



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 — April 4, 1968

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT is strongly committed to promoting student success, including student literacy, and creating pathways to opportunity through various reading and learning activities in classrooms, libraries, afterschool, and learning from businesses.

Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, the district serves approximately 100,000 students in 100 schools across the city.

For additional information, contact: Public Affairs | 503.944.1111 | [www.pps.k12.or.us](http://www.pps.k12.or.us)



Portland Public Schools | Purchasing & Contracting  
6811 North Dixon | Portland OR 97227

## Facing Racism on the Job

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drag the man behind a truck.

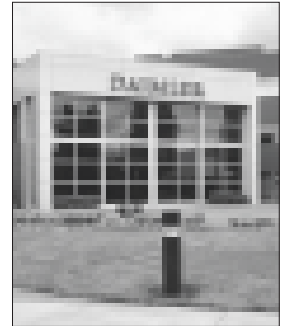
The complaints also alleged minority employees, "including but not limited to black, African American, Egyptian and Vietnamese," were subjected to threats and sabotage in the workplace.

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian announced the settlement on Thursday. The complaints had been filed with his office last year.

Avakian said the \$2.4 million includes attorney fees for the six workers and a fund to deal with future complaints.

Five additional complainants have withdrawn their complaints against Daimler and stated their intention to go to civil court.

Daimler said in a statement it had



cooperated with Avakian's investigation and is committed to diversity.

A company statement released last year said there is a zero-tolerance policy related to discrimination at Daimler, and anti-discrimination training is required for all employees.

## Reversing History of Illness

*continued* ▲ *from page 4*

communities of color."

The fifth Health Department disparities report in a decade and the most comprehensive yet was released in December. It reviewed the underlying causes of poor health such as economic status, education, literacy, air quality, access to healthy food and health care.

"This report is not about healthcare, it's about health," said Health Department Director Joanne Fuller. "We're really talking about... the totality of people's lives. That totality includes racism and discrimination that research shows has a deep and lasting impact on people's health."

Gerald Deloney, co-chair of the group Communities of Color, said that as disturbing as the findings are, people of color were not surprised.

"We live this on an everyday basis, and we know how bad that it really is," Deloney said.

Among the findings were figures showing that infant mortality and deaths from diabetes for local African Americans was 2 1/2 times higher than non-Latino whites and six times the rates of homicide.

African Americans were also four times as likely to have children living in poverty, and were twice as likely to be unemployed, have children not meeting third-grade reading standards and live in a single-parent household.

Native American and Alaska Natives were three times as likely to have children in poverty and have twice the rates of unemployment, teen births and smoking.

Latinos had 3 1/2 times the teen birth rate and twice the rate of children in poverty, children not meeting third-grade reading standards and homicide.

Asian/Pacific Islanders had

twice the rate of needing health insurance than whites and were more likely to live in areas of poor air quality and neighborhoods that lacked healthy food retailers.

During an emotional briefing on the findings, Suzanne Hansche, the Elders in Action representative to the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, asked the board of commissioners to support the group's legislative agenda as part of their approach to reducing disparities. Among their key items: a "Ban the box," bill that would stop someone with a criminal conviction from being automatically disqualified for work and a policy that supports paid sick leave. She also asked the board to invest in community efforts and programs outside the Health Department.

The Health Department listed several ways it will address the inequities, including making more investment in early childhood and adolescence programs; creating a public health advisory board and formal Community Health Improvement Plan to authentically engage the community and build on community-based strengths; and increasing culturally-specific and community specific approaches to healthcare.

"The disparities my colleagues have spoken of are unacceptable," said Rujuta Gaonkar, manager of the Health Equity Initiative at the Multnomah County Health Department. "Moreover they are avoidable."

Gaonkar said that as the single parent of color of a four-year old, her son sees the future as limitless. "I don't want that to change and the reality is that I also have a job that affords me paid sick leave, I have access to healthy food, and affordable, high-quality education. I want to be able to say that for every child growing up in Multnomah County and right now, I cannot."

Library LIBRARY 35c

Everybody Reads 2015  
**MITCHELL S. JACKSON**

March 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm  
Admission Free, Free Will Contribution  
Tickets start at \$15 at [portlandlib.com](http://portlandlib.com)

**THE RESIDUE YEARS**  
A NOVEL  
MITCHELL S. JACKSON

"I always intended this book to be for Portland... The reason is the book and the important books. What are the effects of gentrification? How do people of color resist? How?"

— Mitchell S. Jackson

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