

Maurice Rahming

Stepping Up to Improve Workforce Equity

Community Benefits Agreement Adopted

In an effort to get more minority and female-owned contractors working on city projects, the Portland City Council recently passed a Community Benefits Agreement.

The goal, according to Mayor Sam Adams, is to improve workforce equity on large-scale city projects and increase training and placement of historically underrepresented people.

"Minority-owned prime contractors are underused on city projects. This is a chance to change that, to bring workforce equity to city contacts and promote the training and placement of women and people of color working on large city jobs," Adams said.

The city's 2009 Disparity Study conducted by BBC Research and Consulting, found that minority-owned contractors are

significantly underutilized in the city.

A CBA agreement between the city and contractors, unions and the community, sets a uniform standard for working conditions, wages and benefits, as well as increased workforce training, employment and contracting opportunities for women and people of color.

"This is the biggest inclusionary effort I've seen from the city," said Maurice Rahming, president of O'Neil Electric, Inc. in Portland, and vice president of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

"In the past, there were efforts, but there was no real way of monitoring, or course-correcting when need," said Rahming.

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Business Diversity Excellence Awards

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mation Modeling (BIM) consulting on several local projects. CADD works hard to resolve any issues that might come up and they do an outstanding job working directly with subcontractors.

Tyrone and Cindy Henry of

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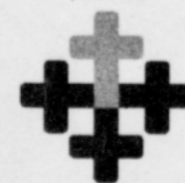
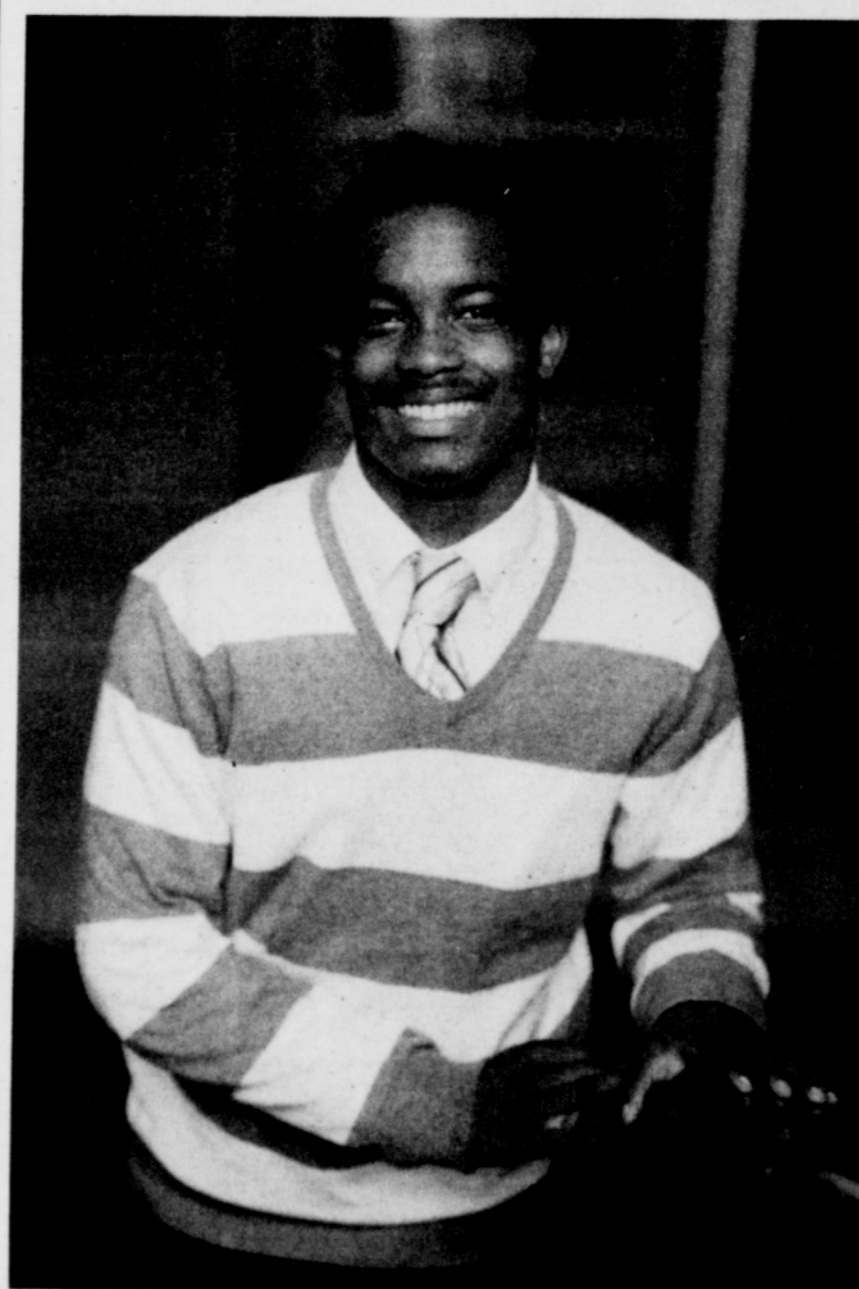
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