

Jahar Perez Inquest



Attendees are visibly distraught outside the courtroom of the James Jahar Perez public inquest. State Sen. Avel Gordly is seen in the background.

Perez Family Addresses Inquest Jury

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seatbelted. It was this mindset which caused a 25 second encounter to end in tragedy.

Which unarmed motorist who is intoxicated, or otherwise uncooperative, will be the next victim of the Portland police, a police force that we learned is trained to use deadly force whenever they rightly or wrongly fear for their physical safety?

Dr. Lewinsky was brought into this Inquest to tell us about action and reaction times. But he did not tell us about the impact of racial profiling on police shootings, he did not tell us why action-reaction training should take precedence in Portland, Ore. over good judgment. Nor did he tell us why this so-called scientific style of training has resulted in two unarmed African American motorists being shot to death by Portland police in the last 11 months.

The Perez family asks: "How many unarmed minority citizens must be killed by the Portland police before the city and the police bureau undertake a complete reexamination of how the bureau perceives and reacts to Portland citizens?" We are not all armed killers.

The Perez family urges everyone considering the question "What was the cause of Jahar Perez's death?" to consider that Jahar Perez was killed as a result of a pretext stop of an African American by Portland police officers. That Jahar Perez was killed because one Portland police officer badly over-reacted to an unarmed man's actions, and that this over-reaction was caused, in part, by a policy of training officers to be afraid and mistrustful of Portland citizens.

The Perez family believes consideration of these questions and prompt attention to Jahar's tragic death could begin the healing process for our family and the city of Portland.

Kucinich Pushes Hard for Oregon Vote

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party's platform, Kucinich said.

He pledged to keep speaking about these key issues to increase support for the party and Kerry when he faces President Bush in November.

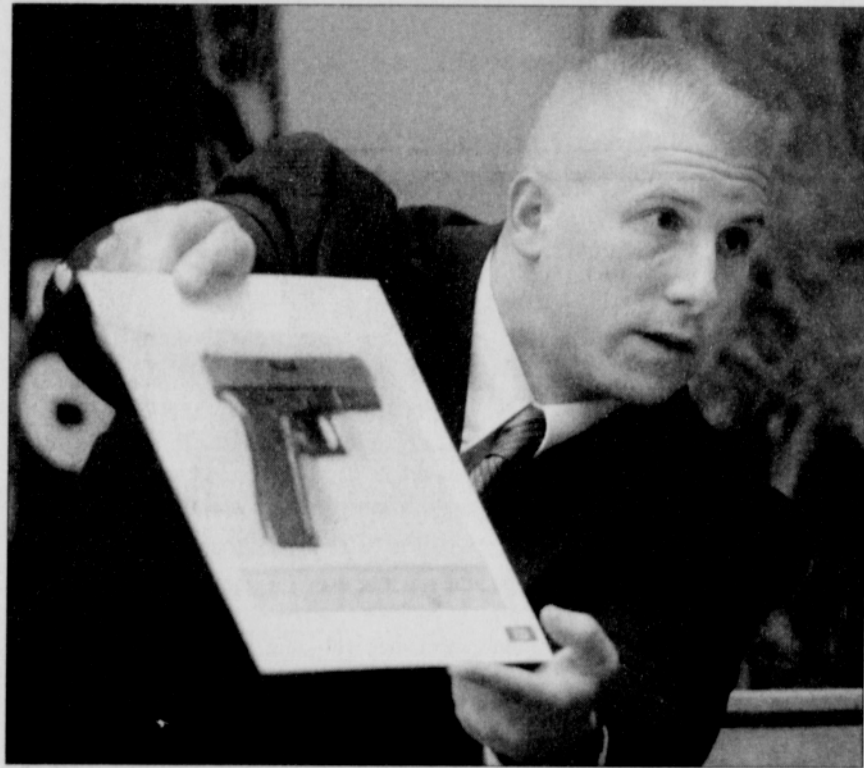
Kucinich cites a lifetime of involvement in human rights and bringing all citizens to the table of government.

"Strength comes from inclusion," Kucinich said. "A Democratic society should create unity. We're divided by class, and racial problems are as great as ever."

As mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, 27 years ago, Kucinich said he helped bring police accountability to the city. He made history by hiring an African-American public safety official to supervise both the police and fire departments.

He said his heart comes from the streets of Cleveland where he grew up as the only white family in a minority neighborhood. The oldest of seven children, his family needed to move 21 times, from rental to rental, to keep a roof over their heads.

"I'm from the streets, not an Ivy League college," he said. "Voting for me can make a difference."



Officer Jason Sery shows the inquest jury a picture of his 9 mm handgun, which he used to shoot unarmed motorist James Jahar Perez.



A deadpan Officer Jason Sery was the most anticipated witness at the inquest.



Martin Dennis, an eyewitness to the police encounter with James Jahar Perez, told the inquest jury, "I can't believe he shot the guy," when he testified on Thursday, April 29.



Tia Smith said she was emotionally shaken by the commotion she witnessed between police and James Jahar Perez. She was an eyewitness to the shooting.

ARRANGEMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALLOWED ONE POOL PHOTOGRAPHER INSIDE THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE FOR THE PEREZ INQUEST. THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE OREGONIAN.