



Sesame Street actor and writer Sonia Manzano helps the YWCA of Clark County with its mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice freedom and dignity for all.

## Sesame Street Actor Empowers

Sesame Street actor and writer Sonia Manzano shared her perspective on overcoming social and cultural norms as she pursued professional and personal goals during a fundraising luncheon for the YWCA of Clark County.

The recent event raised \$134,165 to support YWCA programs which serve more than 11,800 people each year and share a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Sonia spoke to 400 guests about a myriad of topics, including the importance of empowering children through example and leadership.

## Racial Disparities

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disparate racial impacts of criminal and child welfare policies. African Americans, for example, make up about 2 percent of Oregon's general population, but about 10 percent of the state's prison population. Nationally, black males are more likely to be imprisoned than receive a 4-year college degree.

He said the law gained traction toward passage when provisions were added to reflect the racial impact of victim populations, and provide a requirement that racial impact statements only move forward when requested by two legislators from each major political party.

The first purpose of the legislation, however, is to put the brakes on any future law that disproportionately impact people of color.

"The bill passionately says this is another tool to make sure we don't make minority over-representation worse," Shields said. "If you hear about a bill that will disproportionately impact people of color, you can always petition your legislator for a racial impact statement."

The scheduled speakers for the public forum included Craig Prins from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and Nicole Porter from the Sentencing Project, a national organization working toward sentencing reform.

## Taser Takes Down Teen

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a profanity-laced commentary.

The older brother was charged with interfering with police, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct and pleaded not guilty on Monday. The younger brother is accused of assault, interfering with a peace officer, resisting arrest, assaulting a public safety officer, attempted assault on a public safety officer, harassment, and attempted strangulation.

Police said they were dispatched to the neighborhood to investigate 9-1-1 calls regarding a disturbance, property damage and threats to shoot someone in the area. The group of people involved was described as approximately nine African-American males and females.

Police did not have sufficient evidence, however, to charge either of the Gurule brothers or anyone else in connection with the reported vandalism, officials said.



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