Oregon

AFFILIATIONS:

Former President of Oregon Prison Association
Present Chairman and former delegate, Joint Council for Social Welfare
Secretary of the Portland Urban League
Member of the State Advisory Board, Salvation Army
President of the Oregon Memorial Association
Board Member of the Oregon Welfare Association
Co-chairman-elect of the Northwest Chapter of the National Association
of Intergroup Officials

AWARD:

In 1961 he received an Award of Merit for his enlightened leadership and dedication in furthering a better life for the people of Oregon by the Joint Council for Social Welfare, and in 1963 was awarded a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in recognition of outstanding services rendered to preserve and translate into greater effectiveness the ideals of American democracy.

RUSSELL A. PEYTON

Present Position

Representative, Civil Rights Division, Bureau of Labor, since 1955

Past Positions

Supervisor, Marine Testing, Kaiser Co.
Petroleum Engineer firm, Shepard & Peyton

Education

Graduate, Oklahoma University (B.A.)
Special studies in Law, Tulsa Law School
Special studies in Sociology, Oklahoma University

Director of Admissions, Reed College, and Chairman, Portland City Club
Committee on the Negro in Portland, E. Kimbark MacCall, Ph.D., states
"Mr. Peyton is one of the top specialists in the United States in civil
rights work."

Portland State College, guest lecturer in senior courses in mental hygiene.
Charles W. Bursch II, Ph.D., Dean of Students, says "that lectures are
scholarly, effectively presented, and well received."

Pacific University, John W. Berry, Professor of Sociology, states faculty
of leadership, an effective organizer.

Chicago Urban League - a standout in the field of intergroup relations.
Because he possesses the interesting combination of personal qualities
of unusual intelligence, perception, professionalism and friendliness,
renders it possible for him to spread light without heat and to be
inspiring without inflaming in this delicate area of race and group
relations."

Portland Urban League - has made an unusual donation of energy and
resources and used his influence to the community to promote inter-
racial understanding and level barriers to equal opportunity. An
outstanding Urban Leaguer. A member of the Housing Survey team.

Oregon Prison Association - Whether as a speaker or as a committee
chairman, he always does his best and because of his background and
interest, his best is excellent.

Former Governor of Oregon Robert D. Holmes - "As a technician in the
field of human relations. . . has made an outstanding contribution
to the betterment of the citizens in our communities."

Honorable Edith Green, Congresswoman - "His intellectual accomplishment
and integrity have earned him a distinguished position as a community
leader and a leading professional in the human relations field."

Membership & Civic Activities

Consultant to the Portland City Commission on Intergroup Relations
Consultant on housing to the Federal Civil Rights Commission for Oregon
Committee member on the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth for
the study of Child Welfare Services
President of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Physically
Handicapped for Washington County

Membership & Civic Activities (Cont.)

President of Oregon Prison Association
Former President, Washington County Community Council
Secretary of State Advisory Board, Salvation Army
Chairman, Joint Council for Social Welfare Legislation
Charter Member, National Association of Social Workers
Executive Board Member of Portland Community Council

Honorable Terry D. Schruck, Mayor
City of Portland

The Human Relations Commission submits its first annual report for the year 1967.

In accordance with the ordinance of creation we have attempted to investigate complaints of discrimination brought to our attention and carry out such programs we believe beneficial in promoting tolerance and understanding among all groups within the City. While the Human Relations Commission problems in Portland may not have reached the magnitude of those in other major cities, they are, nevertheless extremely important to those denied full participation in community life.

The work of the Commission does not lend itself to statistical measurement. It is difficult to evaluate in precise terms the effectiveness of approaches in fulfilling its obligations. The Commission recognizes its responsibility in continuing to work for the betterment of all and eliminating discrimination against any of its inhabitants based on race, religion, color or national origin.

Our responsibility shall continue to be ever present and with your help we believe it is possible to bring about a better concept of human relations in our community.

Respectfully submitted,



Fred M. Rosenbaum, Chairman - 1967
Human Relations Commission

FR/P/cm

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

of the

CITY OF PORTLAND

1967

Honorable Terry D. Schruck, Mayor
City of Portland

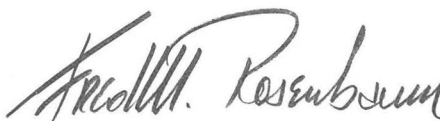
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Respectfully submitted,



Fred M. Rosenbaum, Chairman - 1967
Human Relations Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Fred M. Rosenbaum, Chairman
Mr. Richard J. Brownstein, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Ruth Richardson
Mr. Richard O. Boyer
Mr. James N. Rask
Mr. Thomas J. Sloan
Dr. Booker T. Lewis, Jr.
Dr. DeNorval Unthank
Mr. Mark Holmes
Mr. Nelson English

COMMITTEES

Employment
Housing
Youth & Education

CHAIRMEN

Mr. Thomas J. Sloan
Mr. James N. Rask
Mr. Richard J. Brownstein

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Russell A. Peyton

In January, 1967 a notice was sent to all subscribers in a large area of Albina stating that the delivery of the Oregonian and Oregon Journal would only be possible if the subscription was paid in advance. No subscriptions would be collected at the door and payment would have to be made one month in advance, at the office of the franchise dealer.

