

## **RDPO Policy Committee Resolution on Equity in the RDPO**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) recognizes Oregon, Washington and America’s long history of institutionalized racism, forged in federal, state and local exclusionary laws, including the 1830 Indian Removal Act; the post-Civil War Jim Crow laws designed to marginalize Blacks and deny them the right to vote; the Oregon Constitution of 1857, the only state to enter the Union banning Blacks from settling in the state; Washington State’s 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and Alien Land Laws; local redlining laws preventing people of color from settling in neighborhoods reserved for Whites; et. al.;

**WHEREAS**, the nation, Oregon and Washington have made great progress to remove exclusionary laws from the books, government policies, programs and investment decisions continue to marginalize and disenfranchise entire communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, LatinX, immigrant, refugee, and other communities of color, resulting in lower standards of living, education and health outcomes and disproportionate impacts during disasters;

**WHEREAS**, we, the RDPO Policy Committee, acknowledge and have learned from the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on Black, Indigenous, LatinX, Pacific Islander and other communities of color, seniors, people with disabilities, the houseless, and members of the LGBTQ community in the Portland Metropolitan Region;

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 protests in Portland, Vancouver and elsewhere in the Region, calling for racial justice and police reform, compel us to ensure that the law enforcement projects and investments we make with the designated Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention portion of our Urban Areas Security Initiative funding supports the safety and protection of all members of our communities;

**WHEREAS**, community-based organizations across the region have and continue to play a vital role both before and following a disaster in representing the interests of and delivering services to marginalized, under-served and disproportionately disaster impacted communities;

**WHEREAS**, we have a moral, ethical, and legal responsibility to ensure equitable access to the disaster preparedness resources we manage;

**WHEREAS**, the RDPO Policy Committee in 2016 committed the organization to advancing equity when it approved the RDPO 2017-2021 strategic plan, and the Steering Committee has made significant investments in projects with equity objectives since then, we acknowledge an urgent need to expand our awareness of racial and other equity barriers and increase our project investments that support disaster preparedness and resilience of marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities;

**WHEREAS**, to realize our vision of a resilient and equitable Portland metropolitan region we must include representation from marginalized, under-served and disproportionately

impacted communities that are currently under-represented in our organization, its strategic planning and its program development and decisions on investments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED BY THE RDPO POLICY COMMITTEE**, that on this 19 day of February 2021, the RDPO Policy Committee will:

1. Commit to:

- a. Improving our understanding of the vulnerabilities, risks, and disproportionate impacts of disasters on Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, and other marginalized and under-served communities through research, assessment, and effective community engagement;
- b. Prioritizing funding for projects that improve disaster outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities, while still building other critical disaster preparedness capabilities and meeting funder requirements;
- c. Identifying how law enforcement projects can be designed to engage the community, build trust, and advance safety and protection outcomes for all;
- d. Fostering, supporting, and strengthening racial equity and inclusion of community-based organizations (CBOs) that represent Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities in the RDPO's strategic planning and program development processes;
- e. Building partnerships with organizations that represent Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served, and disproportionately impacted communities in our region to help the RDPO identify equity-centered organizational and programmatic changes;
- f. Addressing gaps in representation of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities on RDPO committees, work groups and task forces, and creating community representative seats on the Policy, Steering, and Program Committees, providing a stipend for community participants, as appropriate; and
- g. Establishing a regional disaster preparedness equity framework, tools and training program that facilitates collaboration with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities in the development and funding of RDPO projects.

2. Direct the Steering Committee to:

- a. Create a charter that frames the purpose, goals, membership, and expectations of the RDPO Equity Sub-Committee;
- b. Establish an equity subcommittee under the Steering Committee's direction and oversight to:
  - i. Develop a standard operating procedure, work plan and budget to help the sub-committee implement its activities and achieve the goals in the charter;
  - ii. Conduct an environmental scan of similar equity initiatives in the region and beyond that could inform the sub-committee's work;
  - iii. Assess and analyze the current RDPO program to identify opportunities to strengthen equity and community resilience strategies, especially that would enhance preparedness and resilience outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served, and disproportionately impacted communities;
  - iv. Develop a regional equity framework, tools, and training program, and assess and address gaps in representation of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities on RDPO committees, work groups and task forces and in RDPO strategic planning and program development processes;
  - v. Engage community members with direct experience to share their perspectives of barriers to overcome in planning for response and recovery of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other under-served, marginalized, and disproportionately impacted communities;
  - vi. Develop an evaluation methodology to measure the impact of the RDPO's equity and community resilience investments; and
  - vii. Identify additional funding sources and strategies to support equity and community resilience projects at the local and regional levels, especially that benefit disaster preparedness and community resilience for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and other marginalized, under-served and disproportionately impacted communities in the region.
- c. Review and approve the RDPO Equity Sub-committee's budget, work plan, and deliverables;

- d. Develop and manage a collaborative process that engages police chiefs and sheriffs or their delegates and community advocates of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color , and other marginalized, underserved, and disproportionately impacted communities in the region to identify counter-terrorism law enforcement projects and recommend law enforcement-specific Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant investments that incorporate community safety and protection objectives; and
  
- e. Provide an implementation progress report to the Policy Committee twice per year.

Approved by the RDPO Policy Committee this 19 day of February 2021:

DocuSigned by:  
*Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle*  
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Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle  
RDPO Policy Committee Chair

RDPO Policy Committee Members (as at February 19, 2021):

- City of Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle (Chair)
- Columbia County Commissioner Margaret Magruder (Vice Chair)
- City of Hillsboro Councilor Kyle Allen
- TriMet Safety and Security Executive Marla Blagg
- City of Beaverton Councilor Mark Fagin
- City of Troutdale Councilor Sandy Glantz
- City of Portland Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty
- City of Fairview Councilor Wendy Lawton
- Clark County Councilor Temple Lentz
- Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran
- Port of Portland Chief Operating Officer Dan Pippenger
- Metro Council President Lynn Peterson
- Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith

Note: City of Gresham and Washington County committee positions were vacant at the time of this resolution.