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## Police Fairness Hearing

City Council punts accountability issue to judge, Feb. 18

Helen Silvis Of The Skanner News

Judge Michael Simon will listen to what public thinks about the Department of Justice settlement with the City of Portland after the report that said Portland Police used excessive force and violate the rights of people with mental illness.

### Fair? Adequate? Reasonable?

Those are the values that U.S. District Judge Michael Simon will consider when he rules on the proposed settlement agreement between the City of Portland and the Department of Justice. The agreement came in response to a civil rights investigation showing Portland Police Bureau used excessive force against people with mental illness.

But before Judge Simon decides on the proposed agreement, he wants to hear whether Portlanders think it is fair, adequate and reasonable. That's why Simon has set a Fairness Hearing for Feb. 18, where the public is invited to speak out in court, or submit comments in writing or by video.

"The police union is going to make sure their voice is heard. The Department of Justice and the City of Portland are going to give their opinions. So it's really important that the public has its voice heard," says Jo Ann Hardesty, a former state legislator and longtime police accountability activist.

Everyone who wants to make a statement is invited to testify at the hearing, set to start at 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the U.S. District Courthouse, Courtroom 13B 1000 SW 3rd Ave.

If you care, be there, Hardesty says.

### Why it Matters: The DOJ and Portland Police Bureau

The DOJ opened a civil rights investigation into Portland Police Bureau in 2011 after a string of fatalities, including the

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# SEAHAWKS



PHOTO BY MONICA FOSTER

The cheapest tickets on the resale market for this weekend's playoff in Seattle are hovering around \$200, considered the most expensive in the country, but the Better Business Bureau says no matter how much you are willing to spend, you need to watch out for fakes and rip-offs.

## Going to the Big Games? Watch Out!

Seahawks' high ticket prices mean fakes, scams and ripoffs

Lisa Loving Of The Skanner News

Seahawks fans heading to the Superbowl game in New Jersey on Feb. 2 might need to put a second mortgage on the house to afford prices already as high as \$12,000 a seat.

The cheapest tickets on the resale market for this weekend's playoff in Seattle

are hovering around \$200, considered the most expensive in the country.

But the Better Business Bureau says no matter how much you are willing to spend, you need to watch out for fakes and rip-offs.

Be especially careful of online deals, BBB spokesman David Quinlan says, and make absolute sure you can see and touch the tickets before forking over thousands

of dollars for them.

He says that any deal that looks too good to be true probably is.

"That's why if you're going to make a deal with someone, obviously meet them in public, look at the tickets, inspect them; know what a real ticket feels like - it's kind of that hard cardboard," Quinlan

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## Minimum Wage Rose 15 Cents

But critics say the hike is far from enough to create living wage jobs

By Helen Silvis Of The Skanner News

Washington now has the highest state minimum wage in the country, and Oregon the second-highest. Both are among 21 states, whose minimum wage is higher than the federal minimum of \$7.25 an hour.

Oregon's minimum wage rose 15 cents to \$9.10 an hour, Jan. 1. Washington's minimum wage rose to \$9.32 an hour in 2014.

But experts say that even the

highest minimum wages in the country are far from a living wage.

"Nobody who works a full-time job should be living in poverty," Labor Secretary Tom Perez told host Gwen Ifill on PBS Newshour Jan. 6. "And there are so many people who are."

"And that is why the president and I and so many others on a bipartisan basis so strongly support an increase in the minimum wage. But that's not enough either. We do so much at the

Department of Labor, for instance, to invest in skills, so that people have the tools necessary to compete for today and tomorrow's jobs and have those ladders of opportunity to the middle class."

Fast-food workers across the country have been at the forefront of a grassroots movement to demand substantial increases to the minimum wage. Staging one-day strikes in some of America's largest cities, the workers asked for a wage floor of \$15 an hour. Their slogan?

"We can't survive on \$7.25."

Many economists agree. Last year, a study for the Washington DC-based think tank The Economic Policy Institute suggested a single parent with two children would need to earn \$24 an hour to live comfortably.

Voters in SeaTac, Washington passed an initiative for a \$15 an hour minimum, but opponents are challenging the new law. A judge ruled Dec. 27 that the law did not apply to workers at Seattle-Tacoma International air-

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