

Arrested at School

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

situation.

The amended discipline statement has some facts in her daughter's favor, including an acknowledgment that the other student swung at her first and the fact that another student present had shouted for Emaujah to be "left alone." A description of Emaujah calling out that she wanted to "scrap" with the other student involved was removed.

"Why would someone say 'Leave Emaujah alone' if my daughter was being the aggressor?" Pratcher asks, "Emaujah has never been in trouble for fighting at Beaumont."

Neither the original nor the revised discipline form stated anything about Emaujah striking the substitute teacher.

"I took her to school at 9 a.m. and at about 9:45 a.m. I get a call from Emaujah saying 'Mom, they're trying to arrest me! I didn't do anything!' And then the phone hangs up," Pratcher recalls. "So I'm calling the office trying to figure out what's going on [and when someone answers] I hear her screaming and crying in the background."

When Portland police came to Beaumont on the day of the arrest, Emaujah was then handcuffed and transported to a juvenile facility where she took a mugshot photo and was fingerprinted.

Upon returning to school, her daughter received additional discipline referrals for miscellaneous inane reasons, Pratcher said, the last of which led to her permanent separation from the school.

On April 15, she received an

email from Principal Vimegnon saying that her daughter had been suspended in order to investigate grounds for expulsion. The listed the reasons for her suspension as "open defiance," "insubordination" and "willful disobedience."

Pratcher is upset that the final incident that got her daughter into trouble was for having a cell phone on her desk in math class, not in use, but for refusing to hand it over to her teacher when asked.

Principal Vimegnon said Beaumont does have a rule allowing students to have cell phones for academic reasons — such as calculating — yet it was deemed by Emaujah's teacher that her intentions were non-academic.

Pratcher said if her daughter recorded a video with her phone, then everyone would believe her, but says the school is so stern, it wants to keep phones away from students.

For students at risk of expul-

sion, a hearing between the family and school officials is held to determine a final course of action. Emaujah's hearing was held at an offsite location.

The over two hour long meeting addressed some of the issues at hand, yet didn't tackle any of the questions both Pratcher and other organization members also present at the meeting had about Beaumont's conduct. The only real conclusion reached was that Emaujah's behavior did not constitute grounds for expulsion.

Despite the school's decision to keep Emaujah at Beaumont, both Pratcher and her daughter feel uncomfortable with the school's practices and have chosen to remain at great distance.

"What student would want to come back after being treated like this? There are things happening in the school that need to be addressed. My daughter is being traumatized and arrested under a false report, like why is that not being addressed? The school is being treated like a juvenile delinquency center, but only to specific

students," Pratcher said. "They're just after Emaujah, trying to make it seem like she's a 'problem child.' It's classical conditioning. They know if they approach in a certain way that you're going to respond in a certain way, and then you're going to get a consequence."

Pratcher plans to take this case to court on terms of defamation of character. Her frustration grows from not getting an adjudication hearing or a formal petition regarding the case, even after three attempts to contact the juvenile facility.

She's been told the district attorney has not yet responded to the juvenile facility's request, leaving the exact reasoning for her daughter's arrest still unanswered. As it stands, there are still no official charges against her daughter.

"Somebody else needs to be held accountable. No one is being held accountable for what they did. I can't trust anybody. I'm the only person that can advocate for her. She doesn't know what's going on, she's 12," Pratcher said.



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The Week in Review

Sprouting Recreational Leaves

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has approved its first group of marijuana growers under the new recreational system. Eight growers are the first to receive Recreational Marijuana Producer licenses, with the OLCC planning to issue around 850 licenses this year.

Right Ballot on its Way

If you made a recent change to your political affiliation, you may end up receiving the wrong ballot in the mail, and a short delay in receiving the updated one. Any changes made close to the registration deadline should get their new ballots next week, elections officials said.

Airport Breastfeeding Rooms

As part of a series of changes to make Portland International Airport more comfortable and convenient, new lactation rooms opened up last week at PDX. The rooms are designed for women traveling with or without infants that need a comfortable place to express breastmilk and to feed their children.

Three Charged in Woman's Death

Three men have been indicted for

murder in the death of Ervaeva Ronchelle Herring who was killed in August 2014 in a suspected gang-related shooting at an apartment complex at Southeast 151st and Powell, police said Tuesday.



Herring, 21, was pregnant at the time she was killed. DeAnthony Simmons, Geontae Brachard Jones and Demetrius Ray Brown also face burglary and weapons charges.

Call to End Police 48-Hour Rule

The Community Oversight Advisory Board formally requested that both Mayor Charlie Hales and Police Chief Larry O'Dea nix the 48-hour rule, which gives officers that use deadly force 48 hours before they are required to answer any administrative questions. The rule is part of the police union's contract with the city, which expires in the middle of the year, so the next mayor will likely have to address the issue.

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