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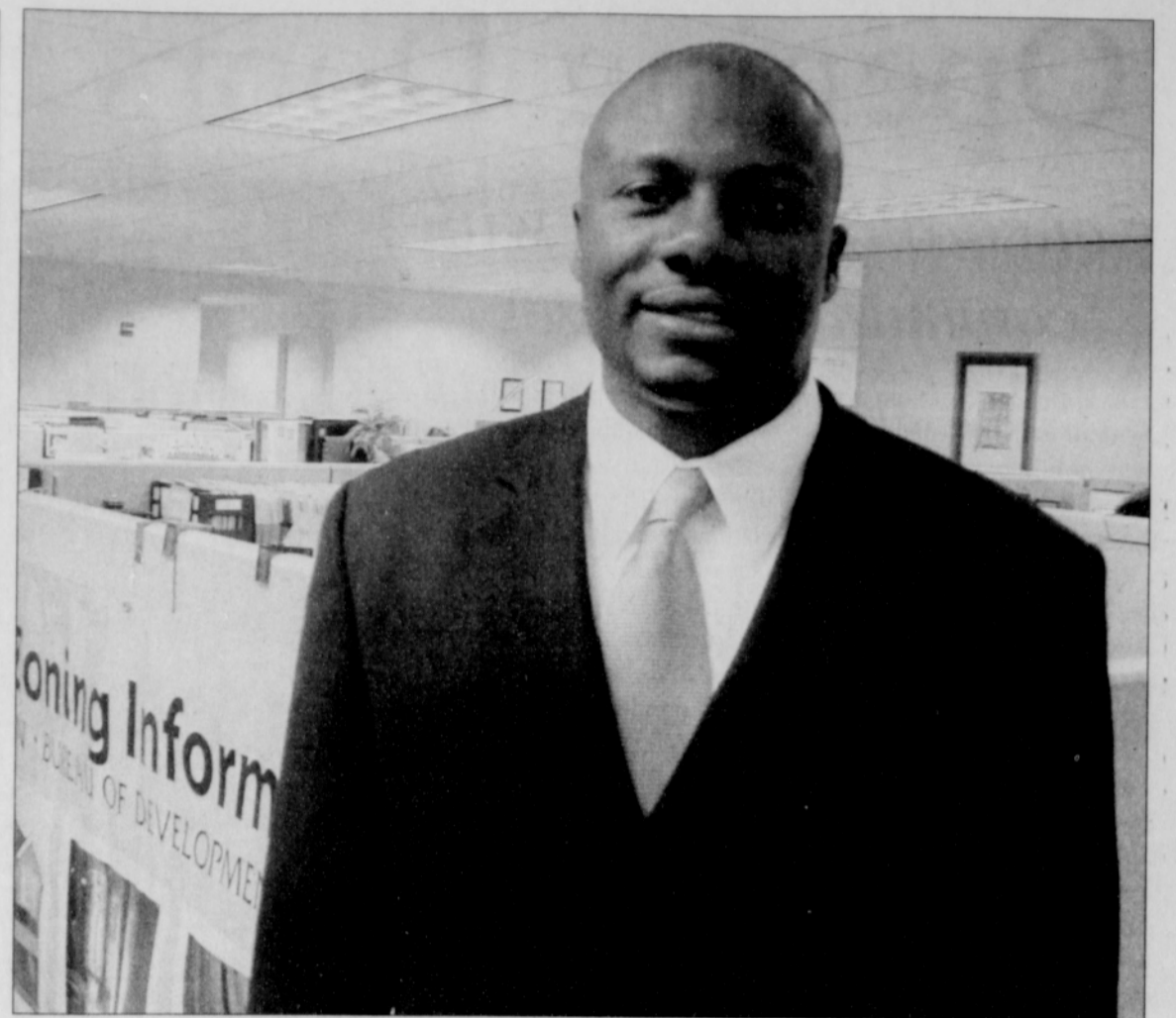



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Paul Scarlet came to Portland in 1989 to work on the Albina Community Plan. Today, he is interim director of the Portland Bureau of Development Services.

Career Bound

continued ▲ from Metro p.m.

Leonard recently ordered employees of all his bureaus to undergo a day of training in providing good customer service. Scarlet hopes to continue this for all new hires as well. He would like to institute other methods to meet "customers' changing needs," including assigning a worker to shepherd applicants through the review process.

