

Multnomah County Burn Ban and Crackdown on Illegal Fireworks

Starting July 1, Portland Fire and Rescue has issued a limited burn ban for Multnomah County. No open fires are permitted, including ceremonial and recreational fires. Barbecues are allowed in approved devices such as outdoor grills, but not in natural areas.

Legal fireworks are allowed. Portland Fire and Rescue urge people to use caution and follow the following safety rules:

- Use only in open areas over non-combustible surfaces such as concrete or asphalt
- Have water available to extinguish fire or cool burns
- Use a clean metal bucket to place expended fireworks
- And never attempt to re-light a dud

The ban covers the entirety of Multnomah County which includes areas in Gresham, Corbett and Sauvie Island. High temperatures and dry weather prompted the agency to issue the limited ban.

Portland Fire Chief Erin Janssens is asking residents to be on the lookout for illegal fireworks and to report them to 503-823-BOOM (2666), a new hotline to report illegal fireworks. If it is an emergency, such as a fire or emergency medical problem, call 9-1-1.

Oregon law bans possession, use, or sale of any fireworks that fly, explode, travel more than one foot into the air, or more than six feet on the ground. Fireworks purchased from another state are likely to be illegal.

Law Enforcement Scams Continue

The Washington County Sheriff's Office and local police agencies have received numerous complaints from the public concerning a warrant or jury duty scam. The person would ask for a payoff to avoid arresting the person that supposedly had a warrant, missed jury duty or had other financial issues.

According to the Washington County Sheriff, if a person has a warrant for

their arrest, a law enforcement officer is required to take them into custody and not take any type of payment to clear the warrant. The Sheriff's Office is advising anyone who receives a call like this to report it immediately.

Other local law enforcement agencies have received reports with similar circumstances.

This scam is a variation of other incidents where scammers will call or email

with the promise of something in exchange for cash, Green Dot prepaid cards, money wires, or any other form of payment that involves urgency.

Investigators are seeking the public's help regarding similar scam cases.

If you have any information, or have recently received a solicitation that seemed suspicious, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 629-0111.

Charges Dropped for Activists Arrested After Last Thursday

By Donovan M. Smith
Of *The Skanner News*

Two activists arrested after aiding one of the victims of a shooting at the Last Thursday festival in May have had all charges dropped after entering respective "no contest" pleas.

Marcus Cooper, 26, and Loren Ware, 23, (a popular Portland rapper who performs as Glenn Waco) each faced two counts of interfering with police in addition to a harassment and disorderly conduct charges.

Cooper told *The Skanner* that after reading the police report from the May 28 incident, he determined that pleading no contest would be better than entering a guilty or not guilty charge for both himself and Ware.

"I took the plea, mainly because if I took it to trial I'm not jeopardizing the risk of me having to explain to a [likely] all-white jury why me being Black is valid," he says.

Cooper and Ware have both been involved with the anti-violence group Don't Shoot PDX nearly since the time of its inception about a year ago.

Despite all charges being dropped, the two will have to complete 24 hours of community service to appease the courts.

"At the end of the day, small victories like this is what they throw at us to feel like we've won everything but in actual reality, I'm still going to wake up tomorrow and be Black in Portland," Cooper says.

Cooper says due to the trauma sustained back in May, and the association of Last Thursday with gentrification, he will avoid

the event in the future.

The shooting garnered national attention after two 15-year-old Jefferson High School students and a 25-year-old woman were shot at the event, which manages to draw close to 10,000 in the summer months.

Another teenager, 16-year-old Turon Lamont Walker, of Vancouver, Wash., stands as the lone accused shooter in the case and three counts each of attempted murder with a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon.

Attempted murder is a Measure 11 offense, which means Walker is being charged as an adult.

Walker has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Police dubbed the gunfire, even with one of the victims being friends that came to the fair together, as "gang-related," bumping its gang violence response calls up to 64, up more than a dozen from last year at the same time.

With the shooting close to a month in hindsight, all victims have survived and are in various stages of recovery.

Though happy to have his charges dropped, Cooper says, the problems he and the community are fighting exist beyond the legal system and beyond that May evening on Thursday.

"I can win my case, Glenn can win his case, we can get dismissed, we can get rich off of this, but we're not going to be remembered for that," Cooper says. "We're remembered due to the gang violence. That's what we're going to be remembered as, and that is the issue."

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