March 6, 2013

LAW& JUSTICE Gresham Public Safety Center to Begin Build

Gresham will break ground Thursday on a new public safety building in Rockwood, located at 675 N.E. 181st Ave. The public is welcome to attend an 11 a.m. ceremony marking the construction.

"I am thrilled to see work start on the Rockwood Public Safety Facility, said Gresham Mayor Shane T. Bemis.

The construction meets a longstanding community need. Officials said the build-

ing will create a welcoming and highly visible police presence in Rockwood, improving public safety and encouraging new investment in the area.

Once completed the site will house a range of police functions, including support for patrol officers serving Rockwood and other special units and programs.

This project is funded by urban renewal funds administered by the Gresham Redevelopment Commission.

Oregon Joins National Same-Sex Marriage Cases

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has put the state on the side of two historic briefs in the United States Supreme Court supporting same-sex marriage.

Last week, Oregon joined a brief prepared by Massachusetts urging the Supreme Court to strike down California's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Same-sex couples challenged the 2008 provision, arguing that it violated their rights under the federal constitution.

In addition, Oregon joined a brief prepared by New York and Massachusetts urging the Court to strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act. That federal law bans the extension of hundreds of federal benefits and protections to marriages validly recognized under state law.

In both cases, the briefs argue that neither states nor Congress can justify discrimination against same-sex relationships based on assertions that unequal treatment is necessary to promote "responsible procreation" and child rearing by different-sex biological parents.

As the California trial court found after hearing the testimony of experts and reviewing hundreds of pages of material, there simply is no support for the notion that banning same-sex marriage does anything other than harm our citizens and their families. The same is true for thousands of Oregonians, Rosenblum said. Alberta • Mississippi • North Portland Vancouver • East County • Beaverton The Portland Observer

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4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Email: ads@portlandobserver.com Web: www.portlandobserver.com

Phone: 503.288.0033 Fax: 503 288-0015



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Dr. Billy R. Flowers