

# Second Chances Are For Everyone

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

giving back. As a leader for a non-profit organization helping other former inmates, he is one of the success stories for a life turned around. His organization, Second Chances Are For Everyone, was just honored with a Portland Spirit Award from the Portland City Council, for serving men and women like himself, who have been released from custody and are looking for a meaningful way back into society.

Price said he founded the group about six years ago using \$4,000 in savings from employment wages and a small settlement he received after an accident.

He had been released from prison for a few years earlier, and was interested in addressing the absence of community-lead, post-prison services in the area.

"I knew if I had a little bit saved up, now was the time to give back," Price explained of his work to build an organization from the ground up.

For most released prisoners, it's not easy to find work, get into an apartment, or even get



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ten years past spending time in prison and turning around his life around for the better when released, Emanuel Price of Portland is determined to help others just like him through his non-profit organization Second Chances Are for Everyone.

an ID. Price's organization helps by getting them email addresses or phone numbers so employers

can contact them. It also connects them to employers who are willing to hire people with

records.

"I'm not qualified to do everything," says Price, admitting that

the organization does not work with sex offenders or extremely violent criminals who might have more specific needs. "But so many people are out here just because of drugs, seeking money because they were poor, crimes of need – and sometimes of greed."

Price points out how so many people of color have never had a true first chance at success in the community.

"What is a first chance really, if we have black students who struggle to read, and studies show us that low-literacy adults are much more at risk of becoming involved in crime?" asks Price. "What kind of first chance exists for children who don't have stable housing or food every night? Children long for protection and self-sufficiency and they get frustrated, because who is giving them a chance? Any chance really?"

Price and several of his organization's members celebrated another milestone last week as well, when the Portland City Council voted overwhelmingly in a 5-0 vote to support the Fair Chance for All Campaign, also known as the Ban the Box campaign, and ultimately passed a strong ordinance that will ensure workers with past arrest and conviction histories have the opportunity to find work. The ordinance will go into effect in less than 30 days, giving Price and his followers something else to celebrate this holiday season.

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