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# MAYOR AT SIX MONTHS



Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., of the Allen Temple and the Albina Ministerial Alliance, and Ron Herndon, CEO of Albina Head Start, welcome guests to a public forum for Portland's Black men.

## Black Men Unify Against Violence

Public forum addressed curbing violence and improving opportunity

By Melanie Sevckenko  
 Of The Skanner News

In the wake of recent community violence — the Gresham shooting of a mother and child, a fatal hate crime on public transportation, and a racist threat to the annual Good in the Hood event — Black community organizers and members came together last Wednesday morning in North Portland to rally around positive change.

"We've gone way too far," said Tony Hopson, addressing the audience of around 200 at the headquarters of Self Enhancement, Inc., where he presides

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Host Leslie Jones speaks at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater June 25 in Los Angeles.

## BET Awards

Surprise winners and heartfelt tributes

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## World News Briefs

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Mayor Ted Wheeler, who took office Jan. 3, spoke to The Skanner's staff last week about police reform, race and what his administration has accomplished so far.

## Ted Wheeler talks to The Skanner about criminal justice reform, homelessness and the CRC

By The Skanner News Staff

Last week, Mayor Ted Wheeler visited The Skanner's office to talk about criminal justice reform, homelessness, national politics and what his administration has accomplished since he took office Jan. 3.

This interview has been edited for space and clarity.

**The Skanner News:** Six months is not a lot of time, but in those six months, what do you feel you've accomplished?

**TW:** I see myself very much as a transitional

mayor. We're going from being a city that is a medium-sized city to one that is truly becoming a global city. We cannot stop the number of people that are coming here. We can't change the fact that we are very much on the radar screen nationally and internationally.

As people are aware we have significant challenges around race, which I have not shied away from calling out quite intentionally — from my City Club speech to the framing of the search that I'm conducting nationally for a police chief, to conversations

that I've had in the community. We're becoming a more diverse community, but at the same time, the number of African Americans in our community is declining. We have not yet found the right frame for that conversation and that success.

Getting more to what we've actually done, we balanced the budget with little fanfare, created some good opportunities — a \$600 million program to invest in infrastructure, predominantly transportation, civic and parks infrastructure. We created the community service

officer program, which is part of the reform package that I initially put on the table, around police reform. These are non-sworn officers who will not carry weapons, who will work with the community as part of our intensification around community policing.

Obviously, we've worked very hard on the homeless front. There are three new shelters that we've opened since I took office through partnerships with private-sector developers and real estate people that has made an impact on

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## County's Homeless Population Increases by 10 Percent

Number of unsheltered African Americans is down, but still disproportionate

By Melanie Sevckenko  
 Of The Skanner News

Last week Multnomah County released the results of its bi-annual homeless count. A requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the count includes all people living in shelters, transitional housing and on the streets in a single night.

On Feb. 22, the number of homeless

people sleeping outdoors in Multnomah County was 1,668, while 2,509 people were living in emergency shelters and transitional housing, including self-managed homeless camps like Dignity Village, Right 2 Dream Too and Hazelnut Grove.

Altogether, some 4,177 people are without permanent housing on any given night.

Most disheartening is the fact

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A homeless man finds a place to rest in front of an unoccupied business in SW Portland