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**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.*

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**October 13, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:**

Mark Jackson, Antoinette Edwards, Tony Hopson, Walter Robinson III, James Posey, Stephon Hartley (Intern), Timothy Evans, Leon Andrews, Michael Alexander, Dondrae “Choo” Fair, Joe McFerrin, Erious Johnson, Justice Rajee, Clifford Meeks, Michelle Harper (UNCF) – On Phone – Samuel Ashby, Tory Campbell, AC Kevin Modica, Kory Murphy

**1) Welcome**

CJ began the meeting by welcoming everyone and reciting the BMA Portland vision that, “every Black man and boy will have sufficient access and opportunity to the factors that lead to health, safety, and success.” CJ then welcomed Timothy Evans and Leon Andrew from the National League of Cities who were in town for the cross site convening that BMA Portland was hosting later that week.

**2) Summer Youth Experience**

We started the discussion on the Summer Youth Experience (SYE) by watching a video. The video included four young men who were participants in the SYE speaking about their experience, and what it meant to them. CJ then told the group that he wanted to get general feedback from the steering committee now. But, that he would also be organizing a feedback/debrief process that would include meetings with the young men, IRCO/Worksystems, and the BMA Workgroup. Stephon, an intern in Mayor Hales’ office who was a participant in the Summer Youth Experience, said that it gave him a chance to connect with people he did not know. He added that at the summit the young men he presented to in the Family Stability workshop opened up and were honest and genuine. Stephon enjoyed the “Know Your Rights” presentation that the justice system group put on. He said that he learned a lot from that presentation. One suggestion for next year is that BMA reach out to youth to understand their interests better. We should start with their interests and develop the program from there. Also, he felt that BMA needs to add some policy process to the training the young men receive and make a clear path for their ideas to become action. Stephon believes that we should be aware of how we are cataloguing the work of this summer so we can

share with other people. It was mentioned that the video is one way we are cataloguing. But that we can be working to develop other ways.

### 3) United Negro College Fund Presentation

Michelle Harper of United Negro College Fund (UNCF) then presented about opportunities for collaboration. Michelle informed the steering committee that the UNCF is still giving out upwards of \$700 million dollars' worth of scholarships in the northwest alone. They also have programs including a 14 week college prep boot camp, and a UNCF night working with the Blazers. CJ agreed to email information highlighting UNCF programs to the steering committee.

### 4) National League of Cities

Timothy Evans and Leon Andrews from the National League of Cities (NLC) presented information about the NLC and where the BMA Initiative is nationally. Leon welcomed the steering committee and reflected on the process that has taken place over the past 4 years. They are now in phase 2 of their BMA work. Six of the original eleven BMA cities are a part of the 2nd phase. During this phase they are looking for mayors and city council members to commit to using the BMA platform to raise visibility of BMA efforts. Leon said that he appreciates the structure that he sees in front of him, the steering committee, and the Summer Youth Experience. He further added that bringing young men to the table to engage authentically/effectively is critical. Leon informed everyone that the remaining cities that are engaged in BMA nationally are: Charlottesville, Fort Wayne, Philadelphia, Louisville, Orlando, Milwaukee, and Omaha. Leon asked the steering committee members how National League of Cities can help with ownership and accountability beyond this room. He then asked what the steering committee has done to effect policy change. What have we done, and what are our plans in regards to policy? Leon mentioned that he knows of our State's progress on Ban the Box (BTB), he was wondering if we are leveraging any points to insure that the City of Portland's BTB policy aligns with national best practices.

James Posey said that he feels like BMA is missing the mark. He believes that the time for action is now because we have a supportive mayor. He believes that we have no guarantees about what will happen after Mayor Hales' term. James added that he'd like to hear more about what Chicago, Atlanta, and other cities with more Black people are doing. He said that frankly the BMA cities are second tier cities. Leon responded that although those cities are not officially BMA cities, the cities James named are engaged in BMA work. Portland was chosen because this city represents a cross section of the nation where we need to be effecting much like the other cities on the BMA list.

