



Commission Chair Franklin Donahoe
Representing Snohomish County

Commissioner Sara Franklin-Phillips
Representing South King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County

Commissioner Sheila Reed Trahan
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Dr. James Smith
Representing King County

Commissioner Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Will Howard
Representing Pierce County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Public Meeting
Commission on African American Affairs
Thursday, September 19, 2019
HAPO Credit Union – Vancouver, WA 98022
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Members present: Chair Donahoe, Commissioners, Franklin-Phillips, Kendricks, Quinn, Reed-Trahan, Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince and Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney. Quorum established

Absent: Commissioners Caupain, Howard and Smith

5:30 PM - Meeting called to order

5:35 PM - Motion to accept previous meeting minutes as written. No additions, corrections or discussion. Passed.

5:40 PM – Directors Report

- Introduction of new commissioner Walter Kendricks from Spokane
- Executive Director appointed to workgroup by Governor Inslee fixing the Equity Office legislation before the 2020 session.
- Executive Director to meet with legislators topics include;
 - The State Equity Office legislation
 - Initiative 1000 and a possible legislative fix should the ballot measure fail
 - The members legislation
 - State Disparity Study and contracting
 - Conveying appreciation for the work on I-940
- Asks the commission send congratulations to Rep. Lovick upon becoming speaker of the House of Representatives, the first African American to hold the position

6:00 PM – Lynn Marzette, Vancouver NAACP

The Vancouver NAACP has approximately 100 members. The Legal Redress and Communications committees are the current active committees. The organization is involved in local community events and sponsors the MLK and Juneteenth celebrations and the annual Peace and Justice Fair. They also participate in voter registration drive with future plans to assist with homeless initiatives. Vancouver NAACP became involved in the hiring process at the LARCH facility. Participated in the evaluation for their sergeant and correctional officers. Acknowledges this will take more time, but feels they are making process. Toured LARCH, talked with inmates to assess how the inmates of color were living versus the other. Expressed concern about African American inmates not utilizing the

craft/woodworking area, GED classes or the libraries. Leadership pledged to encourage more inmates participate. It was discovered that some admission to these activities was by request and may have hindered or contributed to the lack of participation by African American inmates. Concerning body cameras in Vancouver, the vicinity does not have body cameras; shares the police union's concerns whether personal discussions would interfere with privacy. Chair Donahoe contributed to the discussion by saying there is 'no expectation of privacy in the workplace anywhere'

Asks the Commission to assist them by working with the City of Vancouver to help change the culture. For example, the City Manager's Diversity and Inclusion strategy pays a considerable amount of money to a consulting firm and one year after rollout, no results have been achieved other than training exercises.

6:45 PM – Paula Sardinias, HAPO Credit Union

States 40-50% of money in held in credit unions are the funds of black and brown people. Offered to mentor or coach people of color interest on sitting on the boards of credit unions.

7:00 PM – Michael Standard / HAPO Credit Union

The previous reverse mortgage program has been revitalized; no longer is it considered a program strictly for those in financial need. A new type of reverse mortgage, the Home Equity conversion Mortgage (HECM) is a tool for people to use their equity in the home. With a 55% down payment, participants benefit from a line of credit, no monthly mortgage payment and the ability to age in place. The average American senior has \$46,000 in savings (e.g. savings accounts and pensions). HECM is a mandatory FHA insured; applicants have to pass background checks, and mortgage counseling.

The only reverse mortgage insured by the U.S. Federal Government is called a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), and is only available through an FHA-approved lender. If you are a homeowner age 62 or older and have paid off your mortgage or paid down a considerable amount, and are currently living in the home, you may participate in FHA's HECM program. The HECM is FHA's reverse mortgage program that enables you to withdraw a portion of your home's equity. The amount that will be available for withdrawal varies by borrower...

- www.Hud.gov/programs_offices/housing/sfh/hecm/hecmhome

7:45 PM – Public Comment

8:00 PM – Adjournment