

Smith Tries to Shift Tone

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Though Smith said his position issues are not in full alignment with the city's financial power structure, they better reflect the values of our city. Further, he said his positions on issues have not wavered under political pressures or interest groups.

"I've been consistent since the beginning of the race," said Smith. He added that his views are consistently liberal, unlike his running mate Hales.

Smith names a few distinguishing causes he's supported from the get go -- the Portland Office of Equity, his opposition to the \$4 billion Columbia River Crossing, and his opposition to Mayor Adams' call to remove Occupy Portland protesters from city parks during the first few weeks of last year's encampments.

As a Portlander who lives east of 82nd Avenue, Smith said he is proud of his legislative actions pertinent to the area's disadvantaged communities and those of color.

In 2008, he was elected to the Oregon House where he worked to pass bills to help curb human trafficking, to repair dilapidated schools in the Parkrose district, to protect the unemployed, and to promote cleaner, safer Max rides in east Portland. He is also against the transportation of coal through Portland and protecting the health and sustainability in our city.

Making a case for mayoral leadership, the Grant High School and Harvard Law School



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rep. Jefferson Smith (third from right) joins supporters of his campaign for mayor of Portland at an event Sunday in the Overlook Neighborhood of north Portland.

graduate referred to his past experience in building his grass roots campaign, the Bus Project, a youth political recruiting machine now nationally recognized organization and headquartered in four states.

"I will engender respect from a hard-to-match work ethic and a deep commitment to public service," said Smith, which he has demonstrated by "being here, staying here, paying taxes here and serving in the Legislature here."

Smith said he was the better candidate for bridging divisions between the Portland Police Bureau and local residents.

He said he would support Mayor Adams' appeal of the Ron Frashour arbitration case, where a police officer was fired, but then ordered reinstated in the shooting death of unarmed African-American Aaron Campbell, "provided we have turned every stone and have a legal leg to stand on."

"If we don't, then I think we should put our

resources into addressing the underlying issue," he said.

Smith said he is committed to "the facts and fact-based leadership" and being flexible in his views, but not changing them because it is politically convenient, but because the facts change.

For many in the African-American community, the concern is that for every time an

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