

Chief Sizer Finally Releases (Good Beginning of) Racial Profiling Plan ... on the Same Day the Police Review Board Publishes Its "Bias Based Policing" Report SUCCESSOR TO RACIAL PROFILING COMMITTEE IGNORES EXPLICIT POLICE BIGOTRY IN GANG CRACKDOWN

oughly two years after the deadline given her by community groups, Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer released her plan to reduce racial profiling on Feb. 18. That morning, the Citizen Review Committee (CRC) published its own interim report on "Disparate Treatment

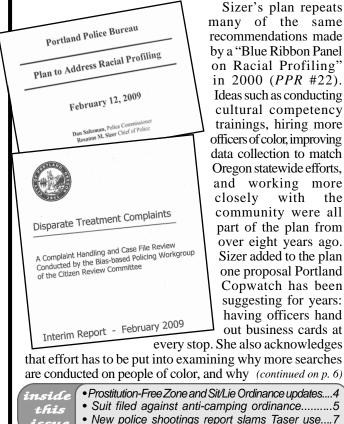


Complaints" examined by its Bias Based Policing Work Group. At the March 18 meeting of the "Community/Police Relations Committee" of the new Human Rights Commission (HRC), none of the group's

with

the

citizen members had read either report, indicating that the demise of Mayor Potter's Racial Profiling Committee (RPC) has hampered citizens' ability to address the issue.



Secret List Allowed to Continue, With Reservations, In Judge's Ruling

The controversial plan which forces repeat arrestees to enter treatment or face felony charges for misdemeanor crimes-Project 57/ aka the Neighborhood Livability Enforcement Program (NLECP)went on trial in early 2009. The program depends on a secret list of some 400 people who are targeted as chronic offenders (PPR #46). On April 8, Multnomah Circuit Court Judge Dale Koch ruled that the City



could not use the list to stiffen people's charges. However, he also said they could present suspects' repeat convictions (not just arrests) to the District Attorney on a case by case basis for review. As a result, two of five defendants in the case will be charged with felonies based on their previous records. The other three will be allowed to enter the judge-supervised STOP rehabilitation program, meaning their records may be expunged if they complete the program. Koch refused to rule on the constitutionality of the list, leaving it up to City Council to decide whether to keep using it. Officer Jeff Myers (#39608), the main proponent of the list, declared that he had no plans to change his behavior.

Myers retired after twenty one years as a police officer in Tucson, and came to Portland in 2000 as he was "interested in community policing." He joined the Portland Police Bureau and, as he testified during the trial, "I thought the whole system (in Portland) was broken. It was very dysfunctional in 2000 and I sought a holistic approach." Despite his belief that he was riding to our rescue, Officer Myers may well have been responsible for violating the constitutional rights of dozens of people, most of whom are people of color. (continued on p. 4)

Misconduct Costs \$7 Million in 17 Years as City Pays \$105,000 to Victims of Pervert Cop \$5000 Paid to Woman Tasered at Bowling Alley Ball Team Pays \$15,000 to Woman Held by Portland Officer

ccording to our files, since 1993 Portland has paid out nearly \$7 million in settlements, judgments, lawyer fees and lawsuits A \$/ million in settlements, judginents, in judgine \$105,000 to two women who were told by Officer John Wood to

show their underwear (PPR #40), the roughly 200 recipients of money from Portland's selfinsurance fund have now reached at least \$6,900,880, with the top 25 settlements accounting for over (continued on p. 8)



PEOPLE'S POLICE REPORT #47



# AUDITOR TO QUIT AS REVIEW BOARD WORK GROUPS MULTIPLY Bias Report Released, Outreach Staffer Hired

Citizen Review Committee Membership Changes, First Appealed Case of 2009 Dropped

The REVIEW COMMINES IN the could have a lasting impact on Portland's police oversight system, Auditor Gary Blackmer, who created and oversees the "Independent" Police Review Division (IPR), announced in January his intention to step down from his elected position in May, nearly two years before the end of his term. Meanwhile, the Citizen Review Committee, (CRC) the 9-member civilian component of the City-staffed IPR, received its first appeal of a misconduct investigation in over a year—but the complainant dropped the appeal. The CRC, which released a "Bias Based Policing" interim report in February, seems overwhelmed with "Work Group" tasks. In addition, CRC members are participating in a Police Bureau task force on Use of Force that is closed to the public. In March, the CRC heard from the Central Precinct commander about keeping downtown safe for



(L) and Barbara Anderson (R) at the April CRC meeting.

shoppers, reinforcing the idea that the system is geared toward protecting the powerful, not the poor. Also in March, the IPR hired a new outreach specialist. This, combined with the departure of Blackmer, whose hands-on management of IPR led to a negative report by consultant Eileen Luna-Firebaugh in early 2008 (*PPR* #44), and the more receptive, community-minded style of IPR Director Mary-Beth Baptista, could lead to positive changes to the complaint system.

#### **Bye Bye Blackmer**

at the April CRC meeting. Portland Copwatch (PCW) and Auditor Blackmer have not seen eye-to-eye on the oversight system since he stepped in to yank the "political football" out of Mayor Vera Katz's hands in early 2001 (*PPR* #23). While PCW believes the only effective

system will conduct independent investigations of police misconduct or face skepticism of <u>regional advectory butching</u> "police investigating police," Blackmer has always advocated that IPR's role will be to improve Internal Affairs investigations and allow the police to improve themselves as an institution. Since PCW monitors its own incident report line, we feel confident in saying that many people balk when they learn the IPR will hand their complaint to police Internal Affairs—if they even get their case investigated. Only about 10% of all complaints are fully investigated, the rest are dismissed, treated as "Service Complaints," declined, or sent to mediation.

Despite widespread public disapproval of the IPR system—none of the City's polling has ever shown over 45% approval rating for how complaints against police are handled—Blackmer named the IPR his crowning achievement in an interview with the *Portland Tribune* (January 22). Blackmer, a number cruncher by trade, put forward the fact that the IPR has the lowest number of complaints ever as proof of the system's success; however, it is also possible that nobody will use the system because they believe it will do no good.

Blackmer tends to focus on trends that have nothing to do with the IPR, such as his offrepeated statistic that the number of shootings per year, on average, have gone down since 2002—when IPR was created, but also when the PPB bought Tasers (which they use far more frequently than guns). Though he conceded that non-police investigators could pursue some cases (which has never been done to date, though the IPR has the power to do so), his bristling when criticized has made it difficult to offer positive solutions to improve the IPR. Although the *Oregonian*'s Anna Griffin dubbed him the *"nicest politician in Portland*," she also related how *"He used an unprintable, Dick Cheney-esque verb during an argument with a reporter from the* Portland Mercury" (February 25).

As a non-partisan group, PCW tries to assess all candidates' positions on police oversight. Only current County Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade is running to fill Blackmer's spot.

### Appeals: No Spike Despite Process Change, First Appeal of 2009 Withdrawn

One of the CRC's main functions is to hear appeals of cases that complainants feel were not adequately investigated or which had inappropriate findings attached to them. While CRC heard only one case in 2008, it was based on a 2007 appeal. No cases at all were appealed in 2008. Director Baptista announced in January that she had begun including the "holy golden appeal form" with disposition letters to complainants, so they would not have to take the extra step to contact the IPR for the form to file. Despite fears emanating from the Auditor and IPR staff for seven years that the floodgates would open and they would be swamped with cases, only two appeals have been filed so far in 2009.

