



Protesters pound on the walls outside of the House Chamber in the Capitol building in Salem Thursday as lawmakers debate a higher minimum wage, rent controls, and an end to state highway department sweeps of homeless camps. (AP photo)

## Lawmakers Approve Higher Minimum Wage

### Increases made gradual over six years

Oregon lawmakers have approved landmark legislation that propels the state's minimum wage for all workers to the highest rank in the U.S., and does so through an unparalleled tiered system based on geography.

The state House of Representatives on Thursday passed Senate Bill 1532, which now heads to Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, who said in a statement she will sign it into law.

The bill was crafted as a compromise between what unions, businesses and farmers want and as an attempt to thwart more aggressive proposals that could go before voters in November. Those two proposals call for a statewide minimum of \$13.50 or \$15, and would be phased in over half the time.

The Legislature's new plan imposes a series of gradual increases over six years. By 2022, the state's current \$9.25 an hour minimum - one of the highest in the nation - would climb to \$14.75 in metro Portland, \$13.50 in smaller cities

such as Salem and Eugene, and \$12.50 in rural communities.

"Oregon has always been at the forefront of new ideas in the country. We were the first to actually have a minimum wage," said Rep. Paul Holvey, a Democrat from Eugene. "Trust me, we're not solving all the problems, but we are making a substantial dent in it by pushing up from the bottom some wage equality ... from the huge disparity we have in incomes."

The goal of the tiered approach is to balance the needs of the more urban west where living costs have soared in rapidly growing Portland and struggling farming communities in the east.

Division over the minimum wage - currently at \$7.25 in federal law - is also often split along party lines and pits low-wage workers against business groups, as has been seen in Oregon this year. Republicans, the minority party in the Oregon Statehouse, have opposed the increase.

--Associated Press

## Educate, Empower and Engage

Current and prospective members are invited to connect with Portland NAACP's work in advancing racial justice in the community. President Jo Ann Hardesty and executive leadership will provide updates about current and future initiatives.

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all

persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

The vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

Portland meetings are held the fourth Saturday of every month. The next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 27, from noon to 2pm, at the American Red Cross Oregon Chapter, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave.

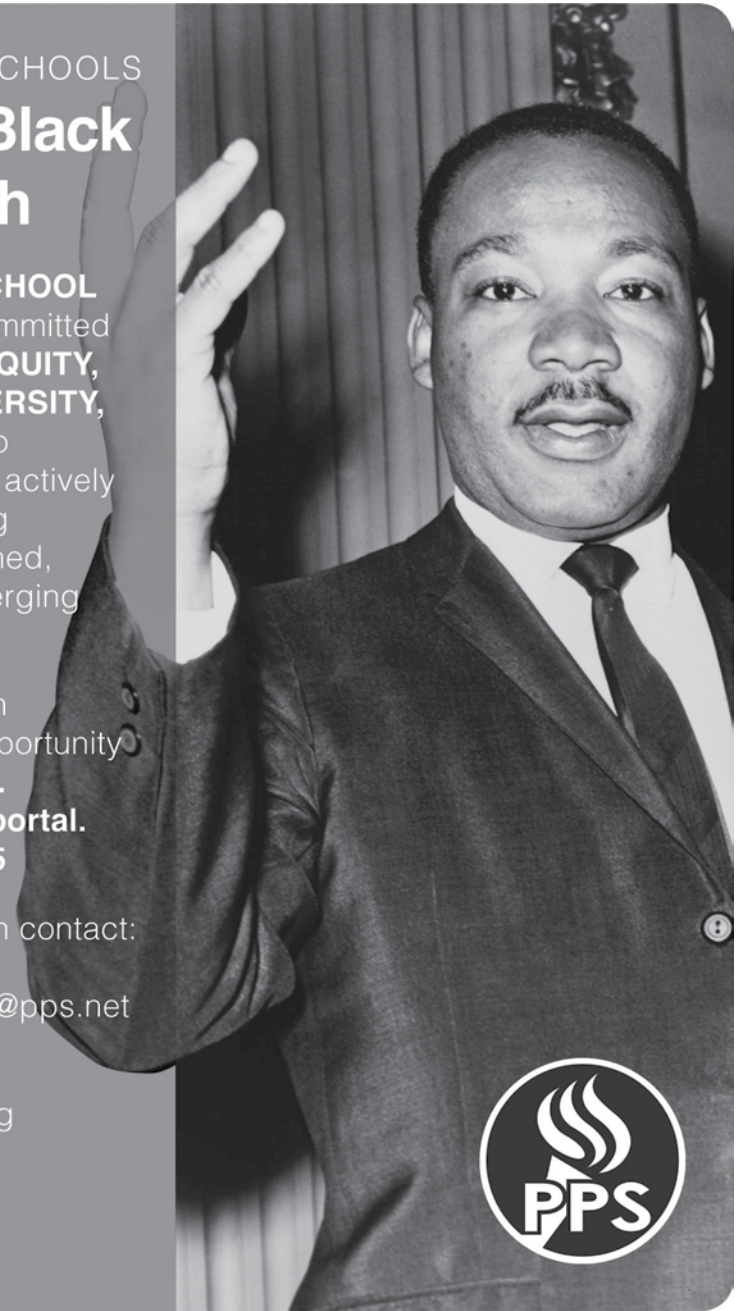
## PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS Celebrating Black History Month

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT is strongly committed to promoting business **EQUITY**, increasing supplier **DIVERSITY**, and creating pathways to **OPPORTUNITY** through actively supporting and providing outreach to Minority-Owned, Women-Owned and Emerging Small Businesses.

