

# Mapps Calls on End to Violence

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One of Mapps' first moves in city government will be to introduce the annual resolution celebrating Dr. King's birthday, he said.

"I hope this is the beginning of a reflective time in our city, a perfect time to think about the politics of peace," he said. "Two weeks after Martin Luther King's birthday, we'll be celebrating Black History Month, another opportunity to think about where we're going as a city, and I hope that as we head into March we really begin to put some concrete proposals for the city to bring down the violence."

Portland's murder rate nearly doubled last year, Mapps said, and we've "given up a generation" to gun violence. He said he plans on working closely with the mayor and Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, a frequent critic of Portland police tactics, to bring down the violence in downtown and reduce the murder rate that has spiked, particularly in east Multnomah County.

"I know the mayor cares deeply about this and we have

already begun discussions on moving forward with concrete proposals," he said.

Along with reducing violence and police reform issues to address, Mapps said the mayor has appointed him to head up the water bureau, environmental services, sewer department and 911 communications. He also was just assigned to oversee the Bureau of Hydroelectric Power, which manages decommissioned dams.

"It's an enormous obligation to deliver all these services," he said. "But the great thing about (city) staff is that they're motivated by challenges, have high standards and good delivery of basic services at equitable prices."

Mapps sees the pain of city businesses struggling to stay open because of COVID-19, but said we still have to think about protecting natural resources.

"We also need to re-imagine what an essential worker is," he said.

On MLK's legacy as a civil rights champion, Mapps said, he wants "to help people reflect on the lessons of King's work. It's incredibly important."



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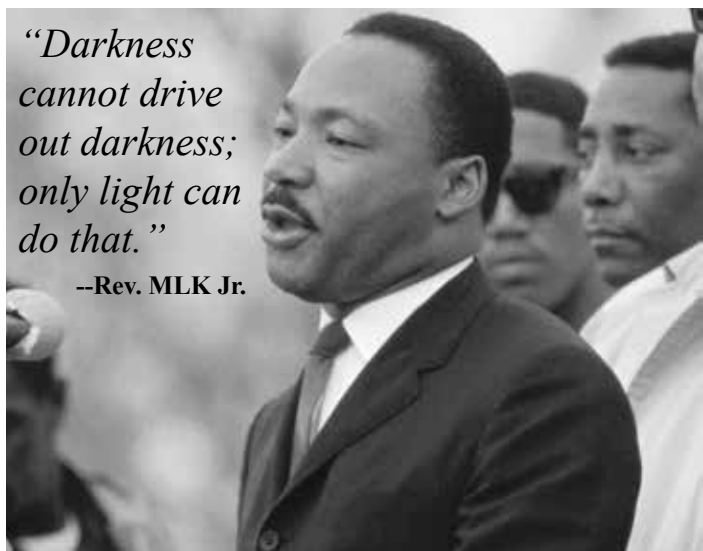
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