# Leary Reappointed to MERC Commission

#### **Business** leader serves region

The Metro Council has reappointed Ray Leary to serve a second term on the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission.

"I am pleased to reappoint Ray to the MERC commission," said Metro Council President David Bragdon. "He has served the region well in his first term and will continue to bring his wealth of business, economic development and community-building skills to the table."

In his first term as MERC Commissioner, Leary worked to expand business and economic development opportunities, such as the Oregon Convention Center Headquarter Hotel, and played a key role in shaping the vision and strategic planning of the Commission.

"Ray's leadership in the Portland business community has proved invaluable to the MERC Commission," said Don Trotter, MERC Commission Chair. "I am thrilled that he will be continuing his service to the community as a MERC Commissioner.'



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Carl Talton (from left), Jeana Wooley and Ray Leary celebrate last January's grand opening of Vanport Square, an owner occupied retail development in the heart of Portland's African American community.

Leary is the principal of- development and training. ficer of Portland-based ERL, LLC, a local firm specializing adidas America's national urin urban real estate development, marketing, workforce a crucial role in opening the

ban marketing unit, he played

company's first full-line retail As former manager of the store in the United States on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta

He co-directed Self Enhancement Inc., a nationally- opportunities facing the region recognized youth empower- are constantly changing and ment program in north and the future we face is even northeast Portland and led the more challenging," said Leary. capital campaign to build its \$10 million youth facility.

He also served as director and our region." of development and temporarily, as interim president of Metro and manages the Portthe Urban League of Port- land Center for Performing land.

pointed to the MERC Com- development. term will expire in 2012.

"The economic and cultural "I look forward to continuing this important work for MERC

MERC is a service of Arts, Oregon Convention Leary is a Portland native Center and Portland Expo and graduate of Jefferson High Center. It serves as a cata-School and San Diego State lyst and advocate for com-University. He was first ap- munity, culture and economic mission in 2004 and his new www.mercvenues.org for more information.

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### **ODOT Reinstates Disadvantaged Contracting**

continued A from A15

tration approve the program businesses as subcontractors. changes.

ODOT to add narrowly-tai- be the Oregon 217 Modern- at the end of fall of 2010. More lored DBE utilization goals to ization Project about to go to information and project graphcontracts in the Portland metro bid. The \$25-\$35 million project ics are online at oregon.gov/ area on a case-by-case basis, will widen OR 217 northbound ODOT/HWY/REGION 1/ requiring prime contractors to to three through lanes from hwy217/.

One of the first contracts to The federal waiver allows include these hard goals will in the spring of 2009 and finish

hire more Asian-American and Oregon 8 (Tualatin Valley African-American-owned Highway) to U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway).

Construction should begin

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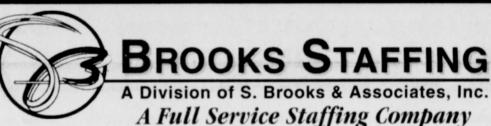
-Mohandas Gandhi

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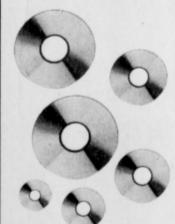
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