

Justice Tested

'When you look at timing versus quality, I think the citizens are looking for quality. Over the next 90 days, they'll have some answers to the questions they have about what happened'

—Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth

continued from Front

force Sery's testimony with a subpoena, but officials said they had hoped for the officer's cooperation.

Still, Foxworth estimates that the community will have the answers they are looking for within 90 days.

"When you look at timing versus quality, I think the citizens are looking for quality. Over the next 90 days, they'll have some answers to the questions they have about what happened," said Foxworth.

The timeline, which still does not have a start date, begins with a



James Jahar Perez

public inquest, then closed-door grand jury proceedings, followed by an internal investigation and

review of police policy, according to Foxworth.

"The internal administrative review is when we determine if it was in policy or out of policy and what are the appropriate steps to take to address an issue if it was out of policy," said Foxworth.

Besides an internal review, the chief called for the FBI to conduct a civil rights investigation and the Chamber and NAACP have called for the U.S. Department of Justice to step in.

"It's better for us to bring in people with no vested interest in the department," Jay said.

"We believe as a police bureau, we can withstand a review from any public agency," Robinson said, expressing confidence in the police department.

Mayor Very Katz has asked that the public proceedings be televised, in an effort for an "open and transparent" investigation, but it was not yet known if a network or public access station would broadcast the inquest.

Since the May 5 shooting death of Kendra James, the 21-year-old unarmed motorist who was also killed by police as she tried driving away from a traffic stop, the police department has implemented a number of the 200 recommended changes in the department, according to Foxworth.

"Last year, there were a number of community forums and community groups that met to make recommendations within the police bureau," said Foxworth.

The changes, ranging from policy and procedure, tactics, hiring, documenting and training, came from a variety of reviews, including the City Club, the Police Assessment Resource Center and Community Police Organizational Review Team reports and an independent



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thelma Stone holds a program from James Perez's funeral while visiting the growing memorial where Perez was fatally shot by police in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland.

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These rally participants suggest a racist culture in the police department may be responsible for a series of shooting deaths to unarmed people of color at the hands of Portland police.

in a time of such racial diversity in neighborhoods, that the people who put out the fires need to be sensitive to the incidents and I hate to see young black men and women in fear of the police."

School Superintendent Hired

State education secretary to lead local schools

(AP)—The Portland School Board picked Pennsylvania's education secretary, Vicki Phillips, to lead the 53,000-student district Monday night.

Phillips said earlier she is eager to return to a school district job.

"I feel that I can have the most direct effect on student learning in a district," Phillips said in the statement. "Hands-on education has, and will always be, my first love."

Gov. Ed Rendell called Phillips "one of the education industry's most progressive and innovative minds."

Her departure "will be a great loss to the commonwealth, but she has done great work and achieved groundbreaking progress," Rendell said in the statement.

She is scheduled to take over the district, which has about 100 schools and 50 special needs centers, in August.



Vicki Phillips

Phillips takes over from Jim Scherzinger, who became interim superintendent in February of 2002 after Ben Canada, the former superintendent in Atlanta, was asked to leave after three years.

Scherzinger was made permanent and retired in September.

The other finalist was Robert Lockamy, deputy superintendent of schools in Norfolk, Va.

Phillips was superintendent of the 11,000-student Lancaster, Pa. district for about four years before assuming the state role.

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