As it happens, the complainant in the first of those cases was only interested in discussing the officer's behavior with the Captain in charge. Once that discussion happened, the man withdrew the appeal, and CRC will not get a chance to hear the case publicly. The lack of appeals means: The public does not get to see the ins and outs of how the complaint system works; the CRC will be making decisions about police policy based on reviewing case files, rather than seeing the civilians—and officers—face to face; and policy-related issues which often arise during hearings will likely never be aired. The second appeal is tentatively scheduled for June.

#### Work Group Mania and Member Turnover: 11 Reasons to Expand the CRC

The CRC lists 8 Work Groups that its 9 members engage in: Bias-Based Policing, PARC Report, Case Handling, IPR Structure Review, Protocols, Tracking List, Outreach, and Tow Policy. At least three CRC members are supposed to be in each group. In addition, several members participate in the Use of Force/Performance Review Board pools (see sidebar), and a few on the Bureau's Use of Force (continued on p. 3)



#### Police "Union" Hates Force Oversight Board Because It Doesn't Understand Regular Review Board

In his December column in the Portland Police Association (PPA) newsletter, the *Rap Sheet*, new PPA President Scott Westerman showed his ignorance of the IPR/CRC system and his disdain for Use of Force (UFRBs) and Performance Review Boards (PRBs). As reported in *PPR* #46\*, the PPAfiled a grievance because they feel the secretly-held boards "*embarrass*" the officers. UFRBs are held after shootings and other major incidents; PRB's are held when an officer has been found guilty of misconduct and faces time off or

President's

termination. The Executive Board went further, voting that PPA members should not appear until their concerns are addressed.

Westerman claims to understand the need for transparency, and



**Review boards** 

unacceptable

that he is not against a review like those done in the PARC reports, looking for policy and training issues with officer names redacted (how is that transparent?). As an example, Westerman says that the CRC reviews *"all complaints"* in the same way. That is not true.

The IPR handles complaints and takes into account the officer's name, and sometimes history, while Internal Affairs conducts a full investigation in certain circumstances. The CRC only reviews cases upon appeal or for auditing purposes; in both scenarios they know the names of the officers, though anything presented publicly has the names changed to "Officer A" or "Sergeant B."

His objection to Use of Force and Performance Review Boards is that officers feel "traumatized" after being asked to come in to answer questions they have already answered 3-4 times in the criminal and administrative investigations. "When our members are subjected to unprofessional questioning where the member is grilled, embarrassed or berated by members of these boards, it is unacceptable"

Westerman claims the majority of people who have appeared felt they were presumed guilty—but none that we know of were found guilty of using excessive force. Westerman advises officers they can reduce discipline in "mitigation" (a private hearing with the Chief guaranteed by their contract) just as well without the Review Boards.

# Review Board Continues its Work with New Members (continued from p. 2)

Task Force and the Employee Information System task force with the Police Bureau. Given this workload, it would make

sense to expand the CRC to at least 11 members. Another reason is the turnover. At the end of January, Rob Milesnick (who missed an unprecedented number of CRC meetings, including his last one) and Sherrelle Owens let their terms expire after just one two-year term each. Member Josey Cooper announced in March that she would resign on April 22. In 7 years, there have been 32 members of the CRC,

meaning 24 people, including Cooper, have resigned or let their terms expire. The newest members, appointed on January 26 to replace Milesnick and Owens, are Rochelle Silver, a psychologist who works with the state Private Investigators board, and Barbara Anderson, who was on the Oregon State Bar's discipline board and was a pro-choice delegate to the GOP convention.

The Use of Force Task Force, which PCW criticized after its first report in April, 2006 for not including statistics on people of color, not having any members who were people of color, and for not soliciting public input, began meeting again in January. This time, the statistics on people of color may be available after the Bureau compiled them for the Racial Profiling Committee (RPC) in December 2007; there is one person of color on board-IPR Assistant Director Constantin Severe; but the meetings remain closed to the public. When pressed for a reason, IPR Director Baptista made it clear this was the preference of Chief Sizer, who also took most of the RPC's work behind closed doors at the end of 2008 (PPR #46). To his credit, CRC Chair Mike Bigham has offered to bring forward citizen concerns to the task force.

Contact Chair Bigham via the IPR at 503-823-0146 or iprcrc@ci.portland.or.us . Precinct Commander Defends Private Security, New IPR Staffer Hired to Enact Outreach Plan

The CRC had only one guest speaker in early 2009, Central Precinct Commander Mike Reese. Reese was supposed to appear concurrently with John Hren, director of the private security outfit Portland Patrol, Inc. (PPI) to discuss the confusion created by PPI's quasi-law-enforcement role and its too-similar-to-Portland-Police uniforms (PPR #42). Hren apparently feared public scrutiny (Portland Mercury, March 19), not surprising as there is no adequate independent system to file complaints against the many private cops downtown. PPI is hired to patrol by the Clean and Safe program of the Downtown Business Improvement District, paid for by a self-imposed tax

in the area. Reese explained that Clean and Safe pays the salaries of three Portland officers who are under his command but are essentially "on loan" to the business district, following calls for service on PPI's radio system instead of 911 dispatchers. Reese says these cops on bicycles help address drug crimes, car prowls, and aggressive panhandling as problems.

Reese called the PPB-cops-for-hire "productive" because they generate more arrests than other officers. He was not asked by CRC how many convictions came from those arrests. Perhaps most disturbingly, Reese spoke about how some people, such as "road warriors" (youth dressed in black, usually tattooed) with their pit bulls, make people uncomfortable to shop.

Portland Copwatch member Dan Handelman asked Reese, "if I had enough money, could I hire my own police officer, too?' Reese responded that if a neighborhood wants an officer to address crime and it selftaxes, they can, as long as they are serving the public good.

He disparaged people who "panhandle to support their lifestyle" and applauded the secret list that targets people repeatedly arrested for drug offenses and forces them into treatment (also p. 1). No mention was made of the drug crimes likely committed in Pearl District milliondollar condos just blocks away in Reese's precinct. Reese also noted that police Use of

Force was down 50% in 2008 in his jurisdiction, blaming most of the violence on bars who "overservice" people with alcohol in the entertainment district.

Meanwhile, the IPR hired Irene Konev to be their Outreach Coordinator, a position that has been open since August, 2007 (and for which Baptista

IPR RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT On April 21, IPR released its annual report for 2008. Once again, they highlighted trends such as lower complaint rates without being able to prove what led to the changes. Look for details at www.portlandcopwatch.org.

says 210 people applied). Konev, formerly Outreach Coordinator for the Clackamas Women's Services, will be tasked with putting into action the Outreach plan designed by EnviroIssues, finalized after a presentation at CRC's special January 6 meeting. If all goes well, perhaps the IPR will finally have someone who visits poor people, immigrants, people of color, gays and lesbians, and other populations vulnerable to police abuse.

#### Another Revolving Door for the Oversight System

Capt. John Tellis, whose tenure at Internal Affairs saw the merger of the "unfounded" and "insufficient evidence" findings, too-close relationships with CRC members and IPR staff, and the insistence that certain rules at the Bureau were really just "guidelines," was promoted, leaving Capt. (formerly Lt.) Dave Famous in charge. Since we started monitoring police review board meetings in 1992, there have been no less than 11 IAD Captains/Lieutenants in 17 years (Elfving, Webber, Bennington [twice], Jensen, Smith, Schenck, Beard, Drum, Tellis, Famous). And somewhere, Spinal Tap needs a new drummer.

