

Blistering Schools Audit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

R-Salem, a longtime black lawmaker and business leader who attended Portland Public Schools in her youth, said the increase in racial discrepancies was a “a demand for change.”

“I believe if we address the lack of financial transparency and monitoring of school spending, we will begin to see increases in teacher retention rates and focus spending on what matters—the children’s ed-

ucation,” Winters said.

One day before the audit came out, Portland Public Schools officials held a press conference preemptively criticizing its findings, arguing the report’s analysis, which captured data from the 2017-18 school year, did not reflect the progress the district has made in its systemic issues since the hiring of Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero in October 2017.

The district, however, agreed

with the audit recommendations.

“We are addressing each and every concern raised in the audit,” district leaders said in a statement.

Guerrero told reporters it’s important to provide extra training, support, and pay to principals and teams of strong teachers at high-needs schools so they will stick around.

“This is going to take some work. But it’s work we’ve already embarked on,” he said.

The Accidental Organizer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

years prior.

MoveOn’s rapid response tool was designed to get triggered if certain “red lines” were crossed, which included things like Mueller being fired or his investigation being fundamentally compromised. Pre-planned, nationwide protests were designed to take place within 24 hours of the “triggering” event. Emails would immediately be sent out and MoveOn subscribers would be asked to join the demonstrations.

That “red line” was crossed in November with the appointment of acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker in the wake of Jeff Sessions’ resignation under pressure from Trump. Whitaker had been publicly critical of the Mueller investigation and refused to recuse himself from the probe as Sessions did.

LeDoux received a text message from the national organization informing him the rapid response tool was triggered and he worked to get the word out to people in the Portland area on the email list, asking them to show up to demonstrate the next day.

In the months prior, he had already reached out to City Hall, including Mayor Ted Wheeler and the City Commissioners, the Portland Police Department, and several elected officials to give them a heads up about the possibility of a demonstration, LeDoux said.

He set up plans with the city for protest locations, road closures and other ways to minimize any impacts on both TriMet and traffic.

Thanks to that preparation, the protests went off without a hitch and nearly 1,000 people gathered at Tom McCall Waterfront Park the evening of Nov. 8 calling on the Trump Administration not to interfere with Mueller’s abilities to carry out his investigation.

Oregon’s Democratic Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, along with Rep. Earl Blumenauer and others, attended, speaking to the crowd that evening, also urging support for Mueller’s independence.

No one was injured and no violence occurred at the event, thanks in part to LeDoux’s insistence during the planning

stages that protesters not violate any local ordinances.

He said he wanted to make sure the protest remain absolutely focused on protecting American democracy and the rule of law, and not about anyone’s feelings toward local figures, the police, or so on. In a Reddit post, he told supporters if the protest happens, “It will be much bigger than that.”

LeDoux added that the narrow focus was also designed to cast a wider net of potential participants, from across the political spectrum.

“You can be extremely conservative and still be uncomfortable with the idea of the justice system being subverted,” he said. “Violating local ordinances would have been a distraction. It would have definitely generated a police response, but the local police and government weren’t the issue. All of that energy needed to remain focused on the Department of Justice and the Mueller investigation.”

The efforts were the latest in a long line of political activism by LeDoux, including working communications and social media during the Occupy Portland demonstrations and campaigning for Bernie Sanders during his 2016 presidential campaign.

In 2007, he was an activist and supporter of Libertarian Presidential Candidate Ron Paul, helping create a website that drew donations that broke a single-day internet fund-raising record for the political candidate. Conceived to coincide with the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, LeDoux said the effort would later be co-opted by establishment Republicans to form the “Tea Party” movement in 2009.

By the time LeDoux joined the Occupy Portland movement, which was at the time the largest Occupy encampment on the West Coast, the experience had transformed from a centrist Libertarian to a Socialist, he said.

For LeDoux, the greatest takeaway of his “accidental organizing” and the other experiences he’s had in the battles for social justice was the realization that the actions or inactions of individuals can have a surprising and rippling impact on others.

“I take away the importance of showing up,” he said.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance City-Wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Service

Theme: “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos Or Community?”



Speaker: Chief Danielle Outlaw
Portland Police Bureau Chief

When: Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.

Where: Maranatha Church 4222 NE 12th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97212

TRIBUTE '19

MLK

LIVING THE LEGACY:
CONFRONTING ECONOMIC
INJUSTICE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



featuring

RUKAIYAH ADAMS

Hear Rukaiyah Adams—native Portlander, community activist and chief investment officer at Meyer Memorial Trust—speak about economic inequities and how to advance social change in our communities.

Monday

**JAN. 28
6:30pm**

Portland State University
Smith Memorial Student Union
Ballroom, 3rd floor
1825 SW Broadway

GET YOUR FREE TICKET

Available at:
pdx.edu/diversity
503-725-3307

For more information on additional events honoring Martin Luther King’s legacy, including a panel of Portland scholars and activists, visit pdx.edu/diversity.

#PSUDiversity

 Portland State
UNIVERSITY