



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

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

August 11th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Abdul Hafeedh bin Abdullah, Michael Alexander, Dondrae “Choo” Fair, Dante James, Erious Johnson, Joe McFerrin, Clifford Meeks, Kevin Modica, Truls Neal, James Posey, Walter Robinson, Damon Isiah Turner, Condry “CJ” Robbins, Justin Robinson-Harris, Antoinette Edwards, Chad Stover and Stephon Hartley

CJ welcomed the group and asked that all be reminded about Ferguson.

Joe gave the Employment Subcommittee update. He gave a brief presentation on the Summer Youth Experience and mentioned what an excellent pool of potential employees the young men are. He could see filling up the City Council room with young men in the future of the program.

The Employment subcommittee is working on the construction industry as their policy focus area. As part of this focus we need better support for young people getting into apprenticeship programs, the contracting/RFP process, and reaching out to Brothaman Tech and other technology programs. It was mentioned that Oregon Commission on Black Affairs is also good contact. Erious could get someone to come out and talk to the group. Joe asked that folks forward any suggestions to him.

CJ gave the Education Subcommittee update. The Education Subcommittee did not meet this month. CJ met with Nate Waas Schull, and Jason Trombley to work on asset mapping for the Education subcommittee. This subcommittee will meet at its regularly scheduled time in September.

The Family Stability subcommittee did not meet this month as part of a scheduled meeting break for the summer.

The Justice Subcommittee identified Portland Police Bureau’s (PPB) “gang list” as their current policy focus. This month PPB is reviewing its “gang list” policy, which is a policy that allows them to keep a list of people they believe are involved in gangs. The BMA Justice subcommittee is reviewing this policy and would like to come up with recommendations for changes to this policy within the next week. The committee

believes this policy is inequitably enforced against African American young men. Assistant Chief Modica informed the group that the PPB will have a 30 day period for public comment during the month of August 2015. He stated that at least one person from this table will participate on the working committee. This working group committee has two goals. One goal is to find a way to get people removed from the list. The other goal is for people to be removed from the list automatically after a certain amount of time. He also stated that the folks in the room are going to drive this conversation and that they'd be the first agency to reform. CJ will send out the link to the PPB website to the group where public comments can be made. Folks for the Justice Subcommittee will draft talking points for Steering committee members to make individual comments. After recommendations are sent to Modica and other Assistant Chiefs, they will complete a draft policy and directives.

Dondrae (Choo) stated that he and Truls are working on something as a way for folks to get off probation early.

Dante commended Abdullah on his great article in the Portland Tribune regarding STRYVE.

Antoinette thanked steering committee members that attended and Michael for facilitating the "Enough is Enough" event. Antoinette also informed the group of several upcoming events. There will be a Jambalaya in Dawson Park for "Enough is Enough." Between the Lines play is on September 26th. Brad Stacks will be speaking about social justice on October 8th. Dante, CJ, and Assistant Chief Modica will be presenting on Monday to Mayor Hales about the Black Men and Boys Healing Summit.

For the Summer Youth Experience update, CJ stated there are now twenty young men in the program. The young men are discussing emotional intelligence as well as organizing a youth summit that will allow the young men to inform us on institutional racism they are experiencing.

The Summer Youth Experience Summit will take place on September 12th and the Summer Youth Experience Capstone will take place on September 26th. The place and time of these events have not been determined. CJ is asking that steering committee members attend and help lead and facilitate the seminars and show support. The summit is where people need to send all the Black youth they know to engage in the seminars the young men have been planning this summer. The capstone is where adults need to show up because it is the presentation of the young men's findings, and the culmination of their summer experience.

Justin shared his Summer Youth experience and stated it has been inspirational to hear from the men. He also stated he would recommend the Summer Youth Experience for other young men. Joe asked that Justin give his proposal to the steering committee on something that could be done all year. Is there interest and what would it look like? Justin will gather this information this Friday.

CJ asked the Steering Committee to take a look at the stakeholders list and let him know if you recognize any of the email addresses.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March. A march is being planned this year with a “Justice or Else” theme.

CJ will send out next steps for the Black Men “Show Up” strategy. There will be two strategies. Every steering committee member is asked to provide the names of 10 Black men. Five of these men need to be people that you know will show up. Two of these men should be men you can call when needed to show up at specific functions. The other strategy is a long term political strategy to build involvement around a specific issue as we strategically address that issue. For instance, we may map out a particular strategy for reforming or eliminating Measure 11. Within that strategy we would also want to note the time/place where we will need Black men present to change the conversation. We would then build on the presence as we progress with that issue.

CJ will send out a proposal for bylaws for the group to take a look at and think about it.

Dante informed the group that we still need to fill the BMA Program Coordinator position. He will be working on the announcement which will be posted in a couple of months. Dante would like for the steering committee to be involved in the process.

Action items

CJ –

- **Set meeting w/ Justice Subcommittee to draft PPB Gang List policy recommendations.**
- **Draft SC Roles/Responsibilities.**

Justice Subcommittee

- **Draft BMA recommendation for changes to “gang list” policy.**
- **Draft common themes/talking points for BMA SC members to make individual comments on PPB “gang list”.**
- **Draft talking points for networks and allies to comment on PP.B “gang list” policy**

Summer Youth Experience Youth – Draft proposal for continuing SYE cohort throughout the school year.