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Chabre Vickers, director of equity, policy and communications for Prosper Portland

Prosper Portland Fights For Continued City Funding

Two city councilors suggest ending city's funding to wide-reaching economic development agency.

By *Saundra Sorenson*
Of *The Skanner News*

As the city council met Wednesday in a marathon session to approve the city's annual budget, the future of Prosper Portland appeared to hang in the balance.

It is the first such budget process under the city's new form of government, and the now 12-member council had more than 120 proposed amendments to consider before the midnight deadline. One of the most contentious of those amendments was put forward by councilors Jamie Dunphy and Mitch Green: to defund what was formerly known as the Portland Development Commission, and which now serves as the city's economic development and small business support branch.

"We're just in a very tight and frankly temporary budget deficit created by the mayor's shelter plan," Councilor Mitch Green told *The Skanner*. "This is a one-time affair. Frankly, the mayor's pitch was also supposed to be temporary. He sold it to council on the presumption that this is a surge strategy, we're going to get folks shelter and

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Trump Demands Probe of Celebs Who Backed Harris

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A CONVERSATION



PHOTO BY COURTESY NABCJ

Actor & Author Hill Harper and Councilor Loretta Smith NABCJ President Sherman Lea, Jr., Health Department Director Charlene Addy McGee, Actor & Author Hill Harper, Councilor Loretta Smith, Senator James Manning, Jr., Word is Bond student representative, NY State Police Sr. Investigator Elliot Boyce, Drug Policy Reform Advocate Art Way, and Word is Bond student representative.

Actor & Author Hill Harper, and National Law Enforcement Leaders Join Oregon Legislators for Community Townhall

The Skanner News

"Gaslighting: Challenging the Disconnect Between Public Policy and the Reality in Community" was recently hosted in Portland by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), a group of Black law enforcement executives and experts.

"African Americans are often used in narratives stating what we like and don't like, but they rarely

come and talk to us. As we're creating policies around tobacco, criminal justice reform, fentanyl, and homelessness, we need to be part of those conversations. Today is a conversation with us," said Councilor Loretta Smith.

Panelists, led by moderator Actor & Author Hill Harper, spoke with dozens of community attendees. The panel included Senator James Manning, Jr., Councilor Loretta Smith, NABCJ President Sherman Lea, Jr., NY State Police Sr.

Investigator Elliot Boyce, Health Department Director Charlene Addy McGee, Drug Policy Reform Advocate Art Way, along with student leaders from Word is Bond, a Portland nonprofit leadership incubator for young Black men.

Drug Policy Reform Advocate Art Way stated, "Youth at this event told us that online is the access point for these already illicit products, and a ban will only make the online illicit space more prevalent. Oregon must tightly

regulate these products for adults while continuing to diminish the illegal online and elsewhere market."

The dangers and history of political gaslighting, a form of psychological manipulation where policymakers make their constituents doubt their reality, use misinformation, and deny the research and facts of what's happening on the ground to push their legislative agendas, was a primary point of the discussion. The panel discussed

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Reparations

Democrats reintroduced the idea of reparations with a resolution that offers trillions of federal dollars in reparations to Black Americans to repair the damage of the enslavement of Africans in America for 250 years

By *April Ryan*

"The President doesn't have a public position on the issue," said a senior White House official, regarding the most recent debate on reparations or a reparations study. The question arises as Maryland's latest controversy over reparations versus a rep-

arations study continues. Governor Wes Moore has vetoed any bill that proposes studying reparations in the state. Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus wants a two-year commission to study reparations. Maryland State Senator Ron Watson supports Governor Moore, saying, "The vestiges of slavery are well known and



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