

City's most vulnerable will feel impact of police program cuts

Non-sworn personnel are criticizing a Portland Police Bureau proposal to eliminate a unit that serves the city's elderly residents, as well as victims of sexual assault and potential suicide victims.

At the heart of the employees' dissatisfaction is the Police Bureau's plan to cut — as part of an overall "reorganization" — the Portland Police Information & Referral Unit. The five-member unit has handled nearly 200,000 calls in the last two years.

James Hester, staff representative for Local 189 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the union representing the workers, says the Information & Referral Unit fulfills a unique role entirely different in nature than the city's 911 emergency call center.

"This unit responds to our city's senior citizens who sometimes simply get confused and need help," said Hester. "They also frequently assist victims of sexual assault and rape who are afraid and seeking guidance, or people on the verge of suicide, and even young women being pushed into prostitution. These are people in desperate situations

with nowhere else to turn."

Continuing the unit would cost the city approximately \$230,000, a "nominal amount compared to the millions committed to the Police Bureau budget annually," Hester said.

Hester noted that two of the positions are federally funded.

"But this isn't just about \$230,000," said Hester. "This program is about the people of Portland and the value this program brings to the City of Portland and the Police Bureau."

Hester said the proposal to cut the Information & Referral Unit is indicative of larger problems encompassed within the entire reorganization plan, problems Hester said are exacerbated by the Bureau's lack of communication with its non-sworn employees. Those employees, Hester emphasized, are the front line workers handling the crises on a day-to-day basis.

Representing nearly 1,200 members, AFSCME Local 189 is the largest public employee union in the City of Portland and the leading partner of the 1,800 member District Council of Trade Unions.

Motorcycle 'poker run,' raffle, chili cook-off set for June 13

A new Harley-Davidson motorcycle will be in the cards for one lucky raffle participant at this year's "Unions for Kids" Motorcycle Poker Run Saturday, June 13, at IBEW Local 48's union hall at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Registration for the event starts at 9

a.m. The drawing for the motorcycle — a 2009 Dyna Low Rider FXDL valued at \$16,999 — will take place at 4 p.m.

A limited number of tickets will be sold at a cost of \$10 each. All proceeds go to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

Money is also raised the day of the motorcycle ride through registration fees, from sponsors, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and a chili cookoff.

Unions for Kids is a registered non-profit and an all-volunteer organization, with all proceeds going to the kids at Doernbecher Hospital.

Tickets for the motorcycle raffle can be purchased at the IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union, 9955 SE Washington St., Portland, and at the Carpenters Hall at 2215 N. Lombard, Portland.

For more information, call Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905 or visit their Web site at www.unionsforkids.org.

Oregon unionists come up short in public elections

For local unions hoping to get members elected to non-partisan local offices, Oregon's May 19 special election was a disappointment.

Scott Bailey, a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), lost his race for Portland Public School Board, Zone 5.

Former AFSCME Local 189 vice president Chuck Moffitt placed third in a three-way race for Position 2 on the Board of Multnomah Education Service District.

Teachers union leader Deborah Barnes lost her race for mayor of Milwaukie — by 26 votes.

Earl Scott, a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21, lost a race for Port of St. Helens Commission, Position 5.

And union Fire Fighter Malic Morris lost in his bid for a seat on the Polk County Fire District #1 board.



Apprentices from seven states show off skills in brick, tile and marble crafts

George Matt Milne (above), and Phil Russo (right) represented Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers Local 1 of Oregon at the Western States Brick, Tile and Marble Regional Apprenticeship Contest May 30. The day-long event took place in the parking lot of the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Hotel in Portland and included 45 apprentices representing 10 union locals from California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon. Winners were Alfredo DeLaCruz of Colorado Local 7 in bricklaying; Pavel Ugarcovici of California Local 18 in tile setting; and Nikolajs Pastuhovs of Washington Local 1 in marble setting. Winners received cash and prizes and an opportunity to compete in the national finals later this year in Bowie, Md.



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