

**Legislative Affairs Committee Report  
November 14, 2020 Chapter Meeting  
Link Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A., Chair**

- I want to thank Link Linda for her wonderful work as the past Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, for her work in bringing me up to speed and for her continued support as a very active member of that Committee.
- This is an exciting and exceptional time in our nation's history with the announcement of our new presumptive President-Elect and Vice-President, Kamala Harris who will be the first female, the first African American, and the first biracial Vice President of the United States of America.
- Our Link Sisters and Link Linda has been working very closely with the League of Women Voters around the very pressing issue police reform.
- I had a wonderful conversation this week with Barbara Ross and we spoke at length about their current efforts at developing a comprehensive report on police reform in Portland and in Oregon.
- Now is the time for us to continue to push forward and to demand that absolutely everyone who comes into contact with the criminal justice system be treated as a human being and that each and every bad actor is held accountable. It never has been accepted for police to kill our black and brown sisters and brothers at will and we will not be silent until the outrage stops. As African Americans, we are 3X's more likely to be killed by police than our white counterparts and we are 3.1X's more likely to be unarmed when we are killed by police than our white counterparts.
  - The Links in collaboration with the League of Women Voters is continuing to interview those who can help make police accountability a reality in Oregon, including:
    - State Senator Lou Frederick
    - State Rep. Janelle Bynum
    - Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler
    - Portland Chief of Police Chuck Lovell
- We are at an historic high with the election of our first Black (biracial) and female Vice President elect of our United States of America and we Black women, made that happen!!
  - Stacey Abrams turned an entire state blue that had been red since it helped to elect President Bill Clinton
  - The power of the Black vote is strong and it's powerful!
- We will host our first Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. PST.
  - Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for the important work we'll be doing!
- Virtual Legislative Summit Registration Is Now Open Transforming Communities Through Our VOICE, Our VOTE, Our POWER on September 23, 2020. It was a powerful event with a tribute to the late Congressman John Lewis and a call to action to advocacy on the national stage – which we answered!
  - Distinguished speakers included: Valerie B. Jarrett, senior advisor, Obama Foundation and board chair, When We All Vote; Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX,



30th District), Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX, 18th District), Congresswoman Frederica Wilson (D-FL, 24th District), Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (D-OH, 3rd District), Congresswoman Val Demings (D-FL, 10th District); and presidents of the African American women's organizations comprising Sisters United 4 Reform.

- And, of course, Dr. Kimberly Jeffries (our President)

