



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

TED BANKS
Advertising Manager

JERRY FOSTER
Account Executive

LISA LOVING
News Editor

HELEN SILVIS
Multimedia Editor

DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.,

415 N. Killingsworth St.,

P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228.

Telephone (503) 285-5555.

E-mail: info@theskanner.com

World Wide Web site:

<http://www.theskanner.com>

Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2012 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

To see *The Skanner News* on your smart phone go to theskannermobile.com or scan this QR code with your app.



- Local news
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Music reviews
- Bulletin board
- RSS feeds

Don't Play Politics With Our Lives

The police union and the arbitrator can't ignore the public

Portland had barely begun to digest the 42-page Department of Justice report on police misuse of force, before justice itself took another blow. The state's Employment Relations Board, wearing blinders, upheld an arbitrator's decision that the City of Portland can't fire a police officer.

Officer Ron Frashour shot and killed Aaron Campbell, an unarmed man grieving the death of his brother that same day. An investigation showed Frashour shot Campbell in the back as he fled after being shot by a beanbag gun. The fatal shot came less than one minute after he emerged from an apartment with his hands behind his head.

Police Chief Mike Reese fired Frashour after the killing.

"You were not reasonable in concluding that Campbell posed a threat at the level required to use deadly force," he said in the termination letter.

It wasn't the first incident where Frashour had used excessive force. In 2006, he used a taser against Keith Waterhouse, when Waterhouse was filming police activities. That cost the city \$55,000 in damages.

No matter. The police contract gives the final say to an arbitrator and a state employment board that have shown them-

EDITORIAL

Bernie Foster

selves to be heavily weighted in favor of fired officers – and against the public interest. Not one single firing has been upheld.

Arbitrator Jane Wilkinson, swayed by testimony from police trainers, decided that the shooting was "within policy." Those are the very same trainers who came under fire in the DOJ report for teaching officers that Officer Christopher Humphreys' tasing of a 12-year-old girl was a good example of correct taser use. The DOJ called that, "callous."

Wilkinson, like the three-person board, ignored the city's argument that reinstating Frashour would violate longstanding public policy against unreasonable use of force. City attorneys say that is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, the state constitution and the city's charter.

Something is terribly wrong with a system that makes it impossible for the city to fire an employee. No arbitrator should be able to overrule the decision of the police chief and our elected officials. From our city leaders to the cops on the street, all are accountable to the citizens they are supposed

to serve.

This might be the city that works; but police officers jobs are not an entitlement. Police officers are hired to serve the public. And if they can't do that, they should find another job.

We've been told that Portland's police chief can't fire an officer, who has lost all trust of the community he swore to protect and serve.

In fact, the City has been ordered to reinstate Frashour with back pay and benefits, and put him back on the streets. To do what?

No other agency is giving the responsibility of taking a human life in a split second. We're not talking about some traffic stop or fender bender. We can't play politics with the lives of Portland citizens.

We call on the Department of Justice to ensure that its final settlement with the City — due Oct. 12 — includes language that will make a repeat of the Frashour fiasco impossible.

Thankfully, Mayor Adams

says he wants the City Council to take this case to the highest authority: the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Adams says he promised in April to push this case to the limit. "What we're investing in here is to have more local control of our very own police bureau," he said yesterday. "It is totally worth it, and Portlanders want us to do this."

Mr. Mayor, you are absolutely right. This is a test of who runs the police bureau. Is it the police chief and the city commissioners? Or is it the police union and its friends on the Board of Employment Relations.

Mayor Adams, we are behind you. And we encourage the City Council and the citizens of Portland to support you to the hilt. Without public trust and confidence, without overall accountability to the police chief, the mayor and our elected officials, the Portland Police Bureau might as well be an occupying army.

What do you think?

Leave your comments here:

Post your comment on articles in *The Skanner News* at www.theskanner.com

Companies Continue to Insult Black Consumers

When I was in the process of reading and writing about Nielsen and the National Newspaper Publishers Association's report on African-American buying power for this week's Black newspapers, I was reminded of how many top companies continue to take advantage of Black consumers while providing little, if anything, in return.

They are not the only ones at fault – so are we. People treat you the way you allow them to treat you. The same can be said of corporations, though they are not, as Mitt Romney contends, people. The Nielsen report notes that Black spending power, which totals \$695 billion a year, is expected to soar to \$1.1 trillion by 2015. And very few of those dollars are reinvested by advertising in the Black media.

It's a matter of respect. As Black publishers point out, if a company advertises in the Washington Post or the New York Times, it could be speaking to anyone. However, when it advertises in the Black media, we know they are speaking directly to our audience and are taking us seriously as valued consumers.

For the most part, that's not happening.

When Nielsen lists the top companies advertising with Black media, some familiar names are nowhere to be found. Eight of the top U.S. 10 banks are not on the list of top 10 financial/insurance



THE CURRY REPORT

George E. Curry

companies advertising in the Black media.

JP Morgan Chase has overtaken Bank of America as the top bank in the U.S., with assets of \$2.2 trillion. Don't shed any tears for second-place Bank of America, which has assets of \$2.13 trillion,

Let the "banksters" know how you feel about their actions

or CitiGroup with \$1.8 trillion. Neither of them is among the top 10 entities advertising with the Black media.

But African-Americans hold checking or savings accounts at all three banks. Let's put them on notice by sending them a copy of this column and my story, which is carried in this week's NNPA papers and is posted on BlackPressUSA.com. Tell them that by the time the next Nielsen report comes

out a year from now if they are not on that list, they will be added to one of our lists, not the one people brag about.

If banks can disregard us, we can disregard them by closing our accounts and moving them to a bank that shows its appreciation. If you have accounts at either JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, CitiBank (CitiGroup), Bank of New York Mellon, PNC Financial Services, State Street Corp., Capital One or SunTrust Banks, put them on notice today that they will lose a valuable customer if they continue along this path.

In terms of a national campaign, I suggest first focusing on the three largest banks. Here's contact information for their top official:

Mr. James Dimon
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
JP Morgan Chase
270 Park Avenue, 39th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-270-1111
Fax: 212-270-1121
Email Address:
jamie.dimon@jpmchase.com

Mr. Brian T. Moynihan
Chief Executive Officer
Bank of America Corporation
100 N. Tryon St.
Charlotte, N.C. 28255
Phone: 704-386-5681
Email:
Brian.T.Moynihan@bankofamerica.com

Mr. Vikram Pandit
CEO
CitiBank
399 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
Phone 212/793-1201 or 212/559-1000
Email: vikram.pandit@citi.com

Let the "banksters" know how you feel about their actions.

To add insult to injury, \$182.5 billion of our tax dollars went to bail out American International Group – or Notorious AIG, as comedian Bill Maher calls them – but they have not reciprocated with the Black media. AIG, the largest insurance company in the world, is MIA.

You can't turn on the television without seeing one of those horrendous man/ape commercials about GEICO. Yet, GEICO is monkeying around with us by also being absent from the list of top advertisers.

African-Americans over index on mobile phones. Verizon is a top advertiser with the Black media but not AT&T, Sprint or T-Mobile. If they haven't joined the list by next year, we should pull the plug on them.

Read the rest online at www.theskanner.com

