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tors said Porter asked Gray if he needed a medic, and the young black man replied that he could not breathe and could not move from the floor of the van, where he had been placed head-first, in plastic handcuffs and leg shackles.

Instead of calling a medic, prosecutors say

of a severe spinal injury he suffered while riding in the back of police van without a seatbelt. Gray arrived at a police station unresponsive, was taken to a hospital and died a week later.

The prosecutor said Gray's neck was broken between the second and fourth stops and that

“The city paid extra to get those seat belts in that van, any one of which would have saved Mr. Gray's life

Porter picked Gray up from the floor and placed him in an upright position on the bench, and did not secure him in a seatbelt, as required by Baltimore Police Department policy.

Pointing to a poster-sized photo of the van with one of its rear doors open, prosecutor Michael Schatzow said: “The city paid extra to get those seat belts in that van, any one of which would have saved Mr. Gray's life.”

Defense attorneys said when Gray began requesting aid, “he showed no signs of needing medical attention because he hadn't suffered the injury yet.”

While Gray's death is tragic, “so is charging someone who did not precipitate it.”

Porter, who is also black, faces charges of involuntary manslaughter, second-degree assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment. The charges carry maximum prison terms totaling about 25 years.

Porter is expected to take the stand in his own defense.

Gray, 25, died April 19

such an injury would have impacted his ability to breathe. He implied the injury occurred when the van slammed on its brakes.

“If it slams on its brakes, he's going to move at the speed it was going before it slams on its brakes,” the prosecutor said. “He's completely at the mercy of whatever happens.”

The defense attorney told jurors that a man who shared the transport van with Gray from the fifth stop to the final stop at the Western District station house told investigators that Gray was flailing in the van, attempting to injure himself.

Prosecutors said Gray didn't change positions between the fifth stop and the final stop because he'd already suffered the injury.

A jury was seated in a process that was relatively brisk, given defense assertions in pre-trial proceedings that it would be impossible to seat an impartial panel. Judge Barry Williams questioned 150 jurors over two days, mostly out of public view.

Allen Temple CME Church Restoration

Allen Temple CME Pastor Reverend Doctor LeRoy Haynes, Jr. and the membership of the church have begun raising funds to rebuild the church following a double fire in February that damaged the church structure. The cost to rebuild the structure will be covered by the building insurance, but the church is raising funds to purchase more efficient appliances, add more energy-efficient insulation, add proper lighting and signage, to add a child daycare center and make the space more accessible to people with disabilities. Those who would like to contribute may take checks payable to Allen Temple CME Church Restoration to any Bank of America location; mail checks to Allen Temple CME Church, 3519 NE 15th Ave. PMB #357, Portland, OR 97212; or contribute online at www.gofundme.com/huc-2dep6 or www.ninthdistrictcme.org/allentemplecmefirefund.html.



Whitten cont'd from pg 1

uity Advisory Committee for TriMet. He is in his final year of a bachelor of arts in economics at Portland State University. Most recently, he was chosen as the executive director of the art and social justice non-profit Know Your City. Cofounded in 2008 by Amanda Tillstrom and former executive director Marc Moscato, Know Your City has spearheaded a variety of public engagement and art projects — ranging from themed city tours to concerts to publications (including two series of historical comic books, a renters' rights comic published with the Community Alliance of Tenants and the Jade Journal, a monthly newspaper published by fifth graders in East Portland).

Whitten spoke to *The Skanner News* about Know Your City and how he hopes to expand the organization's reach to include more disenfranchised voices into Portland community-building. Here are excerpts of the interview, edited for space and clarity.

The Skanner News: Congratulations on becoming the executive director at Know Your City. Why did you choose this job?

Cameron Whitten: Portland needs Know Your City. Portland is going through a lot of changes right now. We're seeing Black Lives Matter, climate crisis, affordable housing. We're seeing a climax of social and political issues happening right now. There's a need for social justice in our community, for movements pushing us forward for progress for all people. People are paying attention. They are talking a lot more about these issues than I've seen since I've first come here to Portland. That's a huge deal.

We are even looking at our demographics. We are looking at our youth, who are more diverse than ever — and it's going to be our youth who are going to topple the image and reputation as Portland's Whitest major city in America.

But are we ready for that right now? No. We need to change the conversation at the institutional level, at the societal level. We need to change the conversation to make sure that all people have their identities welcomed and celebrated in our community. Right now is the moment for Know Your City to be doing this work, and this is where I am called to be.

TSN: What can Portlanders expect to see from Know Your City under your leadership?

CW: I think they can expect an organization that is honest, that is committed to the beauty of our culture and is committed to being on the cutting edge of community issues as they are happening. I want Know Your City to be a responsive, proactive organization and it should be one that is all-inclusive to Portlanders and Oregonians.

Read the full interview at TheSkanner.com

Black Friday cont'd from pg 1

media.

Assistant Chief Donna Henderson said the since-deleted post is being reviewed by the Professional Standards Division.

During the first part of the protest, organizers read the names of Black Americans slain, mostly at the hands of officers of the law. Afterward the crowd took to the streets, interrupting traffic throughout the Lloyd District.

PPB officers, including some from the Gang Enforcement Team, trailed the group on bicycles and squad cars as they made their exodus from Holladay Park into the streets of Portland.

As the assembly moved, apparently en route to the Broadway Bridge, it was re-routed by the Portland Police north onto Northeast Martin Luther King Blvd., where the crowd marched for about 10 minutes, and curving back around towards the bridge.

The group was then met by an increased number of police officers —

about 20 of whom were decked out in riot gear with batons in hand — blocking the protestors' entrance onto the crossing.

After a standoff lasting nearly 15 minutes, the procession headed back toward Lloyd Center, this time entering

“Protesters draped resistance banners inside the mall and chanted while shoppers looked on

the mall. Protesters draped resistance banners inside the mall and chanted while shoppers looked on.

The Skanner spoke to Lauren, who opted not to give her last name, as protestors streamed past her North Portland home where she was outside raking leaves.

She said she empathized with the sentiment that “Black Lives Matter,”

especially in light of new information released about the killing of teenager LaQuan McDonald by the Chicago Police Department. But she hoped for a different slogan.

“I wish they were saying, ‘All lives matter,’” Lauren said. “I think discrimination happens to many people, so I think that's what it should be.”

The protest in Portland was just one of many that transpired across the country Nov. 27, urging potential consumers against spending with large corporations for the day.

Major cities across the nation — including Chicago, Seattle, Philadelphia and New York City — saw people engaging in actions to disrupt one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Consumer analysts reported Monday morning that 2015 Black Friday sales were down more than a billion dollars.



PHOTO BY DANIEL VINCENT

Hundreds of activists stormed Lloyd Center last Friday following a neighborhood march.