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PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

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Date

**Fair Housing Advocacy Committee**

**January 1st, 2012 Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:** Sarah Zahn, Deborah Imse, Elisa Harrigan, Isaac Dixon, Rachel Payton, Lou Savage, Cashauna Hill, Ric Olander, Marc-Daniel Domond, Isaac Dixon, Anita Yap, Neisha Saxena (by phone)

**Staff:** Louise Dix, Seth Lyons, Kim McCarty, Kate Allen, Daniel Ledezma, Traci Manning, Jenny Kalez

**Absent:** John Miller, Kathryn King, Rose-Ellen Bak

**Guests**:

| **Agenda Topic** | Key Discussion Points | Outcomes / Decisions / Next Steps |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Welcome** | Kim McCarty outlined the previous meeting’s unfinished business: committee description, and the selection of new members to fill vacant seats. | The seat vacated by Cashauna Hill will be filled by a representative of Portland Commission on Disability. Carla Danley is currently under consideration as recommended by Joe Vander Veer, also of the Portland Commission on Disability. The remaining vacant seat continues to be reserved for an at-large placement. |
| **Technical Advisory Committee -**  **Introductions and Current Work** | **Leslie Kay ( LASO)** will share the mid-year complaint data this winter. The report will include a plan and outcomes for reaching underserved protected classes.  **Deborah Imse (MMHA)** – developed a task force to establish fair housing best practices. The task force will become a permanent committee, and will release a final recommendation within thirty days including recommendations to enhance fair housing education. opportunities **Molloy Good (FHCO)** – provides education and enforcement of fair housing violations, working closely with BOLI and LASO.  **Eliza Harrigan (CAT)** – provides education and outreach and advocacy to tenants on tenants’ rights. Often refer fair housing issues to FHCO and LASO. Focus on health and sanitation issues  **Laura Kuperstein** **(211 and Housing Connections)** – provide a resource for finding affordable housing and some focus on fair housing.  CIO is seeking policy changes that will increase the number of family sized units.  BPS, METRO, PHB, are working together to improve demographic information that describes housing needs.  Gresham has invested in a rental housing inspections program. Multnomah county provides funding for the supportive services that improve access to housing, |  |
| **General Discussion** | John Miller O ON is adopting fair housing best practices for its state-wide membership.  Anita Yap (HF) has fair housing training of staff , making policy changes through the Housing Choice Initiative and is making efforts to increase the number of bi-lingual staff.  Anita Jennifer Kalez **Constituent Relations Coordinator**  for Commissioner Fish, said that the commissioner would like to prioritize testing and establish which organization will be responsible for conducting the testing. Elisa Harrigan raised a question regarding the current status of opportunity mapping. Kate Allen responded: Metro are currently working with PSU and the Coalition For a Livable Future to create better opportunity mapping. Maps will be interactive with a choice of ‘lenses’ with which to view the maps. |  |
| **Introduction to subcommittees** | Kim McCarty summarized the Fair Housing Action Plan and divided the committee into three subcommittees: **Enforcement**; **Education and Outreach**; and **Access, Supply, and Policy**.  There was discussion regarding the current status of each jurisdiction’s progress in following the FHAP. There was general consensus that the committee should consider the limitations of jurisdictions other than Portland. There is a lack of data from Gresham and Multnomah County. |  |
| **Enforcement Subcommittee – Portland Testing and Gresham** | Kim McCarty, referring to the FHAP, expressed that testing design should be the priority of the subcommittee.  Elisa Harrigan questioned whether enforcement should be included in the audit due to its expense, but also expressed concern about ‘community pushback’ if another snapshot type audit were conducted without enforcement. She posited the idea that perhaps a non-profit could access more funding to conduct a more comprehensive audit.  Lou Savage questioned whether Portland needed more data.  Sarah Zahn said that another ‘snapshot’ should not be an option.  Deborah Imse expressed that enforcement should only be used if ‘other pieces’ are part of the process. She does not want limited funding to be spent on targeting a leasing agent. Rather, she wants focus on systemic discrimination. Molloy Good mentioned that fair housing cases are often resolved through negotiation and that a decision needs to be made on who would file the complaint, the city, or the contractor.  Daniel Ledezma suggested the subcommittee focus on considerations for enforcement  Sarah Zahn said that Gresham has no experience in testing, and that Gresham should consider how it uses Portland’s experience.  Lou Savage, in response, suggested that Gresham’s testing should be data focused.  Elisa Harrigan said that Gresham registers landlords and that this maybe a good place to begin outreach and education. Another option would be to go through Gresham’s inspections program. | Each jurisdiction will return to the subcommittee with a plan for review, using the subcommittee as a sounding board for ideas.  Kim McCarty will return to the subcommittee with a ‘menu of choices’ for the group to select testing procedures for Portland. |
| **Meeting Wrap-up** | **Enforcement** – Kim McCarty – the group will return with a menu of choices for enforcement **Education and Outreach** – Louise Dix - the group discussed a need for a calendar of trainings, and ways to fund education for landlords and tenants.  **Access, Supply and policy** – Kate Allen - There were many action items linked, so the group will create a matrix for the next meeting in February. |  |