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Longtime community activist Cameron Whitten is now executive director of Know Your City.

Whitten Steps Into New Role

New executive director of Know Your City talks about his vision

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

When Cameron Whitten arrived in Portland, he was a homeless youth trying to find his way in the city. He became an advocate for marginalized communities during the Occupy Portland movement and ran for Mayor of Portland. In June 2012, Whitten went through a 55-day hunger strike to bring attention to the Right 2 Dream Too homeless camp.

Since then, Whitten has served on many advocacy boards such as the City Club of Portland's Advocacy and Awareness Board and the Transit Eq-

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Shooting in San Bernadino

Multiple people were shot Wednesday at the Inland Regional Center
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Nick Cannon Talks About Spike Lee's New Movie
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MARCH



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Irene Torres and her five-month-old daughter, Luna, joined hundreds of Black Lives Matter protestors in downtown Seattle Nov. 27, with the intent of disrupting commerce on Black Friday. The protests, which went on for about six hours, resulted in four arrests and one injured police officer.

Activists Take to the Street on Black Friday

Nationwide campaign urged Black Americans to keep pocketbooks closed

By Donovan M. Smith
Of The Skanner News

Activists stormed the Lloyd Center shopping mall Friday. They used Black Friday — when many retailers open early and offer deep discounts to kick off the Christmas shopping season — to call attention to ongoing injustices affecting African Americans.

The rally — dubbed “Black Lives Matter, Not Black Friday” — saw a diverse crowd of hundreds gather at adjacent Holla-

day Park. Afterward they took to the streets and then entered the mall itself.

Teresa Raiford, lead organizer for Don't Shoot Portland, who helped put the protest together, said organizers intentionally chose Black Friday as a rally day for the second year in a row. The idea was to highlight links between consumerism, capitalism and the deaths of African Americans.

The Portland Police Bureau sent a media advisory out Nov. 25 detailing their plans for several events

scheduled for Black Friday, including the demonstration.

“As with all demonstrations and marches, the Police Bureau's goal is to ensure a safe, secure and orderly event for community members and to minimize disruptions to traffic,” the release said. “There is no specific information or concerns about the threat of violence, but the Portland Police Bureau will respond as it does with any large-scale event and have a number of officers in the area.”

Officer John Hurlman, a 24-year veteran of the Portland police force, was reassigned to an off-street job the day of the protest after he posted about the protest using his personal Twitter account.

“Black Lives Matter is planning to protest at Lloyd Center on black Friday. Oh joy, stuck late again at work to babysit these fools,” Hurlman wrote. The tweet was subsequently deleted but screen captures circulated widely on social

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Defense Disputes Whether Officer Could Have Saved Freddie Gray's Life

By David Dishneau, Juliet Linderman, Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Seven months after Baltimore erupted in riots over the death of Freddie Gray, the first of six police officers charged in the case went on trial Wednesday, with a prosecutor saying the patrolman could have saved Gray's life simply by pushing a button on his uniform to call for a medic.

Attorneys for Officer William

Porter disputed that claim and others made by prosecutors, including exactly when Gray was critically injured in the back of a police van and whether the young black man told Porter he couldn't breathe.

Porter wasn't involved in Gray's initial arrest in April, but he was present at five of six stops that a police transport van made during a 45-minute ride after Gray was taken into custody. At one point, prosecu-

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ROB CARR/POOL PHOTO VIA AP

William Porter, one of six Baltimore city police officers charged in connection to the death of Freddie Gray, arrives at a courthouse for jury selection in his trial, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Baltimore.