

Cory Murphy letter of resignation from the COAB 6/25/15

Recently, I was unable to attend two meetings due to a [REDACTED] 1 and to my job during a particularly busy and very successful Pride Season. While I did email the COCL to inform the COAB that I would be unavailable during the last two meetings, it is still my responsibility to make sure that I do my part to fully engage and represent the communities I come from as part of the COAB.

Today, I have come before the COAB to immediately resign my position. The COAB needs a level of engagement that I can no longer commit to after my [REDACTED] 1 and new, positive changes in my professional career. I want to thank the selection committee for allowing me to participate and for the COAB for allowing me the time to speak openly - instead of an impersonal email.

While I will also continue to follow and support the actions of the COAB to fulfill the goals of the DOJ Settlement agreement, I am also glad to continue to focus on the safety and inclusion of the LGBTQ community in all policies and initiatives undertaken by the PPB and the City of Portland. For those who have wondered how specifically the LGBTQ is affected by the decisions made here, I say this: all policies must be decided with this community in mind because we truly are everywhere... Those who interact with the PPB in a mental crisis situation are going to include those who are LGBTQ. Citizens of color who interact with law enforcement, sometimes at our worst moment, are going to include some folks who identify as LGBTQ. To not include discussion of the LGBTQ in this body's policy and decision making by is to willfully deny agency to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. I and other members of the LGBTQ community have already witnessed this happen. It is my fervent hope that an increased awareness of the issues facing our community are taken into account here.

Lastly, I believe in the work of the COAB. I also believe that changing policies and monitoring the DOJ settlement are not enough to create a greater sense of trust and cooperation in the community. At the end of the day, we are all citizens who deserve dignity and respect - including our officers putting themselves on the line everyday to protect and serve. While there is no doubt in my mind that a culture within all law enforcement agencies exist which can and has perpetuated intolerance and systemic discrimination against people of color and other marginalized communities - there is also a culture of misunderstanding, and sometimes hate, that has misguidedly been visited upon many great officers just trying to do their job. The policies decided upon here and other oversight mechanisms can guide actions and accountability. But hearts and hope can only be mended with love, respect and understanding. Dr. Gordly's call for truth and reconciliation may yet be the best vehicle to mend hearts and mind long after this settlement agreement has been closed. Thank you for listening.

*Redaction Date: Wednesday, July 06, 2016 3:39:35 PM*

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