

THE REV. CHARLES STEPHEN CURRIE, JR.

A MINISTER IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SENT VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Nic Fish
Portland City Hall
1221 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Room 240
Portland OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Fish:

Thank you for the invitation to tomorrow's meeting on Fair Housing. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend as I have to visit with someone taken to this hospital this evening.


As the Fair Housing crisis has developed in Portland I have been largely been unconcerned because of my trust in your personal integrity. When it became clear that the city of Portland was not acting to enforce Fair Housing laws you claimed that a plan was in the works. It now appears your statement was not factual. The Oregonian is reporting tonight their review of e-mails demonstrates that both the City and the Fair Housing Council had no plan to enforce broken laws and that the City made special attempts to curry favor with the Metro Multifamily Housing Association, the group that represents the landlords discriminating against certain Portlanders.

In effect, it would appear based on these e-mails that the City of Portland and the agencies you directly supervise protected landlords who actively discriminated against people based on their skin color and national origin.

It would seem appropriate at this time for your office to call for an independent investigation - overseen either by BOLI or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - to determine whether or not regulations and /or laws have been broken. This scandal also creates a crisis of confidence both in your leadership and in the ability of the people you have appointed to head the Housing Bureau. I am not at this point calling for resignations but believe that serious reflection by Mayor Sam Adams and yourself needs to be undertaken to determine whether or not the right people are on the job.

Fair housing is a fundamental civil right. Under your leadership that right has been jeopardized.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Chuck Currie