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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**April 27, 2020**

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**Mayoral Debate to Call for Accountability and Economic Development for  
Black, Indigenous, Latino and other People of Color**

**WHAT:** Mayoral Debate hosted by the National Association of Minority Contractors-Oregon, the Oregon Native American Chamber, the Coalition of Communities of Color, LatinoBuilt, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Coalition of Black Men.

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm & Candidates “After Party” Post Debate from 5:00-5:30pm (led by Candidate Campaign Teams via Zoom Meeting and links will be set up prior to the event and shared during the debate).

**WHERE:** Via a Zoom Town Hall Meeting. Please contact [eddie@namc-oregon.org](mailto:eddie@namc-oregon.org) for media registration information.

**WHO:** Moderated by Nate McCoy, Executive Director, NAMC-Oregon

Questions by Panel of Community and Advocacy Organizations:

- Coalition of Black Men - Executive Committee President Tony Jones
- Coalition of Communities of Color - Advocacy Director, Andrea Valderrama
- LatinoBuilt - Board president Rosa Martinez, and President, Professional Minority Group
- NAMC-Oregon - Board chair Andrew Colas and CEO, Colas Construction
- Oregon Native American Chamber - Executive Director James Alan Parker
- POIC + RAHS - President and CEO Joe McFerrin II

**WHY:** City policies have a direct impact on the economic and social well-being of Portlanders – and on communities of color in particular. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated, and deepened economic inequality and access to recovery resources, and the next mayor must be held accountable to closing this gap and pursuing economic and racial justice in all of the city's policies, processes, and projects. This inequality of economic development exists in housing, transportation, jobs, and workforce development, small business assistance, and many other areas. This Zoom town hall debate will ask candidates to spell out exactly how they intend to close these gaps if elected and give our communities the opportunity to hold them accountable once in office.

## **ORGANIZATION STATEMENTS:**

Andrew Colas, NAMC-OR: "This debate is a unique opportunity for candidates to lay out their plans to promote economic prosperity for businesses owned by people of color (POC). Companies of all sizes drive our economy, but the diversity that is documented throughout levels of management and the support shown to other small businesses by businesses owned by people of color outpaces that of majority-owned firms. That leadership is vital, and a Mayor who understands and can effectively collaborate with us will lead to better outcomes for all our communities."

James Parker, ONAC: "Public policy played a major role in creating the inequities that make POC communities and businesses more vulnerable to our current crisis, public policy must now play a role in correcting those injustices."

Marcus Mundy, Coalition of Communities of Color: "The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) supports a cross cultural racial justice effort to improve outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice, culturally-appropriate data and research, and leadership development. We envision our communities obtaining self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity. Selecting a Mayor for Portland who embraces these same values, and meaningfully engages BIPOC communities, is essential for fulfilling our mission. Leadership matters."

Rosa Martinez, LatinoBuilt: "Latinos make up a large/sizable percentage of the contractor workforce and play a crucial role across many trades associated with the building/construction/industry. This debate is essential to the progress of our Latino contractors as well as the entire contractor community at large. So we are very interested in learning what each candidate's plans are concerning the following areas: 1) Construction Contractor Equity, 2) Workforce Training and Hiring Policies, and 3) Empower and Support the voices of Latinos."

Joe McFerrin II, POIC: "Given the Covid-19 crisis, this debate will be an opportunity to hear what will be done to address the reality that when a catastrophe hits, the data historically indicates that African Americans suffer disproportionately to any other group. I'm eager to hear the candidates' plans on how they'll work with CBOs and agencies on the front lines to mitigate what this pandemic has brought, specifically around public safety, violence prevention, and recreation."

Tony Jones, Coalition of Black Men: "Political engagement is critical for Black communities. We must understand how our prospective elected officials' strategies align with our vision. Participation in the election process and ongoing, meaningful integration in policy development is the most important and impactful thing we can do for our communities."

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