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2021 Year in Review Con't

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Activist Named Marshall Leader



May 5 -- Vancouver NAACP President, Jasmine Tolbert, was recognized for her work responding to systemic racism and racial inequities by organizing listening sessions within Clark County, receiving a George C. Marshall Leadership Award from Vancouver's Historic Trust, in partnership with the city of Vancouver.

Gun Violence: Connecting the Dots



May 19 -- Community leaders Sam Sachs (from left), Dr. S. Renee Mitchell and Elijah Hasan stand in solidarity to introduce a campaign of billboards and other messages to stop Black-on-Black gun violence. Racism and self-hate fuel the crisis, the advocates for the African American community said.

Greene, Hollands for Schools

June 9 -- Herman Greene, pastor of Abundant Life PDX Church, and Gary Hollands, a small business owner and executive director of the nonprofit Albina Sports Program, get elected to the Portland School Board, joining incumbent Michelle Depass to give



the seven-member panel three Black representatives for the first time in its history. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

NAACP Rejects Police Meeting

Union scolded for opposing group's priorities

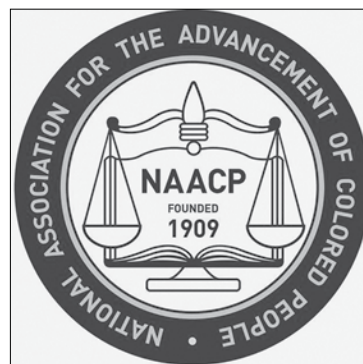
The Portland NAACP is citing the Portland Police Association's long history of opposing its police reforms and other basic changes in policing as reasons not to meet with the union.

The local civil rights group issued a statement last week reporting that it was recently contacted by Portland Police Association union head Aaron Schmautz asking for a virtual or in-person get together to discuss the state of the community.

NAACP leaders rejected the overture.

"We remain steadfast in our goals to prioritize models of safety that center community wholeness, over aiding a union that has seemed to prioritize punishment of our community, the impunity of officers, and the growth of their department," a NAACP statement said.

NAACP leadership pointed out that in a state that holds a deep history of institutional vi-



olence towards Black residents, the community should consider the role of the Portland Police Association, the oldest functioning police union in the country, in ongoing outcomes that have been negative for Black and minority residents.

The follow statistics of impacts on Black residents were supplied as an example:

Oregon holds the fifth worst incarceration rate for Black people in the country, despite being only 2% Black. Black Portlanders make up nearly 20% of traffic stops, despite being about 6% of the city's population. Of the more than 40 fatal shootings involving Portland police officers since 2003, a disproportionate number of those who have suf-

fered are Black Portlanders.

NAACP leaders said none of the Portland police officers involved in shootings have been indicted. Of those officers that have been put on leave, often paid, almost all end up back on the force or transferring to other area departments. Black people make up about half of the PPB's reported use of force incidents

Also, amid the urgent George Floyd uprising in Portland last year, Portland Police Bureau officers were tied to more than 6,000 documented uses of force, including the indiscriminate use of poisonous CS gas, more commonly referred to as tear gas.

"It is not lost on us that basic reform efforts have been railroaded by the union, whether it be a community-oversight board, dissolving problematic specialty units, or simply shifting money from their quarter-billion dollar budgets into non-law enforcement responses," the Portland NAACP said.

"It is clear our demands are not the priority of the Portland Police Association. We want

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A Living Legacy

Maurice Lucas Foundation gives back

The Maurice Lucas Foundation's 11th annual gala held virtually Dec. 9 raised nearly \$700,000 to support free academic and athletic programs for Portland youths. The total was almost \$100,000 above last year's event, officials reported.

KOIN-TV news anchor Ken Boddie and auctioneer Johnna Lee Wells again co-hosted the celebration. Foundation Executive Director and founder David Lucas, son of the late Portland Trail Blazer legend Maurice Lucas, served as the gala's master of ceremonies. Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams was presented the foundation's annual Maurice Lucas Enforcer Award.

The honor is given to an individual who best embodies many of the characteristics that its namesake displayed both on and off the basketball court, including motivating and empowering kids.

In his acceptance speech, Williams recalled the time he got to know Maurice Lucas when both served as assistant coaches for the Portland Trail Blazers.



David Lucas, son of the late Trail Blazer legend Maurice Lucas, presents an Enforcer Award during an annual celebration in his father's name to raise donations to support free academic and athletic programs for Portland area youth.

"I'm grateful for the lessons I learned from him," Williams said. "He had a huge impact on me. Thank you all for allowing me the honor of having this award."

Williams also thanked Portland, "that allowed me to be a part of the community and the culture that Luke helped build."

Bill Walton, Lionel Hollins and Bobby Gross (all members of the Blazers' 1977 championship team) are among the award's past recipients, along with Bill Russell, Bill Schonely and Nate McMillan. Maurice Lucas was the lead-

ing scorer on the 1977 NBA champion Portland Trail Blazers and a five-time NBA All-Star. He had a storied 14-year career in professional basketball, but off the court is where Maurice built his legacy of community service. Maurice passed away Oct. 31, 2010, at age 58.

The foundation carries on his legacy by working with youth to help them realize their individual potential through education and sport. More information about the foundation and Maurice Lucas is online at www.ML20.org.