

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland



MINORITY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

Current Need:

One temporary position of Human Resources Specialist IV. This position is required to coordinate the activities of the Task Force, private industry, and community-based organizations as related to minority youth employment. The person in this position will coordinate job referral between community-based organizations and the clearinghouse; identify and coordinate existing programs directed at minority youth unemployment and identify gaps in existing programs. This position will assist the Task Force in conducting a study and development of long-range solutions to minority youth unemployment.

With the approval of the position, the Task Force will present to City Council in March 1982 a report on minority youth unemployment in Portland. The report will include identification of existing resources, identification of problems and barriers specific to youth employment, and recommend long-range strategies to alleviate the high minority youth unemployment in our community.

During the past two months, the efforts of the Task Force have been concentrated in the areas of attempting to identify jobs in the private sector and establishing linkage with minority community-based organizations. Generally, the tasks accomplished have been:

1. Clearinghouse: Set up and functioning at the National Alliance of Business.
2. Community-Based Organizations: Contacted and are doing recruitment and referral. Youth Career Training -- Northeast Office provided program with one youth slot (for assistance with setting up project).
3. Public Relations:
 - Ad space donated by: a) Portland Observer; 2) BUF Advocate; c) Nosotros.
 - Public Service Announcements sent to local TV and radio stations.



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



MINORITY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE - page 2

- KBOO interviewed Renée Watson as a Grass Roots News segment.
- KOAP-FM taped Ms. Watson soliciting private sector jobs.
- Ulysses Tucker, KPTV, has agreed to do show on program.
- KGW has agreed to do spot in late June.
- Letter sent to all businesses on files of:
 - a. National Alliance of Business
 - b. Chamber of Commerce
 - c. National Business League
- 4. Educational Institutions: Area high schools contacted; will recontact in September.
- 5. Solicited assistance of Mayor and Commissioners in obtaining private sector job slots.

Attached for your information is the purpose, goals, and objectives for the establishment of the Task Force.

LR:gp
Attach.
6/16/81

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

151904

Multnomah County • City of Portland

October 15, 1980

We sincerely appreciate your interest and participation with us in the Task Force on Minority Youth Unemployment.

I hope you can join us for the luncheon meeting to further discuss this project on October 23, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Bourbon Street Restaurant, 1530 N. E. Grand Avenue.

As you may know, the unemployment levels of minority youth are alarming, particularly in the urban areas. The U. S. Department of Labor collected the following national unemployment statistics in 1978:

		<u>% Unemployed</u>
Black Males	16-19 years of age	34.4%
Black Males	20-24 years of age	20.0%
Black Females	16-19 years of age	38.4%
Black Females	20-24 years of age	21.3%
Hispanics	16-19 years of age	20.6%

The economic base of minority Americans is far more fragile than most people believe. Nationally, the Black unemployment rate, 14.7 per cent, is at its highest level in five years and is more than double that of whites. More than 30 per cent of the nation's Blacks have incomes below the poverty level, compared to 8.7 per cent of whites. Some of the gains of recent years are rapidly slipping away. For example, the median income of Black families rose from 55 per cent of white income in 1960 to 60 per cent in 1970, but has since dropped back to 59 per cent.

Locally, Portland's minority population reflects these national statistics. The one area of major concern which is directly related to the above statistics is the exceedingly high minority youth unemployment.



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October 15, 1980

Page 2

According to the 1977 State of Oregon Employment Statistics, in the City of Portland the unemployment rate for Black youth between the ages of 16-21 years was 44 per cent. For Native American youth between the ages of 16 and 19 years, it was 83 per cent.

Today in 1980, minority youth unemployment rates have been estimated to be considerably higher than the 1977 estimates. High minority youth unemployment produces a frustration that compounds the issues and has tremendous impact on other institutions. High youth unemployment is theorized to have a significant effect on the local crime rate. About 40 per cent of the serious crimes committed in Oregon are committed by individuals 14-21 years of age. This is the specific age group which experiences the highest unemployment rate.

This past summer, Portland began to experience other ramifications of high minority youth unemployment. Two unrelated incidents occurred in the parks this summer which involved confrontation between large numbers of minority youth and the Portland Police. This is seen as a direct result of the high unemployment rate which produces a frustration and alienation among our minority youth.

In response to these situations, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, in conjunction with Commissioner Jordan's office, developed a Summer Youth Outreach Program. The program consisted of multiethnic teams of Human Relations Aides trained in mediation and community relations skills aimed at intervening in crises and circumventing racial conflicts which could eventually lead to civil disorder. Although there was a definite need for the Youth Outreach Program, it was recognized as not addressing the underlying causes.

Both Commissioner Jordan and the Human Relations Commission believe that a reduction of minority youth unemployment can only come through the combined efforts of private enterprise, local government, educational institutions, and minority community-based organizations.

Each of these entities will be represented in the Task Force and will play different coordinated roles supported by a small and efficient staff.

