

Continued



Exclusive Interviews With Mayoral Candidates

Question 3:

The Police Bureau has had many detractors. How do you view them?

Mayor Clark: We responded to the gang and drug problem 18 months ago. We responded when Sharon McCormack, our crime prevention specialist identified the problem. She works out of the office of the neighborhood association. We immediately set aside \$15,000 to form the youth gang task force. They went to Los Angeles to study this whole thing and came up with a proposal that we funded with \$55,000. This was

18 months ago. We continually add programs all the way down the line. The last thing was my going to the governor to ask support from the state because of the limited funds and resources of the city. We need drug treatment. I went to congress and got \$250,000 to come into our region here. Because we all know that drugs are what drive the crime in the U.S.A. —

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pletely haywire when I came into office. We had a severe jail shortage when I was Chief. I spent most of my time trying to find more space. Also when I became Chief, the black community was upset because of the opossum thing and the extreme insult there. My job was to restore credibility throughout the city. The neighborhood association that surveyed conditions throughout the city was asked what is the credibility of the police bureau. I am pleased to say that when I was the Chief of Police, it reached the

highest level in history. The largest increase in credibility was in the lower northeast sector. While I was Chief of Police for two years, running the police bureau exceeded all divisions on minority hiring and affirmative action. We got two mayoral awards for the best record in affirmative action. I don't tell people what they necessarily want to hear but I think they can rely on one thing: if I say that I am going to do something, you can rely upon the fact that it is going to be done. —

(Continued From Last Column)

Still: First I want to say that I don't know the answer to your question. I've got to have it researched legally. All I can say is that it can be examined as part of our over all thing. With the convention center going in there with hospitality units such as hotels, restaurant and other services we have an area here that we need to look at. What you mentioned about the Emanuel Hospital area is just part of that piece. We need

to do something about housing. We need to do something about urban development. As we think about the readership of the **Portland Observer**, what is the first thing that comes to mind? We need to talk about housing. On television the other night you were talking about the Emanuel Hospital development area. There is beautiful land there so close to the central city. —

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Question 4:

One criticism of the Governor's plan is that it does not include crime prevention?

Mayor Clark: The point is that gangs and drug abuse got so serious in Multnomah county and in the state of Oregon there were no sanctions whatsoever. The whole credibility of the criminal justice system had fallen into the side-roads. People who broke into cars got tickets for it but continued to commit crimes because they knew there was no jail space. Our police are arresting the same people again and again. Its like a dentist. Say you've got a tooth with a very bad infection and it needs to be repaired. The dentist is not going to do a thing about it until he has cleared up the infection. He

has to give emergency antibiotics so the infection can subside. This is where we need the credibility of the criminal justice system back in here. We are going to need 220 jail beds out there so when we arrest people we have a place to keep them. I don't want anyone in jail but I want it so that when we arrest people they will make restitution or go into a drug rehabilitation program or stick to their house arrest. And at the other end when we relieve the infection I want to get them jobs so that the tooth will be fixed permanently and will not get infected again. We have got to have both. —

Still: How we really work at the basis of this problem is through education. That is why in my judgement it is a two pronged approach. (1) The education and opportunity part and (2) is the aggressive enforcement. It's like when you call firemen to put out a fire, you don't want to hear about prevention at that moment. You want the fireman to put out the fire first and then sit down and talk about prevention. The fireman should have been there before the fire to talk about prevention. The way we deal with drug abuse is that we give people an opportunity to see it another way. And we educate them so that they

again to build back our credibility. Leadership is the key. We need a leader who understands the whole criminal justice system and interacts with the rest of the system and really packs credibility. Who might this person be? I don't know. Ron Still, the mayor, will not be the chief of police, but I have been there. I have to set the policy. I don't want the police bureau to be just another cop shop. —

don't use drugs. In that way dope peddlers have no place to sell their drugs if nobody buys them. The education and providing of role models for kids to emulate is critical. Kids in school who qualify in a certain way, mostly minority kids. You identify those who are most likely to drop out of school around the sophomore year. You go to those kids and say, okay we would like to help you. You hold out the golden carrot of a job. Basically you are saying that if they stay in school, when you get out we will give you a job. It is an investment in Portland. The results are fantastic. —

Question 5:

The Emanuel Hospital Urban Renewal Project has been defunct for 15 years. How can that valuable land be reclaimed and returned to the people?

Mayor Clark: There is nobody living there. It is just empty land. There has been a whole series of things that have happened in the northeast sector. The Emanuel Hospital urban renewal project is just one of them. Some of these things have occurred over the past 25 years have damaged the entire character of that area. From the one way streets to the building of a divider down Union Avenue, a number of problems have developed. We have a strategic plan coming together with the community to intensify our efforts and to turn the whole pro-

blem area into something good. This effort probably will address the Emanuel Hospital area because that is part of the study—the whole Columbia Avenue/Williams Avenue Corridor. This economic development will bring the housing stops back into line. —

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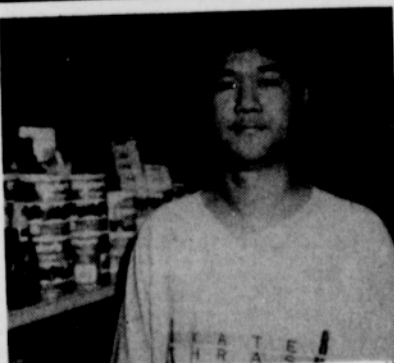
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