

# Police Committed to Diversity

continued ▲ from Front

more," Anderson said. "This is a community issue." He expressed concern that not enough local residents are becoming police officers.

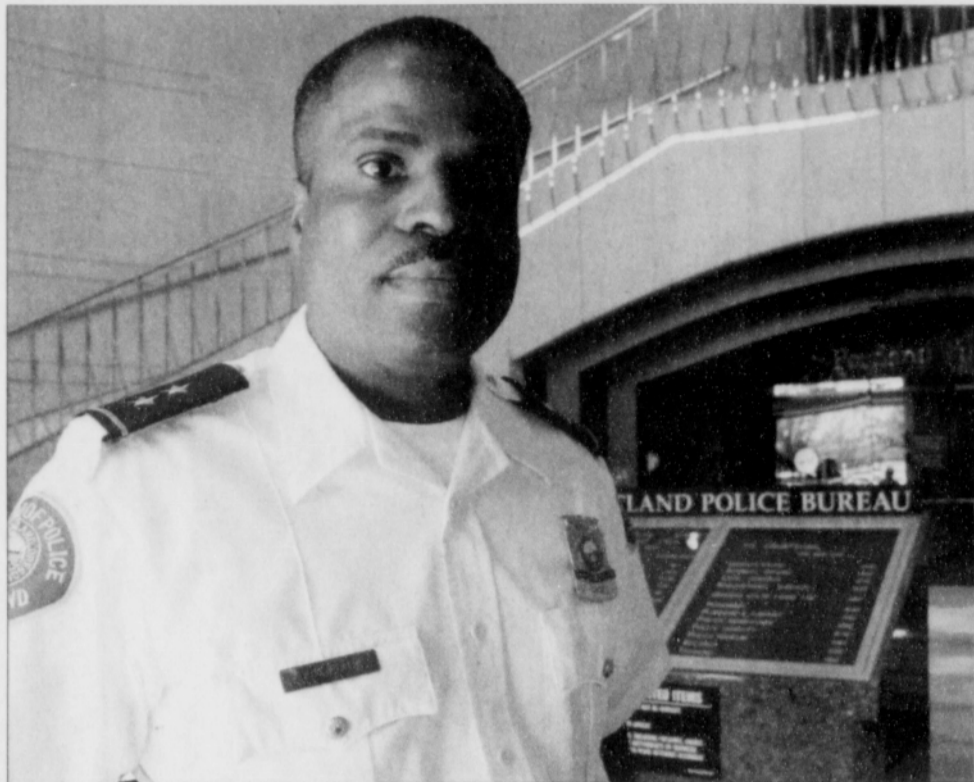
"It's not just about diversity in the way we think but in the way we look as well," Foxworth said. "Portland has changed over the years and the police bureau needs to change as well."

Having grown up in Portland, Foxworth, knows the importance of keeping things local.

"When you have some history and are from the community and know the issues, you can look through relationships," Foxworth said. "I can go back and I can look and see how things have changed. You know the businesses, the churches, the schools, and their needs. We have a lot in common. We sat in the same chairs, went to the same schools."

Modica, noted that police officers are members of the community whether they work there for 12-hours a day or live there.

"A police officer is supposed to



*It's not just about diversity in the way we think but in the way we look as well. Portland has changed over the years and the police bureau needs to change as well.*

—Police Chief Derrick Foxworth

be a peace officer," he said.

When asked why more people of color aren't signing up to where the uniform, Modica said, "There's always hesitation in those that are not white in becoming a police of-

ficer. Historically, we don't get along as a culture with the police. We've got to overcome that. If you don't know your history you're doomed to repeat it. The way to change that is to become involved

as part of the organization."

Another thing holding people back could be family concerns.

Anderson remembered that when he first wanted to become a police officer, his mother was wor-

ried about possible dangers of the job and whether or not Anderson would be accepted by his co-workers and his community as an African American.

"It isn't overwhelmingly dan-

gerous," Anderson said. "That fear of being ostracized didn't happen because I kept my relationships. The bureau accepted me. I got respect from the community and co-workers."

Anderson said people should not be deterred if they think there's an aspect of their past that would keep them from being hired. He said people are a lot harder on themselves than they need to be.

"We are supporting the notion that public safety is good and honorable," Modica said. "You can take care of your family, you can take care of your community. The people are the police and the police are the people. Once you become a police officer, then you engage in a career path of a continuing education. You support organizational and community goals for your work."

"What we have to overcome are the barriers that cause people not to think of public service as a career," Anderson said. "You can have a direct impact on how that service is provided to the community as opposed to it being a negative encounter."

## Respected Officer Promoted

continued ▲ from Front

needless to say, received no solicitations. While they didn't care for the "attention," they also knew that Jackson genuinely cared about them, and that they could come to him if they were seriously in trouble.

Because of his efforts, when local businessman Jack Chung was designing a store for the adidas athletic shoe company at 5020 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., he named the public open space in front of it "Harry Jackson Plaza."

"They suggested I call it Jack's Place and I said no, I've done nothing for MLK," Chung recalls. "I didn't want it named for a mayor or someone with a big title. I wanted someone who'd done good work in the community. Then I said, 'Why not Harry Jackson?'"

As recently as last year, Jackson personally had to step into a vola-

*I've been at this job a long time, and I still like it.*

—Portland Police Lieutenant Harry Jackson

tile situation. North Portland's Peninsula Park had become disputed turf between rival youth gangs, some driving there from as far away as East Portland. On one occasion Jackson stepped between two groups of youths who appeared to be about to have a shootout, taking a shotgun away from one young man.

To some extent, the world Jackson found on his old patrols has come east with him.

