



The Miracles Club, a community center for African Americans recovering from drugs and alcohol on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Mason Street, has received help from the city to buy their building, but will likely have to move anyway.

City Moves to Keep Miracles Club

Grant to help recovery group stay open

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Facing money woes and eviction from their spot on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the Miracles Club has won a

\$495,000 grant from the city to keep their doors open to those recovering from drugs and alcohol. However, they likely will not remain in their current location.

Miracles had until Dec. 29 to come up with \$500,000 to counter an offer of \$1 million to build high-rise apartments in the building's place.

Current landlord Jack Gorman had told the Miracles' board that if

they could provide the first \$500,000 payment they could carry another \$500,000 on contract.

On Dec. 20, the city council voted 4-0 to contribute the down payment.

But details could not be worked out in time. Gorman still plans to sell the property to investors, keeping the club's future unclear.

"We had to react quickly, and nobody was comfortable signing

an earnest money agreement without an appraisal to find out if property was indeed worth that amount of money," said Brendan Finn, commissioner Dan Saltzman's chief of staff.

Miracles still has Gorman's word that it can stay at its current location for at least through 2007.

Having a year will give the city room to negotiate a deal with the Portland Development Commis-

sion for a future Miracles site, Finn said, including talks with new owners who may be willing to negotiate with Miracles to remain in the building.

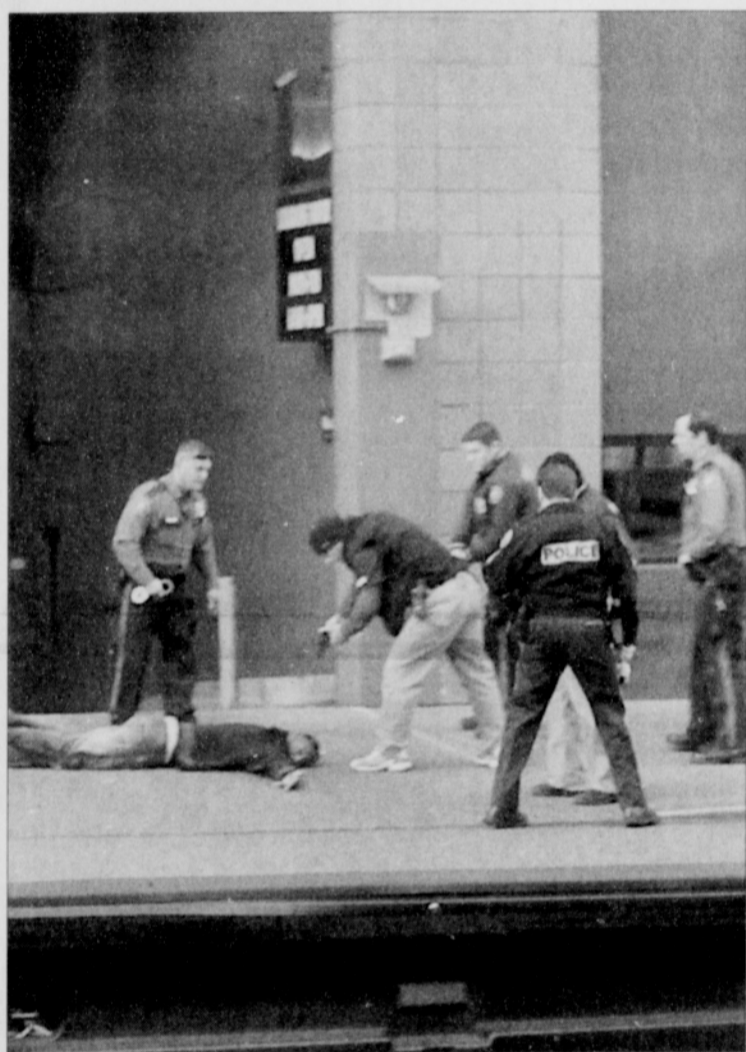
"We are partners, it's not just donation," Finn said. "We're allocating this amount of money for Miracles to stay there with a new property manager, or to tie them into a new project."

But Finn added they expect the

building to be sold.

"We'll be walking hand in hand with the club in finding them a new home or keeping their home where it is right now."

Miracles board chair Herman Bryant said the club wants to stay in the neighborhood, or north Portland. The city has already begun exploring options, and hopes to find a PDC-owned property along MLK within a month or two.



Joseph Johnson is arrested for attempted murder on Dec. 19.

Wanted Man Taken Down by Police

A Portland Observer reader took photos when he saw six Portland police officers put a gun to the head of an African American man on a downtown Portland street.

The incident occurred Dec. 19 next to the Portland Building.

Sgt. Brian Schmautz said the man was Joseph Johnson, 33, a suspect in a Dec. 2 drug-related shooting at

Southwest Fifth and Yamhill. Schmautz said Johnson has a violent criminal history and a warrant out for his arrest in California.

According to the police report, Johnson was unarmed at the time of the arrest. Officers watched him board and then exit a TriMet bus, leaving a handgun on the vehicle, which the police then recovered.

KBOO Harassment Case All But Ignored

continued ▲ from Front

and reached a reasonable conclusion."

Davis said when it comes to sexual harassment, the channels of communication are the same for employees and volunteers. He added that in the past 18 months they have terminated volunteers for sexual harassment.

But Hines said he was left feeling frustrated because the issue wasn't taken seriously, or timely enough.

"Each time I contacted them they said 'we'll get back in touch, we take this very seriously,'" Hines said. "I think my issue would warrant more concern than being ignored because everyone is too

busy."

Davis responded by saying the station "diligently pursued the matter" as fast as their resources would allow.

"I'll be the first to say sometimes things here take longer than we'd like," Davis said. "We have a low budget and not a lot of staff. And sometimes the other party doesn't take time for certain aspects of the communication."

After the final meeting, Hines began to think race might have something to do with KBOO's response.

"I'm not the type of person to yell race, but I believe if I was a white man KBOO would have showed more respect in responding to my concerns," Hines said.

Jackson Retirement Party Set

A beloved African American police officer, Lt. Harry Jackson will retire after 26 years on the force, and everyone in the community is invited to celebrate his farewell.

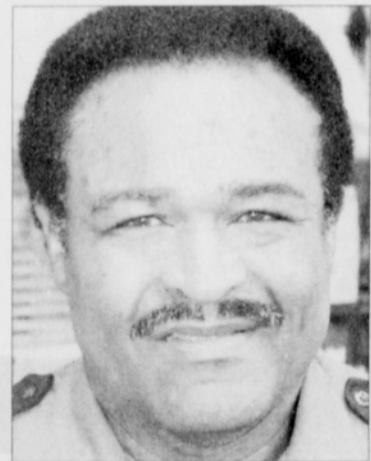
Jackson spent many years of his career at the North Precinct in St. John's, and in 2004 was promoted to lieutenant

and assigned to the East Precinct. He returned to northeast Portland shortly after, where he had already built a reputation for his community policing skills and his presence at neighborhood meetings during his off hours.

A retirement party for Jackson will take place Tuesday,

Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. at Emanuel Temple, 1033 N. Sumner St.

If you are interested in sharing a story or making a presentation, please call Diane Haman at 503-823-5706 or dhaman@portlandpolice.org.



Lt. Harry Jackson

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