



Photo courtesy of the Oregon AFL-CIO

A FAIR CHANCE FOR ALL: Ban the Box supporters from the Oregon AFL-CIO and the Urban League of Portland gather outside City Hall.

Portland bans the box

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The idea of “ban the box” is to give those convicted of crimes a better chance at lawful employment after they’ve served their sentences. It’s estimated that roughly 70 million people in the United States have arrest or conviction records. Employers are increasingly conducting routine criminal background checks and barring applicants who have records, without giving them a chance to show they’ve reformed.

The Portland ordinance would change that. It doesn’t apply to employers with five or

fewer workers, or to employers in the criminal justice system or who are required by federal, state, or local law to consider an applicant’s criminal history.

“We’re the city of Portland; we believe in second chances,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, testifying to City Council in favor the ordinance. The ordinance came about because of a campaign led by the Urban League of Portland and the Oregon AFL-CIO.

The ordinance takes effect July 1, 2016.

Former labor council leader Ron Fortune dies

Ron Fortune, a retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC), passed away Nov. 25 due to complications from Alzheimer’s disease. He was 79.

Fortune, who lived in Gresham, served as the leader of NOLC from 1985 until 1998, when he retired. He was a 59-year member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union, joining Portland Food and Drug Clerks Local 1092 in 1956. He worked as a business rep for that local starting in 1969. Local 1092 is now part of UFCW Local 555.

A service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at St. Henry Catholic Church, 346 NW 1st Street, Gresham.

(Editor’s Note: The Labor Press received notice of Fortune’s death at presstime. A more detailed obituary will appear in the Dec. 18 edition.)

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