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# Safe, Clean and Sober Leader Dies

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

of Miracles Club, located at Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard near Skidmore Street, Booker worked at the House of Umoja, a residential gang intervention program, and Stay Clean, Inc., an addiction treatment facility.

Booker took the leadership position at Miracles Club in 2016, where he oversaw its substantial growth in the form of the non-profit opening a secondary residential location, Miracles Central in the Lloyd District. His leadership was needed after a previous executive director, Herman Bryant, was sen-

tenced to three years in prison for embezzlement.

Booker was himself a longtime, card carrying member of the Miracles Club and served as a board member before then, during the organization's infancy in 1993. He later grew into a mentorship role for others in recovery.

Booker had known for years the Miracles Club founders—Sam Brown, Johnnie W. Gage, and Johnnie A. Gage, the latter of whom has now taken up the mantle of interim Miracles Club executive director.

In addition, Booker also owned a historic family business, Courtesy Janitorial, and was a Deacon at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church.

Miracles board member and friend of Booker Tim Wilson said the many hats Booker wore is how he was able to positively impact so many people's lives.

"[Y]ou got different people at the church, you got different people he's dealing with up in his business. And he was up there in all of those. I mean he was just the man in all of those," Wilson said.

"He was just a loyal, great man that left much too early," Mark Bradley, Booker's childhood friend, added.

Bradley and Booker's fathers were friends, Bradley explained, having survived the 1948 Vanport Flood together and later both moved to northeast Portland, where their sons were born and raised. Bradley's father owned a paint shop while Booker's father owned the family's janitorial supply store. Later, the sons took up the respective businesses of their fathers and helped each other out, lending equipment to each other for different jobs.

Bradley recalled that when his mother died, the always sharply dressed Booker took a new suit out of his own wardrobe and gave it to Bradley to wear during his mom's funeral.

"He was just that type of guy. Had a heart of gold," Bradley said.

Thomas Cooper, a chef at Heavenly Taste Café adjacent to the Miracles Club, told the Portland Observer Booker was his mentor in recovery and had known him for over two decades.

"He taught us how to live, pretty much to live life... He was a pillar in the community," Cooper said.

Pastor Dwight Minnieweather owns the Heavenly Taste Café, which many Miracles Club members frequent, though it is a different business entity.

Minnieweather told the Portland Observer he still hasn't really grasped Booker's passing.

"It's still kind of hard for me to come explain how I feel about it," Minnieweather said, adding that the hole Booker left in the community has left people "scattered."

"He was doing a whole lot." Minnieweather, who is a special events committee member of Miracles Club, had worked with Booker for different projects over the past 15 years.

"When Miracles was at this emergency point, he was the man who pulled us through the storm and got everything back in order."

Minnieweather said he hoped Booker's name could one day be dedicated to a future project of Miracles Club, like a library or building.

"I just really think it's important for the word to get out to the people of how important he was to our community. I truly think that needs to be driven home."

Booker was in talks to open an additional Miracles Center facility across the street from their current location, on Garfield Avenue and Mason Street, Minnieweather said. Like their previous two locations, it would include housing and mixed use facilities. A Miracles program in Gresham was also in the works.

Michael Booker's funeral is being planned for Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church and a tentative date is scheduled for July 10, McDonald said.

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## MONDAY - FRIDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 7 A.M.  
TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.  
TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
REV. AL SHARPTON  
KEEPING IT REAL

1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
KENNY SMOOV

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
D.L. HUGHLEY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
MIKE SHANNON

## SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.  
TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL  
WANGELA

12 NOON - 1 P.M.  
HIGHLAND C.C. LIVE  
BROADCAST

1 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

4 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
DOUGLAS WILLIAMS



Rev. Al Sharpton  
10am - 1pm



D. L. Hughley  
3pm - 7pm



Tom Joyner  
3am - 7am



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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