



Stepping Up

PHOTO BY JASON WASHINGTON

Members of a local community bicycling group line up to "Take Back the Streets." The cyclists are organizing an Aug. 24 rally in conjunction with the non-profit Community Cycling Center and Metro to fight back against a summer of deadly violence. Organizations dealing in health, gang prevention, after-school programming for youth, transition services and more will be part of the day's going-ons.

continued ▲ *from front*

also be available during the event, starting at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24 at the New Columbia Bike Repair Hub on the corner of North Woolsey Avenue and Trenton Street in the New Columbia neighborhood.

Guest speakers will include World Arts Foundation executive Teresa Raiford, Emmanuel Price of SSAFE (Second Chances are For Everyone), Karin Malborough, a developer of school and after-school based programs, and Portland Public Schools teacher Cicely Rodgers, among others.

Organizations dealing in health, gang prevention, after-school programming for youth, transition services and more will also be a part of the day's going-ons.

Of course musical entertainment and food are on the agenda too. A healthy barbeque will be available at \$5 a plate with all proceeds going to the Stop the Violence Foundation and Portland Interscholastic League reunions.

Perhaps most importantly, conversation will be on hand as well.

"Our purpose for this ride is to bring people together from the community to discuss and work toward positive alternatives to the violence we've been experiencing in our neighborhoods," said Washington, the event's co-creator.

Mychal Tetteh, who's been the chief executive officer at the Community Cycling Center for less than a year now, says given the opportunity, community-based initiatives like those brought to him by Preston and Washington are ones the center would like to continue supporting.

"Ultimately it was the initiative

taken by members of the north Portland community, members of the African American community that served as an opportunity to support a community-based initiative. So whenever we're given the op-

portunity to support something as powerful and as meaningful as this event we will," says Tetteh.

A non-biking section of the event will begin on the same day at 2 p.m. at Columbia Park, the location for

the end of the day's bike route. For those wanting to participate in the biking event but who don't own a bike, there will be 25 bicycles available on a first-come first-served basis. Those in need should indi-

cate so on the online registration form at bit.ly/1od6FE6.

For more information on the event, contact Zoe Pillafas by email at zoe@communitycyclingcenter.org.

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