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What's on your list today?®

Marsha Williams (from left), Kali Thorne Ladd, and Zalika Gardner are co-founders of KairosPDX, a public charter school in north Portland that was created in 2012 for the purpose of closing the achievement gap for underserved and minority students.

Achieving Success

KairosPDX school organization earns high praise

The organization behind a majority black charter school that is proving successful by using evidence-based teaching methods to close the achievement gap, and one that has been waged in a battle to keep its lease with Portland Public Schools, has been named a city leader for promoting civil rights and ending discrimination.

KairosPDX, operating a K-5 elementary out of the former Humboldt school at 4915 N. Gantenbein Ave., was named an outstanding community organization for 2018 by Portland's Human Rights Commission in the city's Office of Equity and Human Rights. The award is named after Emily G. Gottfried, a former Human Rights Commissioner and community leader who died in 2013.

Kairos PDX co-founder and executive director Kali Thorne Ladd called the recognition that the school is receiving "humbling" and took the opportunity to thank the community at large for the award.

"This work on behalf of children has been a phenomenal journey thus far and we are so grate-

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Consultant Quits Police Reform Panel

A black consultant with expertise in building partnerships between police and the community has stepped down from a new community panel formed to help oversee police reforms in the city of Portland.

Brandon Lee resigned from the group and gave up a $100,000 consulting contract the city granted to him and his wife, who run Training 4 Transformation, after complaining that an idividual committee member was racially hostile to him and created a hostile work environment, according to a story in the Oregonian.

Brandon Lee

It means a rocky start for the police reform panel, reinstated with new members after going idle two years ago when the first committee dissolved in acrimony amid the exit of justice reform leaders and committee members who served the group.

According to the report, the mayor's office tried to resolve the current dispute by coordinating mediation to resolve the issues between parties, but the offer was rejected by Lee. At the time, the husband and wife consulting group was also trying to increase the money the city paid for its services, records show.