

Young Black Men Murdered, Firsts in 2007

Street shootings were days apart

Portland's first two murder victims of 2007 were young black men, one just 14 years old and the other a young father of twins who were shot and killed along city streets, days apart and on opposite sides of the river.

Police say they have little information about the deaths and have made no arrests.

The latest slaying happened Sunday afternoon in the Portland Community College district of north Portland. Davonte Garland Lightfoot, a Benson High School freshman, was found by police lying on the sidewalk in front of the Bread and Roses Center on

Killingsworth Street, just down from Albina Avenue and between two bars. He was critically injured with a gunshot wound to his head and died later at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Police have a description of a man they believe may have been walking with the teenager. He is described as a male, in his late teens to early

20s, between 5 feet 5 and 5 feet 9, with a thin build, and wearing a three-quarter length gray coat.

The other murder occurred early New Year's Day. Jermaine N. Davis, 23, died of a gunshot wound to his chest around 2 a.m. at Southwest Fourth and Stark. He was downtown for a night out celebrating with cousins.

According to detectives, Davis stepped toward a car driving down Stark Street after someone in the vehicle shouted obscenities. Police are not sure the shouts were directed at Davis, saying the shooter was likely someone he didn't know.

The suspect car is described as a black, four-door luxury-type vehicle, with lightly tinted windows. It may have been

carrying four to five males and females, possibly white or Latino. One occupant was described as a white male, 20 to 25 years old, thin with pale skin, dark brown hair, a moustache and a goatee, wearing a white collared T-shirt.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in the case.

**"when a black man is doing good...
...that means the city is doing good"**



Vigil to End Police Violence

In wake of tasing autistic teenager

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, representing local African American churches, will be heading up a prayer vigil against police violence on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 4:30 p.m. at Northwest Hoyt and Broadway.

The event is in response to the Dec. 5 beating and tasing of Sir Millage by Portland police in the vicinity of the Broadway Bridge and train station.

Police said they feared for their safety when Millage, a 15-year-old African American with autism, would not put down a plastic

stick he was carrying. He was tasered no less than 13 times.

The ministerial group's call to action will include a call for justice for James Chasse Jr., a white man suffering from schizophrenia that was beaten by police in downtown Portland Sept. 17 and later died from his injuries.

Speakers will also focus on the unanimous resolution passed by the City Council in August 2004 which called for training and policy changes to prevent these kinds of incidents.

The AMA's Ad Hoc Coalition for Community Justice has been active on police violence issues, including the shooting deaths of Kendra James and James Jahar Perez.

For more information or to get involved, call Dr. Rev. LeRoy Haynes at 503-287-0261.

New State Rep. Takes Oath

Tina Kotek was sworn in Monday to her first term representing north Portland in the Oregon House of Representatives.

The Democrat from House District 44 will serve as vice-

chair of the Committee on Health Care. In addition she has been appointed to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services and to the committee on Human Services and Women's Wellness.



Tina Kotek

"Today our exciting, but tough, work begins to create an Oregon with a world-class educational system for our children, to build a better economy that sustains living wage jobs, to guarantee access to quality health care regardless of income and to maintain a smart and accountable state government that Oregonians can trust," said Kotek. "I am honored to represent the people of my district and to serve my state as we work together to make this vision of Oregon a reality."

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