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PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Activists from Black Lives Matter and others march from Portland State University to City Hall to raise issues over police brutality to raising the minimum wage.

## Joining the conversation on police abuses

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

From the streets to the classroom, Portland has joined the national conversation addressing the tension and distrust between people of color and the police.

With chants and hashtags, including #BaltimoreUprising, #FreddieGray, and #BlackLivesMatter, activists for police reforms in the city and across the country have staged demonstrations over the past week to raise their voices for justice.

The outcry follows another death at the hands of police, this time in Baltimore where six police officers are facing charges after an unarmed black man,

# Voices for Justice

Freddie Gray, suffered a fatal spinal injury in police custody.

Portland community leaders spoke out on the Gray case and efforts to reform police department practices during a Black Bag forum at Portland State University, and then again for a May Day rally that drew

a large and diverse crowd of supporters to the PSU Park Blocks.

The school's Black Studies Department and Professor Ethan Johnson brought together a panel last Wednesday featuring Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, Jo Ann Hardesty of the Portland NAACP, and Adrienne Cabouet of Black Lives Matter Portland. The guests shared their concerns over police reform issues in Portland and across the country, generally agreeing that a lot more had to be done to assuage police violence against civilians.

"Reform needs to happen," said Hardesty. "We need individual eyes to look at these cases. We need someone who is unbiased and knows the law. That's what we need to build accountability."

The panelists were cautious about what they felt might be a misguided use of resources in holding police officers accountable for excessive force by sup-

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