

Pledge Calls on Restoring Trust



The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners as pictured in a photo from last January when the governing body started the year as the first such group in which all members represented women and minority groups for the first time ever. After some recent tensions on the board, a new statement signed by each commissioner focuses on restoring trust.

County Commissioners tap down on conflict

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After some recent tensions on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, a new statement focuses on restoring trust, signed by each member of the governing panel.

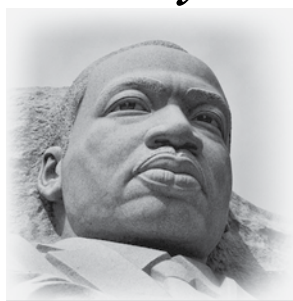
Multnomah County Board Chair Deborah Kafoury came under fire last month when she gavelled a board meeting to a close, shutting down a line of questioning by Commissioner Loretta Smith and ending the meeting with a vulgar remark aimed at her colleague. The only African American member of the panel, Smith was raising concerns about institutional racism in the county as she opposed the appointment of the county's chief operating officer, Marissa Madrigal, to serve in Kafoury's absence if she were to ever leave office or was otherwise unable to serve. Kafoury later explained she felt a responsibility to defend county staff and apologized for expressing her feelings in the way she did.

The new statement, issued by the full commission on Monday, said Smith and Kafoury met face-to-face for the first time since the Dec. 21 board meeting and took an important step toward restoring trust.

"The Chair apologized to Commissioner Smith in person and both agreed they are stronger working together," said the statement.

"As county commissioners, we are accountable to the public and to one another. Toward that end, we will begin a formal quality improvement process to improve communication. We are committed to putting our energy going forward into the many critical issues facing the county. We know that to accomplish that, we must maintain and vigorously uphold a professional, respectful work environment."

Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.



--Martin Luther King Jr.



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Trail Blazers hope for a better world in which we can live in peace and harmony together.

"The only time we should look back to yesterday is to look at the positive things that were accomplished to encourage us to do better things today and tomorrow." – Stevie Wonder



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