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Portland Delegation Attends National Urban League Conference



Urban League of Portland, President Dr. Darryl Tukufu visits with fellow Portlanders Dr. Brenda Green (right) and Urban League Guild President Faye Burch (left) at a reception hosted by NIKE during the National Urban League conference in San Diego.

A delegation from the Urban League of Portland attended the 1992 National Urban League Conference in San Diego July 26-29. The four-day conference is considered the nation's premier forum on race relations. More than 18,000 people attended.

The Portland delegation was led by League President Dr. Darryl Tukufu, and included members of the League's board, staff, and four youth from the League's NULITES program.

The theme of the conference was "Making a Difference in the '90's: Bringing the Future Into Focus." Highlights included a keynote address by John E. Jacob, president and CEO of the National Urban League, and a speech by Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

The Urban League of Portland was one of nine affiliates (out of a possible 112) recognized for its response to the unrest following the Rodney King verdict. The recognition came in a special program on "The Urban League Re-

sponds to the Urban Crisis."

Dr. Tukufu also delivered a keynote address at a forum on "Youth: Our Continuing Legacy," while Oregonian editor William Hilliard moderated a session on "Election '92: Parties, Politics and Parity."

Other conference attractions included more than 400 exhibit booths of Fortune 100 companies and major government and social service agencies, a Job Opportunity Showcase, and the African American Vendors Showcase.

Roy Jay Wins Round One Judge Denies POVA Motion For Injunction

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Garry Kahn denied the request by Portland/Oregon Visitors Association for a preliminary injunction against their own recent annual President's Award recipient, local African American business entrepreneur, Roy Jay.

POVA, a non-profit organization, primarily funded with tax revenues, asked the court to temporarily stop one of Jay's business operations from being listed in telephone directories or other advertising mediums, less than 4 weeks after they awarded him for "providing valuable networking opportunities and services for small business owners involved in the visitor industry and for serving as a positive example for young entrepreneurs."

In Friday's five hour hearing, the well known African American business owner was flanked by his corporate attorneys, Curtis Kinsley of Lake Oswego and Patrick Butler of Portland. After hearing POVA's arguments for a preliminary injunction, Judge Kahn made his ruling without Jay or any of his many business and individual witnesses having to give one word of testimony.

"This is only round one. Now we are getting ready for the trial which may probably contain an extensive counterclaim against the POVA organization and selected board members, individually," said Jay.

Jay's Oregon Business Network working in association with Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Network has garnered millions of dollars in potential convention, visitor and tourism leads over the past several years...all without taxpayer funding and continues to expand each month.

POVA contended in their complaint that Jay's operation blew a potential convention of the American Hospital Association in 1994 which could have

resulted in \$150,000 of business. "Not true", says Jay.

What actually happened is that the Marriott Hotel failed to respond to Jay's notification in mid June of the potential business because they were busy handling the guests during Portland Trailblazer Playoffs, NBA Draft and Tournament Of The America's event and didn't consider his contact as being a priority at the time. A black woman, Precious James of the American Hospital Association was scheduled to testify at the Friday hearing via telephone however at the last minute she was unable to do so. During the trial Jay's attorneys presented surprising documents revealing that POVA has lost various conventions over the past two years amounting to over \$10 million business for the city.

The bigger picture is the actual business names being used. People both inside and outside of POVA claim that Roy was just a smarter business person than the \$3.8 million per year organization and utilized an 800 number to make it easier for prospective customers to call from all over the country. POVA cried foul after finding out Jay's operation was continually growing in success and recognition. State of Oregon corporation division records revealed that in 1988 the association changed their name from Greater Portland Convention and Visitors Association to Portland Oregon Visitors Association, thereby purposely omitting the work "convention", leading people to believe that they are no longer a convention organization, only a visitors group. Jay said "it was just another bad business move by Ahlers and his group of people", consequently prospective convention and meeting planners, from outside of Oregon, that call directory assistance are only referred to one of

Jay's operations entitled "Portland Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Bureau" since they are the only one listed in Portland's white pages as convention services. "The way that I look at it, his listings, alone, has saved us a lot of business that we normally may not have received" said one hotel operator. Jay's accomplishments in the industry are supported by written and verbal testimonials from local hotels, tour operators, meeting planners and actual conventions. Major hotels such as The Hilton, Shilo Inns, Benson and others aggressively supported his nomination for the annual award.