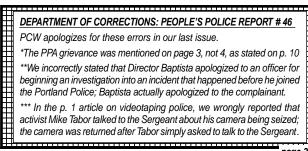
#### Work Groups in Brief:

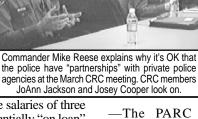
-The Tracking List Work Group will follow progress on three goals set at CRC's Feb. 28 retreat: increasing the credibility of IPR (good luck!), addressing "satisfaction" with Portland Police, and developing training for CRC members. -The Bias Based Policing Work Group's interim report was released and IPR is seeking community input at about the same time as the Chief's Racial Profiling Plan (see p. 1). With Work Group chair Owens gone, it is unclear how much

will be added for the final report. Strangely, the Chief was given the report and was able to respond to it before the CRC approved it Feb. 17. -The Case Handling Work Group examined all instances in recent years where people protested their allegations being declined, dismissed or receiving a "Service Complaint." Next the Work Group will examine a broader sample of cases for how IPR assigned them, attached allegations to them, and disposed of them.

-The PARC Work Group is examining 26 recommendations regarding police shootings and deaths from the 2005 and 2006 Police Assessment Resource Center reports; PCW is encouraging them to also review the original 89 recommendations from 2003, unnumbered recommendations, and the new report which was released in February (see p. 7).

-In December, the CRC presented to City Council an interim report from its Structural Review work group, looking at the Luna Firebaugh Report's recommendations on changes to IPR. They plan a final report for July.





MAY 2009

Secret List on Trial

# Secret List Goes on Trial (continued from p. 1)

ACLU Attorney Elden Rosenthal and public defenders Lisa Pardini, Spencer Hahn and Brian Schmonsees represented the defendants in the January trial. In establishing Project 57, Myers focused on what he termed "livability issues" in five neighborhoods: Old Town, The Pearl District, Northwest Portland, Goose Hollow and Downtown. Myers subsequently established a secret list of 30 individuals, which was referred to as "the dirty thirty," that later ballooned to 400 names and included a disproportionate number of African Americans — 52% of the list vs. 6.6% of the Portland population (*Portland Mercury*, January 15). Myers testified that those on the list are given special access to housing and drug treatment. However, if an individual who is on the list for having been arrested previously—even if never convicted—is arrested for a violation such as residue drug possession, they are prosecuted for a felony.

Those not on the list are considered to have committed misdemeanors and are eligible for the STOP drug court diversion program. If they complete the program, the charges are dismissed and they can expunge the arrest record. In what he may have perceived as a magnanimous gesture regarding the secrecy of the list, Myers stated, "*I certainly have no desire to defame someone's character by distributing information about them that is negative*" (*Oregonian*, January 8). The secrecy includes those on the list, who have no idea they are on it. Further, there is no mechanism for a person on the list to be removed from it, but they can be dropped from the "Master List" if no other crime is committed in three years.

Deputy District Attorney David Hannon focused his examination of Myers on the supposed success of the program, bringing forth a number of objections from Rosenthal on the basis that the issue was not the success of the program, but its constitutionality. During his direct examination, Myers admitted that upon the expiration of the Drug Free Zones in late 2007 (*PPR* #43), he put his program "on steroids" because "enhanced prosecution of residue cases was lost."

In their January 8 editorial, the Oregonian referred in a demeaning manner to those on the list as "frequent flyers," and addressed the concern of some civil libertarians by indicating they are "working off an old model, in which a secret list of names inevitably breeds abuses. The reality is that this list epitomizes community policing. It's used to connect frequent offenders to services and help them turn their lives around." (Perhaps this "old model" is like the quaint and obsolete provisions of the Geneva Conventions.) They also trumpeted the "success" of the program and stated that perhaps the list shouldn't be secret and should reflect conviction data rather than arrest data. The editorial ends by saying, "Certainly, the bureau should look at ways to tweak the list to bolster civil liberties and satisfy the objections of civil libertarians. But it appears to us that this program isn't just clipping the wings of frequent fliers. It's mending wings, too."

The case returned to Koch's courtroom in late February. On February 25 the Mercury's blog quoted Rosenthal's closing arguments to the Court: "After the hearing last month, I got a call from an editorial writer at the Oregonian, and she was very antagonistic towards me. She asked me what my problem was, she said that Officer Myers is the face of community policing in Portland, and I said that one of the most efficient police forces in history was Hitler's. But ... we're a long ways from the Gestapo. We have a bill of rights, which says that we don't go over that fence. We are over that fence and out in the front yard. Secret police lists have never come to any good, wherever they are used. There's just too much opportunity for abuse."

In his original post, Matt Davis of the Mercury wrote, "One of Oregon's most prominent civil rights attorneys compared Officer Jeff Myers to a Nazi in open court this morning." This prompted a response from Rosenthal in which he stated he was disappointed and requested apologies to himself and Myers. He indicated that while he had been accurately quoted, "at no time...[did] I compare Officer Myers to a Nazi." Davis responded that that "by evoking the specter of Nazism in reference to the secret list program, Rosenthal was implicitly comparing the officers behind the program to Nazis." In addition, Davis noted "Myers seemed to feel that the implication was clear."

# HELP OR COERCION FOR PROSTITUTION SUSPECTS?

In *PPR* # 46 we reported on the concerns raised by police, neighbors and the *Oregonian*'s editorial board about the expiration of the Prostitution Free Zones. In a move that seems to resemble "The Secret List" (left),



a program has been instituted that is being praised by police and the District Attorney's office but may be just another form of coercion for women who may have few other choices but prostitution. In February, the city established the 82nd Avenue Prostitution Advisory Council. Prior to the establishment of this Council, prostitutes who were arrested were tried in community courts and were usually sentenced to community service or short term jail sentences. There is no longer the option of community court, and if there has been a previous prostitution-related conviction a woman is offered a plea bargain in which she either enters counseling or faces a trial. According to the District Attorney's office this new program "encourages" arrested prostitutes to undergo counseling. As is too often the case, these "solutions" were discussed with no input from the women themselves.

In perhaps a more realistic view of the program, Public Defender Chris O'Connor asked why these women couldn't just be helped and pointed out that a conviction with probation was "*just another barrier*." Crystal Tenty, an outreach worker for Portland Women's Crisis Line, stated "*I am a really huge advocate of choice and letting someone choose whatever is right for their healing process, so I really don't like the idea that someone can be mandated to attend counseling.*" She further pointed out that it is a shame a woman needs to get arrested to get counseling. Other advocates pointed out that this grant does nothing to target the root causes for prostitution such as lack of affordable housing (*Portland Mercury*, February 26).

Perhaps a better solution would be to have women who see no alternatives but prostitution to also be appointed to the Advisory Council to discuss the many reasons that force this choice. The current make up of the Council and the "do it or else" attitude will probably make no difference in the long run.

#### TWO OPINIONS ON SIT/LIE: It's Legal, No It's Not!

While advocates continue to point out the inherent unfairness of the sidewalk obstruction (Sit/Lie) ordinance, Circuit Court Judge Michael McShane ruled the ordinance to be unconstitutional on February 18. He referred specifically to the portion of the ordinance which requires a person to keep his/her belongings within two feet of themselves. Judge McShane stated, "I found that an ordinary person would not understand from the statute that mundane and everyday behavior would be prohibited by law," and he further indicated that "the ordinance encourages arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement," an argument consistently made by advocates of poor and homeless people. In a prior case, Circuit Court Judge Terry Hannon ruled the ordinance to be "constitutional and reasonable" (PPR #46 and Portland Mercury, November 20).

