

Maximizing Jobs

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of color and women represents 13 percent of the \$772 million in total contract value committed through February, the transit agency said. "TriMet's DBE program demonstrates that a dedication to the entire community brings real results that benefit us all," said Johnell Bell,

director of diversity and transit equity for TriMet. "We continue to raise the bar to expand our reach into communities of color and women-owned firms." Since TriMet created its disadvantaged business enterprise program in 2000, participation has grown. The MAX Yellow Line that opened in 2004 reached \$36 million

in DBE contracts. The MAX Green Line project that opened in 2009 reached a record \$58 million. "TriMet and the contractors have created opportunities for small firms to compete for contracts that would otherwise have gone to larger firms," said Carreon, "There is a real commitment to engage DBE firms and in turn, we create more jobs."

Sheriff Reverses Stance on Holds

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controversial practice of holding undocumented immigrants for deportation, no matter how small their alleged crimes. Staton has indicated that his office will now hold inmates for ICE only for felonies or Class A misdemeanors involving violent crimes.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to endorse the new policy on Wednesday. Since 2010, Staton has faced mounting pressure from the immigration rights community, and more recently from the county board, to reject the demands of the immigration agency.

"We're glad the sheriff has responded to the outcry that was put in front of him," said Francisco Lopez, executive director of Causa, Oregon's statewide Latino immigrant rights organization.

Under the Secure Communities program, started in 2008 and continued by the Obama administration, jail officials run fingerprint check through the FBI to identify undocumented immigrants as they are booked into jails. Many local governments have been led to believe their cooperation is required. However, several governments have started rejecting it, including California's Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties, New York City, and Cook County, Ill., which includes Chicago.



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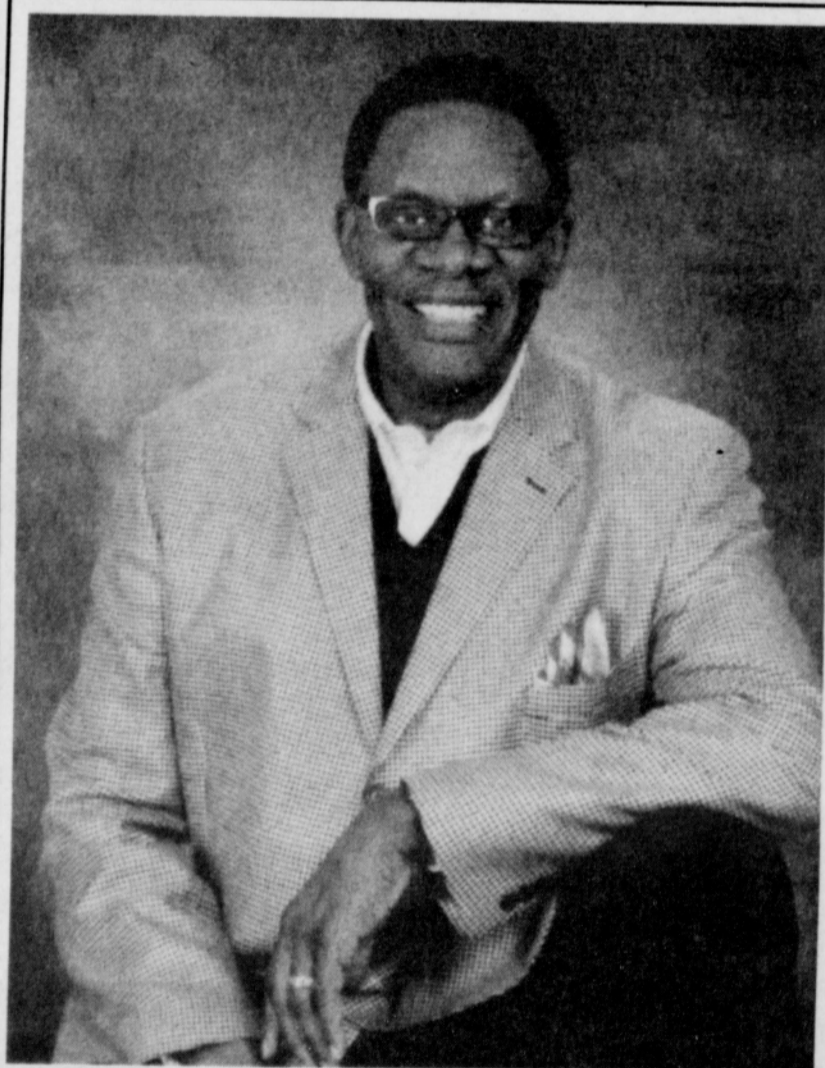
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