

Audit Check Sinks CEO

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taxpayers to reconsider the funding they provide the organization.

Multnomah County said last week the audit revealed \$44,000 in questionable reimbursements for spending from Mundy's credit card that has no clear connection to the business of the Urban League and their mission.

"This isn't about the agency or the county's judgment of the agency," said Austin. "The county counts on the Urban League to deliver these important services to seniors, low income people and other vulnerable populations, and we need them to show us the controls are in place in order to continue the funding relationship."

The county has given the league, which operates on a budget of roughly \$1 million annually, about \$250,000 a year, said Aus-

tin.

According to Poe, the funds provided by the county are imperative for the service delivery to seniors in northeast Portland. He said, "95 percent of the county funds we receive go to support our senior services."

Poe said the organization also provides a number of other services to those in need.

"We do advocacy, workforce, Healthy Start programs for kids. We do a number of things for the city of Portland and the state of Oregon," he said.

Although the Urban League plays an important role in helping vulnerable populations, Austin said they must account for their

spending, so the county, as stewards of the public monies, can ensure the funds are being spent correctly.

"We have an obligation, given this bad economy, to make sure dollars are stretched as far as they can go to deliver those services," said Austin. "The Urban League is an important part of that social service delivery."



Marcus Mundy

The scrutiny surrounding Mundy, who has been CEO and president of the organization since 2006, began in 2009 after he failed to provide receipts for the League's use of a MasterCard during a review.

The financial investigation of the organization's spending practices, however, is the third of its

kind in over 20-years.

During the late 80s, the organization suffered a \$400,000 debt attributed to president Herb Cawthorne, and again, financial problems emerged in the late 90s under president Lawrence Dark, who resigned after accusations for the misuse of funds.

"When we see receipts that they are spending on a bunch of different things that don't appear to be at the core of the Urban League's mission," Austin said. "That is problematic, and we would be remiss if we didn't take action and address this issue."

Poe said, "We, as a board, are preparing to respond to Multnomah County, and we will provide our response to the county audit request this week."

Poe said he, along with other Urban League board members and staff, are appreciative of everything Mundy has provided the organiza-

tion in the past, but they are in support of his decision to resign.

"He resigned because he didn't want to continue to be a distracter," said Poe. "He didn't want to continue to be a distraction or take away the focus from the great and necessary work that the Urban League of Portland is doing."

Although the county has yet to hear from the Urban League, Austin said he expects to hear from them soon.

"The county's goal is to continue to work with the Urban League and sort through the spending issues," he said. "We hope that they will put controls in place that prevent this from happening again."

Poe said, "The staff and the board of the Urban League of Portland are focused on continuing quality and necessary services we are delivering to north and northeast Portland."



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Port Shuts Down

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Limited operations continued through much of the day at the other two terminals.

The longshoremen's union said it sympathized with the goals of the Occupy movement but disagreed with shutting down operations that would deprive its members of pay.

A couple of hundred protesters blocked tractor-trailer rigs from making deliveries at two major terminals, one that handles grain and potash exports and the other for container imports and exports.

About 100 people stood at Terminal 5, with 12 police officers on bicycles between the protesters and the street. Passing trucks occasionally honked their horns, and a few that tried to enter the terminal were let through.

Gov. John Kitzhaber said almost 5,000 Oregon companies depend on exports and employ thousands of people who are part of the so-called 99 percent that the Occupy Wall Street protests purport to represent.

"In trying to force a public debate — and I cheer the public debate, I think it's important — I think the movement does some damage to the people that it's ostensibly trying to help," Kitzhaber told reporters at a gathering of business and political leaders in Portland.

-Associated Press