

Judge Nixes Tulsa Race Riot Reparations

(AP) — Survivors of a race riot that destroyed Tulsa, Okla.'s black neighborhood 83 years ago cannot seek reparations in court because of the long-expired statute of limitations, a federal judge has ruled.

The judge dismissed the lawsuit filed last year against the city and the state by 150 survivors and about 300 descendants of those who lost property or were killed in the 1921 riot.

"That plaintiffs' claims are barred by the statute of limitations is strictly a legal conclusion and does not speak to the tragedy of the riot or the terrible devastation it caused," U.S. Senior District Judge James Ellison said.

His decision, issued Friday, was entered into the court's record system Monday.

The city and state asked the judge to dismiss the case because of a two-year statute of limitations in civil cases.

Survivor Otis G. Clark said he was not sure what to make of the ruling and trusted his attorneys to take the next step.

"I'm 101 years of age, and I'll just leave it to them," said Clark, who was 18 when he saw a white mob burn his grandparents' and parents' homes.

The survivors' attorney, Charles Ogletree Jr., planned to appeal.

Careers on the Line



Multnomah County officials made history earlier this month when they announced their decision to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. (AP photo)

continued from Front

began marrying in the county.

A man identifying himself as Brandon Rogers said on that recording, "I hope your whole family is killed. I hope with all my heart that you guys are gunned down and killed."

Rogers also made a reference to them being "run out of office." He faces assault charges for roughing up a television cameraman and he may face charges for the threatening phone calls.

"It was very ugly and it made me nervous that someone felt they had to go to the level of threatening not only my life, but my family's lives as well," said Cruz.

Other passionate critics have flooded into public hearings, some chiding the officials for not including the public in their action and others voicing religious or moral

arguments against homosexuality.

"We wanted to make sure that even though Chair Linn made this decision in a very legal manner, it really is important to provide a venue for a public dialogue," said Cruz, after sitting through more than two of the eight scheduled hours of public hearings.

One common complaint the commissioners face is that public officials should not practice civil disobedience.

Cruz calls this a misunderstanding of her actions.

"In California, the mayor was being civilly disobedient because they have a Defense of Marriage Act," Cruz said. "In Oregon, we have different rules."

According to Cruz's interpretation of a Supreme Court ruling, elected officials in Oregon must do their jobs in a manner consistent with the state Constitution, even if it means violating an underlying

statute.

"It's not civil disobedience because we are following the highest law of the land," she said.

For Cruz, taking a stand for the gay community is a personal as well as professional move.

"As a young woman of color, I've experienced racism and discrimination. If I want people to stand with me on those issues, I ought to be willing to stand with others on theirs," she said. "It comes down to civil rights. I take this issue as seriously as I take the violation of civil rights against people of color and against women and we all must stand when we see someone being discriminated against," she said.

Cruz encourages the public to contact her and other county commissioners to discuss the controversial same-sex marriages in the county. Cruz can be reached via e-mail at serena@co.multnomah.or.us.

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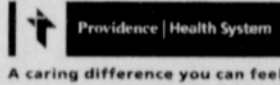


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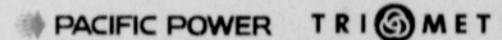


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Destiny Walrath

Talented Teen Pageant Finalist

An interest in speech, acting and dance brought 14-year old Destiny Walrath to competing in pageants.

She has been chosen as an Oregon State Finalist in the Ameri-

can Co-Ed Pageant, competing from July 17 through 19. This is her second pageant as a top contender.

Walrath attends Floyd Light Middle School in southeast Portland, and enjoys basketball, shop-

ping and watching Prince videos.

Walrath and her family are seeking donations to offset the cost of pageant participation. Businesses and individuals interested in supporting her can call 503-762-4586.



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