The ordinance is supposed to sunset in June, but the report created by the SAFE (StreetAccess for Everyone) Committee has yet to be publicly presented to the City Council. While several city commissioners have indicated their opposition to the ordinance, its future remains to be seen.

# CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT CHALLENGES PORTLAND'S ANTI-CAMPING ORDINANCE

class action lawsuit filed by the Oregon Law Center (OLC) in Federal District Court in Portland in December challenges Portland's A anti-camping ordinance as unconstitutional (PPR #46). OLC, a nonprofit legal aid organization, filed the suit on behalf of four named individuals who are homeless, and "all others similarly situated." The suit names as defendants the City of Portland, Police Chief Rosie Sizer, two police officers who enforced the ordinance, and 50 unnamed police officers listed as John Does 1-50.

Portland's anti-camping ordinance (Portland City Code 14A.50.020) makes it unlawful to "camp" or set up a "campsite" on public property or public right of way without a permit. By targeting people sleeping and setting up campsites on public property, it is designed to go after homeless people. The ordinance has a maximum fine of \$100 and maximum jail sentence of 30 days.

The lawsuit asserts that the ordinance violates the constitutional rights of the homeless, specifically the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment" and the Fourteenth Amendment's protections to a right to travel, freedom of movement, personal liberty, and equal protection. In a case decided in Los Angeles in April, 2006, the court declared an anticamping law there constituted cruel and unusual punishment so long as there were not enough shelter beds for the people staying on the street. The Portland suit seeks to invalidate the local ordinance and obtain damages.

According to the complaint, one of the homeless plaintiffs cannot stay in women's shelters because of her medical condition where she suffers frequent seizures from a brain injury. The city estimates that approximately 4,000 people sleep outside or in shelters each night (Oregonian, December 12).

In April 2008, Portland police rousted several homeless people sleeping under downtown bridges. According to the police, the raids occurred after receiving complaints of fights. Central Precinct Commander Mike Reese told the Portland Tribune (December 11) that the police cite people for violating the ordinance only "a handful" of times a year. Last May, dozens of advocates for the homeless protested in front of City Hall by camping for several days on the sidewalk. The police eventually removed the protesters (PPR #45). The city has since opened some new shelters, but demand for beds still surpasses the number of available beds.

City Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees Portland's housing programs and homeless services, told the Tribune that prior to the lawsuit the City had



been in negotiations about possibly modifying the anti-camping ordinance.

A 2006 report from the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found that laws that criminalize homelessness do not address the underlying causes of homelessness, but only exacerbate the problem. Such laws "frequently move people away from services. When homeless persons are arrested and charged under these measures, they develop a criminal record, making it more difficult to obtain employment or housing." Providing shelter space is less expensive than jailing someone (*Oregonian*, February 1).

# Federal Jury Rules Against Woman Attacked by Portland Police Over Bike Light



n March 19, a federal jury found in favor of Portland police officers Jeffrey Dorn (#29094) and Jason Harris (#34584) in a lawsuit filed by Freedom Child, a woman who was arrested and detained for riding a bike at night without a light.

On August 6, 2003, Child, then 51, was riding her bike home at night without a light. Approximately three blocks from her home, an unmarked, brown police car pulled up to her as she started to walk her bike on the sidewalk. According to Child, the driver, without identifying himself, asked her where she was going. She ignored the person and kept walking. She stated that, when she arrived at her house, she asked "Who are you and what do you want?" When the officers started to get out of the car, Child ran to her porch. The officers admitted in court that they chased her, then pulled her away from her house by grabbing her arm and her hair. They handcuffed her and took her to jail. Child was charged with riding without a bike light, and at the criminal trial she was acquitted of the additional charge of interfering with police.

Child initially filed a complaint with the Independent Police Review Division (IPR), but it was classified as a "Service Complaint," which cannot be appealed to the Citizen Review Committee. The IPR never interviewed her or witnesses, and her complaint was dismissed (PPR #37).

Child then filed a lawsuit, asserting that her civil rights had been violated and that the police used excessive force, unlawfully arrested and detained her and maliciously prosecuted her. She sought approximately \$100,000 in non-economic damages and \$1 million in punitive damages, as well as changes to the IPR system.

During the trial, Officer Harris testified that his practice is to arrest misdemeanor suspects if they don't already have a mug shot and fingerprints on file so police can obtain that information. During closing arguments, Child's lawyer Steven J. Sherlag accused the officers of lying in their testimony, pre-trial statements and in their written reports. The City's attorney tried to portray Child as an unreliable witness with a grudge against the police. The jury found for the police. (Some information from the Oregonian's website Oregonlive, March 19).

Sherlag says though three witnesses and Child contradicted the officers' stories, the jury's decision shows that many ciitzens show deference to police despite the compelling evidence that they are not telling the truth. "It seems like a fundamental miscarriage of justice when Ms. Child's rights were so clearly violated," Sherlag told Portland Copwatch.



why they turn up less contraband than searches of white people— the so-called "hit rate."

But Sizer's plan falls short in many places. Regarding the "hit rate," Sizer missed an important statistic: The Bureau has repeatedly asserted that using population ratios is not a good "benchmark" to prove profiling is occurring, but her plan compares the percentage of those searched to the population. Her table shows "discretionary searches"; that is, searches other than "inventory searches" done automatically upon arrests and/or tows. Whether police create reasons to conduct inventory searches is not addressed by this

calculation. Her numbers indicate that African Americans are 6% of the population, and 8% of those searched, Latinos are 9% of the population, and 11% of those searched, while whites are 74% of the population and 4% of those searched. However, PCW tabulates that 13% of white people pulled over are searched while 26% of African Americans and Latinos are

searched; this ratio shows clearly that people of color are twice as likely to be searched as whites. By showing contraband rates averaging 27% for people of color compared to 33% for whites, the Bureau report doesn't make it clear that this disparity means people of color who are searched have contraband only 80% as often as whites who are searched. Unlike the 2000 plan, Sizer's plan also does not include a section on

accountability. It restates the Bureau's intention to change state sunshine laws so that if individual officers' traffic stops are monitored, the public will not be allowed to see that information. Other states have used identifying numbers to shield the officers' identities without changing important public records laws.

One questionable proposal directs officers to give a warning or a ticket at every stop. While this might reduce the number of times people are pulled over with the perception that there was "no reason," it may also encourage police to create reasons for their stops.

The phenomenon of "pretext stops" is addressed in the CRC's Disparate Treatment

Complaints report. That report examines 60 complaints made to the Independent Police Review Division (IPR), most of them about alleged bias, whether about race, gender, sexual orientation or ability. Some complaints by white drivers were examined to see if the police behavior or the IPR's investigation were handled differently from complaints by people of color. Others were African American drivers who complained about traffic stops but did not allege racial profiling, to see if investigators missed the allegation. Most complaints involved officer rudeness.

The CRC's report notes that pretext stops generate many complaints, despite technically being legal according to case law. "The reviewers found that when some minority complainants were stopped for a minor traffic violation, like failure to signal more than 100 feet before a turn, they expressed doubt they were actually stopped for [that] violation, and those complainants often assumed that race played a role in the stop." Both reports noted that "mere conversation" is another tool used by police which creates tension in the community. But the CRC report explicitly notes that they "did not feel that the complainant understood that they had a right or felt free to walk away from an officer." In some cases complainants "felt that the officers were misrepresenting their identity, their evidence or probable cause, or the purpose of their conversation in the hopes of getting the complainant to disclose criminal activity."

