



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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Dear Friends and Disability Equity Advocates,

Thank you to everyone who provided insight and input into Michael Szporluk's recent report on the Portland Commission on Disability! It is both inspiring and daunting to read his many recommendations.

Today, I met with current PCOD members to hear their thoughts on Michael's report. PCOD is not going away. The central question before us is how PCOD can be most effective in advising the City and the Council on disability equity.

In order to make informed decisions weighing all possibilities, I need time to meet with my colleagues on Council to hear their thoughts and concerns about PCOD's future. I need time to complete the process of assessing how to work with bureaus on racial equity, too, and considering how the bureau Equity Managers should be partnering with the Office of Equity on both racial and disability-related work.

The Office of Equity and Human Rights is at a crucial crossroads. I am working on the process to hire a new Director, and I've included many references to required effectiveness in addressing disability disparities in the job description. I will seek representation by community members with lived experience on the interview panels. I am also assessing whether it is feasible to make a Budget request to improve staffing for the Office and its Title I and II work.

With all this in mind, I am asking current members of PCOD to take a break through the end of the year to allow time for these necessary conversations and tasks. I need time and space to figure out the next actions that will best support the Commission, the Council, and the people of Portland. I know PCOD members are eager and energized to move forward. I am eager and energized too, and I need time to consider the best direction to take.

I will gather with PCOD early next year to discuss the resulting proposal after all the necessary conversations with my Council colleagues. I am open to your questions and comments in this interim period. I am very grateful to PCOD members past, present and future, and I thank you for the commitment we share to advance equity for people of all abilities in our community.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Amanda Fritz