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licing and crime reduction,” with other cities on the tour being honored for other pillars in the report: building trust and legitimacy (Miami, which she visited last month), training and education and officer safety and wellness.

At a Thursday morning press conference at the Boys and Girls Club on Martin Luther King,

Collaborative chair Antoinette Edwards, Multnomah County deputy district attorney Eric Zimmerman and Life Change Church pastor Mark Strong, part of a group of pastors and community members involved in street outreach to curb violence.

“We not only must work for justice in this day but work on the root

“Lynch’s visit singled out Portland as an exemplar of ‘community policing and crime reduction’

Jr. Blvd., Lynch acknowledged that even as the DOJ honors Portland for exemplary policing practices, the city has yet to complete the work set out for it in the U.S. vs. City of Portland agreement in 2012. That settlement noted a pattern of excessive force against people with mental illness.

Lynch said even though Portland’s work isn’t done, she wanted to commend the city for the progress it has made in increasing trust between police and the community.

“There’s good work being done here,” she said.

Lynch took questions from local media just after visiting George Middle School in North Portland, where she saw two officers teaching a Gang Resistance Education Training Program to a class of sixth-graders — one of a collection of efforts she said increases trust between youth and officers at a critical age.

She also attended a community roundtable and heard presentations from Mayor Charlie Hales, Community Peace

causes of injustice as well,” Hales said. Hales said despite overall reductions in crime rate, the rate of violence considered gang-related is now up.

Lt. Tasha Hager, who heads up the Portland Police Bureau’s behavioral unit, said the department is working with communications agencies to identify which calls do not need to be referred to police, instead transferring them to the Multnomah County Crisis Line.

At the press conference, Lynch fielded questions about staffing shortages in the bureau as well as a number of questions about the DOJ’s handling of the Malheur standoff.

“Every case is different. We always respond to circumstances individually,” she said of the DOJ’s slow response to the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge by armed militants, the vast majority of whom were White and identify with the right-wing patriot movement.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## Pioneer Square Renovation

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), in partnership with Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc., has announced that Howard S. Wright and Faison Construction have been selected through a competitive City procurement process as the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) for the Pioneer Courthouse Square Renovation Project. This is one of more than 30 projects that are part of the Parks Replacement Bond, approved by Portland voters in 2014. The Square will receive a new waterproofing membrane over the lower level spaces occupied by valued tenants, as well as a new heating and cooling system as well as other repairs. Many of the existing bricks will need to be removed and replaced, and if funds are available, the team will complete other renovations to freshen the 32-year-old public gathering place.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

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present the piece.

Playwright Bryan Harnetiaux created the piece, collaborating with the actor and musician David Casteal, who plays the title role of York. Harnetiaux said the play is meant to show a different side of history.

“We wanted to tell the story in the kind of Howard Zinn tradition; not by the victor, but by the vanquished,” he said. “What

“We wanted to tell the story in the kind of Howard Zinn tradition; not by the victor, but by the vanquished

if York wasn’t illiterate? What if York was able to tell his story?”

Harnetiaux, playwright-in-residence at the Spokane Civic Theatre in Washington, was asked to write a play about the Lewis and Clark journey for the 2005 bicentennial celebration. After weeks of researching, he could not hone in on a story and eventually he turned down the commission.

A few weeks later, inspiration struck. Harnetiaux said he woke up in the morning and saw a vision of York standing at the end of the bed. Then he saw Casteal standing next to York — and he knew he needed to write a play about York starring Casteal.

He had worked with Casteal before in his play “National Pastime” about Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball. The

Mexico.

When the crew returned from their journey, every member except for York received money and land for their service.

The historical record is unclear whether York received his freedom from Clark.

Casteal said he was saddened that York’s contributions have been ignored.

“I think it speaks directly to slavery and how our slaves were treated and how they were looked at as essentially almost non-humans,” Casteal said.

Carrying the one-man play, Casteal says he is constantly moving and working. He plays York and voices the other expedition members as they interact with him. He is exhausted by the end of each performance but said playing York is rewarding work.

“I get to help tell this story or what might have been had somebody cared to listen,” he said.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## Copwatch cont'd from pg 1

tion about deadly force incidents in Oregon using press reports and public documents on use of force incidents by any law enforcement jurisdiction anywhere in Oregon.

*The Skanner* is awaiting comment from the attorney general’s office about the new data.

“We believe with all the attention on a recent shooting in Oregon, now would be a good time for the AG to publish these numbers

—Portland Copwatch

As reported in *The Skanner* two years ago, Copwatch started gathering the data in response to concerns that Senate Bill 111 was not being upheld despite being passed into law in 2010.

As it happens, many lawmakers around Oregon had thought the Oregon State Department of Justice was compiling the statistics after a law was

passed requiring it.

Portland Copwatch sent a public letter to Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum in 2014, offering detailed statistics gathered through a review of press reports and asking the attorney general whether her department was compiling them as Senate Bill 111 re-

quired.

An examination by *The Skanner* at the time revealed current state officials were unaware of the law’s provisions and were turning the statistics over to the department of data and statistics to be included in counts of all causes of death statewide.

Former state lawmakers who had

passed the law expressed surprise that it was not being enforced for its intended purpose — use in creating law enforcement policy.

Back then, *The Skanner* first put the group’s data about police use of force incidents together with location points for the incidents. Then we plotted them on a map.

Now we have updated that map with their most recent data, which we have independently verified and again posted to an interactive Google page.

Some of Portland Copwatch’s key 2016 findings include:

### Total Incidents

- 141 incidents involving 142 civilians
- 131 shootings, 70 ending in death (53 percent)
- 6 Taser-related deaths
- 2 deaths in custody
- 2 vehicles as deadly force, 1 ending in death

### Race

The data shows 6 of the 29 Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, accounting for 21 percent of victims “in a city that is 6 percent black.” Also, “At least 8 of the 142 suspects were African Americans, or 6 percent in a state which is 2 percent black.”

### Veterans

At least eight victims were primarily identified as military veterans in some kind of psychological crisis. “We are still unable to track how many of the suspects were in crisis,” the report says.

### Indictments

Only one law enforcement figure in the state, Portland Officer Dane Reister, has so far been indicted, and he committed suicide afterwards last May.

Read more about Portland Copwatch at [www.portlandcopwatch.org](http://www.portlandcopwatch.org)