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'City of Roses'



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## Beyond Bricks and Mortar

### Growing a campus and a safe community

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As construction of an underground parking lot is underway at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, an expansion provoked by the school's ever-increasing student enrollment, campus President Dr. Algie Gatewood is celebrating more than just the two new buildings that will be built atop it.

The new structure's groundbreaking last December was also celebrated by a commitment to safety, on campus and in the north Portland community.

What began as a grassroots initiative to end violence in the Albina-Killingsworth neighborhood, has evolved into the collaboration of multiple local and city organizations in what is today recognized as one of the best examples of community policing that Portland has seen in 20 years.

"We haven't done this as an individual institution," said Gatewood, "It is something where we've come together and worked together as a community."

A few years back, the neighborhood surrounding the north Portland campus, notably North Killingsworth Street and North Albina Avenue, may have seemed at odds with Cascade's student environment, not to mention the residents living nearby.

Public drinking, drug deals, gang violence, graffiti and street robberies had spilled into the community and was disrupting the area known for its vibrant and bustling culture

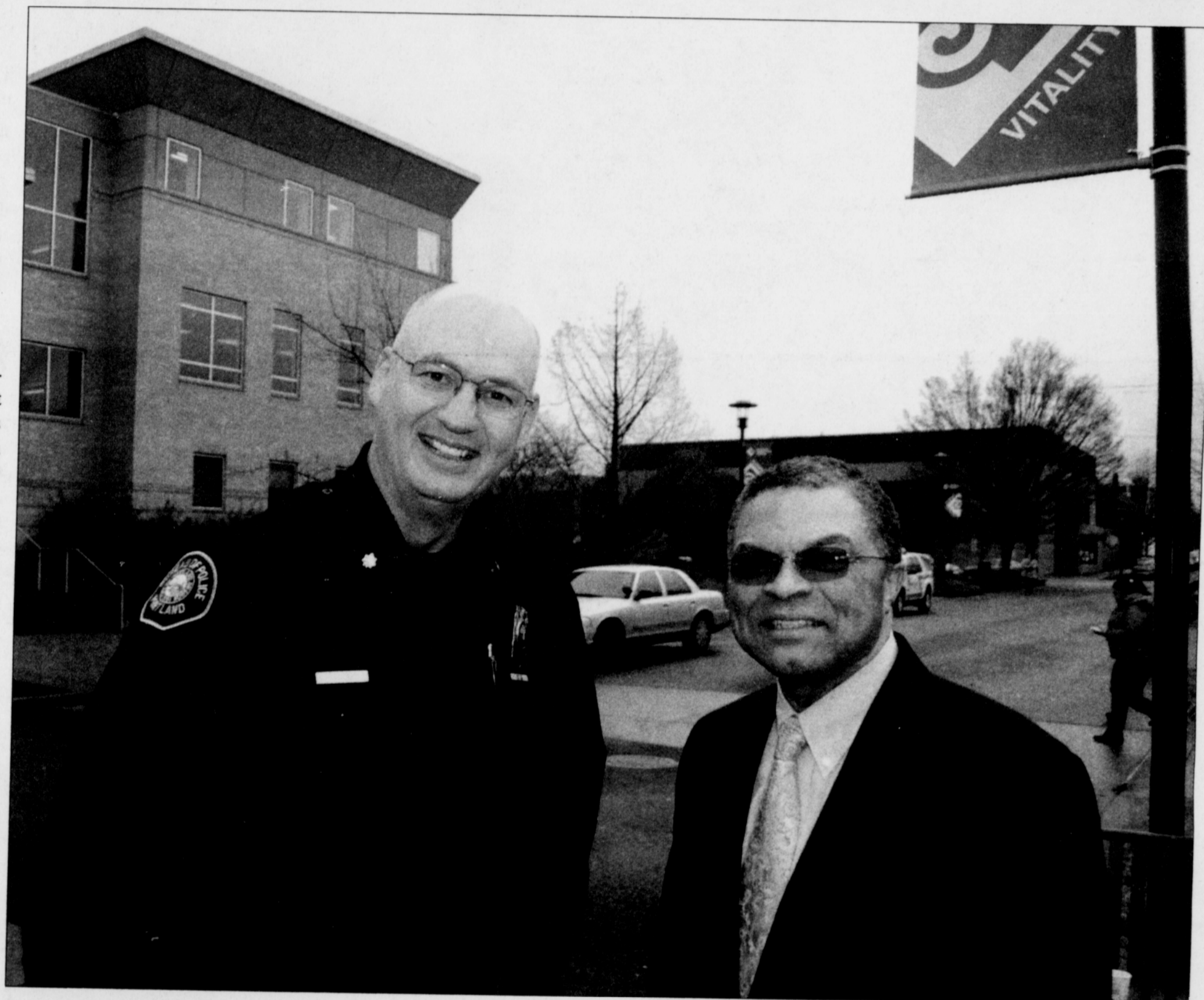


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
North Portland Precinct Commander Mike Leloff (left) and Portland Community College Cascade Campus President Algie Gatewood are leaders in a community policing effort that has improved safety in and around the Cascade campus.

of businesses and restaurants, residential homes and visitors flowing on and off campus, and from the public library and Jefferson High School nearby.

Early in his term as president of PCC Cascade, Gatewood heard concerns from staff and students about their safety on campus and in the community. Residents, business owners, and police felt it too.

On a crime map used by police to indicate homicides and shootings

that occur within a quarter mile, the North Albina-Killingsworth neighborhood stood out as a little red square. Among other greens, yellows and oranges in the city, red indicates one of the worst areas for violent crime.

As crime took its toll on the surrounding community, PCC Cascade's campus continued to grow, experiencing a 71 percent increase in head count from 2006, and breaking an all-time enrollment of

24,079 students in 2012.

That's when President Gatewood realized safety on campus required safety in the community.

In 2006, the Albina Killingsworth Safe Neighborhood's Commission was created.

Uniting under a common goal to end violence and re-establish safety in the neighborhood, the commission, made up of the Portland Police bureau, Jefferson High School, the city, local neighborhood associa-

tions, the Multnomah County Library, TriMet and PCC Cascade Public Safety, became a collaboration of working together to reduce crime.

After listening to the community's expectations, the plan was to build a sense of security in the neighborhood, not only with short term treatments like increased police presence, but sustainable

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