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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland follows in the path of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by promoting social justice and equity issues. Knutson leads a diverse and multicultural congregation and serves as a member of the Albina Ministerial Alliance.

Promoting Justice, Equity

Local pastor follows in MLK's path

Mark Knutson, the pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland, has learned many lessons from Martin Luther King Jr., whose books line his shelves in northeast Portland office.

But one of the most important may be the notion that change can happen when you fling open

your doors.

For the last 14 years, Knutson has worked tirelessly at Augustana Lutheran Church to form coalitions of people and organizations seeking social justice and equity by opening the doors to the church and keeping a hand extended to people who might not agree with him.

During his time as senior pastor, he's opened up office space in the church basement to local non-profits, traveled to Eastern Oregon to speak out for immigrant rights, gone to Salem when-

ever the Legislature is in session to lobby for more funding for education and anti-poverty programs, and has been a regular in marches against police brutality.

"The question I have to ask is, where is, where is Mark not involved in the community?" said David Leslie, the executive director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, which recently gave Knutson the "Ecumenist of the Year" award for his broad range of activities.

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Advocates Take Police to Task

Black affairs group outraged

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs has formally taken Portland police to task in the arrest of a 12-year-old girl who was shot at close range with a beanbag shotgun.

In November, the Police Bureau revealed that Officer Christopher Humphreys, the same officer involved in a 2006 death of a schizophrenic man, was the officer who shot the girl on a

Max light rail station during a struggle.

Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman suspended Humphreys after watching a video of the incident captured by TriMet surveillance video.

The suspension sparked outrage by the police union, which held a march and a vote of no confidence on Saltzman and Police Chief Rosie Sizer, which was not released after Saltzman backed down on Humphrey's suspension.

OABA president Calvin O.

L. Henry, issued a public letter Friday to city, state and federal officials expressing grave concerns over the actions of police during the girl's arrest and the union that represents Portland's officers.

It also asserted that the girl, whose identity has not been released by the police, was black, and questioned if the incident would have been handled differently if the girl had been white.

The letter implies that the inci-

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