Erious shared about the Justice Subcommittee's work on the Portland Police Bureau's "Gang Designation". The Portland Police Bureau has a workgroup with three BMA Steering Committee members on it what will be responsible for the final recommendation to Chief of Police. Erious further noted that the Oregon Department of Justice has a workgroup for House Bill 200 on racial profiling which is a part of BMA work. Leon stated that we need to make sure these efforts explicitly emphasize racial equity.

Joe McFerrin said that he is excited about the young men getting into the work, and that he thinks they will help us to be more successful. Erious stated that much of this work in Oregon is not moved through data, but rather presence. He clarified that the work is connecting Black men who are subject matter experts so they can then be informed when they are working at policy tables of how this all fits together and make better decisions as a result of that information. Joe followed up on Erious' point saying policymakers react differently when they hear that BMA is interested in an issue, or that BMA has a specific position on an issue. In other words this group meeting and having an aligned agenda is powerful for everyone who is at the table in reducing the disparities Black men and boys face. Many other steering committee members agreed with this statement by Joe. Justice Rajee, added further that many of our people are being pushed out to surrounding communities here in Portland which is leading to disconnection. BMA offers the opportunity for those who are disconnected to be reconnected, and people working on BMA are a part of the efforts to make sure our people are not further dislocated. Leon then wrapped up this agenda item by saying that he is encouraged by what he's hearing in this room, and that we seem to have some really solid and intentional work here in Portland.

## 5) Committee Updates

For the Education subcommittee update Mark Jackson shared that he and CJ had met with Betsy Miller-Jones and out of that meeting has arisen an opportunity to do two equity presentations at the upcoming Oregon School Board Association (OSBA). Mark mentioned that he was shocked to find out Oregon has no law requiring school board members to do any training of any kind. Mark was asking for the steering committee approval on moving forward in the planning of these presentations. Tony Hopson said he felt like it was a great opportunity that BMA cannot pass up. CJ asked if anyone was opposed to the BMA Education subcommittee planning and presenting at the OSBA convention in November. There were no objections to this action. The steering committee agreed to move forward with the planning and presenting of two Equity workshops at the OSBA convening. CJ asked for volunteers for this effort. Erious, Michael Alexander, Walter Robinson, and Stephon Hartley agreed to be a part of the planning. CJ will organize them meeting to plan the workshops.

Kory Murphy gave the Family Stability subcommittee update. He gave a brief overview of a Healing Black men and boys trauma summit that the Family Stability subcommittee is looking to collaborate on. Kory said that this summit would be an opportunity for Black men and boys in Portland to come together and heal some of their common trauma. The Family Stability subcommittee wants this summit to be focused on individual, relational, organizational, and structural trauma. The committee will meet over the next month and have a presentation for the steering committee next month.

Joe McFerrin gave an overview of Economic Development work that he and POIC are a part of and would like to collaborate with BMA and other organizations. Worksystems will be putting out an RFP for 600 – 800 internships and Joe would like to collaborate with other organizations to put together a proposal for this RFP. He believes that such an RFP would be highly competitive. Joe also mentioned that POIC was selected by Elemental Technologies (ET) to receive grant money from 12 different

IT companies. ET selects different organizations to receive this grant money every year. So, he would like to see other organizations at the BMA table get this money in the future.

## 6) Show Up Strategy

CJ handed out the “show up” strategy signup sheets to everyone who was present as they were leaving, asking them to complete them before next month’s meeting. CJ adjourned the meeting. He will also set up a Survey Monkey on

### Action Items

CJ will email UNCF information from Michelle Harper to the entire steering committee.

CJ will coordinate the OSBA presentation workgroup meeting and creating a presentation.

The Family Stability subcommittee will put together a presentation for next month’s steering committee meeting about the Healing Invisible Wounds summit.