



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS**
CITY OF PORTLAND

Commissioner in Charge:
Ted Wheeler, Mayor

Bureau Director:
Dr. Markisha Webster



October 22, 2021

City of Portland Auditor's Office

1120 SW 5th Ave.

Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Madam Auditor and City Commissioners,

For longer than our history accurately documents, Black, Indigenous, and communities of color have experienced disparate impacts of racist policies and practices threatening their safety and well-being. Homeownership for communities of color has been fraught with oppressive barriers; this dream is then often met with additional complexities. The current report on BDS Property Maintenance illustrates one facet of a systemically oppressed structure connected to homeownership.

While the content of such reports can be alarming, discouraging, and multifaceted in nature, this type of information sharing can also provide the context for eliminating discriminatory and racist policies and practices in our City services. The Office of Equity and Human Rights is committed to working with all City bureaus and offices to embed equitable, anti-racist strategies---with authentic connection and input from the communities most impacted.

The Office of Equity respectfully asks City Council to digest the contents of this report and use it to shape the direction of services specific to property maintenance for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color in Portland. The recommendations suggested in the report to redress the inequitable outcomes of the complaint-based property maintenance system are sound, providing clear direction for equitable next steps.

Thank you,

Dr. Markisha Webster

Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights

City of Portland

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