



## Steps to End Racial Profiling Wanted

### Recommendations follow sessions

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A follow-up to a series of community talks on racial profiling focuses on recommendations to end the disparities found in traffic stops involving people of color.

A series of listening sessions was launched last spring shortly after the Portland Police Bureau released data on traffic stops that found black and Latino drivers were more likely to be stopped than white drivers.

On Thursday, Oct. 19 at City Hall the Northwest Constitutional Rights Center, the social advocacy group Oregon Action and police chief Rosie Sizer will present a full report with recommendations for eliminating racial profiling, using information compiled from the listening sessions.

The rights center got 21 Portland groups involved in their recommendations, including the Center for Intercultural Organizing, Sisters of the Road, Portland Copwatch, The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon and the Native American Youth Association.



PHOTO BY ISIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer acknowledges the racial disparities of traffic stops during a June 8 community listening session.

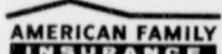
Alejandro Queral, the center's executive director, hopes the City Council will appoint a group to act upon the six recommendations, which call for the police bureau to develop a plan to eliminate racial profiling no later than Jan. 2007 and to collect and analyze data on individual traffic and pedestrian stops.

There's been some controversy over recommendations to collect traffic-stop data on individual officers. Also, Portland's police union has declined offers to meet with the community groups. Other recommendations call for community organizations to implement their own education programs on attitudes and behavior appropriate during traffic and pedestrian stops, and to assist individuals with filing complaints against officers they believe have treated them inappropriately, so that a written record is developed and incidents are investigated.

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### Grand Jury Clears Police

A Multnomah County Grand Jury cleared Portland police Tuesday of any wrongdoing in the death of a mentally ill man who died in a patrol car on his way to the hospital after a scuffle with officers, downtown.

James Chasse, 42, died Sept. 17 from blunt force trauma to the chest.

A state medical examiner declared the death accidental. The autopsy found Chasse had 17 broken ribs, a punctured lung and internal bleeding.

His family and some



Phillip Chasse

witnesses said they believe police used excessive force. Police said he was combative and tried to bite them.

Grand jury sessions are secret under Oregon law, attended only by the district attorney and witnesses.

### Diversity Classes for Lawyers Suspended

(AP) -- A state bar requirement that lawyers must take an hour long class each year addressing race and diversity has been suspended for two years by the Oregon Supreme Court to re-evaluate its effectiveness.

The requirement has been in ef-

fect since 2001, a follow-up to a 1994 report on bias against racial and ethnic minorities in the judicial system. Members of the bar voted this spring to ask the court to do away with the anti-bias training.

Catherine Coburn was one of the many attorneys opposed to the requirement.

"The classes are about how to be nice to each other, not about

substantive law issues," Beaverton attorney said. "We are not questioning the value of diversity. But the quality of these classes is really very poor."

Angel Lopez, a past president of the state bar, said that as a Latino and a criminal defense attorney who works with underrepresented populations, he believes in the need for the anti-bias requirement.

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