



Rep. Margaret Carter and supporters for divestiture bill at press conference at the State Capitol last Thursday. Photo by Richard J. Brown



The Portland Chapter of Links, Inc., presented the Tenth Anniversary Starlight Cotillion at the Red Lion Inn Sunday evening. Presented were (alphabetically) Carolyn Baldwin, Marshawn Boyd, Alycyn Britton, Sharon Davis, Vanelda Davis, Heidi Durrow, Kimberley Loggins, Cristy Martin, Laronda Morrison, Adrienne Reid, Kimberly Robinson and Porscha Williams. Photo by Richard J. Brown

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Margaret Carter Introduces HB 2001 Divestiture Bill

Representative Margaret Carter, Oregon House of Representatives, introduced legislation this week to disengage Oregon funds from businesses in South Africa.

Major differences in 1987 Bill from 1985 include a modified "Deukmejian Plan" similar to the framework proposed by Governor Deukmejian which California enacted in 1986.

Upon enactment, all investors of state trust funds and state monies are prohibited from: Making new loans, extending new credit, or making any new investments in South Africa or in Namibia; financially contributing to the development or production of new energy resources or strategic (military) products or services.

The bill allows for a grace period, not to extend beyond February 14, 1989, to the U.S. or international companies for financial companies or financial institutions that adopt a policy not to expand or establish new businesses or to make additional or new business arrangements with the government of South Africa.

The bill has bi-partisan support with strong support from Republican Tony VanVliet, although its strongest support is with the Democratic Party.

The 1985 Bill passed the House and the Senate only to be vetoed by then-Governor Victor Atiyeh.



The Royal Esquire Club was filled with good music and good times as fans and musicians came together for the first time in over 20 years at the Cotton Club Revisited Kickoff Sunday. Photo by Richard J. Brown

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Con't from Page 1

Wrong Impression of PIIAC

drawn the conclusion that "The PIIAC's existence is a deterrent to those who would be inclined to abuse the power with which they have been entrusted."

"Jolin's and Hay's beliefs are important. Ransom, Vessup and the remaining members' willingness to serve on the PIIAC are equally important. Mandiberg's resignation and expressed desire to go back to the drawing board to come up with a better solution, demonstrates her support for civilian overseeing of the police. It's time for the people who want a citizens' review committee to show their support for PIIAC," Herman said.

The Portland Police Bureau has resisted the PIIAC's powers since its inception. This resistance is evident when it comes to the Audit Committee's power to issue subpoenas to officers requiring them to testify before the Audit panel. The PIIAC has been trying since October of 1985 to get three Portland police officers to testify before it regarding alleged cases of police misconduct. In one case, a citizen accused officers of using excessive force. In another, it is alleged that an officer recorded false information in an official police report. All three officers involved in the two cases are white; the citizens are Black.

The Audit Committee issued subpoenas again January 1986, after the first one was ruled invalid for technical reasons. Although the subpoenas were issued, the officers still did not testify before the PIIAC. The matter was then brought before the full City Council. After hearing public testimony on the issue in April 1986, the City Council voted 4-1 (Schwab in dissent) in favor of making the three officers answer questions before the Audit panel.

However, the officers still didn't testify. Instead, PIIAC, the Police Bureau, and the Police Union attempted to negotiate the issues without going to court. This was last May. The parties failed to come up with a resolution on the matter. Talks broke off in December. Last month the PIIAC announced that it was taking the three officers to court.

Some sixty plus cities across the nation have varying kinds of civilian overseeing agencies that successfully hear officer testimony. Berkeley, for instance, requires cooperation with the review commission as a "condition of employment". Miami, Chicago, and other cities which have functioning civilian overseeing agencies do not have subpoena powers, because officers are directed to cooperate with the agency by order of the Chief of Police and Police Superintendent respectively.

Historically, police departments have used political muscle to prevent review boards from being organized or to weaken their authority to investigate the way police misconduct charges are handled.

As an example, recently two proposed changes in the way police misconduct charges are handled have been submitted to the City Council subcommittee, the body which oversees the PIIAC. Under the proposal, minor and inquiry complaints would be kept at the precinct level. In its third-quarter monitoring report presented to the Council subcommittee last month, the PIIAC report said this regarding the proposed changes: "Rather than moving toward a policy of accessible, complete disclosure regarding complaints, the proposed general orders provide diffusion and obfuscation." In addition, the report stated that the orders, if adopted, "will make the Bureau more secretive with their complaint process and make it virtually impossible to maintain any quality review of the limited process open to the public."

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