The CRC criticized IPR intake staff for sometimes cutting off complainants before they finished telling their stories, occasionally missing allegations, and having inconsistent tone in fielding calls.

Recommendations in the CRC report also included cultural competency training, handing out business cards, and having more communication between community members and police outside of patrol and emergency call situations. They also raised the question of why officers occasionally would loudly announce the criminal history of some community members, implying it was done to embarrass the person.

The CRC reported a few specific examples of complaints, such as an African American man stopped because he was wearing blue, allegedly a "gang" color, and police speaking only to men, ignoring women who wanted to talk to them. profiling, rather than the one adopted by the Police The report could have benefitted from other stories Bureau based on national standards. The plan defines profiling as "The inappropriate reliance on such as one told at Work Group meetings about officers at a basketball game where trouble had been reported race as a factor in deciding to stop and/or search an individual." The formal definition is "any police-

zeroing in on a young African American man, despite crowd members telling the cops he was the wrong guy.

The "Community/Police Relations Committee" (CPRC) of the HRC spent the early part of the year defining their mission. Chief Sizer and/or Assistant Chief Brian Martinek attended in February and March, along with a few public audience members.

Portland Copwatch (PCW) raised a concern at the February meeting regarding anecdotal reports and a Willamette Week article that officers engaged in a crackdown on gangs-known as "Operation Cool Down"—were targeting every young African American male on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. "[Officer Russ]

In response to the Jan. 28 Willamette Week article on profiling youth on MLK, retired officer Dave Barrios and Officer Russ Corno wrote letters to the Rap Sheet, the "police union" newspaper (February issue). Barrios defended the officers, stating that deadly violence to young people is a greater threat than profiling. Corno and his partner Pete Mahuna, featured in the WW, are allegedly respected, as they "shag youngsters off

Sizer's plan relies on a narrow definition of racial

initiated action that relies on race, ethnicity or

national origin rather than the behavior of an

individual." The difference is enormous, as the

second definition includes "mere conversations" and

use of force, both of which are disproportionately

doled out on African Americans in Portland.



dangerous corners, notify parents of kids' risky behavior, and diffuse hostility with their humor and streetexperienced style." It's not racial profiling, says Barrios, it's saving lives and re-enforcing community values.

For his part, Corno berates WWs James Pitkin for being the only reporter that did not focus on "youth and gang activity," but instead to accused police of profiling. News for Corno: The media is supposed to be a government watchdog, not a mouthpiece, and Portland should be thankful that after years of treading around issues such as the death of James Chasse, WW finally generated a new story on police misconduct.

> Corno is frank about who they're targeting: young black men. 'Statistics don't lie,' he says. 'You gotta go where the numbers go." The January 28 article, written by a reporter who went on a ride-along with the cops, indicated they were performing patdown searches on every young black male, hoping they understood it was to quell the upsurge in "gang violence."

> Despite adding this concern to the March meeting agenda, CPRC Chair Hector Lopez allowed the police to defer the discussion yet again when Martinek bristled that audience questions seemed to come with "an agenda." The police, who explained away what they indicated was the necessity and usefulness of pretext stops, had no "agenda." Lopez was Chair of the CRC when he and four other members resigned in protest that the CRC was not strong enough to hold police accountable (PPR #30). In addition, the Office of Human Rights is staffed by former Latino Network Director Maria Lisa Johnson, who was on the RPC. If the CPRC is merely to be a forum that lets police feel comfortable and explain their behavior that is or is perceived as profiling, it will be unfortunate.

> Finally, Sizer's report was called the "Plan to Address Racial Profiling" despite the endless arguments from police on the RPC about the use of that term. An officer who sat on the Committee told PCW that officers are actually more upset about the requirement that they hand out business cards than they are about the use of the term Racial Profiling. Anything they see as adding more work, the officer said, is met with resistance.

# NEW SHOOTINGS REPORT REVEALS COPS LET SUSPECT BLEED, LOST FILES IN 2004 DEATH Taser Use, Medical Care Up for Change; Hints of Resolution Surface in Chasse Case

n late February, the Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) released their fourth report on Portland Police shootings and deaths in custody. PARC took the police to task for how they treated Willie Grigsby, who was killed after leading police on a car chase and shooting at them, wounding one officer in the hand (PPR #34). The new report also cautions cops on the over-use of Tasers and AR-15 assault rifles. Meanwhile, the public anxiously awaits the outcome of the investigation into whether Officer Christopher Humphreys (#32784) lied about whether or not he tackled James Chasse, Jr in September 2006, leading to Chasse's death (PPRs #40 and 46).

The new PARC report covers 12 shootings from 2002-2005 and includes 9 new formal recommendations. The previous reports in 2003, 2005 and 2006 covered the years 1997-2002 and laid out over 115 recommendations for the Bureau to improve training and policy, as well as investigations regarding deadly force incidents (PPRs #31, 37 and 41). In the past, the reports have been so vague in the details about which incident was being examined that they were nearly impossible to follow. This time, PARC laid out each incident clearly and numbered them, using those numbers as reference throughout the report, a huge improvement.

Because of the report's new format, it is clear that in Grigsby's case, not only did police hit the 24-year-old African American man with 13 bullets, 22 beanbags, and 5 Taser hits, but a police dog bit and dragged him while he was bleeding to death. What the mainstream press failed to ask

about was the report's revelation that numerous audio and video tapes were missing from the investigative file when PARC reviewed the case. When asked whether any discipline had been handed down in the incident, Chief Sizer said she couldn't comment on discipline but that corrective measures had been taken where appropriate. (This probably means they put a note in the case file saying "Some tapes are missing! Ooops! Sorry!")

The lack of medical care for Grigsby as he lay dying led PARC to repeat recommendations from their 2005 report that would replace the Bureau's charge to render aid "at the earliest time feasible" to do so "as soon as possible," as none of Grigsby's wounds were initially fatal. SERT arrived and waited 37 minutes to get medical attention to Grigsby, though he "had not moved for nearly an hour."

The report warns the PPB against repeated use of Tasers, still giving leeway to use Tasers as many as three

times before coming under scrutiny. Given the over 300 unexplained deaths after suspects were zapped by Tasers, we would have hoped that calling for a limited use would have meant only one Taser hit and only in cases where deadly PARC did not address the fact that the Portland Police force would otherwise have been allowed. PARC also called to restrict the use of so-called "less lethal have used Tasers on rounds" such as "bean bag guns" as a result of the Grigsby case. people who were mortally

PARC suggests that the Bureau not use AR-15 assault rifles in close-range incidents. This makes sense since the bullets can travel 300 yards.

Other high profile cases covered in the report included the deaths of Byron Hammick, who was holding a toddler when police killed him in 2002, Shane Clements, who was killed while boxed in by police cars in 2003, and Vernon Allen, a homeless man who was allegedly waving a knife when multiple cops surrounded him and killed him within 5 minutes (PPRs #26, 32, and 36). Suspiciously absent is the shooting of (continued on p. 8)

# Other Portland Area Police Shootings News: Clackamas Craziness 68-year-old Pot Suspect Killed; SWAT Shooting; Kaady case Moves Forward; Clatskanie Man Shot in Hand

n March 4, Clackamas County Deputies Brian Lister and Jesse Ashby were involved in the shooting death of Hubert Henkel when they arrived at his Canby home to enforce a drug warrant (Clackamas Sheriff's Department, March 7). The 68year-old was wanted for growing marijuana, and apparently came to the door with a gun at 10:30 PM when the police arrived. His 80 year old companion, Marjorie Crawford, was arrested after the shooting (Salem-News.com, March 7). About a year earlier, on February 7, 2008 Lister shot and killed Aaron Ganon, 31, who was allegedly suicidal and brandishing a gun after driving away from his home in Clackamas (PPR #44). We hope the Clackamas Sheriff will consider terminating Lister's career after two back-to-back incidents with people who could

Fouad Kaady

wounded numerous times, though Portland Copwatch

has been raising the

concern for years. Kendra

James, Jahar Perez, and Dennis Young were also

Tasered after being shot.

