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LOCAL NEWS

Madison Renamed

Leodis V. McDaniel was a beloved Portland educator

Portland Public Schools is renaming Madison High School as Leodis V. McDaniel High School for a well-known and admired black educator who died in 1987 while serving as principal of the northeast Portland school.

The unanimous decision last week by the Portland School Board followed the recommendation of the Madison school community and a recommendation by the district superintendent.

McDaniel, a Black man who served as the school's principal in the 1980s, earned praise for embracing his administrative duties with the singular purpose of fairness to all. He was said to be well-known for his kind demeanor, contagious laugh, absolute integrity, and his instinctual ability to deeply connect with all people.

The new name will become active this coming fall when the school is scheduled to open in a newly remodeled building. The school was originally named after James Madison, the fourth U.S. president, when it was founded in 1957. But Madison's ties to slavery were cited as reasons for the



Leodis V. McDaniel at Madison High School in the 1980s. The northeast Portland school will be renamed Leodis V. McDaniel High School in honor of the highly respected Black educator who died in 1987.

name change under a new district policy that takes into account the district's desire to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination.

The high school formed a renaming committee that engaged in several community outreach efforts and gathered nearly 2,500 comments to consider a new name

that fits the schools' stated values of community, respect, education, equity and diversity (CREED).

Prior to becoming principal at Madison, McDaniel worked as a science teacher at MacLaren School for Boys, a counselor at

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Hardesty Subject of False Report

Police say she was not involved in recent hit-and-run

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Mayor Ted Wheeler has called for a formal review into the events surrounding a report of an alleged hit-and-run crash on a Portland street that falsely named Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty as a suspect.

"What happened to Commissioner Hardesty is wrong and unacceptable," Mayor Wheeler said. "It's a reflection of broader systemic racism and it must be addressed. We need to get to the bottom of it as soon as possible. No one should be subjected to false accusations publicly."

Hardesty, a lifelong champion for police accountability in Port-



Jo Ann Hardesty

land, and the city's first Black female member of the City Council, was relieved to see the truth prevail, but said she was frustrated by the unnecessary burden put on her office to disprove a completely false accusation.

"Now the Portland Police Bureau has admitted what we knew all along - I was not involved in any way with any hit and run incident and am not a suspect. While I am relieved to see the truth pre-

vail, this incident brings up a number of urgent questions," she said. "How did this false information get leaked to the Oregonian and fringe right wing media groups?"

Hardesty called on those who made the accusations to take responsibility and apologize, "I hope those that brought this harm to me and my office today will feel compelled to do the same."

Earlier she called the allegations a partisan spear campaign involving a prominent Republican and other opponents to her demands for more police accountability.

"I'm telling you today, these allegations are false, and to be frank, these allegations are very suspicious," Hardesty said.

In a podcast on Thursday morning from the Coalition to Save Portland, a pro-police group and posted to Facebook, Jeff Reynolds, a former chair of the Multi-

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