



**OFFICE OF HUMAN RELATIONS ▫ HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY OF PORTLAND**

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**Human Rights Commission Responds to Coalition of Communities of Color Report
*City Council will hear Racial Disparity report on May 6, 2010***

April 19, 2010 - Portland, Oregon – At its April meeting, Portland’s Human Rights Commission received a report on the Statistical Profile of Communities of Color highlighting racial inequities across Multnomah County. The report, which the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) produced after two years of intensive research, revealed that although racial and ethnically diverse communities are sizeable and growing in number, they have been rendered less visible because of population undercounts.

The report highlights alarming disparities across all systems and institutions, with trends worsening through time. “I am truly concerned about the results of this report. Communities of color in Multnomah County are fairing far worse than in King County, Washington and worse than national averages,” said Human Rights Commissioner Emily Gottfried. “Our whole community can and must work together to bring about positive change.”

The CCC includes organizations from the African American, African Immigrant and Refugee, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and Slavic communities. These communities represent more than one in four people in the County and more than 45% of children in Portland Public Schools.

The CCC’s policy recommendations include expanded funding for culturally-specific services; need-based funding for communities of color; emphasis on poverty reduction and education; disparity reduction with firm timelines, commitments and resources; funding for community development; disclosure of race and ethnicity data by mainstream service providers; and the naming of racism.

“It is imperative for decision makers to have the most accurate and current information available. The CCC report provides an extensive and thorough examination of the realities facing Portlanders. We encourage policy makers to study and act upon this valuable report,” says Human Rights Commissioner, David Martínez.

The Human Rights Commission formed a policy work group to analyze the report and formulate policy recommendations to assist the City of Portland in addressing disparities in City bureaus and services. The Coalition of Communities of Color will present its findings to Portland’s City Council on May 6th.

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