

The Langston

Vol 22 Iss 3

Tabor 100 Newsletter

United States Attorney for the
Western District of Washington

NICK BROWN

on the quest for
Racial Equity & Justice
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Meet

PRESLEY
PALMER

City of Seattle's
New
Division Director of
Purchasing &
Contracting
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Welcome New Tabor 100 Employee

LYNESE REDEEMER

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MARCH 2023


Tabor

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Visit our website: www.tabor100.org
Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

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It seems that every month there is more to report from the Tabor 100 HUB. We are proud to be part of a strengthening minority community working diligently to help one another.

I want to reinforce the commitment that Tabor 100 has to use the HUB and whatever other resources we have to uplift other minority-focused organizations and businesses. Our gauge of how well we've done is not in how much we have in our bank account or how many members show up at the General membership meeting, but how many people have we truly helped to grow their businesses

Speaking of the HUB, things have been busy in 2023. We are seeing an uptick in the number of people coming through our doors and appreciate everyone who attends the monthly General Membership meetings. The breakfasts are pretty good as well. Let me talk for a minute about Tabor 100 and its quest to create a stronger minority business community

in Washington state. We have been around since 1998, and, despite I-200 and other policies that have worked against our businesses, we have worked hard to give value to our

members. We are an "anchor" with a proven track record of helping minority businesses do well. In 2023, we intend to have a robust directory of capable minority businesses we can offer to our public and private partners. We want to be the place that Prime contractors and anyone else looking for businesses goes to get the best results. We ask you to help in that effort and I will let you know more

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others"

-Philippians 2:3-4

as we get further into the year. In the meantime, please update your profile on the Tabor 100 website. Even now, when many in the state look for businesses that will perform, they go to Tabor 100.org, so I encourage you to make your profile look the best!

With the upcoming elections (seems they are always upcoming), I want to ask that you or someone you know consider volunteering

to Chair our Government Affairs Committee. This committee is crucial for getting the voice of our community out to elected and appointed officials far and wide. We have successfully conducted candidate forums in the past and intend to do more in the future. We will also have great one-on-one discussions with political leaders and work diligently on letting the desires of our business community be heard wherever laws are made. A few political leaders have emerged from our ranks, as well.

Let me now sign off and wish you much prosperity, business and career success.

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President



Lynese Redeemer, New Team Member

It is our pleasure to welcome our new team member Lynese Redeemer!

She is a proud Tacoma resident, where she attends the University of Washington. She is currently pursuing her degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics.

Lynese is no stranger to the fruits and labors of service. She serves her community through multiple engagements. Currently she sits on multiple boards such as Vibrant Schools of Puget Sound, Community Health Care of Pierce County, and serves her community in other roles such as Youth Director for the Pierce County NAACP, Collaborative Thought Partner for Washington State Department of Health, the Tacoma fellow for Cities United Young Leader Fellowship and an active youth ministry mentor at Shiloh Baptist Church. Lynese is someone who believes in change no matter which space she is in, the goal is the



same – to be an active part in creating the change she strives to see. Outside of work, she dedicates her time to volunteering in a range of organizations to have a holistic approach to combating the long lasting inequalities prevalent in our country. Lynese believes in doing work that is centered in healing and equity and believes this aligns with the mission of Tabor. Currently the biggest role Lynese fills is being a big sister to her seven siblings: her motivation to make bigger and better for our community.

We are very excited to welcome Lynese to our Tabor family and she is just as excited to get into the work and have the opportunity to work with you all! Help us in giving her a warm Tabor welcome when you see her around the HUB. If you have any questions reach out to her at lynese@tabor100.org.

Presley Palmer From the Warehouse to the Corner Office

By Linda Kennedy

After eleven years in the department, Presley Palmer is in the corner office. He is the new Division Director of Purchasing and Contracting for the City of Seattle. And he has plans to put his stamp on it. That begins with a passion for impact, not numbers.

“I don’t want someone to shoot for a number because it makes them feel warm and cozy. It’s what can we dig out of those numbers, what did we really do? When I meet with people, especially people who look like me, it’s family, it’s not just a business. That’s my brother or sister I am trying to help. I want to put that kind of optics on the work we do. If you feel like it’s more than just a firm, you do more. It’s people and you look for where you can help out.”

As Director, Palmer is responsible for all purchasing and contacting. From the compliance team, to labor and equity, to public works, the purchasing and contracting team, and the administrative staff, “I determine which way the department moves forward in all aspects.”

That moving forward plan is as alliterative as Presley Palmer’s name – defined as diving deeply into disaggregated data. Palmer is looking forward to the results of a recent disparity study. “We do have goals, but again, when we look at those MWBE goals we want to look at minority businesses because a lot of them are white women businesses that get the majority of contracts within that space. I want to make sure we are helping minority businesses, and Black businesses.” Palmer says some things look good on the surface but



when you take a closer look, you see you are missing the target. That’s tantamount to doing the same things over and over and expecting a different result.

Presley Palmer encourages you to register in the Online Business Directory. It lets the City know what you and your firm have to offer “It’s truly a phone book.” In addition, he has an idea to streamline what can be a confusing process, by letting you know which City department is buying what.

Palmer says his department has ‘Tabor hours.’ There is someone from Purchasing and Contracting available everyday to help people do business with the City. On Fridays, Palmer, himself is at the Tabor Hub and he attends most membership meetings the last Saturday of each month.

Palmer grew up in Tucson and moved to Seattle in 1997, where he worked for the City in the IT warehouse. While he is not planning to move, he says people are more friendly in Arizona. “The interactions are different here. Sometimes you don’t know what’s really going on with people when they smile, what they really think.” In his spare time, Palmer likes concerts and going to Jazz Alley. And as for the name? The obstetrics nurse told Presley’s mother, he looked like Elvis.

