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LOCAL NEWS



Portland School District Superintendent Carole Smith announced Monday that she has moved up her plans for retirement, stepping down now in wake of a lead crisis and a report about what went wrong and why.

Report Sinks Schools Chief

District put off health and safety issues

Citing the conclusion of an investigation of elevated levels of lead in school buildings, Portland Public School Superintendent Carole Smith on Monday said she will step down now rather than wait a year to retire.

The 38-page report, conducted by the Stoll Berne law firm at the school board's behest, concluded

that the district's efforts to test water, fix problems and notify the public have been woefully inadequate — if not nonexistent in some cases — for 15 years.

"There has been no 'top down' management and no supervision in this area," the report states.

The investigation found that because of budget restraints, Portland Public Schools made infrastructure and maintenance a lower priority than direct education services for years, and that neither the school board or administration considered lead in water as a significant issue.

nificant issue.

Portland's water system doesn't contain lead, but officials say the water can leach lead from older buildings and homes that used lead-containing solder in fixtures and fittings made of lead-containing brass.

Without federal mandates for testing water systems in school buildings and discoveries of lead in other public school systems in Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown recently called on Oregon's 197

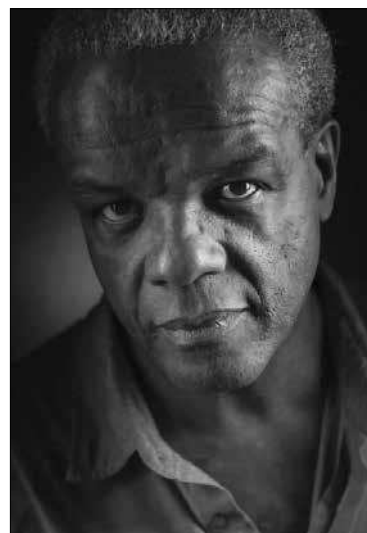
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Local Theater Director Profiled by Police

Long time Portland theater director Kevin Jones says he was subject to racial profiling by Portland Police for just sitting in his car.

The 63-year-old black co-founder of the August Wilson Red Door Project, an organization committed to fostering the racial diversity of young people in the arts, wrote about an incident he experienced Friday outside of the Artists Repertory Theatre on a PDX Backstage Yahoo group, while parked outside the theater in his 1976 BMW at the time.

"I was profiled last night in front of ART sitting in my car," Jones



Kevin Jones

wrote. "I wasn't manhandled. But the hand was on the gun."

Jones declined to have his story shared on Facebook by his supporters, though Portland actress Michele Mariana wrote a letter to Police Chief Mike Marshman and Mayor Charlie Hales.

"I want someone, someone in power — someone white, to get mad and stop this," his post continued. "This shit hurts."

Jones is currently working on a show influenced by what's going on with Black Lives Matter called "Hands Up," where seven play-

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