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STILL GOOD IN THE HOOD



THE SKANNER ARCHIVES

Paul Knauls, Sr., the honorary Mayor of Northeast Portland and an early booster of the Good in the Hood festival and parade, is shown here in the 2013 parade. Last week event organizers received a letter threatening event attendees and current Good in the Hood president Shawn Penney, but have decided to go forward with the event, which enters its 25th year this year.

Organizers Say They Won't Give Into Fear

Good in the Hood will go on as planned, but with heightened security

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Good in the Hood organizers are undeterred by a racist threat targeting the multicultural festival and say the festival, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, will go forward as planned.

On June 7 a staff member at Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, going through the day's mail, discovered a threat using repeated racial slurs and promising a "blood bath

if the festival goes ahead as planned. The threat also named festival organizer Shawn Penney specifically.

A digital photo of the letter was shared to Facebook that afternoon; by the following day the threat had gone viral on local social media accounts. Local media quickly picked up the story.

The threat makes multiple references to the KKK and seems targeted not only at Penney and likely festival attendees, but the festival's explicitly multicultural mission.

Initially, Penney said, when he received the threat he couldn't sleep and considered cancelling the event.

"I just had a gut feeling that we really must go on with this," Penney said. Otherwise, whoever issued the threat would win.

Penney confirmed Wednesday morning that there would be an increased law enforcement presence at the event, as well as private armed security. Organizers will take additional security measures, like requiring

vendors' vehicles to go through a check point and more carefully vetting volunteers.

A few participants have declined to participate in the event, he said — mostly groups of children that previously planned to participate in the parade. But more organizations have stepped up to sponsor the event, and Penney said he hopes the Good in the Hood Organization — a 501c3 nonprofit run entirely by volunteers — will be able to issue more scholarships,

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Juneteenth Commemorates the End of Slavery

The Skanner's roundup of events leading to June 19

The Skanner News

On June 19, 1865, from the balcony of Galveston's Ashton Villa, Union General Gordon Granger read aloud General Order No. 3, announcing the abolition of slavery in the state of Texas.

That was two years, however, after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation — declaring all slaves be freed in the Confederate States of America — became effective on Jan. 1, 1863.

Today, Juneteenth honors African American freedom with an emphasis on education and achievement. It's

also the oldest-known commemoration of its kind, widely celebrated with local festivities throughout the country.

Every year, a number of organizations in Portland and surrounding areas host free community events in observance of Juneteenth.

The largest among them, which draws close to 400 people, is the Juneteenth Oregon Celebration, preceded by the Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade.

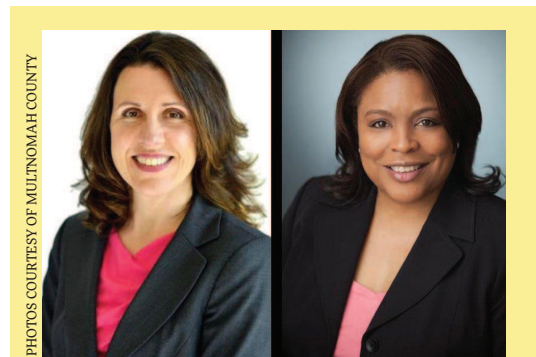
Taking place this year on June 17, the event — hosted by the Juneteenth Oregon Committee — will celebrate under the theme "Bringing Our Com-



PHOTO: GRACE MURRAY

Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration, June 19, 1900, Texas.

community Back 2 Life."
"Growing up in Northeast Portland, I've (seen) the different change-
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

County Chair Deborah Kafoury, left, and Commissioner Loretta Smith, right.

Smith Investigation Reaches Conclusion

Report raise questions about Smith's treatment of staff, including women of color

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

After two former employees of Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith came forward with allegations of misconduct by the commissioner, an outside investigation has concluded a report on the claims first reported on by *Willamette Week* Friday.

Smith has denied any wrongdoing, and according to the investigation's final report — dated May 18, 2017 and conducted by Clarence M. Belnavis, partner at law firm Fisher Phillips

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Confederate monument in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona's Confederate Monuments

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Summer Reading and Workshops at the Library page 7