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Portland's homeless. Photo by Richard J. Brown

City Homeless Population Over 9000 Report Says

by Jerry Garner

A recent draft report issued by The Shelter, Clean-Up and Clothing Ad Hoc Committee on the plight of the homeless in Portland said the City's homeless population is well over 9,000 and that more must be done to ensure that the homeless in Multnomah County have access to appropriate, safe and sanitary shelter.

According to the draft report presented to City of Portland and Multnomah County officials, Portland's homeless population is estimated at 9256. The Committee came to this figure after tabulating the number of homeless served throughout a year. Here is a breakdown of the type of homeless in Multnomah County and the number the County presently can serve:

- Homeless Victims of Domestic Violence: Number in Multnomah County—1625; Number to plan for at any one point in time—100.
- Prostitution: Number in Multnomah County—430; Number to plan for per night—15.
- Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill: Number in Multnomah County—600; Number to plan for per night—20.
- Homeless Youth: Number in Multnomah County—500 annually.

At this time, The Youth Network has been unable to get an accurate count; without a shelter as a reference point, hard statistics have

been difficult to obtain.

- Homeless Families; Children With One or More Parents: Number in Multnomah County—1,328 families; 4,750 individuals.
- Homeless Individual Men and Women With Alcohol/Drug Problems: Number in Multnomah County—1,060 (960 men, 100 women); Number to plan for with alcohol-free housing—300-400 per year; Number to plan for with alcohol-free emergency housing—100-125 per night.
- Homeless Couples Without Children: Number in Multnomah County—375 people; 189 couples; Number to plan for at any one point in time—22 couples.
- Homeless Individual Men and Women: Number in Multnomah County—women, 960-400 including 500 victims of domestic violence and prostitution; Men, 2,470 including 960 victims of alcoholism and drug addiction.

As these figures show and as the report indicates, existing programs to serve the homeless in Multnomah County isn't reaching the majority of those who need the help, especially the homeless who are victims of domestic violence, children with one or more parents, youths, and the chronically mentally ill.

The report said the emergency

shelter needs of domestic violence families differ from non-domestic violence families in their need for immediate emergency shelter and longer term emergency shelter. "Unlike many homeless situations, domestic violence is an emergency," the report said.

The Committee recommended that additional shelters be provided for the homeless who are victims of domestic violence and that they be located in Southeast Portland and East Multnomah County.

A New Class: Infant CPR

Instruction on infant CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) will be given at a new class offered by St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center on Monday, Oct. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. It will be held in a classroom of the St. Vincent Medical Office Building, that is located due east of the hospital at 9155 S.W. Barnes Road.

Persons taking this course will become certified in the cardiopulmonary resuscitation that is specifically for children up to one year of age.

To register for this new opportunity, drop by St. Vincent Health and Lifestyle Center, 11640 S.W. Parkway, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course fee is \$10.

For more information, call Jill Jaccard, press relations officer, phone 291-2225.

Ex-Chief Seeks Disability

by Jerry Garner

Penny E. Harrington, former Portland Police Chief, is seeking disability benefits from the Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund, claiming that she is suffering from stress-related illness.

Harrington said her stress started after Portland Mayor J.E. "Bud" Clark commissioned an investigation into the conduct of her husband, Officer Bruce Harrington, to evaluate her reorganization of the Bureau's drug and vice unit.

Harrington didn't state what her disability was when she filed her application, which is public record. The Fire and Police Disability Retirement Fund subcommittee didn't rule on her claim and passed it on to the full 11-member board. Several weeks ago that same board rejected Harrington's husband's disability claim.

Besides filing the disability claim, it was rumored that the former chief has filed a tort claim, in an effort to sue members of the Lezak Commission. The Commission consisted of former U.S. Attorney General, Multnomah County Circuit Judge John Beatty, and Col. Doyle Watson, of the State Police. Mayor Clark and members of the Police Bureau were also named in the tort claim. It was the Lezak Commission's recommendation to Mayor Clark that Harrington be removed as chief that forced her to resign June 1st.

Since her resignation, Harrington has been critical of the Lezak Commission Report and the manner in which it operated. During an interview with Harrington shortly after her resignation, she said the Commission allowed secret testimony without giving her the opportunity



Former Police Chief Penny Harrington. Photo by Richard J. Brown

to cross-examine those who gave secret testimony. Harrington also said that she believes members of the Commission, the Police Bureau, and the District Attorney's office deliberately tried to embarrass her during the hearing through news leaks.

The tort claim filed by Harrington means that she and the City couldn't reach a settlement on her retirement. During the July interview, Harrington said this about her retirement: "I would like to settle, it without going to court, but if I am forced to sue in court, I will."

Opposition to Simpson/Rodino Bill Voiced



Ramon Ramirez—Willamette Valley Immigration Project.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Monday, representatives and supporters of Oregon's Hispanic Community gathered to reiterate their opposition to the Simpson-Rodino Immigration bill, HR 3810, and to express that the Rule defeated by the House of Representa-

tives on Friday, September 26th, does not signify that the bill is dead for this Congressional session.

"On the contrary, the bill still has a chance of passing," stated Ramon Ramirez of the Willamette Valley Immigration Project. "We continue

to oppose the provision of the Simpson-Rodino proposal for the following reasons:

- The proposed employer sanction will only serve to increase racism against non-whites seeking employment.
- The "Legalization" provision is nothing more than a mass repatriation program that seeks to remove hundreds of thousands of undocumented from the U.S. Eligibility requirements will make it impossible for the majority of undocumented now residing in the U.S. to qualify.
- For the first time in the history of the U.S., immigrants will be required to have a working knowledge of the English language, U.S. history and the Constitution.
- The proposed "Guest Worker" program is nothing more than the ex-Bracero program in disguise. The Guest Worker program will create slave-like conditions for "Guest Workers", and depress Farmworkers' wages.

"The proposal is ill-considered and backward," said Ramirez. "The implementation of this bill will cost tax payers billions of dollars. The cost will be too high for a bill that does not address the root problem. As long as Mexico and Central America remain in turmoil, people will continue to come to the United States."

If in fact the Simpson-Rodino immigration bill is dead, it is sincerely hoped that the new House Leadership will seek input from the Hispanic Community in creating a bill that is just and fair for all in the next session. "Until then, we remain in opposition to the current bill and urge our Congressional Representatives to oppose it if it reaches the floor of the House," said Ramirez.