

Advocates Want Benefits if Rose Quarter Developed

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When the Portland Development Commission and the City of Portland hatched plans last year to expand urban renewal in the north and northeast parts of the city, possibly including the Rose Quarter, one Portlander saw an opportunity to bring in some much-needed cash for community organizations operating in the area.

While serving on a PDC community advisory committee on the expansion of urban renewal in the area, Roy Jay, president of the African American chamber of com-



Roy Jay

merce, began advocating for an innovative community benefits agreement to be written into any development agreement for the re-develop-

ment of the Rose Quarter.

Jay's idea would provide a steady stream of revenue for over 50 community organizations in north and northeast Portland, and has strong support behind it. However, it might collide with existing agreements the city has to renovate PGE Park into a major league soccer stadium.

Community benefits agreements have become a common feature of many PDC projects. They are legally-binding agreements, typically concerned with things like local hiring for the project, living wages, and making sure minority contractors aren't excluded.

Strong support for a CBA emerged in the PDC community advisory committee. Before it disbanded last spring, it passed resolutions supporting the expansion of urban renewal in north and northeast Portland. It passed another asking for a strong CBA for the Rose Quarter re-development, which at that point had been taken up by another citizen committee appointed by the mayor.

Jay's idea for a CBA is much more ambitious than others implemented elsewhere.

Under his proposal, if the Rose Quarter is re-developed, 1 percent

of all gross revenue generated in it would go into a special fund that would be used to bolster over 50 different community organizations, many of which operate in north and northeast Portland. A \$1.99 charge would also be tacked on to every ticket sold for any event in Rose Quarter that would also go into the fund.

A hefty sum of money could be at stake. According to Jay, about \$300 million was generated in the Rose Quarter last year. One percent of that would mean \$3 million.

continued ▼ on page 6

Oregon
Action

Healthy Kids
www.oregonhealthykids.gov

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY FAIR



September 25th
Saturday, 11am - 3pm
Genesis Community Fellowship
5425 NE 27th & Killingsworth, 97211
Free Food, Face Painting, Prize Raffle & More!

CONTACT Kyna L. Harris, Oregon Action Organizer. 971-634-0005

Week in The Review

Bush Forfeits Heisman

New Orleans Saints' running back Reggie Bush said Tuesday that he would give back the Heisman Trophy that he won in 2005 while he was at Southern California. USC was hit with heavy sanctions this summer after the NCAA determined Bush had received improper benefits and should have been ineligible.

Allen Cancer Test 'Clean'

Trailblazers' owner Paul Allen says his latest test for Non-Hodgkins lymphoma "was clean." "It brought a smile to my face as you can imagine," he said, in an interview broadcast by the Blazers on Monday.

Jobless Rate Unchanged

The unemployment rate in Oregon still has not budged after nearly a year. The latest jobless figures show the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.6 percent in August, unchanged from 10.6 percent in July.

Crime Rates Down

New statistics from the FBI show crime rates in Oregon are down to their lowest levels since the 1960s. Factors for the decline include the state's tough laws on the sale of ingredients used in making methamphetamine and the fact that the population is getting older.

Iran Releases American

American hiker Sarah Shourd was released by Iran Tuesday after more than 13 months in prison. Her release, delayed by apparent political wrangling behind the scenes, is the latest twist of an internal power struggle inside Iran that comes just days before President Ahmadinejad travels to the U.S.

Aging Gas Lines at Risk

The tragic explosion of a gas pipeline in a San Francisco suburb has shed light on a problem usually kept underground: Communities have expanded over gas supply pipes built decades earlier when no one lived there.