

Cabouet

cont'd from pg 1

was founded in February of 2015, and we connected with the national organization founded by Patrice [Cullors], Alicia [Garza], and Opal [Tometi] in June. We were formed basically because we saw the need for a Black-only space in the Black Lives Matter movement here in Port-

Aliza Garza, and Opal Tometi — in the years since, particularly after Ferguson — those three founded the Black Lives Matter Network, of which Black Lives Matter Portland is a chapter. There are [more than 20] chapters in the US, including chapters in Canada and Africa. We

“It was important, in terms of safety and determination, to have a Black-only space

land, after going to a lot of actions and rallies that were dominated by White folks, we realized Black people needed spaces that work around them.

TSN: Why do you guys feel, in Portland it's important to have a Black-only space in this movement?

AC: Because the city, although it has a reputation as being very liberal and very progressive, it has a continued history of White supremacist violence against Black folks including in organizing spaces. So a lot of times in meetings there was pretty direct racism and threats. So it was important, in terms of safety and determination, to have a Black-only space.

We work with ally groups, but our actions, our meetings — those are planned by Black folks.

TSN: A recent article in the *L.A. Times* said, in effect, Black Lives Matter is a slogan, it's an organization and it's a movement, but those don't always overlap. Can you offer some more insight into these differences?

AC: #BlackLivesMatter, the hashtag was created in the wake of the non-indictment of George Zimmerman in the murder of Trayvon Martin. Patrisse Cullors,

are accountable to each other, and accountable to a larger organization, but we operate autonomously. So because it's an organization and a hashtag, not everyone that uses the hashtag is a part of our organization, you have to be a registered chapter in order to claim affiliation with the network. But there are a number of groups working in the larger movement that use the hashtag, like Black Youth Project, like Don't Shoot Portland.

TSN: What is it that Black Lives Matter Portland is working for specifically?

AC: We're working on the campaigns for Kendra James and Keaton Otis, two Black folks that were murdered by the police in Portland. We want new investigations into their deaths, and the firing of the officers that killed them.

We want community control of the police of Portland, and for Black families who've been moved out by intentional gentrification to move back into their homes. We're starting a Copwatch in Northeast Portland, in the area around PCC Cascade and Jefferson High.

Read the rest of the story at [TheSkanner.com](#)



PHOTO COURTESY OF PCC

PCC Dedication

On Dec. 2, Portland Community College dedicated the basketball court at the Cascade Campus to the late PCC Board member Harold C. Williams Sr., in recognition of his many years of service to the college and to the North/Northeast Portland community.

Williams' children, Harold Williams Two (left) and Natasha Butler, hold up a framed copy of the Oregon legislative resolution passed in his honor in 2013, while Cascade Campus President Karin Edwards looks on.

Schools

cont'd from pg 1

was disgusted by classist and racist statements from people who didn't want to change their schools.

After that meeting, Watson made it her intent to have Black

are two scenarios proposed by PPS to deal with a predicted influx of students to the Portland area.

It is estimated that there will be one million people living in Port-

“Historically, our children have been neglected, disrupted, failed, overlooked and sapped of the very few resources they have

voices heard at the King School meeting.

“I didn't want a repeat of that Wednesday night meeting. I think it's really easy to talk that kind of truth when there is only people who look like you in the room,” Watson said. “My goal was to invite as many Black voices as I could and to sit in the front.”

At the King School meeting, a diverse crowd of parents, teachers and administrators showed up to weigh in on the changes.

People in the crowd held up blue fliers that stated “We Heart Equity.”

At the center of the discussion

land by 2040 and that PPS expect 5,000 more students in the district in the next decade.

PPS faces the challenges of over-enrollment in some schools, under-enrollment in others and school facilities that are too small. The proposed scenarios remix K-8 schools into K-5 schools and middle schools.

PPS Enrollment Director Judy Brennan presented a slideshow about enrollment balancing. According to the slideshow, new students would mean more funding which could stabilize core education in schools that are currently under-enrolled.

In Scenario 1, 22 schools will be changed from K-8 to K-5 and middle schools.

In Scenario 2, 16 schools will be converted, leaving more affluent schools such as Beverly Cleary and Irvington unaffected.

One of the frequently voiced concerns by people at the King meeting was that the two scenarios set up hostility between neighborhoods and schools.

Parents from Irvington, Laurelhurst, Beverly Cleary and Cesar Chavez expressed their desire to keep their current K-8 schools intact.

These parents applauded the mentorship in K-8 schools between older students and younger students.

They also raised concerns about children crossing large streets to go to the new schools.

Parents from less affluent schools neither defended K-8 nor praised K-5 school types, but used the forum as an opportunity to talk about the challenges their schools face.

Read the rest of the story at [TheSkanner.com](#)

Rain

cont'd from pg 1

communities in particular.

Keeping infrastructure up-to-date is part of the answer, he said. “The Foster flood plain restoration has helped. Johnson Creek flooding is nothing new, as we all knew. I do think that it probably could have been worse,” Miller said of this week's flooding.

In addition to improvements to infrastructure, Miller said local governments can improve resilience by developing effective communication strategies when disaster strikes — and, in the longer term, helping with retrofitting or other improvements to their homes.

While property values in Lents are rising, the area has traditionally been home for residents with lower incomes

— and lower-income families often do not have the resources to prepare for natural disasters, Miller said. He added that research on natural disasters in other areas has shown that low-income

“Lower-income families often do not have the resources to prepare for natural disasters

people, including people of color, often do not get connected with the resources they need after a disaster is over.

For instance, during a series of heat waves in Chicago in the mid-1990s, African Americans were less likely than other residents to get information about cooling centers opened by local

government — pointing to the need for governments to reach out to marginalized populations in effective ways once crisis strikes.

Senior citizens are often so isolated

during a disaster that they don't get the information they need during disasters, he said.

It's a good idea for emergency responders to know where more vulnerable residents are, but also for residents to check on each other when extreme weather strikes.



A storm drain on North Killingsworth overflows during record-breaking rain Tuesday afternoon.