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Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 37



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • September 19, 2018



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PHOTO BY SHANE DIXON/VIA AP

Police stand outside the Cheerful Tortoise bar following the June 29 shooting of a Jason Washington, a 45 year-old black Navy veteran and postal worker who was shot and killed by Portland State University police while trying to stop a bar fight across from the campus.

Next Steps in PSU Shooting

Campus opens two probes; board open to disarming

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After a grand jury cleared two Portland State University police officers of criminal charges in the shooting death of a lawful-

ly armed black man and evidence from the case is before the public for the first time, the university will begin its own public investigations into the circumstances of the case which will include an examination of PSU's policing policies and may result in a decision to disarm campus police entirely, PSU officials said.

On Thursday, a Multnomah County Grand Jury determined that PSU police acted either in self defense or to protect

other lives when Jason Washington, a 45-year-old Navy veteran, father, grandfather, and U.S. Postal Service employee, was shot on June 29. The deadly confrontation marked the university's first officer-involved shooting since arming its security force three years ago in a controversial decision.

Evidence released to the public for the first time shows Washington was carrying his friend's firearm and had his own con-

ceal carry permit at the time. Body cam video from campus police show he was shot after trying to stop a bar fight outside the Cheerful Tortoise, a popular bar in the vicinity of the campus.

The two officers involved, Shawn McKenzie and James Dewey, fired 17 shots at Washington, after warning him to drop the gun.

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