



**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.

November 10, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Abdul Hafeedh Bin Abdullah, Tory Campbell, Brian Detman, Tony Hopson, Dante James, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, Joe McFerrin, Clifford Meeks, Kevin Modica, Kory Murphy, James Posey, Walter Robinson, Ty Schwoeffermann, Damon Turner and Condry "CJ" Robbins

CJ welcomed the group and discussed current events. CJ then read the vision statement: **Every Black male will have access and opportunity to the factors that lead to health, safety, and success.** He stated that when folks ask you what BMA is as about they don't have to be sitting at this table to help out with the work.

It was suggested that approval of the September and October minutes be tabled until there is a quorum.

CJ mentioned Donald Dixon event which 70 – 80 black boys attended. This was a good effort but not as good as it could have been. It was stated that there were a lot of officers in attendance but some didn't think that was a bad thing,

CJ stated that the NLC Convening started when Timothy Evans attended the steering committee meeting. There was an excellent turnout for all events. James felt like folks were here to do an evaluation and asked if there is any understanding on what we've done in the last two years. We need to clarify more than we have been. CJ asked that folks take a look at last month's meeting minutes for this information. Dante suggested putting an annual report together for City Council. CJ will help get this process started. Then a small committee could be formed to help.

CJ mentioned the round table event of young men who did a fishbowl conversation with Kory. CJ mentioned the three questions the young men were asked and stated the young men couldn't dream of a reality were disparities didn't exist. Street Roots did an article on the young men and CJ will forward that article.

It was stated that the bus tours only showed good parts of the town and that the amount of time for each tours weren't enough. Joe will connect with Timothy for site visit follow-up.

Nkenge Harmon-Johnson attended the meeting to share with the group that her husband Erious Johnson, a BMA steering committee meeting was recently tracked by DOJ in the prosecutors division on the sole basis of his use of the hashtag "blacklivesmatter". It appears that DOJ has conducted investigations on anyone who was using this hashtag. Urban League and other partners wrote and disseminated a letter expressing that this tracking is illegal with demands that it stop, and that DOJ reveal the extent of this information gathering. It was also stated that some officers believe that "blacklivesmatter" is considered a hate group. CJ will forward the letter and asked that folks share with their networks.

It was suggested the group figure out how to manage time in the steering committee meeting since we meet once a month. It was recommended to have a workgroup create a process for responding to requests for BMA involvement.

The Family Stability committee is working on a Black Men and Boys Healing summit that would take place in the spring. They have created a resolution for BMA Steering Committee support and involvement. Kory asked that the steering committee review the document. There will be a vote on if the steering committee supports this. CJ will send out a doodle poll so the vote can be done prior to the next meeting.

Action items

CJ will create a workgroup to address how to respond to requests for BMA involvement.

CJ will forward the Urban League DOJ letter the steering committee with a request that they forward that letter to their networks for support.

CJ will begin working on a 2015 annual report. He will convene a workgroup for this as needed.