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Portland and Seattle

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40 Years of Service

Issues: Policing



State Sen. Avel Gordly speaking with Hollywood Community police officer Rosanne Lee at Beaumont Elementary School



Portland's finest gathered before the Albina Head Start building: top row: John Frater and Cliff Madison; middle row: Marci Jackson, Shelly Kirkland, Andrew Kirkland, Derrick Foxworth; bottom row: Rod Beard, Diane Avery (support staff), Dorothy Elmore, Charles Moose, Kelly Lewis, Harry Jackson



Portland Police surprised a local family with a new dining room set in October of 2014, and newly hired Police Chief Larry O'Dea also repaired their old table – just before surprising the family with the new furniture.



Vera Pool (left) and State Rep. Avel Gordly looking over newly released policing manual during Community Policing Forum at King School

I, too, am a white reader of The Skanner. I think The Skanner is a necessary counterweight to The Oregonian and the Portland Tribune, both of which passively accept police narratives as true – including the insta-labeling of black youth as gang members without evidence. Within 5 minutes of any crime happening along MLK, for instance, there is a police spokesman dropping “gang-affiliated” even before they know what happened.

Issues of concern to the black community that are marginalized by mainstream media cannot disappear

because The Skanner elevates and highlights them. Because systemic racism traps many African Americans in poverty, The Skanner also tracks and highlights economic justice issues that affect all Oregonians.

So yes, congratulations on 40 years and here’s hoping that you continue at least 40 more as a counterforce to the unending efforts to trivialize and marginalize the concerns of Portland’s black community.

—RuthAlice Anderson