More information is available at:
<https://seattle.gov/purchasing-and-contracting/doing-business-with-the-city>

Contact Presley Palmer:
206-233-7158
Presley.Palmer@seattle.gov

SAVE the DATE

- 1 April** QuickBooks 101 with Asia Dillingham
10 AM-12 noon
@ The Hub

- 20 April** QuickBooks 101 with Asia Dillingham
6:00 -8:00 PM
@ The Hub

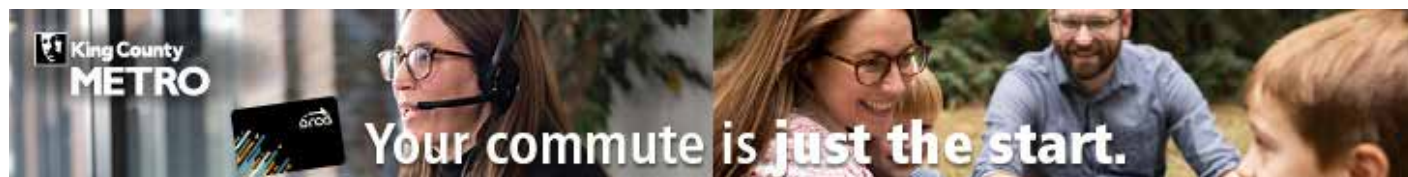
- 29 April** General Membership Meeting
10 AM-12 noon
@ The Hub

Tabor 100 Visitor Report (Door Swings)

March 2023 | 471
2023 Year to Date | 1,472
Since Opening | 10,599

New Members - FEBRUARY

Donesha Hall Empower Electric LLC	Balde Abdoulaye Balde-Green-Tech
Benjamin Johnson North Seattle Landscape Services	Lisa McCurdy LNL McCurdy Services
	Andrea Sherell Individual Membership



United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington Nick Brown on the Quest for Racial Equity and Justice

United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, Nick Brown, is an impressive local leader who works daily to promote equity in his personal and professional dealings. Brown, appointed by President Biden in 2021, has embraced the opportunity to lead his fellow U.S. Attorneys, assuming the Chairmanship of the Civil Rights Subcommittee of the AG's Advisory Committee.



Nick with Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Exec. Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of The NY Times bestseller turned feature film, Just Mercy

In that role, he recently assembled 30 of his fellow U.S. Attorneys from around the nation to meet in Selma to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, tour historic sites and learn more about ongoing Dept. of Justice work to protect civil rights. “It is 2023, but our country is still faced with many of the same injustices the marchers faced in 1965.” Brown said. “There are concerted efforts across the country to restrict access to the ballot and policymakers in many states are moving to erase the truth of our shared American history.”

In 1965, the bridge was the site of “Bloody Sunday” where hundreds of peaceful marchers for voting rights and equal dignity under the law, were gassed and clubbed as state troopers chased them down on horseback. “The pitfalls of America’s justice system feel as relevant today as they did in the 1960’s, as we bear witness to the tragic deaths of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement officers and disproportionate overincarceration of people of color. With all the progress since Bloody Sunday, there are pervasive



disparities in racial equity that we must tackle head on.” Brown declared.

The trip to Selma helped Brown and his fellow U.S. Attorneys recommit themselves to the quest for equity and justice, taking to their home states lessons learned from discussions with jurist Myron Thompson, the first Black Assistant Attorney General for Alabama and the second Black Federal Judge in the state. They met with Bryon Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit organization that provides legal representation for people who have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced or abused in state jails and prisons. Brown noted the expanded agendas of the Equal Justice Initiative to address economic opportunity and poverty. “I appreciate Tabor 100’s commitment to economic opportunity and see clearly the overlap between housing, economic justice, civil rights and dignity.”

While much of the trek to Alabama reminded Brown of the many challenges ahead, he acknowledged that his meetings in Selma and Montgomery filled him with hope, and a resolve not to follow the tide of fear and anger than can drive decision making.

“As U.S. Attorney, I am the chief federal law enforcement officer in Western Washington. I know



there are solutions that can make our communities safer without sacrificing equity and racial justice. I am proud our office is making strides. We focus our resources on prosecuting the most serious offenders but have also increased our efforts to understand the root causes of crime. Western Washington has one of the first federal drug courts in the U.S. working to divert people from prison whose crimes are fueled by substance abuse. We have a robust civil practice, working to protect people from discrimination and hate crimes. In Bryan Stevenson’s words, hopelessness is the enemy of justice, and Selma, Alabama, provides an empowering reminder that with hope – and action – we can realize the ideals of those who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge 58 years ago.

Events & Activities



Membership Meeting





Access to Equal Opportunity

The Port of Seattle is committed to building a strong, inclusive economy. With the Diversity in Contracting Resolution, we're making sure that includes businesses like yours.

Our goal is to triple the number of women and minority-owned businesses that contract with the Port by 2024 and remove barriers to expand the development of other disadvantaged business enterprises.

GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND SKILLS WITH THE PORT:

1. Bid on open contacts

Register your business in our database, and search and apply for contracts through a clear and fair process on <http://bit.ly/Facts19>.

2. Train with PortGen Workshops

Excited for opportunities but not sure where to start? We're here to support you. Join quarterly workshops to learn how to do business with the Port, get certified as a vendor, and network with representatives.

3. Learn on our site

Access resources year-round on the site. From video how-tos to lists of upcoming opportunities and events, you can find all the information you need for success.

Learn More

<http://bit.ly/Facts19>