

Growing to Stop Hunger

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a wide variety of vegetables (as well as fresh herbs) is another benefit of the program, as it provides opportunities for access to fresh, culturally appropriate food that's not always accessible to members of underprivileged communities.

"And we all need fresh, healthy food, grown as locally as possible," notes Portland Parks & Recreation Director Mike Abbaté. "Produce for People is right in line with our mission for 'Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland'. This is a real community success story."



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION — CINDY CLEMENS
Cindy Clemens shows some of the vegetables harvested last summer at Centennial Park Community Garden in southeast Portland, which raised 726 pounds of produce to help stock the food bank at Birch Community Services.

Cosby Forms a Defense

Legal team fires back after star is charged

(AP) — Bill Cosby faces a charge of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home 12 years ago — the first criminal charges brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as America's Dad. The indictment filed in Pennsylvania last week could send the 78-year-old Cosby to prison in the twilight of his life and barrier-breaking career.

Prosecutors accused him of plying former Temple University employee Andrea Constand with pills and wine, then penetrating her with his fingers without her consent, while she was drifting in and out of consciousness, unable to resist or cry out.

The TV star acknowledged under oath a decade ago that he had sexual contact with Constand but said it was consensual.

Cosby's lawyer charged on Thursday that the prosecution against the comedian was politically motivated by Montgomery County District Attorney-elect Kevin Steele to make good on a campaign pledge.

"What we have is not the effectuation of justice. What we have

is the fulfillment of a campaign promise," Monique Pressley said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Cosby was arraigned Wednesday and released on \$1 million bail.

The decision to prosecute came just days before the state's 12-year statute of limitations for bringing charges was going to run out. It represents an about-face by the DA's office, which under then-District Attorney Bruce Castor declined to charge Cosby in 2005 when Constand first went to police.

Castor tried to reclaim his job as DA in the November election but lost to Steele in a hotly contested race in which the Cosby case played a central role.

Steele attacked Castor during the campaign for not prosecuting Cosby, running an ad that said: "Bruce Castor was not looking out for the victims." But Steele never said what he would do if he were elected.

After the charges came down, Cosby's attorney accused Steele of "playing political football" with Cosby's life. She told morning network shows that Steele made a promise and had to make good on it before the statute of limitations ran out.

Constand, who is now 42 and lives in Toronto, welcomed the charges, said her lawyer, Dolores Troiani. "She feels that they be-



Bill Cosby is escorted by his attorneys into court for arraignment on a charge of sexual assault. (AP photo)

lieve her, and to any victim, that is foremost in your mind: Are people going to believe me?" Troiani said.

On Wednesday, Cosby, holding a cane, walked slowly and unsteadily into court on the arms of his attorneys, tripping on a curb as he made his way into the building. Inside, he seemed to have trouble seeing the paperwork and finding the place to sign, and his lawyers helped him hold the pen.

Cosby also faces a raft of defamation and sexual-abuse lawsuits filed in Massachusetts, Los Angeles and Pennsylvania. But in nearly every case, it is too late to file criminal charges.

One exception: a 2008 case involving a model at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles. It is still under investigation by police.

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