Measure 11 Impacts on Youth Severe

Civil rights panel calls for changes

Oregon incarcerates young people and transfers them to adult court at a higher rate than almost any other state, according to a report released Tuesday by the Oregon Council on Civil Rights. In fact, Oregon youth face incarceration rates significantly higher than in Texas and Louisiana.

The report "Youth and Measure 11: Impacts of Mandatory Minimums," includes specific reform recommendations for a more effective, fair and science-informed approach to youth involvement in the justice system.

A key finding from the study shows that Oregon's harsh sentences haven't kept pace with modern brain science. Although

doesn't fully develop until a person's 20's, Oregon's rigid mandatory minimum sentences leave little room for a young person's capacity to change.

Young people of color are disproportionately harmed by Oregon's criminal justice system: In 2012, black youth were 26 times more likely to be indicted of a Measure 11 crime than their white counterparts.

In addition, the costs of Oregon's system are high. The state can spend as much as nearly \$100,000 a year per child to incarcerate Measure 11 offenders. The impact on young people can sometimes feel like a de facto life sentence, with lack of access to stable housing, higher education and employment due to barriers that impact their lives long after they have served their term.

"Youth charged under Measure 11 – even those who do not receive research suggests that the brain an adult sentence — face lifetime



Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia

barriers to education and employment," said Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian. "Oregon's juvenile justice system brings high costs and poor outcomes. We should modernize our approach to better prepare young people to have a meaningful life after release."

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia, a

physician, scholar and executive moved to adult court, but instead science has changed, Oregon poli- system, the panel concluded. cies have not.

youth, the brain is still 'under construction'," said Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia. "Young people lack the skills to effectively navigate an adult criminal justice system that disrupts the development process at a critical stage. Oregon should join the many other states in recognizing the role of brain development in criminal justice reform."

The Oregon Council on Civil Rights' policy recommendations include making prosecution data, such as demographic data of youth referred to prosecutors' offices, publicly available to support evidence-based policymaking.

Youth charged under Measure 11 should not be automatically communities around the state."

director of the OHSU Avel Gordly a judge should weigh the unique Center for Healing, stressed that facts of the case before removing while our understanding of brain a young person from the juvenile

Other suggestions include "Brain science tells us that for granting youth a chance for a second-look hearing after serving 50 percent of a sentence and boosting investment in anti-poverty safety net programs that promote family stability and decrease future involvement with the criminal justice system.

"Oregon can do more to improve public safety outcomes while giving young people a chance to thrive," said Roberta Phillip-Robbins, chair of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights. "We hope to be a force to adjust our misguided approach to youth and Measure 11. It's clear that we can make better use of taxpayer resources while improving public safety and reducing recidivism in

sanlan LIGHTING, INC.

Web: www.sunlanlighting.com • E-mail: kay@lightlady.com 3901 N. Mississippi Ave. • Portland, OR 97227 503.281.0453 • Fax 503.281.3408

Light Up your Family

The Mortland Observer Established 1970 USPS 959 680

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association



CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015

Publisher: Mark Washington, Sr. Editor: Michael Leighton

Executive Director: Rakeem Washington Advertising Manager: Leonard Latin Office Manager/Classifieds: Lucinda Baldwin CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

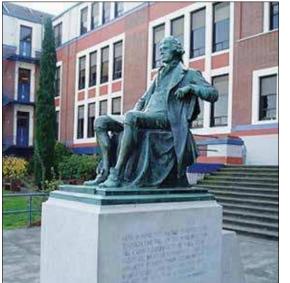
Reporter/Web Editor: Danny Peterson Public Relations: Mark Washington Jr. Office Assistant/Sales: Shawntell Washington



news@portlandobserver.com • ads@portlandobserver.com subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

The Week in Review



Jeff Name Change Debate

A neighborhood generated discussion on changing the name of Jefferson High School drew some passionate arguments during a meeting Monday night at the North Portland Library. Jefferson graduate Clifford Walker, a local black historian and activist, objected to a public high named after a former slave owner. Others warned about a gentrified community erasing Jefferson's current history and said they would prefer if neighbors would focus on supporting and improving the school.

Oil Terminal Permit Rejected

Amid the concerns of more oil trains and the potential for spills, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee rejected a permit for a massive oil-by-rail terminal proposed at the port of Vancouver Monday. Inslee said he agreed with the recommendation of a state energy panel, which voted in November to deny the appli-

Business Center Up in Flames

A fire destroyed several business housed inside the Macadam Center in southwest Portland Sunday night. People working in a call center noticed smoke coming from an elevator shaft and called 9-1-1. By the time fire fighters got there, the fire had already weakened the building so much hat fire fighters had to get out and fight the flames from the outside.

Amtrak Engineer Missed Post

Federal investigators say the engineer at the controls of the Amtrak passenger train that derailed south of Seattle needed to slow down before taking a curve over I-5, but missed posted warning signs. The National Transportation Safety Board released the investigation update Thursday, more than a month after the Dec. 18 derailment that left three people dead and dozens injured.

Skipping State of the Union

Earl Blumenauer opted to skip President Trump's first State of the Union address Tuesday night, but sent Portland "Dreamer" Aldo Solano instead, a local resident who stands to lose his legal status if Congress doesn't' negotiate an extension or permanent fix to the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which expires

Apology to Black Journalist

Housing and Urban Development official with strong ties to the President has apologized for calling a member of the press "Miss Piggy" on Twitter last week. The now-deleted tweet from Lynne Patton, a HUD administrator, was aimed at April Ryan, the black Washington bureau chief of American Urban Radio Networks who also is a CNN political analyst.



Cleveland Drops Logo

The Cleveland Indians are finally parting ways with their Chief Wahoo logo. In an announcement from the league office on Monday, beginning in 2019, the team's jerseys will no longer feature the Native American caricature, which has been widely characterized as offensive and racist.