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Trayvon Killing Aftermath

Parents attend public forum on racist attacks against youth

By Bruce Poinsette
Special To The Skanner News

In response to the Trayvon Martin shooting, around 80 men and 20 women gathered at Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI) this past Tuesday to discuss police brutality and strategic action in the Black community.

"We wanted to meet and figure out what people can do individually to change their communities," says Blake Dye, organizer of the event. "I don't think the Black community in Oregon communicates well. There are a lot of people of common interest but we just don't know it."

The event, billed as "The Conversation," was put on by the Phi Beta Sigma, a fraternity that runs on a social justice platform.

Males of different ages, backgrounds, occupations and faiths attended the event. Dye dismissed members of the major news media so participants would feel more comfortable expressing their views and emotions.

The meeting began with an outpouring of anger at not just the Trayvon Martin shooting, but the killings of Black men, specifically in Portland.

"There was a lot of pain in the room," says Dye. "People needed to be heard. They needed other Black men to hear who they were."

Some men shared experiences of having family members killed while others expressed thoughts on the age gap. One man even proposed entering the bicycle industry to spur economic empowerment, after telling his story of working for years at Freightliner.

While Dye acknowledges that the sharing of emotions was important, he says he didn't want it to be two hours of emotional rehashing.

The men broke into three groups to discuss specific ideas and strategies. These smaller groups were facilitated by the three

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FIRE FRASHOUR



PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

Pastor LeRoy Haynes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition addressed a Monday rally on the steps of City Hall calling on Mayor Sam Adams to make sure former Portland Police Officer Ronald Frashour -- who fatally shot Aaron Campbell in the back in 2010 -- doesn't get his badge and gun back. A state arbitrator ruled Friday that Frashour was wrongly terminated.

Rogue Cop Gets Badge Back

Crowd calls for throwing out arbitration system for police firings

Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

As predicted by many, including the Skanner News, former Portland Police Officer Ron Frashour — who fatally shot in the back an unarmed man having a mental health crisis in 2010 — has been reinstated to his job by a state arbitrator.

A small but lively crowd of under 200 people marched and rallied outside City Hall today, as Mayor Sam Adams told

reporters inside that he and his staff are looking at ways they can appeal the state labor relations officials' decision.

Adams, who took over the job of police commissioner and fired former Chief Rosie Sizer months after Campbell's killing in 2010, made no question about his commitment to trying to overturn the arbitrator's ruling — however it remains clear that may not be possible.

"Frashour remains on 'terminated status' with the Portland Police Bureau and he will

remain that way until we figure out a means of asking for a second opinion from the State Employment Relations Board, which has jurisdiction over this matter," Adams said Monday afternoon.

Asked if he was surprised by the ruling, Adams did not answer directly.

"You know as an actual decision maker in this process I believe that our investigation was very thorough and the discipline that we pursued and enacted was the fair discipline

based on the merits of the case," he said.

"Again, we didn't find evidence of malice in Mr. Frashour's actions and judgments but we did find that he acted outside of police protocols — and part of the protocols include making good decisions."

Adams strongly stated that he is committed to making positive changes within the department — and that Chief Mike Reese is too.

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The Skanner News Converts to Solar

The newspaper office is now operating largely off the grid

Green is the new Black — at least at The Skanner News. Our building is getting a new, energy efficient makeover that has reduced our energy use, and sends power back into the electricity grid.

I'll be honest with you. Our 1970s-era

Since Killingsworth Street is now designated a historic preservation area, it took a planning hearing and a special permit

building, at 415 N. Killingsworth Street, has always been a great environment — for

plants. Check out our stairwell, drenched in light from the overhead skylight, and feel the fear: those killer tomatoes are baaaack. As for human beings? That's another story. We have sweltered through summers and we've shivered through winters. Don't tell anyone, but our brainy news editor keeps furry slippers under her desk! And yes, they

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