

April 27, 2020

Board of Directors
League of Oregon Cities
1201 Court St NE #200
Salem, OR 97301



Office of the Mayor
DR. DAVID DROTZMANN

Re: Letter of Support for Revisions to Bylaws to Create a People of Color Caucus

Dear Board of Directors:

The League of Oregon Cities plays an important role in both advocating on behalf of its member governments as well as helping to strengthen those governments through effective advocacy and outstanding leadership. To those ends, the League has adopted a strategic plan that includes among its goals to “build a comprehensive an equitable engagement approach that services and includes all cities and underserved communities” and to “establish an organization that welcomes all and eliminates barriers to effective participation.” The Hermiston City Council applauds you for adopting these goals and we desire to assist you in achieving them. We understand that the League is currently undertaking a review of its by-laws. As an organization that recognizes diversity as a core value, now is an opportune time to create a mechanism to identify areas of concern and causation, convene a caucus of stakeholders, and take action on the League’s goals.

Consequently, we request the League, as part of its by-laws amendments, to include a provision allowing for the creation of caucuses generally, and a City Leaders of Color Caucus specifically, to serve as a resource and provide guidance and leadership for the League’s initiatives.

Specifically, we see the mission of the Caucus as:

1. To inform, educate, and empower local governments to address issues and policies that directly affect people of color.
2. To leverage collective strength to inform, educate, and empower people of color to serve as a resource to local government and state leaders and community organizations on issues and policies affecting people of color, and to serve in positions of leadership in local and state government.
3. To inform the League of Oregon Cities policy agenda on issues and policies that directly affect people of color.

The Caucus’ goals are:

- To promote positive and effective relationships among city officials of color, their communities, political leaders, and the League of Oregon Cities.
- To build and increase capacity of city officials of color and support a pipeline

- for people of color to engage in and serve in local government.
- To serve as a resource to the League of Oregon cities in the formulation of its policy agenda.
 - To equip and advance city officials of color to serve in positions of leadership within the League of Oregon Cities.

Membership would be comprised of any elected or appointed member of any city in Oregon who are active members in good standing with the League of Oregon cities and identify as a person of color. The activities of the Caucus would align with the League's By-Laws as well as compliment, not duplicate, the Leagues efforts on behalf of all cities.

Once again, the Hermiston City Council applauds the League for its leadership on these important issues and, as people of color within the League's membership, we look forward to working with you in a more organized and structured way for the betterment of cities and the people of Oregon.

Please accept this letter and the attached Council Resolution as confirmation of the City of Hermiston's Council's support for revisions to the bylaws that allow the creation of a People of Color Caucus.

Thank you for your considerate review of this matter.
Sincerely,

Dr. David Drotzmann
Mayor