



Office of Citizen Involvement
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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April 10, 2011

Scott Taylor, Director
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice
501 SE. Hawthorne Blvd. # 250
Portland, OR 97214-3589

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) extends its sincere appreciation to you and your staff for your participation in the Departmental Review Process. Your staff presentation did an excellent job of informing and increasing our awareness of the public's current participation within the Department of Community Justice (DCJ), 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 and also realizes that greater inclusion of the public in your decision-making is not an easy task given the population with which you work. Our suggestions to maintain and expand both public input and outreach are:

- Use your public forums to gather input before solutions are crafted.
- Recruit community leaders and interested members of the public to be actively involved in your Juvenile Program. Participants should include former clients, parents of juveniles within the system, ministers, teachers, and attorneys.
- Encourage participation from local organizations such as the Miracle Club, a nonprofit organization that serves as a gathering place and treatment center for people with alcohol and drug addictions.
- Consider using community resources offered by the Portland Urban League.
- Develop a DCJ Advisory Board comprises the organizations and community leaders indicated above, as well as members of the public. The advisory body could provide advice and recommendations as well as a public perspective about DCJ policies and procedures.
- Attend the Diversity Outreach Trainings offered by the CIC and its Office of Citizen Involvement. The trainings provide a forum where staff from local organizations share successful strategies for conducting outreach to underrepresented populations.

It is our hope that you will consider these suggestions when determining methods for enhancing citizen involvement within DCJ. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B.J. FinleyBranch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

B.J. FinleyBranch, Chair
Departmental Review Sub-Committee
Vice Chair, Citizen Involvement Committee

CC: Chair Cogen
Joanne Fuller
file