"That's not applicable to all customers, but we could do it where it makes sense," he says. Scarlet joined the city when he came to Portland in 1989 in answer to an advertisement seeking planning interns to work on a major venture, the Albina Community Plan.

In the course of a phone con-

versation, Chief City Planner Michael Harrison "sold me on Portland," he says. The Albina planning process lasted five years and created priorities for 20 square mile segment of north and northeast Portland that was unprecedented for what it covered - not just zoning but transportation, recreation, social and livability issues.

For the interns, it meant working in areas that were victims of long-term neglect and had major public safety problems. Scarlet and his co-workers were assigned to do land use survey work in the early morning, since that was considered the safest time to venture into some areas. He later went on to work on the Outer Southeast Community Plan, covering an even larger area east of 82nd Avenue, again under Harrison. "I hired Paul on the basis of a

phone call and a resume," Harrison told the Portland Observer. "It was only later that I learned what a great guy he was. He's smart, talented and personable. He helped create neighborhood plans for the Arbor Lodge and Montavilla neighborhoods where there were some really tough issues, and he did a great job."

He also began working his way up the city career ladder. After a few months he became a city planner. After the Outer Southeast Plan was completed he worked in the permit center, then switched to "compliance services," which deals with complaints about illegal activities by businesses and property owners. He served as supervisor of this section from 2001 to 2005.

In February, he became manager for new construction inspections.

"Paul has an excellent grasp of the commissioner's (Leonard's) priorities for the bureau, and an excellent grasp of how to achieve them," Kovatch says. These priorities are "a balance between good customer service, and ensuring safe building practices and neighborhood livability."

Scarlet is both a good and fair manager who has the support of his staff, Kovatch says. "He's a great guy and he's doing a fantastic job."

Born in Jamaica, Scarlet grew up in Toronto - a city, Portland planners cite as a model of good dense urban growth. He attended Brigham Young University on a track scholarship. Despite being part of a very small ethnic minority population in Utah he says, "It was a great

experience. I was treated well, I received a good, solid education, and I developed some lasting friendships."

Since coming to Portland he has married and has three children. Once a world-class runner at 100 and 200 meters, he is now a track coach at St. Mary's Academy.

Speaking of his adopted city, which he has helped to shape, Scarlet says, "It's a very livable city with diverse communities, lots of places to recreate, lots of activities, a school system in place that offers a wide range of schools. I'm pleased to see the development that's taken place. I'm particularly pleased to see the development of the Pearl and South Waterfront with a combination of high density housing and mixed-use. The housing market's taken off. The turnover rate is high. Businesses such as REI are moving in instead of moving out."

In the areas Scarlet helped plan, "There are a lot of new buildings in Gateway that are attractive and nice to see. On Martin Luther King and Interstate we're going from vacant lots and abandoned buildings to new development; there are still problems, but it's a big improvement from 15 years ago. I was very involved in the planning for the North Max (light rail) alignment, and I've seen it happen 16 years later. There is more (traffic) congestion, but that's a part of increased development."

Another outgrowth of change in some areas is gentrification, the displacement of old residents with new ones.

"That certainly is an outgrowth of development, and to some extent it's uncontrollable," Scarlet says. During the Albina Plan process, "We were concerned that it could lead to displacement, that it would make it difficult for people to stay in their own homes. One approach we took was to allow for different types of housing so people could remain in the community."

"I received a good, solid education, and I developed some lasting friendships."

- Portland city administrator Paul Scarlet on his education at Brigham Young University

College Help at Matt Dishman

A free program each month to help high school students prepare for college is held at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., through the efforts of Oregon State University's Ujima Education Office College Outreach Program.

The sessions are on the first Saturday of each month through

May from Noon until 2 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are the college application process, financial aid, why a college education is important and valuable, how to select the right college for you, useful tips to becoming a successful college student, and mentorship from college representatives and current college students.

For more information, contact Earlean Wilson Huey, OSU Ujima Education Office

Coordinator by email at Earlean.wilsonhuey@oregonstate.edu or by calling 1-800-291-4192, extension 7-9032; or Jock White, Matt Dishman Community Center Teen Program Coordinator, at 503-823-3620.



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