

# LAW & JUSTICE



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Les Shannon of Portland dons a hoodie and displays a picket sign at a rally near the downtown federal courthouse. The protest came after civil rights leader Al Sharpton called for a national day of action following the verdict in the George Zimmerman murder trial.

## 'Justice for Trayvon'

Portland residents join call for action

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After the recent verdict in the George Zimmerman murder trial, civil rights leader Al Sharpton called for a nationwide day of protest. Saturday, a large group of Portland residents heeded the call.

Community leaders and the organization "Campaign to End the New Jim Crow" organized the local protest, drawing upwards of 250 people to the Mark O Hatfield Federal Court-

house. There were calls for civil rights to get lawfully recognized and acts of police brutality to get duly punished.

Speakers included community activists JoAnn Hardesty, the Rev. Leroy Haynes, Portland Copwatch activist Dan Handelman, the father of Keaton Otis whose son was shot 23 times by Portland police, Fred Bryant and a host of others.

The people then took to the streets for a peaceful march in the heart of downtown Portland, briefly interfering with traffic. No arrests were made.

At the end of the event, Hardesty pledged that there would be more demonstrations to come in the wake

of what has become one of the most polarizing court cases in America today.

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