As a result of this notice a committee of effected citizens was formed, chaired by Reverend John Jackson. They resolved to initiate a boycott of both newspapers starting March 1st. The committee did, however, agree that the Director of the Human Relations Commission and Reverend Jackson should work together to see what could be done to eliminate this pre-payment plan which was regarded as racist in nature.

The Human Relations Commission initiated a number of meetings with the management of the newspapers in an attempt to conciliate this alleged discriminatory subscription plan. As a result of these meetings the usual pattern of subscription was reinstated on February 20th.

Even though it is very difficult to evaluate the work of the Human Relations Commission, because successes are so often intangible, this was a concrete example of what can be done to relieve tensions through the efforts of a Commission.

EMPLOYMENT

At the beginning of the year an Employment Committee was appointed by Chairman Fred Rosenbaum and chaired by Mr. Thomas Sloan. One of the achievements of this Committee, with assistance from Mayor Schrunk, was the formation of a Task Force of business and labor leaders. As a

result of the efforts of this Task Force, new approaches have been established beyond the traditional methods of hiring and upgrading. Members of the Task Force have done an excellent job in educating a number of industries in the spirit of "affirmative action" programs. Employment possibilities have been improved for many young people who had previously been considered unemployable.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce has, in addition to promoting the idea of "affirmative action" programs with its member employers, taken on the task of developing small businesses within the Albina area. They have created a local development corporation. They will help establish new small businesses and assist in expanding present businesses, in the area, with the help of direct economic opportunity loans and will also provide to these business people advice and counsel in the successful operation of their businesses.

The Commission and Mayor Schrunk met with members of the regional office and the Washington D.C. office of the Office of Economic Opportunity, regarding the Job Corp program. It was pointed out that there were many young people in our community who could benefit from Job Corp training but very few were taking advantage of the program. The Commission, as well as the Mayor's office, agreed to assist Mr. J. LaFoe, Coordinator, and work continues with his office to:

1. Improve the image of Job Corp
2. Advise young people of the benefits of training to themselves for a life of work and activity.

Despite the progress that we believe has been made, there are still

problems in Portland. Disadvantaged minority youth are still not convinced that business firms will hire them, particularly, for white collar jobs no matter how well qualified. We still have the prevailing belief that discrimination per se is operative.

The Commission, with assistance from the City Attorney's Office, kept the pressure on the State Bureau of Labor to give permission for the keeping of post employment records. Permission has now been granted to maintain these records similar to those required by the Federal Government by government contract employers. We believe this will be a great step forward and it is hoped that when these records are accumulated the Commission will be able to make an analysis of the employment situation within our City. From such an analysis we will be able to determine where pilot work must be done to insure good practices and policies for the City's work force. From such a study it is likely that the Human Relations Commission will want to design specific courses for supervisory personnel in various bureaus or departments of the City.

The Commission helped plan a seminar for the Internal Revenue Service which involved all supervisory personnel. The focus of the seminar was on means of bringing about an integrated work force within the Service.

This office also had meetings on employment problems with a number of industry wide groups.

The Human Relations Commission has urged State Employment Service, C-CAP, Urban League and Albina Neighborhood Center to work toward getting minority group young people to apply for apprenticeship training including

plumbers, steam fitters and sheet metal, as well as other crafts.

The Commission has attempted to the very best of their ability to get the Building Trades to endorse a program for apprenticeship recruitment generally known as LEAP - Labor Education Advancement Program. The purpose of this program is to bring to the attention of Negro youth and their parents realistic information regarding qualifications necessary for apprenticeable trades. Also, to bring about attitudinal changes within the Negro family as well as local unions to move non-white youth to make career choices with first-hand knowledge of the requisites for entry into such occupations.

The Human Relations Commission and Mayor Schrunk met with the Multnomah Central Labor Council who unanimously adopted this program. However, the funding of such a program also calls for the endorsement of the Building Trades Council and we have been unable to move them to endorse such a program. Therefore, this program which would be administered by some agency in the Portland area seems to be going down the drain for the lack of concern on the part of the Building Trades Council.

The Commission has worked closely with the Governor's representative in attempting to coordinate and implement all of the various Manpower Development and Training Programs in Oregon which are federally funded. These meetings have attempted to analyze the situation to make certain that there is no duplication of effort by different agencies attempting to serve the same public.

