

Last Thursday

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Thursday how to act, she added. What is important is that the event be "orderly, safe, and the laws enforced," Fritz said.

She said Friends of Last Thursday is a new organization and deserves a chance to succeed, arguing that the event is improving fast, although "not fast enough."

In an implied criticism, she said that no established organization, including the Northeast Coalition had "stepped up" to take charge.

Moreover, Fritz said, Last Thursday on Alberta has the support of at least part of the community. A recent public forum on the issue drew 400 people, many of them supporters.

"I think critics may have been intimidated, but the vast majority of people there said this was a wonderful thing," she said. "Many signed up to help. To some extent, this is

problems of visitors trespassing on lawns, leaving trash, urinating, and monopolizing parking spaces so that residents can't access their homes.

Moreover, he said there seems to be no effective avenue for complaints.

"If there were such an influx of racial minorities in Lake Oswego, would it be tolerated, he asked. "You don't want to deal with an African-American homeowner, and that bothers me," he said. "Maybe this shouldn't be cancelled, but the boundaries have to be drawn in. Don't tell me, here in my neighborhood, that I have to tolerate it."

"You have the right to be (angry)," Fritz responded. "You have the right for this to be orderly and for the laws to be obeyed."

In earlier discussions with the Northeast Coalition, two former members of the Friends of Last Thursday Board, Jean Giles and Bill Leistner, complained that they had

area, and while he does own a farm in southern Oregon, it is like a "summer home," saying he works in Portland during Last Thursdays. Both he and Saliba say that complaints and incidents connected to the event have decreased substantially this year. As to what happens after 10 p.m., Teugsch says, "That's the police's job."

Bayer told the Portland Observer that during her tenure she had conducted a survey of businesses on the street, and that "in general, businesses love it. About 90 percent supported it, and even most of those who don't said they thought it was good for the community." Overall, she said, "Last Thursday is a huge positive for the community, and if they can work out issues with the neighbors it will be fabulous."

I think critics may have been intimidated, but the vast majority of people there said this was a wonderful thing. Many signed up to help. To some extent, this is the result of the success of Alberta Street.

- Commissioner Amanda Fritz

the result of the success of Alberta Street." The e-mails she has received have been overwhelmingly favorable, Fritz said.

In rebuttal, the Northeast Coalition's executive director, Paige Coleman said that no one had asked the coalition to be involved, and in fact they were specifically told to "butt out" of the hiring process.

The neighborhood group has questioned the process of hiring a director for the event, saying it was hurried, that few minority candidates were interviewed, and that the winner, Teugsch, seemed to lack experience with Portland events and travels extensively.

During the recent forum, some people questioned whether the majority of event supporters lived or worked in the community.

"The city has selective hearing," Coleman charged. "City staff has chosen to listen to the positive, and all others are ignored."

Sheryl Roberts, longtime organizer of the Good in the Neighborhood celebration, asked why Last Thursday isn't required to abide by the requirements that every other public event, including her group.

"There's clearly an inequity here," she said.

Leonard Lamberth, a nearby homeowner, complained of persistent

been removed from the organization for refusing to sign a document that forbade them from calling for enforcement activities.

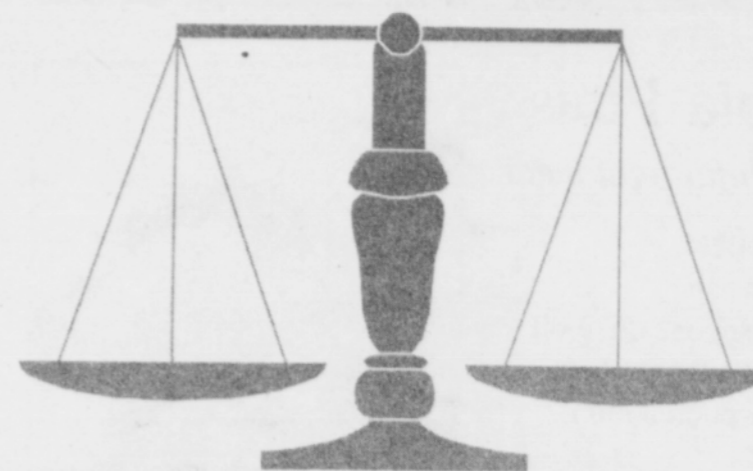
Friends of Last Thursday Vice Chair Rochelle Saliba did not want to discuss the accusations, but insisted that the group is focused on "complying with all city and county codes with regard to safety, and preserving the qualities of the event that make it what it is."

Saliba said Friends of Last Thursday meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Talisman Gallery on Alberta, and all are welcome provided they are "not focused on complaining, whining and negativity."

Some of those who spoke expressed disappointment that the city hired Teugsch rather than Bridget Bayer, a veteran events organizer who had filled this position for three months last year. Cary Clarke of Adams' office said that the hiring was done jointly by himself, Tom Bizeau of Fritz's office, and representatives of Alberta Main Street, Friends of Last Thursday and the Northeast Coalition. Of 25 who applied, and six who were interviewed, Teugsch was the only candidate to score in the top three of all five raters, said Amy Ruiz of Adams' office.

Teugsch says that he lives in the

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