

Report: Use of Force by Police Down

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new report released Tuesday by the Office of the City Auditor provides a snapshot of the use of force by Portland police.

Analyzing data from 2004 through 2006, the report shows that complaints regarding the use of force by police have decreased by 58 percent since 2004.

Police disproportionately use force on African Americans. According to the report, 29 percent of subjects that officers used force on

were African American.

The reported use of force has decreased by 40 percent. However the report notes that this is largely because the bureau changed its reporting requirements. Officers are only required to report the use of force when it causes injury.

Physical control was the most frequently reported use of force at 56 percent of all incidents, followed by the use of tasers at 36 percent.

The report is a follow up from a 2007 report put out by the Force Task Force, a group composed of

people from the police bureau, the Independent Police Review Division, the Citizen Review Committee, and staff members from Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office.

It analyzed the Police Bureau's use of force data dating back to August 2004, and recommended that bureau require officers to provide more complete information on incidents requiring the use of force and its justification. Recommendations in the 2007 report also included keeping more detailed records that are periodically analyzed, among others.

After Tense Talks, 39th Renamed

Feathers ruffled as arterial street is named for labor leader

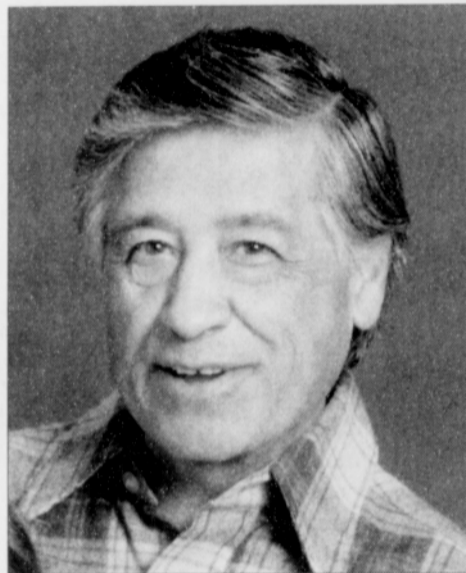
(AP)—The City Council voted last week to rename 39th Avenue as Cesar Chavez Boulevard after a two-year debate that brought charges of racism and government heavy-handedness, and groans from residents who wanted the late Hispanic labor leader honored elsewhere.

There are about 650 homes and many small businesses along the street that runs seven miles through areas ranging from blue-collar neighborhoods to the busy Hollywood district and the posh Laurelhurst area, none heavily Hispanic.

A city survey showed 39th Avenue residents who responded to a poll opposed the renaming 694-91.

Wednesday's 5-0 council vote may leave bruises on largely white Portland, but the tone was less anti-immigrant than when a 2007 attempt to rename multiethnic and blue-collar Interstate Avenue was scrapped. Property owners there said, among less polite things, that it would cost them heavily to change stationery, advertising and more. A poll there turned up opposition roughly equal to the dissent along 39th.

But Hispanics are easily Portland's fastest-growing minority, and noth-



Labor rights leader, Cesar Chavez

ing had been named after their heroes until now. About 25 other cities have streets named after Chavez, and eight states mark his birthday as a holiday.

Portland is known as a liberal, politically correct city, and many residents along Interstate and 39th avenues agreed that something prominent should honor Chavez, but not their street.

Others suggested parks or bridges. At one point, downtown's Fourth Avenue, which runs through what remains of Portland's Chinatown, was suggested, triggering wonderment there.

The city planning commission had voted 7-1 in favor of renaming 39th Avenue. "We have to make decisions that will hurt people emotionally," commissioner Lai-Lani Ovalles said at the time.

Proponents of the name change

expressed relief.

"I'm so pleased that the community is being recognized," said Marta Guembes, one of the leaders of the effort. "This is history for Portland, Ore."

In 1989, Portland renamed Union Avenue after Martin Luther King Jr. after a racially tinged debate. It remains Union Avenue today in some more traditional minds.

More recently and with less fuss, the city renamed a street Rosa Parks Parkway.

The attempt to rename Interstate Avenue, championed by former Mayor Tom Potter, ran into other trouble when it end-ran the process for doing so.

To launch the process, Portland now requires the signatures of 75 percent of the affected residents, which would have been at least difficult on 39th Avenue, or signatures of 2,500 residents citywide, rarely a problem in a town plump with activists.

The vote came down to 39th Avenue over other suggested streets partly because the city decided the name lacks historical significance.

That fired up Wayne Stoll, who grew up on 39th and owns businesses in the area. He told Oregonian columnist Anna Griffin he might pass petitions to name ultra-trendy Northwest 23rd Avenue across town after Richard Nixon.

He said 23rd, like 39th, is just a number. "None of us in Hollywood have a vested interest in 23rd. So we don't have a problem talking about renaming it," Stoll said.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
J.W. Duncan of Jefferson High School presents Anthony Brown with a community award for his volunteer efforts to bring students uplifting messages in a program called 'Straight Talk.'

Jefferson Honors Supporters

Jefferson High School recently honored special members of the community.

The second annual Cake, Ice Cream and Awards gathering paid special recognition to co-facilitators of the school's community Multicultural Film Festival; quilters and contributors to the CommUnity senior quilt project; the Portland Observer and the Skanner newspapers for coverage

of the north Portland school; and other volunteers who have contributed to Jefferson.

The quilt honors the class of 2009 with a prominent picture of Borisshell Washington, a senior who was recently killed in senseless violence.

The second annual celebration was organized by J.W. Duncan, a Jefferson reading coach and founder and coordinator of the film festival and quilt project.

New Red Light Camera in Outer South East

Reckless drivers in outer south east Portland should watch out. Late last month the Portland Police Bureau installed a red light camera on Southeast Foster Road and 96th Avenue.

The camera will snap a photo of drivers who blow through the red light. The Portland Police Bureau reviews the photos, and issues a \$242 citation to drivers that ran the light.

The intersection has been particularly dangerous, having been the

site of 53 red light crashes in the last four years.

Studies show that Portland's red light camera program has reduced red light running at intersections where they are installed, as well as the fatalities and injuries caused by drivers running them.

In 2007 Portland City Council approved the installation of 11 red light cameras throughout the city. The camera on Southeast Foster Road and 96th Avenue is the last to be installed.

ANNIVERSARY

SALE

THE NEWEST FASHION NOW

STARTS FRIDAY,
JULY 17 AT 7:00 A.M.

Save on brand new styles for men, women and kids, including the latest looks for fall. Get the best clothes, shoes and accessories now - before they go to full price.

The selection's incredible in store and at nordstrom.com.

Receive Twice the Rewards points on all Nordstrom credit and Nordstrom MOD® card purchases made at Nordstrom and nordstrom.com July 17-21.*

PRICES GO UP AUGUST 3

NORDSTROM

To learn more, visit nordstrom.com/anniversary

SHOP FRIDAY, JULY 17: 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Shop early for best selection. Clackamas Town Center 503.652.1810. Downtown Portland 503.224.6666. Lloyd Center 503.287.2444. Salem Center 503.371.7710. Westfield Vancouver 360.256.8666. Washington Square 503.620.0555.
*Excludes Nordstrom Rack. Twice the Rewards applies to rewards points only, not travel points or other rewards.

