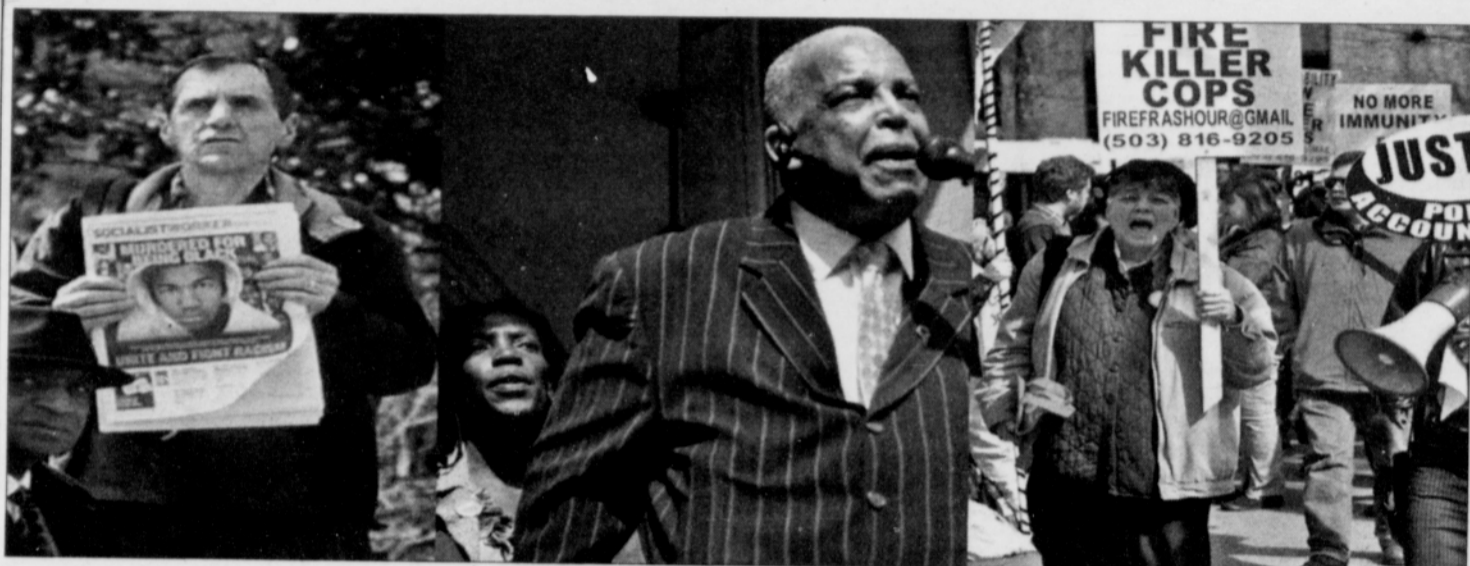


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**YOU COULD BE STUCK PAYING THIS BILL...**  
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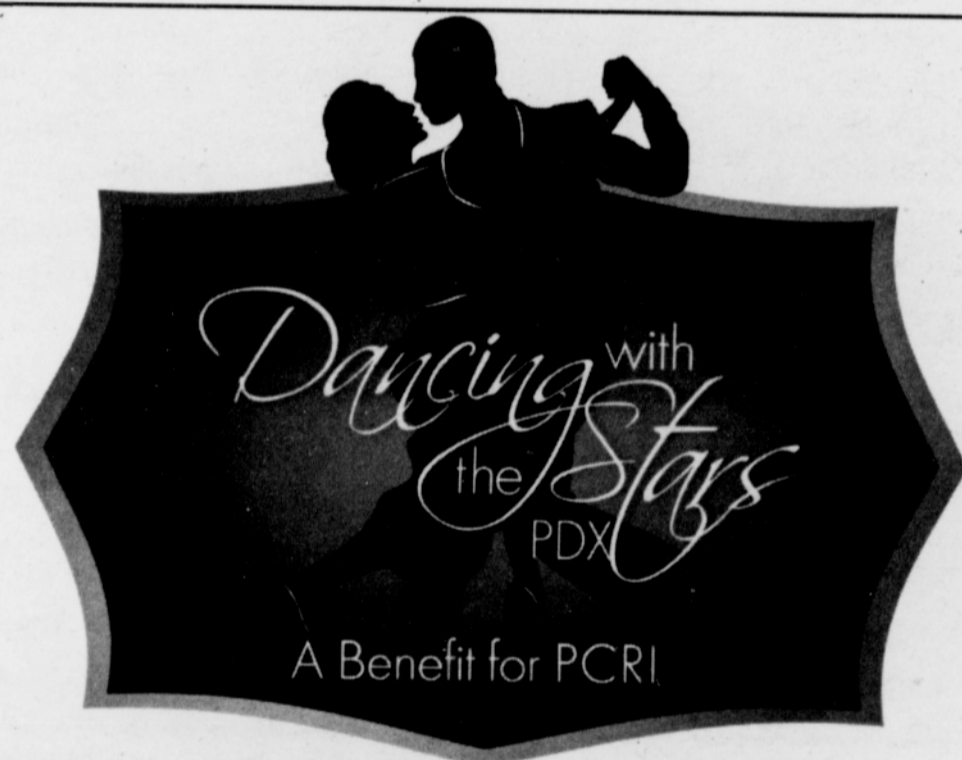
*The AMA is hosting four educational meetings to provide the public with information about the strengths and weaknesses of the Settlement Agreement, as well as to explain how we can get involved, including how to take video testimony.*

The last 2 public meetings will be held:

**Saturday February 8: 2 to 4 PM,**  
 St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N Central St.

**Thursday February 13: 6 to 8 PM,**  
 Rosewood Community Center 16126 SE Stark St.

Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA) Coalition for Justice and Police Reform  
[WWW.ALBINAMINISTERIALCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.ALBINAMINISTERIALCOALITION.ORG)



PCRI is bringing out the stars to celebrate our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual gala.

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Enjoy a lively reception and plated dinner followed by a dramatic dance competition featuring local celebrities paired with professionals from Fred Astaire Dance Studio.



Special Guest Performance by  
 Multnomah County Commissioner  
 Loretta Smith  
 and  
 Metro Councilor Sam Chase

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Special thanks to media sponsor: **The Portland Observer**

## Improving Lives

*continued* ▲ from page 3

Prior to joining VOA, Toran was at the Oregon State Office for Services to Children and Families, Oregon's child protective services agency, where she served as director for six years. She previously held the position of Oregon's

Administrator of Purchasing. Under Gov. Atiyeh, she served as an assistant and as the State's Director of Affirmative Action.

Toran received her bachelor's degree from the University of Portland and Masters of Social Work degree from Portland State University.

