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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY PETE SHAW

A Black Lives Matter rally in Portland calls out for justice while mourning the life of Tamir Rice, a black child killed by police in Cleveland.

No Holiday for Activists

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local activists in Portland joined in vigils and marches nationwide for racial justice over the long Thanksgiving holiday week, including the observance of the one-year anniversary of the death of Tamir Rice, a black child killed by police in Cleveland, and economic issues related to the retail sales push known as Black Friday.

The organization Don't Shoot Portland focused their energies on influencing shoppers and mer-

chants around the Lloyd Center Mall in northeast Portland, demanding attention to ongoing racial inequities.

The Friday rally was peaceful and went by without incident, despite a controversy caused by a white police officer's condemning of the event over twitter earlier the same week.

The North Precinct officer was removed from ground duty and the Portland Police Bureau issued a statement saying such views did not represent the organization as a

whole. Meanwhile, Black Lives Matter Portland held a self-care day for black women and trans feminine community members, promoting healing and self-care, and spent hours in the cold for a street demonstration and vigil on the one-year anniversary of the death of Tamir Rice, the Cleveland boy who was shot by a white police officer only seconds after arriving on a call about a child with a gun. The weapon turned out to be a toy.

Post Lands Officer in Trouble

Police Bureau orders an investigation

A North Precinct police officer was removed from on-street duty last week after a message from his Twitter account made light of local racial justice activists by calling his work to monitor nonviolent protests "babysitting" and the activists themselves as "fools."

In the social media post, John Hurlman, a 25-year-veteran of the Portland Police Bureau, referenced a planned march on Black Friday at Lloyd Center, in which

he made mention of the group Black Lives Matter as sponsors, but was actually planned by another organization, Don't Shoot PDX. Hurlman's tweet read, "Black Lives Matter is planning to protest at Lloyd Center on Black Friday. Oh joy, stuck late again at work to babysit these fools."

Acting Police Chief Donna Henderson, who was serving on duty for an absent Larry O'Dea, was quick to respond, pulling Hurlman from street duty pending an investigation by the police bureau's Professional Standards Division.

"This post is in no way a reflection of how members of the Portland Police Bureau view these

community groups or their peaceful expression of free speech. Just as with any protest or demonstration, police will work to ensure a safe, secure and orderly event for all community members," Henderson said.

"We understand that tensions are running high across the United States, especially with the recent incidents in other cities. At the Portland Police Bureau, we are mindful of that and remain committed to building relationships and trust in the community we serve," she added.

Hurlman took down his tweet and the Don't Shoot PDX march went on without incident.