

Call for Police Reforms

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, a coalition of churches in north and northeast Portland, held a rally at Emmanuel Temple Church in north Portland Friday to press the case that City Hall and the Legislature needed to act to prevent the death of another person at the hands of police.

The rally comes a month after the death of Aaron Campbell, an unarmed man who was shot by police outside a Northeast Sandy Boulevard apartment complex during a mental health crisis brought on by the death of his brother from natural causes earlier in the day.



Marva Davis

Campbell's mother Marva Davis attended Friday's call to action.

The ministers' justice coalition is calling for a stronger and more independent oversight of the police. Specifically it wants the Independent Police Review Division and the Citizen

Review Committee, two bodies charged with overseeing the police, to be given more teeth and the power to compel officer testimony.

The panel also wants a full review by the City Council and Police Chief Rosie Sizer of the bureau's use of force and deadly force policies; and more police training with the involvement of a diverse group of citizens.

The AMA group also wants the state Legislature to reform laws that govern how officers can use force; and for Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Shrank to establish a special prosecutor for incidents where police use excessive or deadly force.



Going Miles for Smiles

National Guard soldiers from a military unit based in Tigard recently delivered more than 400 bags of paper, pencils and scissors to students in Iraq – school supplies donated by friends and families in Oregon. The soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, distributed the school supplies from the TD Foundation, an organization whose purpose is to help needy families and children nationally and internationally with basic needs, and supporting friends and families back home," said Sgt. Julie Cavinee of Creswell, Ore., the human resources non-commissioned officer with A Company. The Oregon soldiers have made 10 goodwill missions out to Iraqi villages for various reasons. "The kids get really excited. They said we are the first Americans they have seen in a long time," said Capt. Charles Ellis, the commander of A Company. "They know my face."

PDC supports the Baker Family's Cancer Awareness Campaign for early detection of colorectal cancer.

A FATHER'S LEGACY



The Steve Baker family – Marsha, far left, works for PDC.

In June 2008, the Baker family lost their husband and father to colon cancer. Steve Baker was only 56 years old and had complained about intestinal pain for years, but no doctor had ordered a colonoscopy at the recommended age of 50. Steve Baker's illness and death highlights issues around health care and disparities. Studies show doctors are less likely to give additional tests to black patients and that black males are the most likely of all groups to die from cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Steve's family is not standing idly by after observing what happened to him. They have formed the non-profit Steve Baker Colorectal Cancer Alliance to advocate the importance of early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer through proper screening.

For more information, go to www.sbcca.org.

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Steve Baker Colorectal Cancer Alliance

