



Office of Citizen Involvement
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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May 20, 2010

Dave Houghton, Director
Office of Emergency Management
501 SE Hawthorne
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Mr. Houghton:

The Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) extends its sincere appreciation to you for meeting with us. Your presentation did an excellent job of informing and increasing our awareness of the public's current participation within the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), as well as your community outreach efforts.

The CIC believes that by meeting with the county's various departments we develop a better understanding of the public involvement taking place within the departments. As a result, we are better equipped to offer suggestions to departments on how to further engage citizens within the county. The CIC commends your efforts to conduct public outreach to distribute emergency management information. We hope that you will also make similar efforts to invite public input into your programs and policies in the future. Our recommendations to expand both public input and outreach are:

- Establish a citizen advisory committee that could offer a public perspective about OEM policies and procedures.
- Bundle OEM issues with the outreach efforts and programs of other county departments and divisions to achieve maximum effect.
- Conduct public outreach about OEM issues by:
 - attending a variety of public events put on by specific communities (i.e., bike community at Sunday Parkways, neighborhood association and coalition meetings, LGBT community at Gay Pride Week events);
 - working with groups and agencies that already have significant contacts and outreach experience within the county community to distribute information (i.e., Jeri Williams at the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement who could mobilize the faith-based community, APNBA to reach the small business community).
- Consider the outreach strategies of other county departments and commissions for new outreach ideas and strategies (i.e., Youth Engagement Manual).
- Attend the Diversity Outreach Trainings offered by the CIC and its Office of Citizen Involvement.

It is our hope that you will consider these suggestions when determining methods for enhancing citizen involvement within the Office of Emergency Management. We are fully prepared to offer our assistance with implementation of any of these

suggestions and to assist engaging the public in the event of a policy shift or new initiative your office is considering implementing. You are welcome to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

Thank you again for meeting with us, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the future!

Sincerely,
Steve Schmunk, Chair
Citizen Involvement Committee
Departmental Review Sub-Committee

cc: Chair Cogen
Jana McLellan
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