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LOCAL NEWS



A photo of the late Burdine Rutherford, courtesy Portland State University Special Collections and Portland Parks & Recreation.

Introducing Rutherford Park

First Portland park named for black woman

A newly redeveloped park in outer northeast Portland has been renamed to honor a late female leader from Portland's historic African American community, and removes a previous moniker for the park that drew racist connota-

tions.

The green space and playground formerly known as Lynchview Park at 167th and Market Street will be called Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park. It honors Rutherford, a civil rights leader and historian who lived in Oregon from 1913 to 2001.

As president of the Portland chapter of the NAACP she helped pass the Public Accommodations Bill, also known as the Oregon

Civil Rights Bill, which in 1953 outlawed discrimination in public places on the basis of "race, religion, color or national origin."

The park was recently renovated with a new playground, picnic shelter, paved pathways, public art and a soccer field.

Renaming the park was a project kick-started by former City Commissioner Nick Fish, who di-

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Police Defunding Proposals Pass

Vote eliminates former gang task force, school police

The Portland City Council followed through on a pledge from the Mayor and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty by voting to cut nearly \$16 million from the police budget in response to concerns about excessive use of force and racial injustice.

The money will be saved by eliminating a gun reduction violence team, formerly called the gang enforcement task force; school police resource officers; and the bureau's transit division. It redirects the revenue from police to social service programs.

Chloe Eudaly was the lone commissioner to vote no on the cuts made during a budget session on June 17, saying they weren't deep enough. The police budget had stood at about \$245 million before the council action.

Some protesters have demanded cuts of \$50 million for police, but City Commissioner Jo Ann

Hardesty defended the smaller amount, saying the \$50 million was not based on a specific analysis.

Hardesty worked for years to transform the Portland Police Bureau from the outside as an activist and was the first black woman on the City Commission when she was elected in 2019.

"What I know is that there are a lot of people taking to the street every night who have not before this month actually understood all the work that community and government has done," said Hardesty, who proposed smaller cuts to police in last year's budget that failed.

Thousands of protesters have filled the streets of Portland every night for three weeks following the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes.

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