In the 2005 Clackamas County shooting death of Fouad Kaady (PPR #37), U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Papak ruled that the family's lawsuit could proceed because Sandy

possibly have been in mental health crisis.

On April 21, a Clackamas County Sheriff's SWAT team shot Bradley Snell, 38, in Milwaukie, after he allegedly took a woman hostage, threatening to kill her and her children unless he got drugs. Snell reportedly died after "resisting arrest" (Clackamas Review on line, April 21).

> Also involved in the Kaady shooting was Clackamas Sheriff's Deputy David Willard.



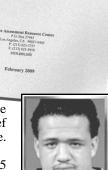
Clackamas Deputies, and Marjorie Crawford in a family photo posted on KATU.com

Officer William Bergin "should have known he wasn't allowed to use a Taser against someone who doesn't pose an immediate threat but has simply failed to comply with commands" (Willamette Week Wire, Feb 24). The ruling makes it possible for the civil rights trial to begin. Bergin resigned late last year after being indicted on criminal charges related to distributing suspended drivers' licenses to minors who wanted to buy alcohol, and he was disciplined

in 2007 after an arrest for DUII (Sandy Post, November 14).

In Clatskanie, Columbia County Deputy David Fuller wrestled with Eric Toftemark, 35, over a shotgun on April 13. Somehow, Toftemark was shot in the hand by his own gun and went to the hospital. The incident began when the man's mother complained that he was "inactive and lazy" (KATU-TV, April 13 and Associated Press April 14.)





PARC

The Portland Police Bureau:

Officer-Involved Shootings

and In-Custody Deaths

Third Follow-Up Report



PEOPLE'S POLICE REPORT #47

# Shootings Report Takes Cops to Task on Medical Care, Tasers (continued from p.7)

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James Jahar Perez, who was killed at a traffic stop in 2004 while unarmed (PPR #32). Because the lawsuit was not settled until late in 2008 (PPR #46), PARC was not allowed to review the file.

While PARC evaluated and accepted the Bureau's position on 28 of the 2003 recommendations this time around, they did not highlight the City's lack of response to their recommendation #5.15, which called for a funded civilian oversight body for shootings and deaths cases. Auditor Blackmer seemed surprised that such a recommendation was in the report. Unfortunately, the Citizen Review Committee (CRC) does not have a chance to review the report ahead of time, and unless their PARC Work Group takes immediate action, may not begin evaluating the new report for years. They have been looking at the 2005-2006 reports since November, 2007 (see IPR article, p. 2).

In the case of James Chasse, Chief Sizer promised she would soon release the results of the investigation about Humphreys' changed story as to whether he fell on Chasse, as he told investigators, or "tackled him hard," as he bragged about in the booking area of the jail. Sizer also promised results for the original investigation into possible misconduct by Humphreys, Sgt. Kyle Nice and then-Deputy Bret Barton in the events leading to Chasse's death. The case was heard by the Use of Force Review Board in early October (Oregonian, December 9). Humphreys' fate is particularly interesting as another case surfaced in which he allegedly assaulted a person with mental illness. Humphreys allegedly "assaulted, falsely arrested, and discriminated against" Lisa Ann Coppock on April 22, 2008, according to a tort claim filed in October (Portland Mercury, January 29).

Other developments related to the case have made the press recently: the PPB revised its policies on foot chases, including video training on their "knock-down technique" (Oregonian again); plus, Crisis Intervention Team training has been completed for all officers to learn de-escalation and recognizing signs of mental illness (Mercury, February 12).

In February, the Mental Health Association of Portland posted a trailer for the documentary "Alien Boy," about Chasse's life and death, at http://alienboydoc.wordpress.com .

## Top 25 Portland Police Lawsuits Settled 1993-2009 Total Over \$5 Million (continued from p. 1)

Name	Amount	Date settled	Incident date	Brief notes
1. Protestors August 2002 & May 2003	\$845,000.00	12/1/04	<u>8/22/02</u>	Use of Force (pepper spray)
2. Family of Damon Lowery	\$600,000.00	6/25/05	2/5/99	Use of Force (leading to death)
3. Family of Raymond Gwerder*	\$500,000.00	11/14/07	<u>11/4/05</u>	Shooting (died)
4. Barbara & Ted Vickers, Dickie Dow Estate	\$380,000.00	3/27/02	10/19/98	Death (Dickie Dow, beaten & piled on, died later)
5. Family of James Jahar Perez*	\$350,000.00	9/3/08	<u>3/28/04</u>	Shooting (died) Last time we printed this chart,
6. Bruce Browne	\$200,895.00	4/1/03	7/11/01	<b>Shooting (lived)</b> three years ago in PPR #37, the
7. Family of Dennis Young*	\$200,000.00	10/8/08	<u>1/4/06</u>	Shooting (died) total for the top 25 was \$3.6 million-
8. Daniel Thomas*+**	\$191,746.53	3/14/08**	<u>7/11/03</u>	Use of Force about \$1.5 million has been paid
9. Maria-Janeth Rodriguez-Sanchez	\$177,161.41	12/2/05	<u>4/8/03</u>	Use of Force out just in big-ticket cases since.
10. Barbara Weich*	\$150,000.00	1/2/08	<u>5/29/05</u>	Use of Force (broken arm)
11. Eunice Crowder	\$145,000.00	4/23/04	<u>6/9/03</u>	Use of Force (including Taser)
12. Chaz Miller	\$133,926.06	6/21/06	<u>4/21/03</u>	Use of Force/wrong person arrested
13. Gerald Gratton	\$118,000.00	4/4/94	7/19/93	Shooting (lived)
14. Two Victims of Officer John Wood*	\$105,000.00	2/25/09	<u>7/21/06</u>	Sexual misconduct
15. Ivory Spann	\$100,056.79	4/7/97	6/6/93	Use of Force (baton hits)
16. Duane Anthony Shaw	\$100,000.00	10/25/95	9/14/93	Shooting (died)
17. Johnny Senteno	\$96,975.23	12/30/94	8/21/93	Use of Force (beanbag shots)
18. Janice M Aichele (deceased)	\$90,000.00	11/7/96	10/6/94	Homicide by off-duty cop
19. Heather Bissell	\$88,385.83	9/23/05	4/30/03	Use of Force/arrest
20. Dalebert V Acelar and 3 others	\$87,000.00	6/16/99	10/17/97	Unlawful search/detention
21. Pavel Guzenko	\$80,000.00	2/16/01	10/12/99	Use of Force (mistaken for wheelbarrow thief)
22. Merrick Bonneau	\$80,000.00	12/11/01	9/4/99	Use of Force/arrest (mistaken for brother)
23. James Ladd	\$75,000.00	12/3/03	1/24/02	Use of Force (off duty beating, on-duty cover-up)
24. John L Kimmel*	\$70,715.75	9/7/05	6/1/03	Use of Force (mistaken for car thief)
25. David Tracy*	\$67,500.00	1/2/08	1/30/05	Use of Force
	5,032,362.60			Chart: Portland Copwatch.
*-new info or new settlement since our 2006 chart				Sources: Portland Office of Risk Management,

\*\*-Thomas' case ended with a judgment of \$100,000 added to the original claim of \$91,000+ paid in 2004

Portland City Auditor's Office and various news agencies \$5 million of that money (see chart, above). Another \$5000

was recently paid out to Charity Johnson, a woman who was Tasered by an officer at a bowling alley in December, 2005, in a settlement reached in February (Oregonian, February 26).

