

**From:** Becca Uherbelau, Our Oregon <bounce@bounce.myngp.com> on behalf of Becca Uherbelau, Our Oregon <becca@ouroregon.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Take Action to Invest in Black Lives



## Black Lives Matter.

It's not enough to say the words. It's not enough to be outraged.

You have to show up. Do the work. Act.

For us at Our Oregon, showing up and doing the work means acknowledging and unlearning [anti-blackness](#) and [white supremacy culture](#) within our own organization and movement. It means speaking out against racism and more than 400 years of [police violence and murder of Black Americans](#) - especially when it's uncomfortable. It means, stepping back, sitting down and lifting up Black leaders and organizations. It means admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for the harm. It means not making it about us. It means fighting for a better Oregon for the Black community who the electoral, justice, education and police systems have consistently failed.

Today, we are asking YOU to show up and [ACT](#) to support the [demands](#) of the [Portland African American Leadership Forum](#) (PAALF) and [PAALF Action](#) and [Unite Oregon](#). They are:

- **Defund local police** (for Portlanders, this means demand that the Portland Police Bureau: Immediately reduce their budget by \$50 million and reinvest into the Black community; Disband the Gun Violence Reduction Team (GVRT); and End their contract with TriMet to serve as transit police officers)
- **Reinvest in Black futures**
- **Protect Black communities from violence**

These calls to action from PAALF and Unite Oregon are not new. And they're [not that hard to understand](#). But they are long overdue.

[Read more](#) and [take action TODAY](#).



For supporters in other cities and counties in Oregon, seek out information from local Black leaders and join them in the fight! Call your local mayor and city councilors or county commissioners and do the work to dismantle the racist policies that have been woven into every aspect of our lives.

If you find yourself uncomfortable with any of this, we suggest that you [unpack why](#).

We're asking you to take action today. But it doesn't end there. The work continues.

Here are some other actions you can take to know better and do better:

- [Educate yourself](#), your community, your co-workers, and your family about anti-blackness! Have the "hard" conversations. Be uncomfortable, understand why, and do the work.
- *Donate!* Here are a few links to Black led organizations to support: [PAALF](#) and [PAALF Action Fund](#); [Unite Oregon](#); [Urban League of Portland](#); [Portland NAACP](#).
- *Keep it up!* Make a plan for what you're going to do in the next six months (or [five years](#)) to keep the focus on protecting Black lives when the spotlight has gone away. This includes registering and exercising your right to vote for candidates and issues that will truly make a difference in the lives of Black Oregonians.

Remember, this isn't just a moment. It's a movement. A movement to end police violence against Black lives. A movement to abolish anti-blackness in ourselves and in our political systems.

We commit to action today and everyday. Join us.

Becca Uherbelau  
Executive Director  
Our Oregon

Our Oregon  
525 NE Oregon, unit 525  
Portland, OR 97232 United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).