Jay says that his Oregon Business Network and affiliates have distributed hundreds of leads and referrals to businesses, both large and small, throughout the state over the past several years. Some of the recipients are or were members of POVA who had never received such opportunities and notifications from POVA before. Some former POVA business members alleges that POVA's administration competes with their own members in many service categories while accepting thousands of dollars in membership and other fees, which is a direct conflict of interest. Other smaller businesses claim that POVA doesn't give their members any real opportunities and only lets them know about what is considered "left overs".

Jay claims that he was targeted by Ahlers and other board members because he refused to take a back seat on major issues regarding the associations bylaws, election procedures, affirmative action, membership business opportunities and other elements over the past several years. As the original chairman of POVA's membership committee Jay helped bring the organization to

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Block Party Celebrates Heros Of Drug Free Street

Police officers, homeowners, property managers, residents, and local officials are gathering together to celebrate their success in keeping a troubled block of N.E. Sacramento Street drug free. An awards ceremony and block party coordinated by neighbors celebrated their accomplishments Friday, August 21 at 11:15 a.m. at the corner of N.E. Sacramento Street and N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Gerald McFadden, President/CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon and John Rogers of the Mayors Office presented awards to police officers and local officials. The neighbors living in the area gave the awards to honor mem-

bers of the community who have assisted them in making their block a safer place to live.

"Without the support of these individuals, we could never have achieved a drug-free block. It took a tremendous amount of teamwork to get results, and the police and local officials were very instrumental in the process," said Gary India of Guardian Management. Neighbors from N.E. Sacramento Street enlisted help from local officials to keep their neighborhood drug-free, and have welcomed Volunteers of America's Men's Residential Center, an alcohol and drug treatment program to the neighborhood.

Following the awards ceremony a message from Mayoral Candidate Vera Katz, a performance by the Street Corner Singers and a complimentary barbecue lunch.

Volunteers of America is a nationwide social service organization with branches in over 200 communities. Volunteers of America Oregon, Inc. serves the community through child care, family preservation programs, a shelter for homeless women with children, a senior center, senior health clinic, adult day care program, residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities, a shelter for homeless adolescent girls, and a Christmas Assistance Program.

Labor Day is on the way!

P L A N A H E A D

NAACP Applauds Filing Of Federal Charges In Rodney King Case

With the indictment on federal charges of the four Los Angeles police officers involved in the Rodney King beating, the NAACP has issued a statement strongly supporting the action and expressing the hope that this time justice will be served.

The statement came from Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, the NAACP's Executive Director/CEO, following the announcement on Wednesday, August 5th, that a federal grand jury in Los Angeles had indicted the officers on federal charges of violating Mr. King's civil rights.

At a state trial in Simi Valley, Ca., the officers were found not guilty on April 29th by a predominantly white jury of all charges except one against a single officer, Lawrence Powell. Here, the jury was deadlocked and Powell faces retrial on Oct. 19th for excessive use of force.

The acquittals touched off violence in Los Angeles that left more than 45 people dead and damage estimated at \$800 million.

Specifically, the federal indictment charges the three officers who beat Mr. King during an arrest in March, 1991,

with violating his Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable arrest.

It accuses their sergeant of depriving Mr. King of his 14th amendment due process rights by failing to restrain the officers. Each of the officers faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

In his statement, Dr. Hooks said: "Justice was not served in Simi Valley last April. Our hope for justice now lies in the federal court where the officers involved have been indicted under civil rights statutes.

"In the past, we have experience numerous occasions where, when local systems of justice faltered, there was recourse to the federal courts.

"We are hopeful that in this flagrant incident of police abuse, that those whose faith in the judicial system was shaken by the incomprehensible verdicts rendered earlier, will find reason to once again believe in that system."

The U.S. Justice Department began a Federal civil rights investigation after the beating of Mr. King on March 3, 1991, that was videotaped by an

amateur cameraman and widely shown on television.

After the state verdicts, 14 to 17 FBI agents were assigned full time to work on the case.

