

Security Owner Provides Safety for Multiple Businesses

BY MOLLY WASHINGTON

Hasan Artharee, owner of Safeguard Security, grew up in the facilities management and security industries. His grandfather owned Oregon's oldest Black-owned business Coast Industries, a facilities management company, and Empire Security, a security company. Some of his earliest jobs involved working for these companies and so it was no surprise that Hasan continued the family legacy of business ownership.

Hasan earned his bachelor's degree from Portland State University and his master's degree from Willamette University, which provided the tools to understand the ins and outs of running and managing a business. Although the education he obtained provided validity, the actual experience and knowledge was learned hands-on. Leaning on generations of hard work of his family and the experience and knowledge shared, Hasan attributes that generational knowledge to his ability to navigate and avoid some of the missteps that trip up other new business owners.

Safeguard provides security services that focus on new construction, asset protection, and fire watch. The relationships with its customers have been instrumental to the success of Safeguard. Most of the businesses that Safeguard works with are repeat customers and their success is tied to the success of Safeguard and vice versa. The security industry has become increasingly more challenging in recent years but Hasan takes it in stride, evolving his employees' training to meet the needs of being a security "ambassador to the community," as he describes it. To prepare their security officers for this role, Safeguard provides empathy training and reinforces compassion, respect,



Hasan Artharee

and independent choice. "There is a different level of empathy we have to have for the community and so we try to be ambassadors whether you're somebody going to work, somebody sleeping on the street, somebody using drugs right in front of us, we try to treat them all with respect because again, you would want the same kind of treatment if you were in that situation," Hasan explains. "Empathy is huge in public safety." "The goal," he says, "is to show them that we are treating them with respect, to show them we are empathetic about their situation, and to offer them services that the City offers for them."

Building Futures in Construction

BY MOLLY WASHINGTON

Jeff Moreland is the President of Raimore Construction, a Black-owned heavy civil contractor, doing large infrastructure and streetscape construction projects for over 20 years in the Portland area. Originally from the west side of Dayton, Ohio, his ancestors traveled north from Georgia to escape the racism of the south.

What happens when you grow up in an environment where everyone looks like you? Black doctors, Black teachers, Black dentists, Black-owned supermarkets, Black-owned shopping center, where everywhere that you look, is a reflection of you and all that you can become? The word that comes to mind is Empowered. Jeff's answer: "I had a sense of, while growing up, of confidence in myself... everybody I knew was brilliant."

It is no wonder that in everything it does, Raimore Construction's belief in Empowerment is front and center. Over 70% of the management staff are people of color or women; 50% of the workforce are people of color or women. The company believes in training people and it looks for talent and a strong work ethic above all else. "Our people are brilliant.... Minorities are some of the most intelligent people I've been around.... That's not seen that way because some of them don't necessarily have the formal education. But in terms of just sheer intelligence and brilliance, we stack up with anybody. And to be able to give them that opportunity to show what they can actually do is what I have done because I realize that's really all it takes. This industry has locked them out of that... You can learn to be anything because you have that aptitude to be able to do that. That's the way it's always been for us but we just haven't had those opportunities. So what I do at Raimore is to make sure people get those opportunities



Jeff Moreland

and then they're able to get in where they fit in."

Not only does Raimore support its workforce in this way, but it helps people to fly. "That's what it's all about. It's not trying to be a gate keeper but it's trying to open up the flow as much as you can for our people, all of our people to benefit from the opportunities that we have historically not benefited from in construction."

After all, if you ask Mr. Moreland what has been the most instrumental in achieving the success of the business, he will tell you unequivocally – "Faith and People, just that simple."

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