



be conducting a review of the Portland Police Bureau's policies and procedures that relate to its interactions with hip-hop music events and venues.

IPR staff members will conduct interviews with members of the community, music industry, and the Police Bureau.

When IPR's review is complete, it will issue a public report. Officials said reviews of this nature are part of IPR's overall mission to act on issues of community concern, "with the goals of safeguarding the rights of persons and of promoting higher standards of competency, efficiency and justice in the provision of community policing services."

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
A Hip-Hop show at the Blue Monk ended before it got fully started Saturday night when performer Illmaculate took the stage, stating that he would not perform as a result of an ever-swelling police presence.

## Hip Hop Shakedown

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But according to Portland Police spokesperson Sgt. Pete Simpson, the initial response was for something else. Simpson says the Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team, communicated its concerns about seasoned performer Mikey Vegaz' gang ties, an allegation the rapper denies.

According to the official police report, two police officers and the fire marshal arrived at the Blue Monk at 10:18 p.m. Saturday, and communicated their concerns about fire code violations to the venue owner Sheri Deitrick. It was nearly a half hour after the show was set to begin. Police said they were "intimidated" by one of the performers and other customers who were upset about their presence and used derogatory language, so they called in more police backup.

Bryce Trost, of Green Luck Media Group whom promoted the show, says after Vegaz' set was over officers switched their attention from concerns over "gang presence" to the venue's capacity, "It was extremely frustrating. I understand to a certain degree, the concern about the gang-related aspect. I don't understand shutting down the entire square block."

It should be noted that the folk music trio "Three-for-Silver" played earlier in the night and there was no police presence.

Seeing how the show had been promoted with Mikey Vegaz on the bill for well over a month, Trost says any concerns from the police could have been directed to any of the stakeholders beforehand.

"All they had to do was pick up the phone. So bars don't lose hundreds of dollars in bar sales, artists get to perform and make money. They knew what they were doing. They knew their tactics. They knew that a constantly growing police presence was a way to metaphorically pull the plug," he said.

The City of Portland Auditor's Independent Police Review Division announced Tuesday they will



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
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