Black Voices Grow Power in Salem

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

health, three on civil rights and two labor bills.

When Frederick was first electwas the only African American issues, some that have been im- month in lifetime income. out of 60 representatives, and the portant issues for a long time. late Jackie Winters was the only African American senator. But today, the Legislature's Black, Indigenous and People of Color caucus, or BIPOC, includes a dozen lawmakers, including Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans and Vietnamese. One of its newest members, Kayse Jama of southeast Portland, appointed last month to fill a vacant have to do with over-testing in reparations and how a financial seat, is a native of Somalia and the first Muslim member of the ers and counselors of color into with that, "That's where the an-Senate.

"Now that we have 11 other ick said

Black lawmakers, Sens. Janelle said. Under an annuity, recipi- the 1960s that cut through neigh-

on for 11 years," Frederick said. arations," he said. "Not just in an exit ramps, but not increasing "Bills on excessive use of force, academic setting or around the lanes," Frederick said. "The Albills related to African American dinner table, but to look at how history in school curriculums, to craft reparations." bills that deal with use of force and discipline issues as well as ick says he supports U.S. Rep. training and recruitment."

schools, bringing more teach- system might be created to deal schools, and reducing class sizes. nuity comes in."

Frederick also supports repamembers of the Oregon Legis- rations for descendants of slaves portation committee, Frederick is lature who are people of color, and last month proposed a state also keeping a close eye on the we clearly made our views and bill to pay people who could I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement they discovered environmental desires known to the rest of the prove a heritage in slavery, a Project, which has been controlegislature. Twelve members is \$123,000 annuity, annually paid versial in the past. The project more than ever before," Freder- for the life of the applicant. Some seeks to undo some of the harm press reports, even national ones, to the Black communities that ing place," he said. "Those folks to Eugene, and I would like to The Portland lawmaker antici- got the proposal wrong by con- were obliterated by the construc- could have stepped forward 10 see it go all the way to the Calpates joining Jama and two other flating annuity with annual, he tion of the Interstate freeway in years ago and did not. Now they ifornia border."

Bynum, representing southeast ents would receive a portion of borhoods displacing many Black Portland and Happy Valley and the total each year, not the entire residents and local businesses. Jim Manning of Eugene and Junc- sum each year. For example, a The area was also decimated by tion City, on putting bills forward \$100,000 annuity for a 65-year- the construction of the Oregon sulted by. In some cases they are ed to the state House in 2009, he that deal specifically with racial old would pay out about \$500 per Convention Center and the ex-

> "The real key is that we are Hospital. "Some bills I've been working going to start talking about rep-

> > On the national level, Freder-

As a member of the state trans-

pansion of Legacy Emmanuel about."

bina Vision group calls for the freeway to be covered so we can put housing on top." Those discussions are ongoing, he said, Barbara Lee's reparations bill in and goes back to a bill approved Frederick said he's also work- Congress. He wants to hear more by voters in 2017 to increase ing on "more subtle" bills that on how Congress could approve taxes on gasoline and gasoline engines with the condition that congestion problems in the Rose Quarter section be addressed.

> cynical about some of the recent see a high-speed rail between interest in the project.

"Some folks decided because impacts on the African American community, to use that as leverage to stop the project from tak-

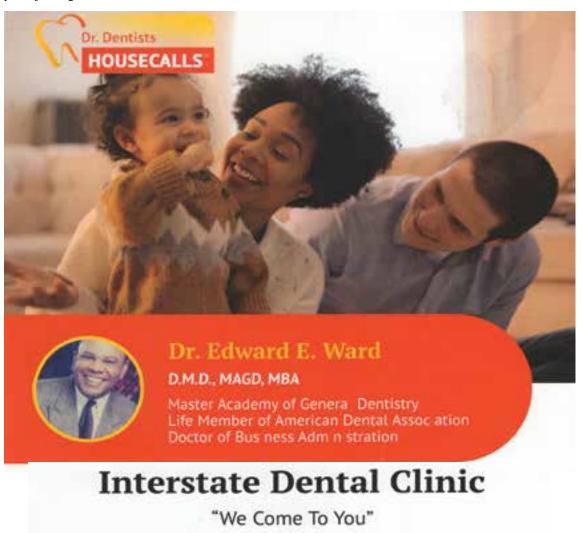
are stepping forward as though they are saving the Black community, but in most cases they are not Black folks, but a group of white folks saying, 'I really care about you.' It's a cynical approach that I reject and I am intruly sincere; others I'm not sure

Another example of detach-"The proposal is just to change ment from Black concerns was when a group was pushing the use of electric scooters to the Legislature.

> "The guy giving the pitch looked straight at me, and said how this would help the low-income community," Frederick said. "I said I didn't think that was true. They think they are trying to help, but they're being patronizing.

In other transportation issues, Frederick said he feels a little Frederick said he would like to Portland and Vancouver and be-

> "If we had a high-speed rail a lot of people would be using that instead of driving along I-5," he said. "We could also do Portland



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TriMet Honors Rosa Parks

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and led to a U. S. Supreme Court decision that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Just over a year after Parks' act of defiance, city officials were ordered to desegregate Montgomery's buses and Rosa Parks sealed her place in U.S. history.

TriMet Board of Directors member Keith Edwards, who is a lifelong advocate for civil rights, an electrician and union leader, and member of Portland's African American community, proposed the special no fares day of recognition for Parks.

In January, the TriMet Board passed a resolution which declared her birthday as a day to acknowledge her role in the civil rights movement. It changed TriMet code to allow for fares to not be collected on Feb. 4 this year and years to come.

fares are not being collected on tional origin. this day, we'll be able to tell them that Rosa Parks is being honored," said Director Edwards. "This is her birthday, and she's the mother of the civil rights movement. She moved the country by use of a bus in a great social effort to bring about equity and equality."

In unison with the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks' courageous demonstration greatly



Keith Edwards

contributed to the passing of the Civil Rights Act, a landmark federal law adopted in 1964. The law bans discrimination on the "When people wonder why basis of race, skin color or na-

TriMet has been a longtime advocate for respecting civil rights and promoting the value of the diverse community it serves. Leaders of the agency point to its adoption of policies to ensure that equity guides decisions around fares and service, evaluating all proposed changes to avoid unnecessary negative impacts on people of color and low-income populations.