

Police Reform Activists Stunned

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

greeted by other activists, including Jo Ann Hardesty, the Portland chapter president of the NAACP.

Originally, Frashour was fired by Police Chief Mike Reese during the tenure of former Mayor Sam Adams, but the Portland Police Association filed a grievance challenging the termination. The arbitrator determined the city did not have “enough cause” to fire him, ordering the city to rehire him. The Oregon Employment Relations Board also ordered Portland to reinstate Frashour.

Current Mayor Charlie Hales issued a statement Wednesday saying the city would comply with the court ruling, but indicated he was distressed at what the city was being forced to do.

“I am disappointed the court blocked the city’s efforts to terminate an officer who used force inappropriately,” said Hales, pointing out that he felt that these kinds of incidents undermine the hard work the local bureau has put in to emphasizing de-escalation in its trainings.

Local community leader Joyce Harris also expressed her frustration with the reinstatement, pointing out that Frashour was a threat to her community.

“If someone fails at their job, they don’t get to just come back – killing an unarmed black man is a gross injustice that should prevent someone from just walking back onto the force, or getting paid administrative leave for six years,” she said. “That’s just not acceptable.”

Hardesty echoed the concerns, saying she wanted more from the city.



Angie Black, a Portland resident and member of Black Lives Matter and her son, Moses (left) embrace NAACP Portland Chapter president Jo Ann Hardesty (second from right) and community leader Joyce Harris (far right) at a protest against police brutality outside City Hall.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

“I don’t think what we’re asking for is unreasonable,” she said. “What’s the purpose of sending this officer back onto the streets?”

As the rally and the year came to its close, the protestors looked to each other for support. Soft prayers ended with the hope that someday, there will be no more Aaron Campbell’s to mourn, because police would not be killing them.

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