## Use of Force Hearing

*continued* ▲ from page 3

testimony for the hearing.

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon reported on their investigation of the Portland Police Bureau's use of force, revealing "a pattern or practice of unnecessary or unreasonable force during interactions with people who have or are perceived to have mental illness."

The justice department sued the City of Portland based on those findings.

The Human Rights Commis-

sion says the process of forming an agreement to settle the lawsuit is a rare opportunity to improve police accountability in Portland and make encounters with police safer for people with mental illness and to empower Portland's Police officers to serve more effectively and protect civil rights.

While the DOJ investigation did not address use of force disparities based on race, the HRC also recognizes that many of these same police practices are experienced disproportionately by people of color, calling for increased attention around use of force related to race.

## Sick Leave Ordinance Praised

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, while at a White House meeting last Thursday with President Obama, Vice President Biden and Cabinet members, said Labor Secretary Tony Perez highlighted Portland's paid sick leave ordinance as an example of local leadership.

"The secretary spotlighted Portland and this ordinance, championed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz," Hales said. "The secretary said that, at a time when little is coming from Congress to

support working families and to address worsening income inequality, local efforts like Portland's are where progress is being made."

The Portland City Council passed the ordinance in 2013. It ensures that everyone working in the Portland can earn sick time to use when they or a family member are sick, injured or need preventative health care.

Hales is in Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

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