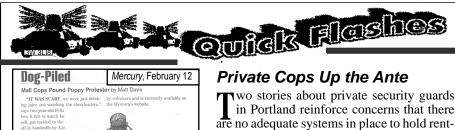
The women Wood harassed did not have their names printed in the press. Though Wood resigned in 2006, the City still felt it potentially would be found liable in court and settled (Oregonian, February 24) for the 14th largest total on our list.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Karps, who claims that Officer Sean Sothern (#28796) grabbed her arm, twisted it, spoke to her unprofessionally, then handcuffed her and accused her of interference and harassment, accepted a \$15,000 settlement. Because the officer was working a soccer game at PGE Park, the Portland Beavers Baseball Team, rather than the City, paid the money (*Oregonian*, December 18).

Looking at the top 25 settlements list, 15 of them and all but three of the top 12 were for incidents since the 2002 creation of the "Independent" Police Review Division (IPR). The frequency

of these acts show that the IPR-and its much-hyped studies of police shootings (above)-have not made Portland safe from police brutality. The #3, #5 and #7 highest settlements were for shootings after the first PARC report came out in 2003-Raymond Gwerder (2005), James Jahar Perez (2004) and Dennis Young (2006), costing the city a total of over \$1 million for those three incidents alone.

Portland being self-insured means one thing: These payments are coming from your tax dollars. While the City continues to assert that having civilian investigators working for IPR investigate cases would be redundant and costly, we have yet to see any officers held accountable for these shootings. Lt. Jeffrey Kaer, who killed Young, was fired but reinstated. Officer Jason Sery, who killed Perez, voluntarily resigned but apparently has been helping recruit new members for the Portland Police while he works as a Beaverton cop (*Rap Sheet*, December 2008). As far as we know, Officer Leo Besner, who shot Gwerder in the back while he was talking to a hostage negotiator, is still active with the Bureau.



In Portland reinforce concerns that there are no adequate systems in place to hold renta-cops accountable (see IPR article, pp. 2-3). The more recent incident happened on February 7, when animal rights activist Matt Rossell was protesting a pet store at the Lloyd Center mall and was tackled by a security guard there. The guard claimed he had previously warned Rossell to never come back

to the mall or he would be arrested; Rossell denies that exclusion order ever took place. Rossell was charged with trespass and disorderly conduct, though video taken of the incident may help him prove his innocence. The *Portland Mercury*, in its February 12 issue, revealed that the Lloyd Center's security manual prohibits violence: *"We do not detain, restrain, nor use force to resolve conflicts or disruptions... A security officer should never confuse his/her role and function with that of a police officer.*" The manual restricts use of force for defensive purposes only. The head of mall security, former Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Hanson, would not comment on whether guards were repeatedly violating the guidelines.

Earlier, a private security guard broke a man's index finger and pepper sprayed him in the face in a May, 2007 incident which came to light at the end of last year through the *Mercury*. Portland Patrol Inc. (PPI) Officer Ron Cash broke Steven Lee Johnson's finger during an "*altercation*" in Waterfront Park. Again, PPI has a policy of not using force. Johnson admits that at some point he hit Officer Cash, and PPI also allows its officers to defend themselves; the question is, was any of Cash's violence necessary just to get Johnson to leave the park with his friend who was homeless? (*Mercury*, December 4 and 25).

# Oakland Copwatch Formed After Transit Cop Kills Man Point Blank

Not far from Berkeley, CA, the birthplace of the modern Copwatch movement, BART transit officer Johannes Mehserle shot and killed a young black man, Oscar Grant, at point blank range on an Oakland rail station platform in front of dozens of witnesses. The December 31 shooting was caught on video, and sparked immense outrage in the area, prompting the creation of an Oakland branch of Copwatch and an arrest warrant for Mehserle, who fled to Nevada shortly after the incident occurred. Mehserle



was arrested and brought back to California (Associated Press, January 8 and 14). The officer claimed that he accidentally pulled his gun instead of his Taser, or at least that's what he originally said. He later changed his story to say he thought Grant was armed and said nothing about his Taser. In its February issue of the *Rap Sheet*, the Portland Police Association ran an AP article revealing this fact under the headline "*California Cop who killed man pulled gun instead of Taser*," ignoring that

# Atlanta Cops Sentenced for Killing 92-Year-Old in Drug Raid

Three Atlanta officers who shot and killed Kathryn Johnston. a 92-year-old grandmother who was falsely accused of dealing drugs, were convicted and sentenced for their actions. One of the officers, Jason Smith, planted marijuana after the killing; another, Gregg Junnier, created the problem in part by circulating "*handoffs*," or unverified information that cops pretended they knew first hand. The third, Arthur Tesler, was convicted though he was "just following orders." Smith was sentenced to 10 years for, among other things, obtaining the illegal warrant that led to the raid,



he changed his story later.



# Two Supreme Court Rulings Erode Civil Liberties

Two recent Supreme Court rulings chipped away further at the rights of people in favor of the police. On January 26, the Court ruled that officers can frisk the passengers of a car regardless of whether they are suspected of criminal activity or not. The justification is that "traffic stops are inherently dangerous for police and pat-downs are permissible when an officer has a reasonable suspicion that the passenger may be armed and dangerous." The case was Arizona v. Johnson (Associated Press, January 26). The other decision laid the groundwork to undo the "exclusionary rule," which prohibits the use of evidence obtained without a warrant. In Herring v. United States, Chief Justice Roberts wrote that "unlawful police conduct should not require the suppression of evidence if all that was involved was isolated carelessness" (NY Times, January 30).

which provoked the frightened Johnston to fire a gun at the officers when she thought her home was being invaded by criminals. Junnier got six years and Tesler will serve five, all in the federal jail system (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, February 23).

# Swear at a Cop? Not in Canada! Photograph Cops? Not in England!

A law being considered in Montreal, Canada, would criminalize insulting police. Though some rational people are realizing this law will be an infringement on free expression, Mayor Gerald Tremblay is considering the idea to prevent terms such as "*pig*" and "*doughnut eater*" from being used. Apparently, some form of this law already exists in Quebec City and other localities in Canada. The city was also reportedly looking at a law to stop protestors from covering their faces (Canadian Press, January 27).

Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism law in England now makes it illegal to "*elicit*, *publish or communicate information*" about police or members of the military. While the officers can waive the prohibition at their discretion, many in Britain are opposed to the law as it will take away the ability to document police misconduct. A previous law passed in 2000 (prior to 9/11) allows police to question anyone taking photographs of airports, government buildings or railroads (Canadian Broadcasting Centre, February 16).



## POLICE, POLITICS & CORPORATIONS (continued from back page)

the death penalty, and challenges to three strikes laws. All of this would, we think, increase police accountability and lower the number of people wrongfully imprisoned, but hey, we're cop-watchers, what do we know?