Jackson acknowledges that gangs are becoming more of a problem in outer east Portland.

"We've had a few drive-bys," he said. "The 18th Street and 13th Street

gangs (which he chased out of Peninsula Park) are here."

Still, he is impressed by what he sees.

"Citizen participation here is probably better than it is in inner northeast," he says. "They have regular meetings. Being a policeman is prestigious, which is new to me. Citizens here really do support the police. They bring us cookies, they wash our cars."

Jackson reminds us that northeast Portland was where community policing started. He was a regular at neighborhood meetings, and even accepted a role in the King Neighborhood Association during

his off-duty hours.

In what could almost be a quote from one of Potter's election speeches he says, "We want to get community policing up to the level it was before. It dropped because of personnel shortages.

We'll get back into it full swing, but we're still short of people, and this is a large area with a lot to cover.

Jackson is making plans for summer law enforcement expectations.

"We need things for kids to do so that they can have a good time and not be a part of any problems. Now is the time to start preparing."

Jackson has been doing all this for 27 years, first for the Oregon State Police, then for the Port of Portland before joining the Portland Police Bureau 24 years ago.

"I've been at this job a long time, and I still like it," he says.

## Police Hiring Help Offered

The Portland Police Bureau plans to hire 70 new officers in the next few months.

Special recruitment efforts are underway in local schools, churches, and organizations in an effort to make the police force more multicultural. Portland police are also recruiting new officers at local job fairs.

Police Chief Derrick Foxworth said the goal is to educate more men and women from diverse populations about the benefits of becoming a police officer. The campaign includes more advertising and marketing and a major commitment to diversity within the ranks of the Portland police force.

Hiring guidelines are contained with job application materials, which can be picked up in the personnel division of the Portland Police Bureau located in the Justice Center downtown, or by visiting [www.portlandonline.com/police](http://www.portlandonline.com/police).

A test for applying for law enforcement jobs is scheduled for March 26, with a sign-up deadline of Friday, March 4. A workshop to help those interested in preparing for the test is scheduled just before the examination is administered giving potential recruits the opportunity to speak with officers, answer questions and take a pre-test.

Another way to learn about the Portland Police Bureau is to schedule a ride-along with an officer, where a person can get a first hand look at what the occupation is like on a day-to-day basis.

For more information, call the bureau at 503-823-0333. To sign-up for the test preparation workshop, call or e-mail Tamara Larison at 503-823-3523 or [tlarison@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:tlarison@ci.portland.or.us). The calendar of workshops is located on the police bureau Web site, along with a test guide, application and guidelines.

To know nothing is bad.  
To learn nothing is worse.

— African proverb

We celebrate the contributions of African Americans throughout our history.

 **Portland Community College**

For information call 503-977-4519 [www.pcc.edu](http://www.pcc.edu)

## Praying to Stop the Violence

continued ▲ from Front

nurse encouraged her to attend a rape support group.

"I did not trust my own judgement," Kern said. "Something bad happened to me and not one person, except a friend, had acknowledged that. It stays with you for a very long time. We're surrounded by violence but we don't need to embrace it."

Bell told of how her mother was a victim of domestic violence, and how viewing it growing up made it seem acceptable.

"When I grew up I thought it was okay to be knocked around," Bell said. "It tears a person's soul apart and it takes a lot of counseling and healing. It's just not okay."

During a press conference earlier in the week, Bell asked why, if programs can focus on things like methamphetamine addiction, is the issue of violence not a priority.

"We are at war within the community," she said.

"When we consider the things we've been through, we can find a million reasons to hang our heads in despair," said Rev. W.C. Hardy.

Hardy attempted to put things in perspective.

"When we are in the midst of something, it's hard to evaluate where we are. How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" Hardy asked. "It's a strange land."

Hardy went on to describe all the historical hardships that African Americans have been through, and how amazing it is that they have survived.

"If you don't know how God has been on your side by now, you'll never know," Hardy said. The congregation echoed his shouts of "I'm



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

*Instead of dedicating your life to gangs and guns, dedicate your life to your education and books.*

—Tyrone James, a man left blinded by gun violence

still here!" with unmatched vigor.

While Hardy said it was good that the youth performing during the service were involved in the church, he also pointed out that when the media "knows if we just keep singing and dancing, nothing is going to change. We need to put down the differences and come together. Enough is enough. If we don't change, somebody's going to die again. Don't let it go unchanged."

Tyrone James, Bell's son-in-law who was blinded from a shot to the head and had his wife murdered, spoke about the importance of deterring children from the glamorization of gangs. He visits schools to show kids that violence is not the answer, and to show them the consequences.

"Instead of dedicating your life to gangs and guns, dedicate your life to your education and books," James said. "This violence is not fun. You're not hurting yourself, you're hurting your family."

"It's got to stop," Willie Lee Bell, the victim shot in the arm, said during the press conference.

Bell said he and his girlfriend

were purchasing work shirts when Domenicke Eugene Sanders, 25, held them at gunpoint during a robbery on 42nd and Killingsworth. When Bell, 24, and his younger brother Wilando Bell, 20, went to confront Sanders about the situation, what resulted was fatal.

Wilando was found dead from a single gunshot wound on Feb. 7 in an apartment on Northeast 42nd Avenue. Willie suffered a gunshot wound to the arm.

Police arrested Sanders Tuesday in Vancouver on allegations of murder, attempted murder and first-degree robbery in connection with the shootings.

Wilando's death was the third homicide in Portland in a week and the fourth in Portland this year.

Bell said that prevention needs to begin with the young. "You get older and you never depart," he said. "If you get harassed by the police when you're young, it'll make you more angry." He said the key is for children to have positive things to do to occupy their time.