The goals of the Task Force are:

1. Identify available jobs in the private sector and encourage business and industry to make every effort possible to hire minority youth.
2. Identify existing programs directed at the reduction of minority youth unemployment and make this information available through educational institutions and community-based organizations.
3. Study and propose long-range solutions to the minority youth unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area.

Toward these ends, there are different activities various entities can perform.

Business:

1. Would identify their employment openings and needs and commit whenever possible a number of positions for minority youth.
2. Identify training programs and positions that could include minority youth.

Local Government:

1. Explore reward systems for businesses that do hire minority youth and make that information widely available.
2. Provide staff for the Minority Youth Employment Task Force.
3. Identify federal state, and local government programs tailored to address the needs of minority youth unemployment.
4. Provide research and data relevant to assist the Task Force.

Community-Based Organizations:

1. Provide a link between available employment in the private sector and unemployed minority youth.

2. Disseminate information about programs directed towards reduction of minority youth unemployment.
3. Conduct training programs for minority youth on how to apply for jobs, how to obtain and retain jobs.

Educational Institutions:

Advertise availability of local strategies to provide employment for minority youth.

The Task Force will be an independent body and will be self-directed in determining the duration, structure, and priorities within the identified goals and objectives. We anticipate the Task Force will meet once a month for the next eight months.

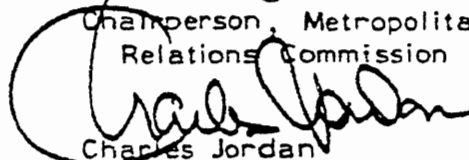
Thank you for your time and consideration of this extremely important project. I look forward to discussing this project in more detail at the October 23 meeting.

Sincerely,



Armando Laguna

Chairperson, Metropolitan Human
Relations Commission



Charles Jordan

Commissioner of Public Safety

AL:CJ:gp

ORDINANCE NO. **151904**

An Ordinance transferring \$12,900 within the General Fund from General Operating contingency to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for support of a temporary Minority Youth Employment Task Force specialist, and declaring an emergency.

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. One position of Human Resources Specialist IV, temporary position, is required by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission to staff the Minority Youth Employment Task Force, for nine months.
2. The unemployment levels of minority youth are alarmingly high; the unemployment of Black youth in Portland has been estimated as high as 40%. High youth unemployment creates an alienation and frustration which has tremendous impact and cost on other institutions.
3. The Minority Youth Employment task force will identify and coordinate existing programs directed at minority youth unemployment and identify gaps in existing programs. The Task Force will also study and propose long-range solutions to minority youth unemployment.
4. The necessary additional appropriation should be provided by transfer from General Operating Contingency to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Council directs:

Section 2. FY 1981-82 is amended as follows:

- a. \$12,900 is transferred within the General Fund from General Operating Contingency to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission as follows:

ORDINANCE No.

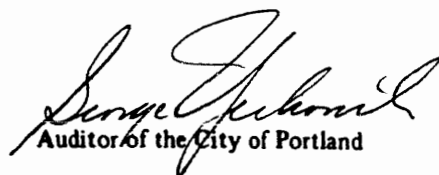
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>TRANSFER</u>	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
1. General Operating Contingency	\$12,900	
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission 34100021		
110 Full-TIME, six months		\$9,655
170 Benefits		2,975
420 Local Travel		270

Section 3. The Council declares that an emergency exists, because the appropriation is needed immediately in the account to which it is to be transferred so that there may be no program interruption or administrative delay; therefore, this Ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Passed by the Council, JUL 2 1981

Commissioner Margaret Strachan
Linda Roberts:gp
June 16, 1981
BUC 34100021

Attest:


Auditor of the City of Portland

Calendar No. 2193

ORDINANCE No. 151904

Title

An Ordinance transferring \$12,900 within the General Fund from General Operating contingency to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for support of a temporary Minority Youth Employment Task Force Specialist, and declaring an emergency.

cont. 1 day

JUL 1 1981

CONTINUED TO JUL 2 1981

Filed JUN 20 1981

GEORGE YERKOVICH
Auditor of the CITY OF PORTLAND

By *Gordon [Signature]*
Deputy

THE COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	Yeas	Nays
JORDAN		
LINDBERG	/	
SCHWAB	/	
STRACHAN	/	
IVANCIE	/	

FOUR-FIFTHS CALENDAR	
JORDAN	
LINDBERG	
SCHWAB	
STRACHAN	
IVANCIE	

INTRODUCED BY <i>Commissioner Strachan</i>

NOTED BY THE COMMISSIONER
Affairs
Finance and Administration
Safety
Utilities <i>Margaret D. Strachan</i>
Works

BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau: Metropolitan Human Relations Commission	
Prepared By: Linda Roberts	Date: 6/16/81
Budget Impact Review:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <i>mss</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not required
Bureau Head: <i>Linda Roberts</i>	

CALENDAR	
Consent	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

NOTED BY
City Attorney
City Auditor
City Engineer