



February 19, 2014

Dear Mayor Hales and City Council Members:



We are pleased to present *the African American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*. This report is part of a broader effort led by the Coalition of Communities of Color to utilize data to better understand the needs of Oregon's culturally diverse communities.



As you are aware, African Americans and other 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 and decision making by city government and other mainstream jurisdictions. Over the last 60 years, three vibrant Black business districts and four 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 Black population increased by 66 percent.



These changing demographics, coupled with the grave disparities currently experienced by our community, call for urgent action by the City of Portland, and other local jurisdictions to implement a plan for addressing our needs.



Existing data that informs decision-making in Portland inadequately captures the lived experiences of communities of color. As such, it is often the case that policies, which on the surface appear racially-neutral, when implemented have grave implications for diverse communities. Whether intentional or unintentional, data often serves to obscure and oppress rather than to empower African Americans and eliminate disparities. As such, we ask that you use the granular race/ethnicity data in this report, and in other data collection mechanisms, as an important means (but not an end) to ensuring that your policy and programmatic decisions best meet the needs of African Americans and other groups.





While the findings in this report may be surprising or unsettling to readers, they represent the generational experiences of your African-American constituents. Thus, we hope this report does not simply sit on a shelf, but rather fosters action and accountability in local government to develop pro-active policy and programmatic solutions that will eliminate the disparities identified.



BLACKUNITEDFUND
OF OREGON

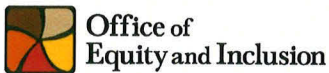
As community-based organizations, we have historically served as beacons of light for our community, providing much needed advocacy and social services to African Americans, who have faced exclusionary barriers to being served by other entities. We wholeheartedly endorse the document's premise and what will be asked of you today. United in our efforts, we hope that you will join us better serving the African American community to make Portland a great place to live for *all* people.



We thank Mayor Hales, Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Fish, Commissioner Fritz, and Commissioner Novick for your time and commitment to advancing the needs of our community.

Better People
Not Just Better Workers
♦♦♦

Warmest Regards,
African American Community Leaders



**AFRICAN AMERICAN
OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION**



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs



Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: February 12, 2014

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Charlie Hales

SUBJECT: Accept Report on the African American Community in Multnomah County by the
Coalition of Communities of Color

I am pleased to submit for your consideration and acceptance a report on the African American Community in Multnomah County.

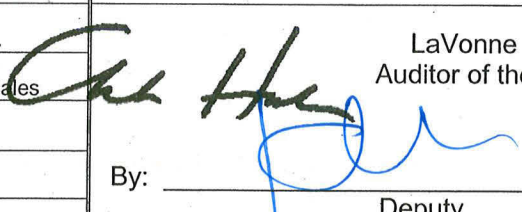
I hope that through this presentation, the council can further educate Portland about the need to achieve racial equity for our African American community and work to ensure that the City of Portland's policy and programmatic decisions best meet the needs of this and other communities.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor of Portland

Agenda No.
REPORT
Title

Accept Report on the African American Community in Multnomah County by the Coalition of Communities of Color.
(Report)

INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Mayor Charlie Hales	CLERK USE: DATE FILED FEB 14 2014
COMMISSIONER APPROVAL Mayor—Finance and Administration - Hales Position 1/Utilities - Fritz Position 2/Works - Fish Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman Position 4/Safety - Novick	By:  LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland Deputy
BUREAU APPROVAL Bureau: Mayor's Office	ACTION TAKEN: FEB 19 2014 ACCEPTED
Prepared by: Rachael Wiggins Date Prepared: 2/12/2013	
Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/>	
City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances	
City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan	
Council Meeting Date February 19, 2014	

AGENDA
TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 2:00 PM Total amount of time needed: 1 hrs (for presentation, testimony and discussion)
CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/>
REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish	✓	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	✓	
4. Novick	4. Novick	✓	
Hales	Hales	✓	