

Building Minority Business and Housing

Diversity team at work

BY KRISTEN LEBLANC

When the Housing Authority of Portland sent out its requests for general contractors on the Humboldt Gardens HOPE VI project, encouraging partnerships with minority businesses, Walsh Construction knew exactly which minority firm they wanted as their partner.

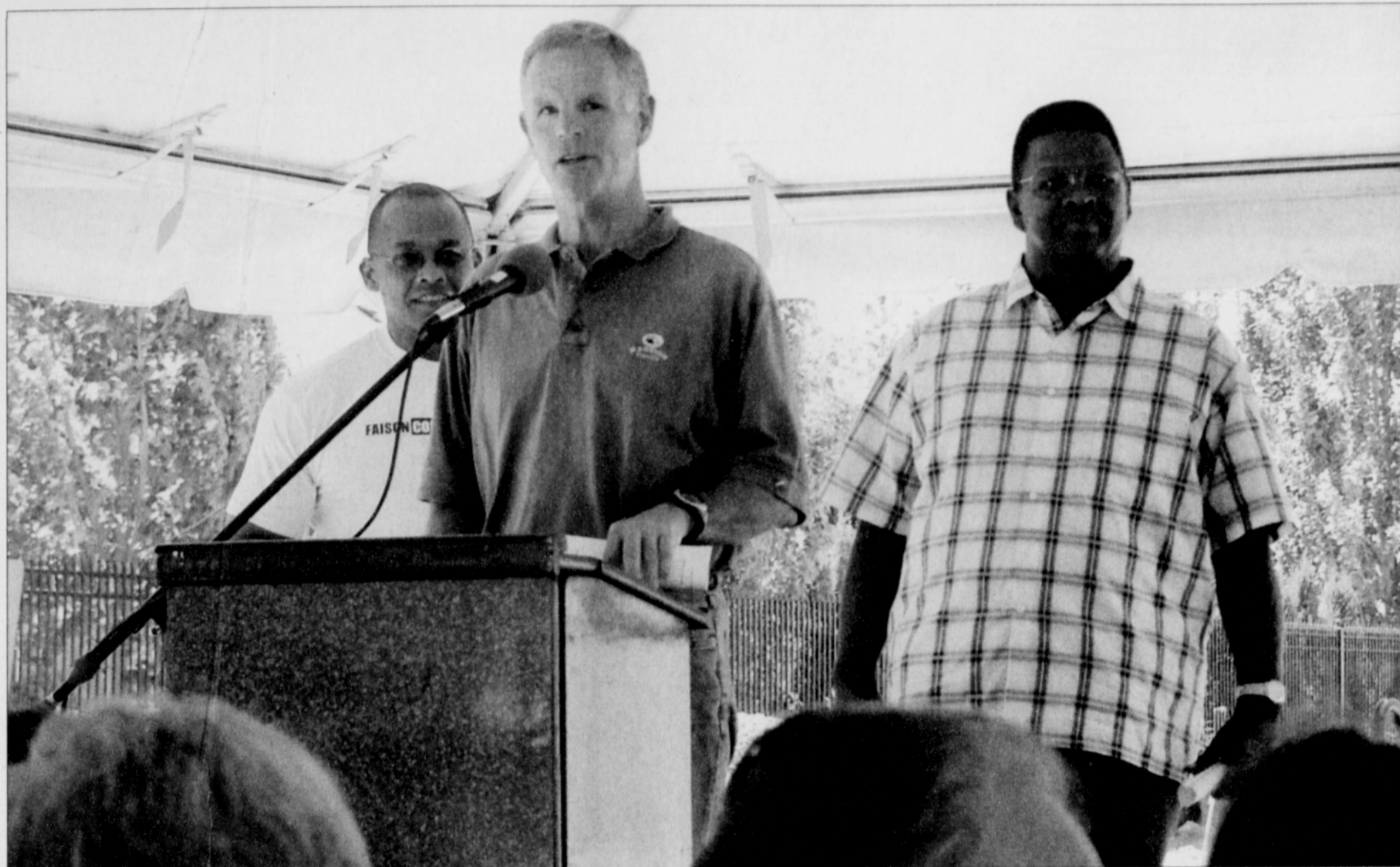
CJ Jackson Construction was part of the Walsh team on the successful New Columbia HOPE VI project, and their work was of such high quality that Bob Walsh, the company's chief executive officer, asked them right away to join them on the contract submittal to the housing authority.

"Calvin Jackson and his people completed over \$2 million worth of work on New Columbia," said Walsh, "and we knew the company was ready to take this next step with us."

The pairing proved a winning combination, as HAP selected the Walsh/Jackson team to build the \$35 million, 130-apartment community in north Portland. Humboldt Gardens will replace the 60-year-old Iris Court public-housing development and will also include a neighborhood community building with a Head Start center, community-policing contact office, and Internet access for residents.

Of the 130 apartments, 100 will be offered as low-income public housing and the remainder will be moderate-income affordable housing. Work on Humboldt Gardens began this summer, with completion set for December 2008.

At the 82-acre New Columbia



James Faison of Faison Construction (from left), Bob Walsh of Walsh Construction and Calvin Jackson of CJ Jackson Construction, during ceremonies marking the construction of Humboldt Gardens, a new housing community that replaces Iris Court in north Portland

community, CJ Jackson Construction built four two-story wood-frame buildings with a total of 20 apartment units and 20,941 square feet. On the Humboldt Gardens project, Jackson and his crew will manage the construction of 43 on-grade apartment units, with responsibilities including estimating and scheduling, budget maintenance, subcontracting coordination and on-site supervision.

"This partnership with Walsh was a great opportunity for CJ Jackson Construction," said

At Humboldt Gardens, we're able to implement our mission and take part in an historical event that will create great housing for the north side of Portland.

— Calvin Jackson of CJ Jackson Construction

Calvin Jackson. "At Humboldt Gardens, we're able to implement our mission and take part in an historical event that will create great housing for the north

side of Portland. At the same time, we're creating more work in the community."

At New Columbia, Walsh exceeded the 20 percent mi-

nority-participation goals, awarding \$24 million or 24 percent of the contract for minority-owned firms. The Walsh/Jackson team is determined to have the same success at Humboldt Gardens.

"The bricks and mortar portion of the project is obviously important," explained Walsh, "but our true success will be ultimately measured in jobs, contracts and neighborhood inclusion in the process. Given the nature of the project and the location, people of color

need to play an important role in the development and construction."

The team's determination is already garnering results. Faison Construction, a small minority firm, will build two duplexes at Humboldt Gardens.

With the addition of Faison, Calvin Jackson can now continue the process of mentoring small firms by passing on the knowledge he gained through working with Walsh at New Columbia.

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