

Hits Movie Screen



The arrest and subsequent death of James Chase at the hands of Portland police is documented in the new film 'Arresting Power.' Chase's death led to reforms in the way Portland law enforcement interact with people suffering from mental illness.



Portland resident and activist Kent Ford is interviewed for the film 'Arresting Power.'

The police placed Stevenson in a choke hold which resulted in his death by strangulation. This case was eerily similar to the recent Eric Garner chokehold case in New York. As both men lay dying, the police refused to provide medical assistance.

The Portland case is unique, and perhaps even more upsetting, because at the time there was an ambulance company across the street from the 7-11, and when the paramedics, who saw the events transpire, went to do their jobs, Portland Police officers waved them off. To add insult to injury, the day of Stevenson's funeral, the community was outraged when some officers created commemorative T-Shirts, saying "Don't Choke 'em, Smoke'em."

Arresting Power covers this outrageous, seemingly stranger than fiction, turn of events in detail. Whether it is Stevenson's killing or Otis' 25 years later in 2010—there is no shortage of ex-

amples of police brutality that make this exposé relevant and necessary. Another infamous incident, which often shocks Portlanders who are not familiar with the city's checked past, is the Burger Barn incident. Two off-duty officers who apparently had nothing better to do, loaded up a car with dead possums, and tossed them onto the front of the Burger Barn, a local black owned restaurant. Those involved said the hateful act was an attempt at police unity. The officers were never fired. Filmmaker Jodi Darby told me that creating Arresting Power has been a challenge due to Oregon not having a lot of funding for the arts in general, and as a result, she and her co-producers, have had to hold down full time jobs while making the film. Being a long-time Portland resident who has learned quite a bit more about the history of the Portland Police Bureau and race relations in the city, I am thrilled that this film got made. The filmmakers set up a Kickstarter campaign to successfully crowd source \$20,000 in funding for post-production of the movie. The film will premiere on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Whittell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum. Tickets are \$9 general admission and \$8 for students and seniors.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW
Get involved in Police Review, Citizen review and Forums.
<http://www.portlandonline.com/auc/for/70-208-48>
Constantin Severe, IPR Director

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
Get involved in the Minority Evaluator Program
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/files/521197>
Tiffani Pennep, Minority Program and Supplier Diversity Officer

BUILDING PORTLAND BUSINESS
REGULATORY CONTRACTING