

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Supreme Court Justice to Step Down

### Giving Obama second court pick

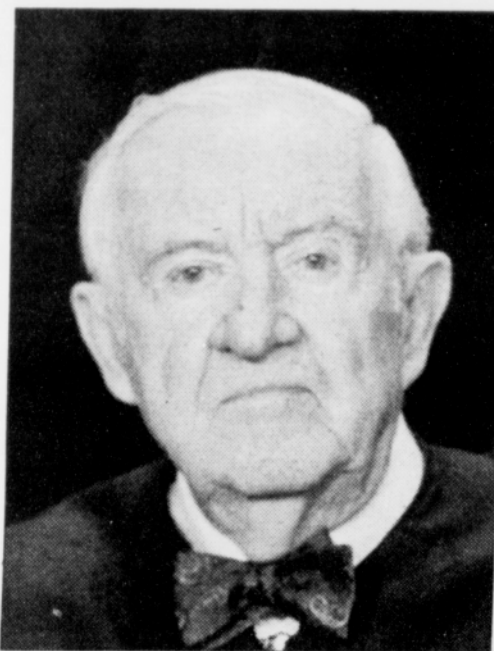
(AP) -- Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, the court's oldest member and leader of its liberal bloc, is retiring. President Barack Obama now has his second high court opening to fill.

Stevens said Friday he will step down when the court finishes its work for the summer in late June or early July. He said he hopes his successor is confirmed "well in advance of the

commencement of the court's next term."

Stevens' announcement leaves ample time for the White House to settle on a successor and for Senate Democrats, who control a 59-vote majority, to hold confirmation hearings and a vote before the court's next term begins in October. Republicans have not ruled out attempts to delay confirmation.

Stevens' announcement,



Justice John Paul Stevens

which came 11 days before his 90th birthday, had been hinted at for months. It's presumed Obama will nominate another liberal, so Stevens' departure wouldn't alter the court's philosophical makeup.

Throughout his tenure, which began after President Gerald Ford nominated him in 1975, Stevens usually sided with the court's liberal bloc in the most contentious cases — those involving abortion, criminal law, civil rights and church-

state relations. He led the dissenters as well in the case of Bush v. Gore that sealed President George W. Bush's election in 2000.

Stevens began signaling a possible retirement last summer when he hired just one of his usual complement of four law clerks for the next court term. He acknowledged in several interviews that he was contemplating stepping down and would certainly do so during Obama's presidency.

## TriMet Boosts Security As Past Efforts Pay Dividends

TriMet has won a \$1.9 million Transportation Safety Administration grant to enhance security on the transit system at the same time it is heralding an 19 percent decrease of reported crime on MAX

The announcement came on the second anniversary of the opening of the East Police Precinct in Gresham, which has seen a 50 percent decrease in reported crime on MAX over the past year

"TriMet's top priority is to operate a safe and secure transit system," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen. "With partners like TSA, we're able to continue to expand our efforts that help reduce inci-

*TriMet's top priority is to operate a safe and secure transit system.*

dents of crime on the system."

The grant will add security cameras at nine MAX stations, boost perimeter security at TriMet facilities and fund a backup Command Center.

The stations slated for security cameras on the east side include 122nd Avenue, '02nd Avenue, Gateway Transit Center, Parkrose/Sumner Transit Center, Northeast Seventh Avenue, and the Convention Center. On the west side, they are the Goose Hollow/Southwest Jefferson Street, Millikan Way, and Orenco-Northwest 231st Avenue stations.

Installation will begin this summer, bringing the total number of stations with cameras to 74 out

of 84, many funded with TSA grants.

Over the past 2.5 years, TriMet has taken several steps to increase security on the MAX system, including the doubling the number of transit police officers, from 29 to 58 officers; doubling the number of TriMet staff dedicated to fare inspection (from 15 to 30), and asking its 46 supervisors to check fares as part of their daily duties.

TriMet also changed code to add intimidation as behavior restricted on the system and made a pledge to remove graffiti within 24 hours at major MAX stations and transit centers.

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