In considering employment and training for the disadvantaged it was discovered that this is only part of the problem. As an example,

discrimination, self concept, health, communication skills, marital difficulties, child care, general education, social relationships, emotional problems, intelligence, housing and alcoholism are often as much a problem as the needed job skills. In many instances health was found to be an important factor. Many people were anemic or under nourished which left them without energy or ambition to do much about their problems. Additional work is being done to assess how these factors may be dealt with.

The Commission received 31 requests for assistance in gaining employment. Many of these people were referred to agencies that could assist them with their problems. In some instances it was found that the complainant needed counseling in order to deal with his problems. The Commission received nine complaints on employment problems within the City work force. All of these were satisfactorily settled by counseling and conferences.

HOUSING

The Commission took a very active interest in a public housing situation known as the Hillsdale Terrace project in the southwest area of our City. The announcement of this project brought an immediate reaction on the part of many people in the area. A petition was presented to the City Council requesting the project be turned down. The work of the Human Relations Commission, we believe, was helpful in bringing about a better understanding of the purposes of the Housing Authority. After several hearings the City Council did recommend this proposal for a Hillsdale Terrace project.

The Housing Committee of the Commission has worked with a number of neighborhood groups as well as the Greater Portland Fair Housing Council in giving advice and counsel toward making open housing a reality in our City. During the year a number of Negro families have found homes outside the segregated area and have moved without any incidents. Nevertheless, the overall pattern of resident location still shows resistance to the movement of non-whites into all-white areas and this is particularly true in the area of apartment house rentals.

A few months ago the Commission was fortunate in having Mayor Schrunk appoint to the Commission, Mr. Richard Boyer who is a realtor and former President of the Portland Board of Realtors. It was under Mr. Boyer's administration that the Realty Board adopted a policy requiring all members to fulfill their duties of good citizenship and to make certain that all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color within our community have complete freedom of movement.

There were some eight complaints received regarding housing - most all of which involved alleged discrimination. A number of these complainants were urged to file their grievances with the Civil Rights Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor, for investigation.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The Commission has urged the extension of health and recreational facilities for children and teenagers. The Commission has taken part in meetings at Knott Street Community Center and this summer for the first time were able to get a portable swimming pool and by next summer will have a permanent pool.

The Commission worked closely with the North Branch Y.M.C.A. on their Teen Dance Center project. It was the opinion of the Commission that this was an excellent program for keeping young people off the streets and the dances were most successful. Unfortunately, the location of the dances was in a residential section and many complaints were received from local residents not only as to the noise but vandalism. The Human Relations Commission met with many of the local residents in the area but finally came to the conclusion that a stop had to be put to the dances. Because of the benefits, however, the Commission assisted the Y.M.C.A. in finding a better location.

POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Commission has also been concerned with police - community relations. The Human Relations Commission realizes that the police are the most visible arm of the establishment which so many young people are rebelling against. The question of police treatment of minorities has been worked on and the Commission has been involved with a number of complaints where feelings ran high. We believe the situation has improved. During the disturbance this past summer the police came in for commendation for the manner in which they handled the situation.

However, the Human Relations Commission feels far more could be done and hopes that the Commission can be of help in establishing better understanding between the community and the police. Also, in getting the community to realize its responsibility in solving many of the basic problems which causes anti-social behavior that seems to be on the increase in our community as well as across the nation.

Members of youth groups, have, on many occasions visited the Commission's office to discuss and sometimes complain about police actions. During the year there were some 13 complaints brought to the attention of the Commission regarding police activities. In many instances investigation was made and results of the investigation were related back to the complainant, with attempts to enlighten them regarding the role of law enforcement in our community and the need for their cooperation in making certain that all citizens are equally protected.

The Commission worked closely with the National Conference of Christians and Jews in planning and setting up police - community relations seminars.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Commission worked hard and diligently with members of various groups of Indians in attempting to get them to work together toward the preparation of an application for Federal funding for an Indian Center. The Human Relations Commission brought many people together to get this accomplished but various groups of Indians failed to cooperate with each other in making the application possible. The Police Department, Community Council, Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee and other groups attempted to assist the Commission in this endeavor.

The Human Relations Commission financed and helped prepare a City Directory listing services available, which has had wide distribution, particularly in the poverty areas of our City.

During the year the Human Relations Commission Director has given some 24 speeches to various groups. Many of these talks were at our local colleges. There were seven interviews on radio and television.

There were many requests for welfare help. There were 14 requests for assistance of food, housing and other services. There were 49 requests received for assistance which ranged from such things as advice on the best use of some one-half million dollar grant that was to be provided by one of Portland's churches, to cultural programs by African entertainers.

The Commission was asked to participate in the joint sponsorship of some 15 programs on human relations within the City. In addition to attending meetings dealing with these special projects it was noted that the Director attended 117 meetings during the year which included visiting Job Corp camps, strategy meetings on strengthening Civil Rights legislation, preparing a priorities report on social work agencies, meetings in the Governor's office on Economic Opportunity coordination and many others necessary to keep informed of current developments by related organizations.