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The Portland Observer

Second Chance for Juvenile Offenders Urged

Lawmakers consider changes to Measure 11

try to revise a 1994 get-tough- offenders, to fixed prison terms on-crime law in a way that would with no possibility of parole or allow the early release of juvenile probation. offenders charged with serious crimes.

is ready for a second look at procedures for 15, 16 and 17whether the law is cost-effective year-olds who commit the most young offenders.

Measure 11 requires judges to The House measure would give

(AP)-Oregon lawmakers may rious crimes, including young

The House and Senate judiciary committees recently con-Some legislators and advocacy ducted public hearings on groups say they think the public measures to revise sentencing and the best way to rehabilitate serious crimes such as murder, assault, robbery or kidnapping.

sentence people convicted of se- those youths a chance to go be-

fore a judge for a "second look" after they have served half of their sentences. Judges could grant youths release to serve the remainder of their sentences under post-prison supervision if it can be proved that they have made significant progress while incarcerated.

"I think the public, if you asked them, would be OK with giving juveniles a 'second look,' " said Rep. Chip Shields, D-Portland.



Rep. Chip Shields

nals."

Under the Senate would determine

moting rehabilitation.

"Most people realize that 15- to Burdick, saidit's "no coincidence" ing with juvenile offenders.

17-year-olds that the Measure 11 issue is being should be dealt given a higher profile now that very, very dangerous, and some with differently Democrats are in charge of both than 25-year-old the House and the Senate for the hardened crimi- first time in 16 years.

Burdick, who is chairwoman of the Senate Judiciary Commitmeasure, tee, said it's doubtful that legislayouths would re- tion will pass this session, since ceive pretrial hear- it would require a supermajority each year under Measure 11, ings in adult court of lawmakers in both chambers according to state figures. in which judges to revise Measure 11.

whether trying the well as some Republicans - becase in juvenile court or adult lieve the time has come to begin court would be best suited to a serious, long-term look at the protect public safety while pro- effectiveness of the state's laws aimed at deterring crime, includ-A key lawmaker, Sen. Ginny ing Measure 11's provisions deal-

"Some of these juveniles are do need to go away for a very long time," the Portland Democrat said. "But the question is, do all of them need to? In my opinion, we are sacrificing some young lives that we don't have to."

About 50 youths are sentenced

Kevin Neely, spokesman for Still, she said Democrats - as the Oregon District Attorneys Association, said the group will "vigorously oppose" the rewrite of a measure that was overwhelmingly approved by voters and which has been credited with helping to bring down Oregon's violent crime rate.

Police Tactics Uneven Minorities more likely to be searched and arrested

blacks and Hispanics are much three years." more likely to be searched and arrested, a federal study found. politically volatile issue. Minor-

to threaten or use force against many stops and searches are blacks and Hispanics than against based on race rather than on whites in any encounter, whether legitimate suspicions. Blacks in at a traffic stop or elsewhere, particular have complained of according to the Justice Depart- being pulled over for simply ment.

The study, released Sunday by the department's Bureau of but deeply concerning," said Hi-Justice Statistics, covered police lary Shelton, director of the contacts with the public during NAACP's Washington bureau. 2005 and was based on inter- The civil rights organization has views by the Census Bureau with done its own surveys of traffic nearly 64,000 people age 16 or stops, and he said the racial over.

sistent" with those found in a similar study of police-public frequent way police interact with contacts in 2002, bureau statisti- the public, accounting for 41 cian Matthew R. Durose, the percent of all contacts.

(AP) -- Black, Hispanic and report's co-author, said in an white drivers are equally likely to interview. "There's some stabilbe pulled over by police, but ity in the findings over these

Police were much more likely ity groups have complained that "driving while black."

"The available data is sketchy disparities grow larger, the "The numbers are very con- deeper the studies delve.

Traffic stops are the most

Traffic stops have become a



A series of provocative reader boards at the Florida Room, 435 N. Killingsworth St., brought Max Julian to a protest Saturday outside the bar and restaurant.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

North Portland Reader Board Incites Protest

gathered in front of the Florida Room in north Portland on Saturday to raise debate and discussion about what makes a good

negative gentrification.

A changeable marquee to advertise the establishment has carried language that some people Overcoming Racism and Sexfind offensive, especially in a neigh- ism, read a proclamation calling

About a dozen local residents business neighbor and what is borhood rooted in family and reli- on efforts to inform, educate and from Jefferson High School.

The protesting group, Citizens

gious values and just a few feet support change that will improve the quality of life in north and northeast Portland, and in particular the African American community.



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Cocaine Sentencing Disparities Tackled

The United States Sentenc- gress narrow this 100-1 ratio tencing disparity between ing Commission recommended disparity to 20-1. Sunday that Congress narrow the current federal sentencing not allow politics and myths about disparity between crack and crack and its users to prevent powder cocaine offenses.

crack for example, carries a mini- tor of the American Civil Libermum 5-year federal prison sen- ties Union's Washington, D.C. tence, while distributing 500 grams of powder cocaine carries the same sentence. This is the pointed the Sentencing Com- devastating African-American second time since 2002 the com- mission did not recommend a communities in the process,"

"Members of Congress must

them from doing what's right," Distributing just five grams of said Caroline Fredrickson, direc- ity. legislative office.

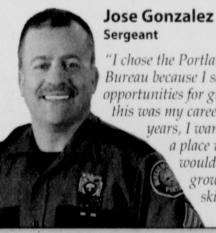
mission recommended that Con- complete elimination of the sen- Frederickson said.

crack and powder cocaine, "despite the wealth of research and data it has collected over the years indicating no medical or legal reason for the dispar-

"This unjust policy is based on little more than politics and urban myths, yet it's been al-The ACLU said it was disap- lowed to stand for over 20 years,



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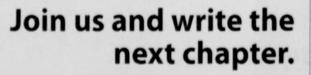


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