

BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT

PORTLAND

Every Black male will have sufficient access and opportunity to the factors that lead to health, safety, and success.

Steering Committee:

Abdul Hafeedh bin
Abdullah

Mike Alexander

Samuel Ashby

Jesse Beason

Tory Campbell

Gary Chenault

Brian Detman

Ralph Evans

Dondrae Fair

Tony Hopson

Mark Jackson

Dante J. James

Joe McFerrin II

Kevin Modica

Kory Murphy

Truls Neal

Lorenzo Poe

Justice Rajee

Walter Robinson II

Ty Schwofermann

Damon Isiah Turner

January 8th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Michael Alexander, Ralph Evans, Abdul Hafeedh Bin Abdullah, Tony Hopson, Mark Jackson, Joe McFerrin, Justice Rajee, Ty Schwofermann, Damon Isiah Turner, Brian Detman, Samuel Ashby, Walter Robinson II and Gary Chenault

Work Group Members: Antoinette Edwards

Mayor's Office Staff Support: Dante J. James, Chad Stover

The meeting was called to order by Dante James. Minutes of the last meeting were approved after corrections by Mark Jackson. Dante asked thoughts about documents sent out to all for review, starting with the website. All liked the site and Dante suggested there is plenty of room to populate it with information of interest so send any items to him. It was suggested that the actual address should end with BMA and not a number.

Dante asked about the letterhead. After discussion, it was decided that the letterhead would remain as is, but the Portland city seal would be removed. It was stated that the letterhead should have a URL and phone number listed. Additionally, it was decided that a broader communications strategy would be best rather than choosing one of the logo's that Walter's friend put together. Many liked the logo but were concerned about moving too fast without a clearer media/messaging strategy. It was decided not to use a logo at this time.

The discussion began with Dante asking how BMA should inform stakeholders of the on-going work, as well as the upcoming press conference. He put out the separate idea of media ads, e.g., an ad in the Portland Observer? It was suggested that we first establish who folks would contact for questions. We shouldn't put things out if there's no one to respond to folks. Dante agreed to be the contact person for now as the Program Manager until a full time person is hired. It was suggested we open up to the public so we know what their opinion is. Before going to the community we need to be clear about the call of action. Make sure the community knows that we're grounded. First we should communicate with stakeholders. Stakeholders, community and the media all have a place, the concern is timing. It doesn't have to be a huge plan, but we need a plan. If a statement is made regarding the French/Foote we have then announced ourselves.



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portlandoregon.gov/oehr/bma

Antoinette informed the group that Dante is representing BMA on Tuesday to discuss dollars regarding criminal justice funding at LPSCC. She stated that there are a lot of things Dante is being asked to do. Dante stated that we are all the face of BMA and at the press conference, “non-usual” suspects should present on behalf of the BMA. Tony and Michael stated that everyone needs to take their turn being a voice of BMA so that folks see there are many of us.

The Mayor would like to give an update on BMA at the State of the City on January 30th. January 26th is the placeholder for the BMA press conference. Chad informed the group that 12:00 – 2:00 is open on the Mayor’s calendar. BMA can communicate to the Mayor a message to give on the 30th. It was suggested to launch on MLK day and build up to the 26th. A sub-committee will create a message, specifically looking at criminal justice. Michael Alexander will take the lead on creating the core message, addressing all angles and core areas we’ve been tasked with. Ty volunteered to help out with the mechanics of the press conference. It was suggested that the press conference should be held at SEI or the Urban League. It was decided that it will be at SEI. Four speakers need to be identified with diverse representation. There should be speakers who can speak specifically to the areas we are trying to address. The four should be standing with all others (men and women) standing behind them in solidarity. It was asked if we should just have male speakers. We have to hear from the Black male voice. This is about Black men supporting black men and boys. Dante will have someone in OEHR send out the announcement. It was noted that there should be Black women on the podium to demonstrate solidarity and that Black women have been in support of the BMA all along.

Dante had a meeting with Heather from Worksystems. They currently have 25 positions they can provide to youth. Joe has the largest contact with Worksystems and suggested Dante tap into those resources and get those 25. Dante will get more information and clarify if the 25 positions are for the summer or the year round program. Dante asked the group if there was any value in inviting Heather to come talk to the group. It was suggested to have Heather, Andrew and Peter attend the February meeting. STRYVE, a leadership and development program for youth was also mentioned as a program that could provide positions and has a model for leadership development.

Dante raised questions and concerns about HB 2192. He’d like to have data on who is being expelled. What strategies are used before students are expelled and how and why they are expelled. Dante would also like to know if the principals are a part of the conversation. Tony mentioned that Mark has some of this information. It was suggested a situation be set up that allows us to be notified when a Black male is expelled. It might have an impact if they know folks are watching. It was recommended to have someone go to schools or entities who has no stake in the game. The schools need pressure from a body like this. We want Police and schools to refer our kids back to us.

Dante informed the group that Lorenzo will be speaking at City Council on the 14th at 9:30 about discipline. Dante asked that folks attend the presentation.

Tony informed the group that Andre Norman would be speaking at SEI on January 14th from 1:00 – 2:30. Andre has Tuesdays open if folks could use him to speak.

Kevin Modica was sworn in as Assistant Chief. Dante stated that both Modica and Chief O'Dea could use our support.

BMA Steering Committee meetings for the remainder of the year need to be set up. Tuesday looks like a good day for most folks so Dante will send out a notice for the February meeting. It was also suggested there be standing evening or weekend meeting to provide recaps.

Clifford Meeks introduced himself to the group. He is a Doctor of Chiropractic, teaches at PCC and works for PCC Men of Color leadership program and would like to remain involved with this group. Dante will send out a list of names and titles for the BMA Steering Committee.

Action items

Identify four speakers for the press conference.

Dante will have OEHR send out the announcement for the press conference.

Dante will send out a date, time and location for the February meeting. Choosing a recurring meeting date on a Tuesday or Thursday works best for folks.

Mark will send Dante the school discipline data from districts other than PPS

Dante will invite Worksystems to the February meeting.

Brian and Truls will discuss HB 3194 at the February meeting.

Dante will send out a list and names of titles for the BMA Steering Committee.

Make a decision on how we will structure Tory's diagram for decision making and project selection.