

"Shall the Charter be amended to require Council to hire Independent Police Auditor, appoint Review Board, and grant authority and duties?"

VOTE YES on Measure 20-146



**Let's LOCK IN
independent oversight
of complaints
involving police.**

We endorse 20-146:

**Eugene Register Guard
Eugene Weekly**

State Senator **Vicki Walker**
State Representative **Paul Holvey**
State Representative **Phil Barnhart**
Lane County Commissioner **Pete Sorenson**
Lane County Commissioner **Bobby Green**
Eugene Mayor **Kitty Piercy**
Eugene City Councilor **Bonny Bettman**
Eugene City Councilor **Andrea Ortiz**
Eugene City Councilor **Chris Pryor**
Eugene City Councilor **Betty Taylor**
Eugene City Councilor **Alan Zelenka**
Eugene City Councilor-Elect **George Brown**
Former Eugene City Councilor **David Kelly**
Former Eugene City Councilor **Paul Nicholson**
Former City Councilor and
Former Chair of the Police Commission **Tim Laue**
Former President of Police Union EPEA **Kenneth Saxon**
Former Eugene Police Auditor **Cris Beamud**

Eugene/Springfield NAACP
Community Alliance of Lane County - CALC
American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon - ACLU
Sexual Assault Support Services - SASS
Whiteaker Community Council

Carmen X Urbina, Board Member, Educacion y Justicia para la Raza
Guadalupe Quinn, Causa - Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition
Claire Syrett, Southern District Field Organizer ACLU of Oregon
David Fidanque, Executive Director ACLU of Oregon
Henry Luvert, President NAACP of Lane County
Maria Paladino, Executive Director SASS

The Reverend Daniel E. H. Bryant
The Reverend Deacon Thomas R. English
The Reverend Tasha Brubaker Garrison
Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin
The Reverend Stephen A. Landale

Joe Alsup • Roscoe Caron • Michael Carrigan • Ron Chase • Al Coddington
Charles S. Dalton • Jerry Diethelm • Ruth Eveland • Katie Geiser • Dan Goldrich
Glenn M. Gordon M.D. • Kathryn Gorham • Majeska Seese-Green • Rob Handy
Sylvia Hart • Richard Hayward • Arnold Ismach • Art Johnson • Munir Katul
Ilona Koleszar • Scott Landfield • Marion Malcolm • Joy Marshall
Kevin McCormack • Ruth E. Miller • Tim Mueller • David Piercy
Michael L. Quillin • Patricia Raney • Sally Sheklow • Dennis Soper
Herta Usenko • Carol VanHouten • Don VanHouten • Lisa Warnes
Izzy Whetstine • Michael Weinstein M.D. • Kurt Willcox • Jan Wostmann

**Why this is
important...**

It's important because it will
establish a minimum threshold
for independent oversight of
complaints involving police in
our city's governing document
— the Charter.

**For more information and a complete list of
endorsers: www.yeson20-146.org**

Authorized and paid for by STRENGTHENING POLICE AND COMMUNITY TRUST - VOTE YES ON BALLOT MEASURE 20-146/ Pam Basilus Treasurer

viewpoint/opinion

BY EDWIN COLEMAN

Political Smears

From the White House to the Courthouse

With Nov. 4th's final campaign bell fast approaching us, we are seeing orchestrated efforts to distort and demonize worthy candidates – from Barack Obama to Lane County's Bobby Green.

Automated calls paid for by McCain campaign and national GOP funds are ringing in millions of American homes attempting to mislead voters into thinking that Obama somehow is sympathetic to "domestic terrorist" William Ayres. Swiftboating all over again?

For months, attempts have been made to impute anti-American and "elitist" sentiments to Obama. For months also, local veteran County Commissioner Bobby Green, the state's only African-American commissioner and a life-long Democrat and champion for children and families, public safety and human rights, has been subjected to a nonstop barrage of sniping and slashing personal attacks ("empty suit," "arrogant tool of the rich with no record of leadership," etc.). Creating a gross caricature of a decent public servant seems to be the craze these days.

Elections must be more than tools for political vendettas and ugly, no holds barred, power grabs. Elections have real life consequences for our future.

As a political liberal, retired UO English teacher, Democrat and supporter of human rights (who also happens to be African-American), I am ashamed that some on the left have been so unfair and myopic in their efforts to destroy Green's good name and distort his outstanding record of unmatched leadership.

Of course all issues like land-use or public safety are fair game and should be debated. But are we well served by single issue extremism and political distortion? Green's moderation on land-use decisions and one courageous vote in the past to refer a tax measure to preserve safety-net services is some cardinal sin for which he must face defeat? Unfair.

I have observed Green's career for more than 30 years, from his being a student in my UO English classes, to his city, county, state and national leadership positions. I can't recognize the person whose very character is being assassinated in this campaign. That troubles and saddens me.

Where has the slightest respect been given to Green's incredible passion for helping our youth avoid careers in crime or his record of delivering millions for north Eugene and Lane County?

Any nod of recognition for his recent leadership which has helped deliver more than \$100 million in federal forest payment dollars to Lane County during the next four years? Or Green's recent service as president of the Association of Oregon Counties? And what about Green's crucial role in helping bring the Olympic Trials to Hayward Field? Or being appointed by Gov. Kulongoski to chair the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee? Or serving as vice-chair of the National Association of Counties Public Safety Steering Committee?

What about the 1,400 Monaco Coach local jobs which Green had a direct hand in saving from being moved to Indiana? Or helping land the Enterprise Rental Cars Call Center? Or Glory Bee Foods expansion? Or Green's service on state and local commissions on children and families? Would it have been too much to acknowledge Green's successful trip to Baltimore which helped bring a federally qualified health clinic (Riverstone) to serve Lane County's low-income citizens?

Does Green's having played a key role in building the Barger/Beltline Interchange or winning funds for improving Chambers, Roosevelt and Barger count for anything? Was winning \$500,000 for the Babe Ruth and skateboard park too parochial an accomplishment for single-issue politicians and donors seeking his defeat? No, it all boils down to a single agenda.

Green's crime is being a moderate on the environment. Yes, he's backed the Florence dunes protection and purchase of property next to Mount Pisgah. But he's also voted to supply ample land for low-income, affordable housing, in keeping with Oregon land use statewide goals. Appeals of Green's and the board's decisions on land-use votes to the Land Use Board of Appeals have been upheld 95 percent of the time. For this, Green has been targeted for defeat and political demolition.

Perhaps Green is too idealistic. Perhaps he should have responded in-kind and taken issue with his opponent's willingness to explore a restaurant tax (R-G, 5/3) or tried to paint him as an enemy of seniors who eat out most often. But that wouldn't be the Bobby Green I know, the one whose honorable service is being ignored and distorted for political gain.

Haven't we voters learned our lessons about the politics of personal destruction yet?

Edwin Coleman, Ph.D., of Eugene is a retired professor of English at the UO and former bass player with the Cal Tjader Quintet, Peter Paul and Mary, and others.