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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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'City of Roses'



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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland author and entrepreneur Devin S. James shares his story of trying to bridge the racial divide between officials in Ferguson, Mo. and an enraged black community, during a recent lecture and book signing at the Barnes and Noble in Lloyd Center. James is the author of "Inside Ferguson" A Voice for the Voiceless," a walk-through of what happened after the 2014 death of Michael Brown.

Author shares story in personal account

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON

PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

A front row seat into the turmoil and outrage that followed the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and an insider's account of what was done and what failed to bring peace to the community, is being shared for Black History Month by a local black author and entrepreneur.

Devin S. James is the author of "Inside Ferguson: A Voice for the Voiceless," a first-hand account of the challenges he faced attempting to bridge the racial

Inside Ferguson

divide for a city that served a majority black population but lacked diversity in its administration and was resistant to change.

James is a public relations specialist

and entrepreneur. His communications and community outreach services includes work with Karanja Crews, the esteemed Portland African-American teacher and inventor who advances edu-

cation for students of color by addressing issues of equity and policy.

James said he moved to northeast Portland's Alberta neighborhood in 2013. A year later he earned a scholarship to attend the Minority Business Executive Program at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business. The experience helped him become a representative of the St. Louis Leadership Economic Development agency to officially work in Ferguson to improve relations between the city's black community and its all-white leadership.

"Inside Ferguson: A Voice for the Voiceless" is a multi-pronged thesis

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