

"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."

—Rosa Parks

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Urban League Executive Named Local leader sets agenda

Marcus C. Mundy has been appointed president and chief executive of the Urban League of Portland by its board of directors. The appointment was recently certified by the National Urban League.



Marcus C. Mundy

Mundy served as interim president since July 2006, after the departure of former president and CEO Vanessa Gaston.

He is a principal at Mundy Consulting LLC, a consulting firm which specializes in healthcare compliance and revenue cycle analysis. Prior to this role, Mundy served as vice president and regional compliance officer for Kaiser Permanente.

In his short time at the Urban League, Mundy has focused on a new strategic direction which includes expansion of programs and services, particularly in the areas of education and employment. His plans are to roll out the other major components of the National Urban League's "Opportunity Compact: Blueprint for Economic Equality" which also focuses on housing and economic security.

Mundy holds degrees in business administration for Howard University in Washington, D.C. and the University of Oregon. He has several years experience serving the local community and was most recently appointed to the Oregon Health Fund Board by Gov. Ted

Kulongoski. Mundy said his goal as Urban League CEO is to maximize our community's wealth creation and economic stability through employment, coaching, professional development, training and entrepreneurship.

He said he plans to address the disturbing record of black youth not completing high school, and continuing disparities in health, employment and economic opportunity between African Americans of all ages and the majority population.

"Our beloved seniors have a much higher incidence of chronic illness than the general population, and in virtually every measure of social, economic and physical well-being, the African American community is lagging," he said. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this historic organization."

Emerging from Crisis Mode

continued from Front

Recognizing that the rising costs of living push many families outside of the boundaries of Portland Public Schools, she's making it a priority to advocate for the city's construction of low-income and moderately-priced housing.

With regards to the long established borders of city neighborhoods, she seeks middle ground between maintaining strong neighborhood schools and giving parents options.

The choices range from voluntary participation in a specialized middle school, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, alterna-

tive schools and public charter schools.

Smith says the district keeps its integrity by listening to people directly involved with public education.

"We're not going to go back and try to undo things because that would create more chaos," she says.

"I want the people who are closest to the work being the ones who make the recommendations for how we move forward."

Overall, Smith has been pleased with the sense of pride and energy she sees reemerging from the school system. While she expresses frustration with the loss of families who have moved out of the district through

gentrification, she promises to continue work for inclusive policies that support progress for all.

With budgets and enrollment balancing for the first time in 15 years, Smith looks forward to a bright future.

"I get to build on the different eras of superintendents who ended up dealing with huge budget deficits," she says. "This era for me is now about how we bring up the leaders in the PPS system and really build the capacity of our principals, build the capacity of our teachers and have a community—with their voice about what we want to create as a public-school system—so that we as a community are owning it."

Higher Density Housing Proposed

An open house to learn about proposed zoning changes in the neighborhoods adjacent to North Interstate Avenue will take place Thursday, Feb. 21 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Inter-

state Ave.

The new zoning would allow larger and a higher density multi-family structures like apartments and condominiums on properties previously designed for single-family homes,

and encourage businesses that provide employment opportunities. City planners have identified several blocks near Interstate that that can be re-zoned to better maximize mass transit use and the MAX light-rail line.

diversity in Print

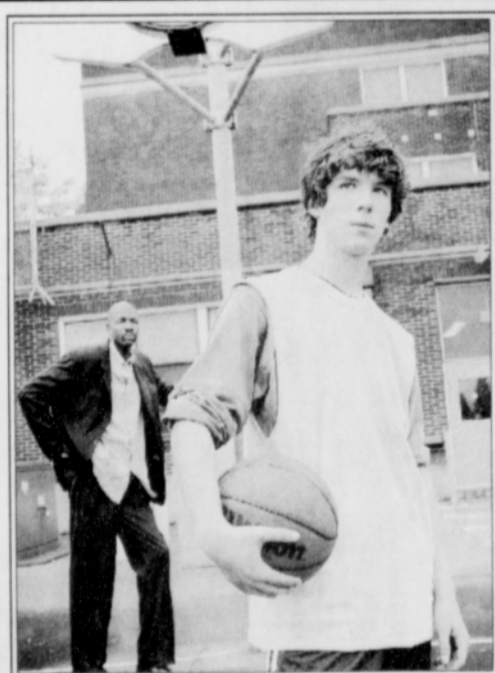
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The Portland Observer

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ONE-ON-ONE Premiere bonds live theater to live basketball... The intimate

HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES



Event: Doing Business with Local Public Agencies
Where: PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall
When: Tuesday, March 25, 2008
Information: Greg Wolley, 503.823.6860
Registration: Gale Hussey, 503.823.5057

Please notify the City of Portland no less than five (5) business days prior to our event for ADA accommodations at 503.823.6860, by the City's TTY at 503.823.6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1.800.735.2900.

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