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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Empowering Youth

Trayvon Martin's mom to visit Portland

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many of those who remember the story of Trayvon Martin, and black Florida teenager murdered in 2012, and the infamous trial surrounding his killer, George Zimmerman, might remember another name – Sybrina Fulton.

Fulton, Martin's mother, brings her powerful and inspirational message on "Empowering Our Youth" to Portland, courtesy of the African American Alliance and the YWCA of Greater Portland.

The program will be held on Monday April 13 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. Seating for the event is limited and interested parties are encouraged to arrive by 6:15 p.m.

Along with Fulton's mes-



Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, will bring a powerful and inspirational message about empowering youth during a forum in Portland, Monday, April 13 at Maranatha Church.

sage, there will be spoken word, poetry, and music from black youth and other community members. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, you can leave a message at 503-288-8429.

Police Reform Panel Gets an Earful

Outreach brings emotional testimony and frustration

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community frustrations with Portland police were expressed in emotional testimony as a panel tasked with monitoring police reforms in the city got an earful at its first public hearing on issues dividing law enforcement and the community.

African-American and Latino mothers were among those who shared their concerns about the safety of their sons in their interactions with police during the Thursday session in northeast Portland sponsored by the Community Oversight Advisory Board.

Mothers who lost their sons

to violent encounters with police, and others who felt mistreated by police, stepped up to rail against racial profiling and urge officers to treat all people with respect, no matter the color of their skin. A central theme from the testimony was a demand for the city and Police Bureau to hold officers accountable for misconduct or excessive use of force.

The oversight board was created to help monitor federally-mandated reforms to Portland police training and policies. After the first hour of the forum was used up by the police to show how they were working to making connections with the public through

social media, billboards and other outreach efforts, residents grew restless and anxious for a chance to express their long-term grievances.

President of the Portland NAACP chapter Jo Ann Hardesty said the meeting showed the community is frustrated and expressed the disconnect between what the police say they want and what is happening on the street.

One Portland woman, through an interpreter, said that when she called a police officer to assist her in a local dispute over her son's car being towed, the police officer

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