

County Advances Diversity Initiative

Local government opens office at OAME Plaza with contract signing ceremony

Multnomah County has opened an office at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs as part of a business diversity initiative.

County Chair Diane Linn shared her goals for the initiative on Friday during the office's open house celebration at the OAME plaza at 4134 N. Vancouver Ave.

Linn marked the occasion by signing two contracts that will help move the diversity initiative forward.

FM Burch & Associates, a local minority-owned firm, is being retained to assist the county in the initiative, and Accord Construction and Environmental, Inc., a local woman-owned company, is being retained to do wetlands remediation work at the county's animal shelter.

"Diversity and equity in business opportunities, employment practices and service delivery are central to my administration," said Linn. "In our diversity initiative, we've outlined tangible



Faye Burch (from left), Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn, and Andre Bauch gather Friday to celebrate the opening of a new county office promoting locally-owned minority businesses. The office is housed in Suite 205 at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver.

steps — such as the new OAME office — to increase access and provide opportunities for minority businesses."

FM Burch and Associates has extensive experience in assisting public and private organizations to improve their minority,

women, and emergency small business programs.

The company's team includes Faye Burch-Wilson,

Andre Bauch and Keith Crawford. The one-year contract includes data gathering and review of existing county

contracting policies and practices; training of county project managers and other staff that purchase goods and services; incorporating best practices from other agencies; and making recommendations concerning new practices.

The OAME office will enhance the county's efforts to build relationships and provide networking opportunities with contractors interested in doing business with Multnomah County. OAME is a non-profit organization formed to promote and develop entrepreneurship and economic development for ethnic minorities in Oregon.

The organization works as a partnership between ethnic minorities, entrepreneurs, education, government agencies, and businesses. For more information, contact Multnomah County's Herman Brame at 503-988-5111 Ext. 24266 or visit the County Purchasing website at www.co.multnomah.or.us/dss/cpa.

Judge Rules Against Former Police Chief

Records on misconduct investigation ordered opened

(AP) — A judge has ordered that the investigation reports on former Vancouver Police Chief Stan Reeves must be made public.

Superior Court Judge Edwin Poyfair instructed Brian Moran, the state's chief criminal prosecutor, and Terry Weiner, a Vancouver assistant city attorney, to remove some personal information before the records are released by Wednesday.

"Our community depends on public servants that are accountable," Poyfair said in his ruling Friday. "Public officers must be subject to scrutiny, especially when they put their private lives on display."

Reeves, the 52-year-old former

chief, and Rhonda Mullinax, his 30-year-old former neighbor, had an intimate relationship that made headlines shortly after Reeves resigned three months ago.

The Washington State Patrol investigated several allegations against Reeves, including that he saved Mullinax from being arrested for drunken driving after she was stopped by one of his officers in May 2001.

After reviewing the patrol's 700-plus page report, Moran decided there was insufficient evidence to charge Reeves with official misconduct or Mullinax with drunken driving.

Moran was prepared to release the report, but Reeves and his wife,

Geri, filed a lawsuit to block release of information that is "strictly personal."

The "Columbian" newspaper intervened in the case, saying the records should be carefully reviewed to ensure the State Patrol's investigation was complete and impartial.

Poyfair ruled Friday that Reeves and Mullinax, by discussing the case with the press, have "made these matters one of legitimate public interest."

The judge said information on credit card numbers, cell phone records, address and phone numbers, and most e-mails must be removed before the documents are released.



Stan Reeves

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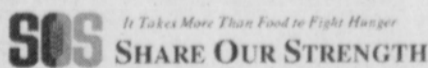
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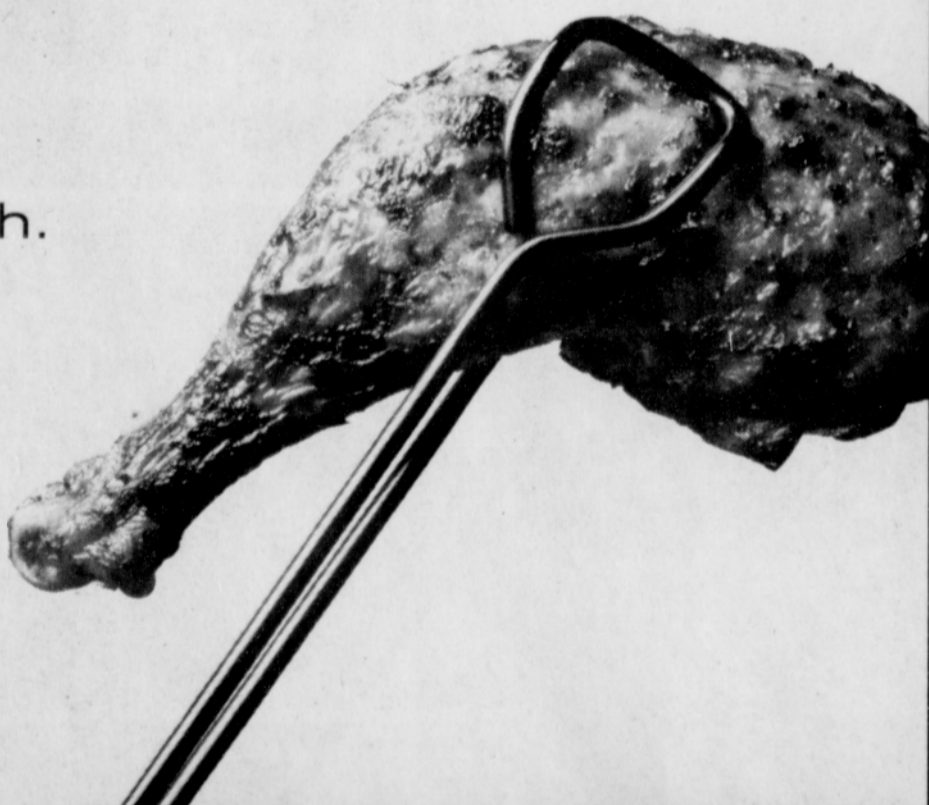
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