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# LOCAL NEWS



In light of recent events of racial injustice, TriMet is re-evaluating its approach to public safety and security.

## TriMet Eyes Changes in Policing

Agency calls on public to guide response

TriMet says recent events of racial injustice, including the killing of George Floyd and too many others at the hands of law enforcement, has led the regional transit agency to take action to bring lasting change in policing.

The agency is re-evaluating its approach to public safety and security to make the transit system better—more safe, welcoming and equitable for all, officials said. Last month, as part of the effort, TriMet re-allocated \$1.8 million

in funding from traditional police services and other sources to community-based public safety services.

Now TriMet is launching a broad community outreach and engagement effort to help inform change in its safety efforts. In partnership with the Coalition of Communities of Color and DHM Research, TriMet will seek feedback from riders, community groups, local leaders and the public, as well as our frontline workers and security officers.

“We want to bring more voices into the conversation as we re-imagine public safety and security on our transit system,” said TriMet General Manager Doug

Kelsey. “Transit, in and of itself, brings social equity to a community, providing access to opportunity, connecting people from all races, religions and economic levels to jobs and education. We also want to ensure the security on our transit system is fair and free of bias as we address the needs of all our riders and employees to feel safe.”

TriMet will also research national best practices in equity and transit security. A third-party analysis of security challenges facing the region as well as the types of issues that riders experience on board buses and trains will also be completed.

For more on TriMet’s equity actions, visit [trimet.org/equity](http://trimet.org/equity).

## Ryan to Fill Vacant Council Seat

Candidate bests Smith in close runoff

Dan Ryan, a former Portland School Board member and executive director of a youth advocacy organization, will fill a vacant position on the Portland City Council left open by the death of City Commissioner Nick Fish in January.

Ryan narrowly outdistanced former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith in last week’s special runoff election to immediately fill the two years remaining of Fish’s term. The contest was a sequel to a May Primary election in which no candidate in the race captured a majority vote.

In the Aug. 11 special runoff, Ryan captured 51 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Smith, a crushing loss to a long time member and advocate for Portland’s African American community.

Smith issued a statement on Facebook thanking her supporters,



Dan Ryan

pledging to continue promoting progress for Black people in Portland, and asking others to join her.

“For all of us who genuinely believe that Black Lives actually do matter, I call on you to stop being silent and complacent to the anti-blackness that has permeated every facet of our community,” she said. “Indeed we cannot truly call ourselves a progressive city when progress is not being made for Black people in Portland.”

Ryan, who served as chief executive officer of the educational



Loretta Smith

nonprofit All Hands Raised, said he was honored and humbled to be elected. He thanked Smith for bringing her passion and love for the city into a special election race run amidst a global pandemic and largely defined by unrest surrounding police violence and the Black Lives Matter movement.

“This campaign was about bringing Portlanders together to address the issues we all face,” he said. “Our city is in crisis and I am eager to join in and get to work,” he said.

**The Portland Observer**  
 Established 1970 USPS 959 680  
 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,  
 Portland, OR 97211

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