

Gang Enforcement Team Faulted

Audit finds lack of accountability reduces trust

A new city audit finds that the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team is hindered by a lack of accountability and transparency that reduces community trust.

In two reports issued Wednesday, March 28, City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero says gang enforcement officers carried out traffic stops that disproportionately affected black residents. The stops were too broad and not limited to criminal gang suspects, community members said.

The gang enforcement team also collected and shared information about people's gang associations, but these practices suffered from lack of accountability and concerned residents, the auditor found.



The Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team carries out a traffic stop. A new city audit finds the team is hindered by a lack of accountability that reduces community trust.

"We found that the Police Bureau cannot demonstrate that these stops were effective. This was because the Bureau did not require officers to collect certain information and also did not analyze available data," a summary from the reports said.

Without this data, the Gang Enforcement Team cannot analyze or explain the overrepresentation of African Americans in its stops, Caballero found.

For one practice, designating some people as criminal gang af-

filiates, the Police Bureau could not show that it complied with its own policy.

The Bureau acknowledged the community's mistrust of suspected gang lists last year and stop compiling them in October. But a second practice, making a list of most active gang members and associates, was still in use at the conclusion of the audit.

If police continue the most active list or other practices of collecting information on people's gang relationships, we recommend it should adopt a policy and put safeguards in place to protect people's rights and the accuracy of the information, the audit said.

In her formal response, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw agreed with the recommendations outlined in the reports. She said the Bureau has already made changes to its policies and practices as a result of the audits, but said there's still room for enhancements.

King March, Rally to Commemorate 50 Years

Leaders of the black community and advocates for social justice will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a march and rally.

All people who love democracy, freedom, justice, equality and peace and who desire to build King's "Beloved Community" are urged take a stand by attending the Wednesday, April 4 events, starting at 5 p.m. at the Japa-

nese-American Historical Plaza at Northwest Naito Parkway and Davis Street.

The group will then march across the Steel Bridge to the MLK statue outside the Oregon Convention Center for a 6:30 p.m. rally. Sponsors are the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

March for Our Lives

Tens of thousands of people led by high school students packed downtown Portland Saturday to take part in a national protest against gun violence. The resounding message from many was to adopt tougher laws against semi-automatic weapons and ammo. The musical group Portugal. The Man showed their support by participating in the "March for Our Lives" event and performing at pioneer Courthouse Square.

Former Church Leader Charged

An arrest warrant was issued this month for the former chief executive officer of Emmanuel Community General Services, a north Portland nonprofit associated with Emanuel Temple Church, for allegedly embezzling roughly \$70,000 from the organization. Clayborn Collins, 50, is facing one count of aggravated theft.

2nd Amendment Repeal Sought

Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is calling for

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the repeal of the Second Amendment to allow for significant gun control legislation. The 97-year-old Stevens said in an essay Tuesday on The New York Times website that repeal would weaken the National Rifle Association's ability to "block constructive gun control legislation."

Center of Landmark Case Dies

Linda Brown Thompson, who as a young girl was the student at the center of the landmark Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education that declared school segregation unconstitutional, has died in Topeka, Kansas. She was 76. Brown was in third grade in 1950 when she was denied admission to an all-white elementary school. Kansas schools at the time were segregated by state law.

No Charges in Police Shooting

Two Louisiana officers who fatally shot a black man selling CDs outside a convenience store in 2016 won't be prosecuted in the death, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry announced Tuesday. The 37-year-old victim was pinned to the pavement by two white officers when the shooting occurred. Attorneys for the victim's family slammed what they called a biased decision.

Protest Impacts Kings Game

Hundreds of outraged demonstrators rallied Thursday in Sacramento, Calif. to protest the police shooting of an unarmed black man, 22-year-old Stephon Clark, who was killed in his grandmother's backyard. The crowd first went into Sacramento's City Hall, then moved to Interstate 5 and blocked an entrance to the arena hosting a Sacramento Kings game. The basketball game eventually was played, but with few spectators as the doors to the arena were locked.



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