

Fighting for Justice with Police Reforms

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enforcement. She doesn't hold back from calling for public use of cameras to record police encounters, which is lawful as long as it is not interfering with the police investigation.

Mass awareness is necessary in the city because of a much larger problem of racial profiling, Hardesty says, a tendency of police officers to stop persons of color more frequently, as well as use excessive force on them.

Recent data offered by Portland Copwatch and the Albina Ministerial Alliance, which Hardesty is actively involved, shows that blacks and Latinos are stopped by police at rates nearly twice that of whites; despite the fact that statistics show they are less likely to be carrying contraband or violating laws.

Numbers like these are unacceptable, she says, and highlight why police reform is necessary.

Though the former two-term state representative has been pushing for police reforms in and outside the "system" for years, it is only been recently that her efforts have been bolstered by a new group of local activists under the title of "The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow."

Co-chaired by longtime Portland activist Jamie Partridge, the coalition pulled the label from a book penned by Michelle Alexander entitled "The New Jim Crow" in which she illustrates the stark parallels of the prison industrial complex to lawful racism and classism.

The campaign meets at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland every other week, discussing details of the exhaustive book, and formulating plans to combat it in the city.

Currently their main agenda is for the adoption of a police review board that is completely independent from the city, and to have community members involved in police training to improve officer interactions with minority populations.

This itinerary has found Hardesty across the table from Mayor Charlie Hales many-a-time during his year in office.

Her faith in what can be accomplished with Hales, however, remains limited as he enters his second year in office, because she sees the

Mayor as placing too much value on the opinion of Police Chief Mike Reese.

"It should be just the opposite, it should be Reese worried about what the Mayor thinks and how he can implement what the Mayor wants to see happen," Hardesty says.

One example, she says, is

the chief's opposition to having community members involved in police force training.

Just the opposite is true in Hardesty's mind; if the police are dealing with anyone in the community, it should be any and everyone who trains them at least on the sociable side of things.

"I don't want anybody think-

ing I'm anti-police. I'm anti-police brutality, I'm anti-police abuse, I'm anti-treating one segment of the population differently," she says.

Hardesty will know success when she sees it.

"More transparency needs to be built into the system so that the people that are com-

ing behind me don't have to keep banging their heads against the wall asking the same questions over and over again who have no desire to fundamentally change," she says.

Currently the Department of Justice is investigating claims that Portland Police have acted with excessive force on the mentally ill. A proposed settlement stands at \$26 million. In preparation, the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform is hosting community education forums beginning on Jan. 25 at noon at Maranatha Church to help them write and tape testimony for a fairness hearing scheduled for Feb. 18 at the federal courthouse.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'when will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. -- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church 8th Annual Drum Major Ecumenical Scholarship Program

"Salute to Greatness 'Living the Dream' Luncheon"

Saturday, January 18, 2014 • 12noon – 2:00pm • Dr. & Mrs. O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall
3138 North Vancouver Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97227 • Ticket donation \$25.00

The Luncheon program will honor the lives and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks and Ms. Yolanda King. Community leaders and organizations whose lives mirror these "Drum Majors" will also be recognized. Four local high school students will be honored with a Drum Major Humanitarian award.

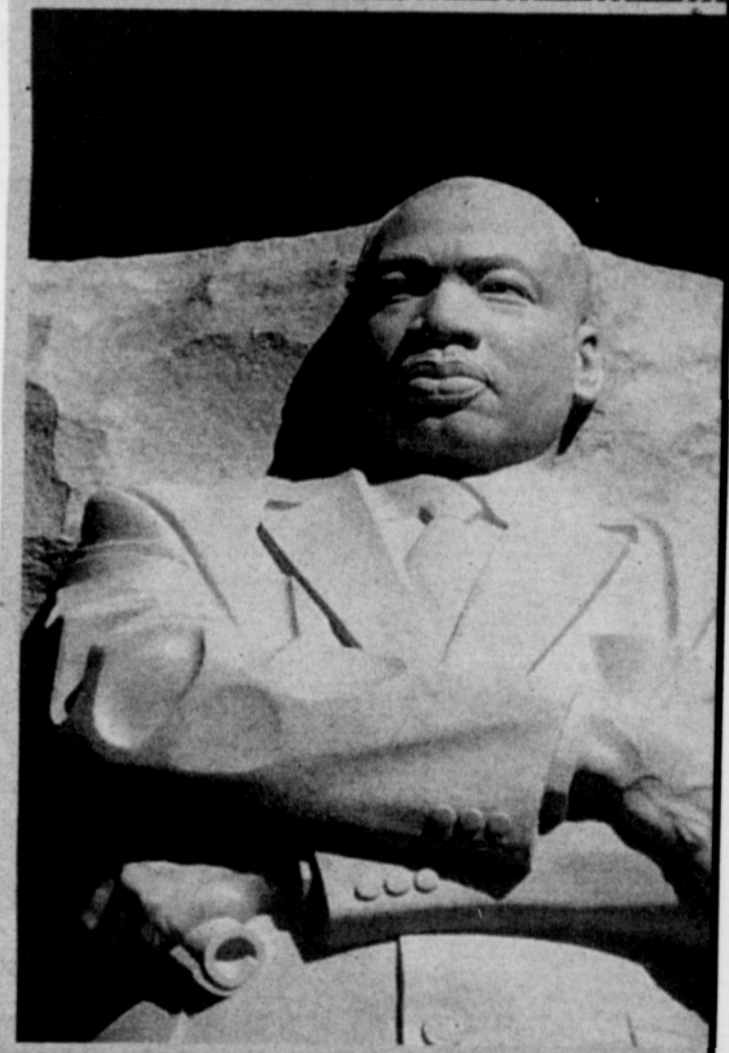
"Redeeming the Dream" Ecumenical Service

Sunday, January 19, 2014 • 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Main Sanctuary – Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church

The program will include a speaker's panel with faith and community leaders, interfaith prayers, and music for the soul. Nelson Mandela "Medal of Freedom and Peace" will be awarded.

This event is free to the public.

Reception to follow immediately after program in the Dr. & Mrs. O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall



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