

LAW & JUSTICE

Obama to Investigate High Gas Prices

Assigns team to root out fraud, manipulation

(AP) -- President Barack Obama announced Thursday that the Justice Department is assembling a team to "root out any cases of fraud or manipulation" in oil markets that might be contributing to \$4 a gallon-plus gasoline prices.

"We are going to make sure that no one is taking advantage of the American people for their own short-term gain," Obama said.

The national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$3.84 last week, about 30 cents higher than a month ago and almost a dollar higher than a year ago.

The investigation will focus on "the role of traders and speculators," Obama said. The group will

include several Cabinet department officials, federal regulators and the National Association of Attorneys General.

In a statement in Washington, Attorney General Eric Holder promised to "be vigilant in monitoring the oil and gas markets for any wrongdoing so that consumers can be confident they are not paying higher prices as a result of illegal activity. If illegal conduct is responsible for increasing gas prices, state and federal authorities should take swift action."

However, in a Justice Department memo accompanying his statement, Holder suggested no evidence had turned up yet of unlawful price manipulation.

There's not much Obama can do to affect the price of gasoline in short term. Gas prices have risen steadily as a result of tensions in the Middle East and northern Africa and rising demand

Black Officers Meet in Portland

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives is meeting in Portland this week for a regional conference.

Vera Pool, of Multnomah County Sheriff's office said that the Thursday through Sunday conference at the Double Tree Lloyd Center Hotel is expected to attract individuals from law enforcement, private sector, and clergy from seven western states. The regional conference is the preamble to the national conference which will be held in Lexington, Kentucky in July.

Pool is President Emeritus of the Northwest Chapter based in Port-



Vera Pool

land. Some of the invited speakers include Oregon State Attorney General John Kroger, Oregon State Labor Commissioner, Brad Avakian, Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schruck; Portland Police Chief Michael Reese; and Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Staton.

Workshop presenters from surrounding states will present training and educational information for law enforcement officers with some workshops and other events open to the general public.

For more information, contact Lt. Vera Pool, Multnomah County Sheriff's office at 503-988-3397.

Man Shot in Drive-By; TriMet Bus Also Hit

An exchange of gunfire in the area of Fremont Street and North Williams Avenue wounded a man and left a bullet hole in the window of a TriMet bus.

Kenneth W. Riley, 29, was shot after a shootout Thursday between a

vehicle and a group of people on the sidewalk, but police said it was unclear whether Riley was the intended target. He was treated for a nonlife-threatening wound to his right wrist.

The bullet that hit the bus traveled through a front window and

lodged in the floor without hurting any of the passengers, who included children. A parked car also was hit, police said.

The Gang Enforcement Team is investigating and no arrests have been made.

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