

Motion: From SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee

The SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee supports the Community and City Response to Hate Joint Statement and the funding proposal from the ONI Budget Advisory Committee and Commissioner Eudaly's Office

Committee Discussion:

The SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee reviewed the background information below and approved the motion above. The committee felt the joint Statement was in agreement with our organizational purposes, bylaws, and ONI grant agreement. The committee did not feel it was political, but factual.

BACKGROUND:

Portland United Against Hate mobilizes to improve reporting and tracking of hateful acts and support communities in need

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/72583>

A community initiated partnership of community organizations of color, neighborhood groups, and the City of Portland are building a rapid response network – Portland United Against Hate – that combines reporting and tracking of hateful acts and provides support and protection our communities need in this uncertain era.

The partnership grew out of several community organizations approaching the Office of Neighborhood Involvement after this November's election asking for assistance in convening organizations to collaborate in building a response to the negative forces that undermine our city and communities. In recent months, many community organizations have reported increasing incidents of hate crimes and intimidation, including bullying and violence stemming from racism, xenophobia, religious bigotry, islamophobia, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, stigma, and misogyny.

Representatives from over a dozen organizations have been meeting since then to craft a joint statement and develop intentional collaborative strategies to protect vulnerable communities from hate. Key commitments to collaborate on include:

- Working with area municipalities, starting with the City of Portland, to build community capacity to improve the reporting and tracking of hate crimes;
- Mobilizing and training organization constituents to participate in grass roots actions to support and protect community members targeted by hate in our city.

- Coordinate volunteer and training opportunities to combat and speak out against hateful, harassing or intimidating acts.

In the past three months since the election the City of Portland's Graffiti Abatement Program, within the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, reported a significant increase in "high-priority" graffiti removals compared to previous years. Since Nov. 8, 2016 there have been 23 hate and 60 political graffiti removals compared to zero hate tags reported in the same time period in the past two years and only one political tag in the same period in 2015-16.

Community leaders are aware of an increasing number of incidents meant to harass and intimidate neighbors such as the recent verbal attacks on Latino parishioners at St. Peters Church on SE Foster Rd. and a brick thrown through the window with a Black Lives Matter message at In Other Words bookstore on NE Killingsworth. We applaud and commit to coordinating with other community-based initiatives already mobilizing to support and protect immigrant and refugee, Muslim, LGBTQ, people with disabilities and others targeted by hate.

Organizations are invited to sign on to the joint statement and work with this growing partnership. Numerous neighborhood District Coalitions are considering joining at their next board meetings.

For information contact:

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