The first count of the indictment names Officers Powell, Theodore J. Briseno and Timothy Wind -- who are seen striking Mr. King on the videotape.

It charges that "while acting under the color of the laws" of California they "did willfully strike with batons, kick and stomp Rodney Glenn King" thereby violating a 1909 federal law making it a crime to deprive any person of a Constitutional right "under color of law."

Sgt. Stacey E. Koon was charged in the second count with willfully failing "to prevent this unlawful assault," thereby depriving Mr. King of "the right to be kept free from harm while in official custody."

Since 1988, the Justice Department has filed at least 123 federal civil rights charges, the majority against police officers for brutality. The conviction rate has been about 75 percent, authorities say.

Albina Head Start

National Early Childhood experts spoke at a conference Monday, August 24, to teachers and administrators from Portland Public Schools, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and local Head Start programs. These experts will share practices that have proven successful in transitioning Head Start children and families into public schools. The presenters were: Barbara Bowman Director of Graduate Studies at the Erickson Institute, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois; Maurice Sykes Director of Early Childhood Programs for the District of Columbia Public Schools; Linda Likins director of government Affairs for the National Head Start Association and Anita McClanahan Early Childhood Education Coordinator for

the Oregon Department of Education.

Albina Head Start hosted the "Transition To Excellence" conference Monday, August 24, at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach.

The two year federally funded Transition Project is designed to demonstrate and evaluate an innovative model for providing a comprehensive integrated program of education and support services to children and families beginning in Head Start and continuing through grade 3 in the public schools. The project is designed to promote children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development by providing appropriate and consistent support to them in their family, school and social environments.

U.S. Bank Unveils Low-Cost Finance Program For Oregon School Districts

Hurt by budget cuts and fewer traditional financial sources for small but vital projects, Oregon school districts now can obtain tailor-made, low rate financing through "FlexFund," an innovative cooperative finance program developed by U.S. Bank.

Endorsed by the Oregon School Boards Association, FlexFund enables schools to bundle their financing needs into one large pool, thereby reducing costs, including interest rates, to all participating borrowers.

U.S. Bank's program grew out of the need to create affordable financing for the maintenance of school property and the purchase of real and personal property. "It's becoming very difficult for schools with needs less than \$1 million to secure cost-effective financing," says Jim Marolich, vice president and manager of public finance for U.S. Bank. "FlexFund provides opportunities for things like new roof, a school bus, copy machines or computer equipment."

U.S. Bank combines the districts' financing needs into one offering, and issues each district an individualized repayment plan. Based on the volume

of activity, U.S. Bank also negotiates more competitive legal and trustee fees, and passes the savings on to the school districts. The cooperative financing program simplifies complicated financial transactions that often preclude many districts from the process.

"FlexFund is an attractive financing alternative for districts which aren't looking for multi-million-dollar improvements," says Marolich. "Instead of each district paying fees separately, FlexFund allows schools to combine their requests and share financing costs. Standardized documents and payment dates also help keep costs down."

Savings are shared by taxpayers as well. For example, a school district borrowing \$500,000 at 10 percent interest for 10 years through a financial institution pays a total of \$81,372,700 per year. The same school district using FlexFund pays 7 percent (comparably), with no additional costs, for an annual total of \$71,188.75, saving taxpayers \$101,839.50 over the life of the financing.

U.S. Bank's FlexFund program may also be used to refinance existing obligations at lower rates. Although

there is no minimum or maximum finance amount, FlexFund requests average less than \$1 million.

FlexFund is financed through the sale of Certificates of Participation (COP). COPs are similar to municipal notes or bonds, and are sold in \$5,000 denominations to investors looking for tax-free income.

In the last year, U.S. Bank also has entered into multiple-year contracts with the State of Washington, City of Seattle, Washington School Directors Association, Special Districts Association of Oregon and California School Boards Association Finance Corporation.

"We are experiencing tremendous success with this program," says Debra Brusie, program coordinator for U.S. Bank. "We look forward to supporting additional educational needs throughout the state."

U.S. Bank of Oregon is a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, the largest financial services company headquartered in the Northwest, with assets of \$19.3 billion as of June 30, 1992. Other U.S. Bancorp subsidiaries include U.S. Bank of Washington U.S. Bank of California,