Register your business in PlanetBids to receive opportunity notifications: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22555>

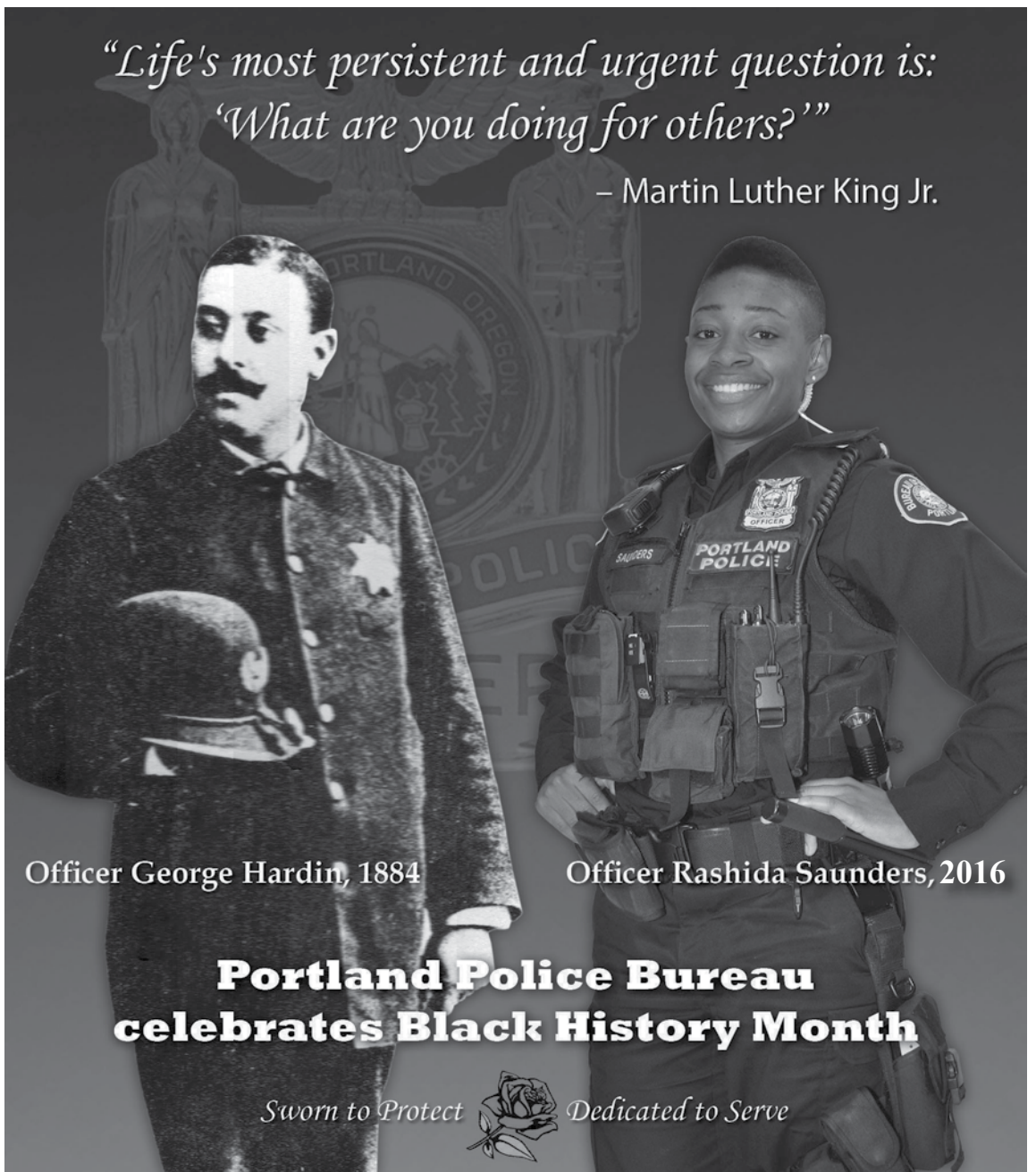
For additional information contact: Eloisa Miller (503) 916-3113 • [emiller@pps.net](mailto:emiller@pps.net)

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*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"*

— Martin Luther King Jr.



Officer George Hardin, 1884

Officer Rashida Saunders, 2016

**Portland Police Bureau celebrates Black History Month**

Sworn to Protect  Dedicated to Serve