

according to Smith's statement, "noticed errors of fact and miscommunications in those postings with regard to the events of that evening."

"The PPB and the SMRT have also been working together to address the concerns of the GLBTQ community with regard to the factual information and the nonfactual information about what occurred," the statement reads.

Heatherette's reaction to an escalating situation, she concedes, was a regrettable one.

"I don't know why I was violent or what made me do that," she says. "I wish people were having more of a conversation about how to not have the reaction that I had."

Heatherette's attacker (his name was also unavailable as of press time) was arrested, taken to the Central Precinct, questioned and released. Neither he nor Heatherette had yet filed charges. The case has been referred to the District Attorney's office.

While news of Heatherette's assault spread through the remainder of Blow Pony partygoers, Jose Cruz (who admittedly "had been drinking") approached the site to find out what was happening. Cruz became involved in a verbal argument with a passerby who was yelling homophobic remarks, then was punched in the face and briefly knocked unconscious. Cruz's assailant was not arrested. According to Smith's statement, "individuals involved and witnesses interviewed gave conflicting statements about the events that occurred."

Details of both cases cannot be released by the Portland Police Bureau, as they are still in the "legal discovery process."

Cruz has brought further accusations that he was not treated appropriately by the Portland Police who were already on-hand to assist with Heatherette's assault. He has also accused both the Portland Fire Department and Police of neglectful medical assistance.

"I don't remember [the Fire Department] even actually looking at my injuries," Cruz says. "I just remembered talking with them and them just kind of walking away."

A video posted on YouTube from the scene in question shows an unidentified Portland fireman attending to Cruz, while four or five others create a perimeter around



The Old Town streets surrounding Casey's had filled with Pride revelers and passersby in various degrees of intoxication by 12:30 a.m. June 14.



MARTY DAVIS

Cruz to keep onlookers away. Still, it was not immediately clear from the video whether or not Cruz was being mistreated or denied medical treatment.

During this time, again, the upstairs tenants continued to escalate matters by yelling homophobic remarks at the persons involved in the assaults. Airick then claims that three drag queens walking across the street from Casey's to Embers Avenue were doused with a cup full of an unknown liquid. Assistant Chief Smith confirms that the item in question was a water balloon.

When the police were informed of the persistent attacks by the upstairs tenants, the officers again told those involved to leave the area.

"When police told us again to leave, [a] drag queen (also unidentified) said, 'No, if you don't want another Stonewall here, you should deal with it,' [and] I tried to calm her down," Airick says. "I was sober through all of it. She was having a yelling fit with other police that were showing up at that point."

Eventually, through Airick's pleas, and witnesses' and victims' continued outrage at a perceived police negligence — fueled further by instances of inebriation — an officer (again, unidentified as of press time) finally broached

the situation with the upstairs tenants. With it came the end of an evening full of pending hate/bias crimes investigations and poor senses of judgment on a night that should have been more about liberation.

"I don't want to point fingers at the police," says Airick. "I love Portland, I think Portland's a very progressive city. It's a shame this happened; I would never have thought this would happen to the degree that it did. But it did, and it needs to be addressed."

The incident is the focus of a planned July 7 Queer Town Hall Meeting at the Q Center from 7 to 9 p.m., organized by the people involved in the incidents of June 14. The meeting will be held to discuss how to make the streets safer for everyone — not just the queer community — as well as for those involved to vent frustrations with the way the police handled the situation, and to send a message to local authorities.

The event's coordinators, which include Cruz, have asked that a police presence not be included in this meeting, despite an open letter of communication and apparent solidarity between those in the city — including Smith, and Michele Michaels, detective with the Portland Police Bureau Bias Crimes Unit, and SMRT member — and those organizing

the meeting.

"While I recognize the Portland police department being concerned," says Cruz, "I feel there are other avenues that those who wish to work directly with the police can become involved [through], like the SMRT meetings, for example. For the safety and comfort of the majority that will be in attendance, we've asked that members of the police department not be present."

Assistant Chief Smith has expressed concern over the Town Hall organizers' request that the Portland Police not attend the July 7 forum, and notes that they were also declined an offer to meet and discuss the events the week prior to the meeting.

"[Portland Police Bureau] and the SMRT have worked very hard to open doors of communication and trust between the PPB and members of the GLBTQ community," the statement reads. "We at the Portland Police Bureau and the Sexual Minority Round Table saw this as an opportunity to continue building trust and communication and to learn from one another. We are still willing to participate in public forums and various other forms of outreach to reassure community members and discuss any concerns they have about police response in general or these specific investigations."

Additionally, the people involved in the assaults at Casey's will be attending the July 14 Sexual Minorities Round Table Meeting, held the second Tuesday of the month at the Justice Center in the Chief's Office Conference Room, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and is a forum to address the citizens of Portland-at-large of any homophobic, or otherwise bias crime-related incidences taking place around the city.

"The point of that one is to make the entire community, not just the queer community, aware that in Portland — a progressive, loving city — that these things are taking place," says Airick. "The general community is knowing what's going on. I think that they should know what's going on." JO

For local resources on hate or bias crimes, please visit www.portlandonline.com/police/index.cfm?c=41864

Brian Ramsay, Principal Broker

Realty Trust Group, Inc

Condos, Lofts, Townhomes, Commercial & Foreclosures
Pearl District, Downtown, South Waterfront

503.416.3380

RealEstateinthePearl.com

REALTY TRUST
GROUP



impress
single source solutions
printing services

- digital excellence
- delivery included

tel 503.281.8666

www.impress-usa.com

Can't share your dreams with your financial advisor?
Then why share your finances?

Do you dream of opening a B&B in Key West? Adopting a child? Writing the great American gay novel? I want to hear your dreams. Then working together we'll define your dream, develop your plan and track your progress. To get started, call (503) 595-0070 today.



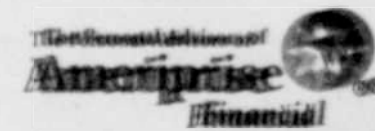
Kristen Salt, CFP®, ChFC®
Financial Advisor

600 NW Naito Pkwy., Unit D
Portland, OR 97209
(503) 595-0070

Kristen.A.Salt@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/kristen.a.salt

Focusing on:

- Tax-management strategies
- Investment planning
- Retirement planning



Financial planning services and investments available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC. Consult your tax advisor or attorney regarding specific tax or legal issues.

© 2008 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.