Taking it to the local level, the Portland Police Association has several business-related items that raised some concerns. The PPA's new website area for "members only" apparently includes "corporate discounts" (February Rap Sheet). A scholarship set up to honor Officer Mark Zylawy, who was killed in traffic while off-duty last year (PPR #44) will send students to private schools to prepare for college. Capt. Chris Uehara explains in February's Rap Sheet: Some "might miss the point of why we are funding this scholarship or think we have hidden agendas." It's not to recruit new cops, though that would be great, writes Uehara. Cops help strangers all the time, he says, and it is their selflessness that leads them to help others.

The two schools they picked, La Salle College Prep and De Lasalle N. Catholic High, are known for their commitment to education as well as a "reputation for working with local businesses and the community to help students achieve their full potential." So Uehara calls this scholarship the "Cutting edge of something unique: think about it, law enforcement agencies partnering with businesses and citizen who invest in educational opportunities for youth and their families who live in the neighborhoods we protect." I am thinking about it, and hoping that such scholarships can come from the education budget rather than law enforcement.

A specific example of corporations not-sosubtly infiltrating the police-public purview: A raffle at the PPA picnic for the scholarship that

raised \$220 was for a "*nifty prize*" from Extreme Products, a business run by Officer John Myers. An ad for the company in the December *Rap Sheet* shows thoughtful gift ideas like firearms and tactical gear, proudly proclaiming "*Extreme Products is a Law Enforcement dealer for Glock and Smith* & *Wesson.*" What could that "*nifty prize*" have been that raised money to send kids to college prep?

# Attitude and Morale, Turning Around?

In the past few Rapping Back columns, we have chronicled the moans and groans of the PPA citing "low morale." It appears there is a move afoot to turn that frown upside-down. New PPA President Scott Westerman said he was reluctant to read the *Rap Sheet* lately because of the negative tone (December issue). He reminded the members "*This is a union publication that's distributed* to the public and reflects on our entire membership," encouraging them to write about good work, bad management, and no personal attacks.

In another column (January issue) Westerman urged officers not to feed on the negative, acknowledging that when any officer engages in "some reprehensible act, it reflects on all of us, because we wear the same badge of authority." He also urged officers not to spread rumors after possible misconduct occurs, noting it can be "destructive." Westerman reminds his members that he advocates for them all, even if they are guilty, coming close to quoting Martin Luther King Jr.: "*Injustice against one is injustice against all.*" He states that some officers are disciplined for the same thing others were praised for, but gives no examples.

Det. Jim Lawrence of the Cold Case squad, also encouraging a better attitude, apparently drew the attention of Independent Police Review Division Director Mary-Beth Baptista with his December piece promising only to write about good news in future *Rap Sheets*. Calling the newsletter a "gripe page," he reminded other members "Your managers, the City Council, news reporters, attorneys and all of our critics read the Rap Sheet."

OFF-DUTY

SHOOTER COP

PONDERS RANDOM

ACTS OF VIOLENCE

In the March Rap

Sheet, Sgt. Greg

Stewart wrote about



Actions called "Black Swans," a financial sector reference to unexpected occurrences people try explaining after the fact. Stewart uses the metaphor to criticize most people's reactions to police deadly force, saying humans can't accept randomness—"especially true of politicians, lawyers, and reporters." Stewart says people create stories to fit what happened. "By creating stories to explain the unexplainable, we create political pressure, which misdirects limited resources."

He laments the ban on the carotid (aka choke) hold after it caused deaths in Portland and elsewhere. "Unfortunately, some years later a mentally ill person was fighting with police, struggled too hard and died." It is unclear if he is referring to James Chasse or Dickie Dow.

Stewart is upset that they teach cops to communicate better, but don't evaluate scientifically whether tactics work. He dismisses the idea of looking for "best practices," saying the term was invented by lawyers to make suing easier and to enable "courtroom theatrics." He says that changing training and limiting tactics is making police work more "dangerous" and killing "DIVERSITY." Stewart says these changes are essentially "planning for the last incident." He should know, he stepped out of his front door while off duty and shot Jeffrey Turpin, who was in emotional crisis running around Scappoose with a gun in October, 2007 (PPR #43).

In February, he reported that Baptista contacted him to call attention to the commendations for police listed in the IPR's quarterly newsletter, which excited Lawrence. The IPR's reports on "*positive police contacts*" included an officer praised for acting professionally at a traffic stop; another who settled a nervous woman's worries at a stop, and a mom and dad thanking the police for help with their "*mentally ill son*."

Lawrence cites Caralyne Sweeney, who is recruiting new officers, noting that the Bureau "can't hide the negative things associated with the Bureau and City" as they do outreach. He notes some things that new recruits should brace for in moving to Portland, including that "Political dissent is a way of life here."

But not all is rosy with the PPA (pun intended). In the January issue, Officer Rich Storm relates the tale of a friend who was excluded from a defensive tactics instruction course because "the Chief's office didn't want him to be in the class." Storm complains that morale is low because of incidents like this, but then hints at why Chief Rosie Sizer may have nixed his friend: "He might have

received some complaints at another precinct, but" writes Storm, "when you work hard and get things done, you're going to get complaints."

Westerman's January column illustrates what he seems to think is the Bureau turning its back on Jason Sery (who shot and killed James Jahar Perez, resigned, and now works for Beaverton police) and Christopher Humphreys (who participated in the beating that killed James Chasse, then changed his story about whether he tackled Chasse). "Both officers have been crucified by some of the media, by some members of the public, and worst of all, publicly ignored and discarded by the administration." Westerman said both were respected, and were just "doing the job when something tragic happened." Westerman claims they were cleared by Grand Juries and "every level of oversight" though as of this writing, the final verdict on Humphreys in the Chasse case has not been publicized (p. 5). He pledges that "we will once again enjoy a time when it will be socially acceptable to praise the police publicly."

# Contempt of Citizen, Accountability

While PPA members struggle to stay positive about the Bureau, they seem to still have no love lost for Council, leadership, or members of the public. Officer Rob Blanck, taking a stab at the lengthy hiring process that kept one applicant waiting 10 months to be accepted into the Bureau, wrote "I hope [the City Council will] bring back some common sense and put a stop to the vocal minority cop haters and ACLU lawyers who seem to have had open access to the Mayors' offices of the past" (February Rap Sheet). Blanck adds that his criticism is "not a whine for more pay or compensation. It's an outcry for a serious push for justice, and (conclusion on p. 11) MAY 2009 PEOPLE'S POLICE REPORT #47



acknowledgment of a job well done and a sigh every time management second guesses our split-second decisions in the luxury of time and their plush chairs on the 15th floor."

Blanck complains about the fallout when an officer showed up at a "*cause du jour*' protest downtown and failed to bring the required 'hat and bat." At the next roll call, all the cops had to show their equipment to the Sergeant. Boo hoo.

For his fellow officers, he has praise: "The warriors I serve with are an amazing band of siblings." They will drive toward a conflict "at mach 5 with that stupid grin on their face." They have a diversity of "shape, size, culture, religion, and mentality." Worried about Sizer's call for more dialogue, Blanck says "[1] believe in a little vitriol now and again" as a form of diversity.

While Blanck contends that the citizens of Portland are amazing, he excludes the "loud-mouth liberal ignoramuses who are all over the media clamoring to 'keep Portland weird."

In his special Christmas column (December), Blanck tells a story about a cop who walked up to two "gangsters," African American men with police records. The two were "unusually unarmed and without product" so were sent on their way. Two "Starbucks drinking young urban professionals" were upset at the cop for "harassing" the "hip hop youth-the parting shot was one that always amazes us-'why don't you go catch some real criminals?"" Blanck writes them off: "The yipping yuppies are clueless.... [it is a] mistake to assume what is known by us is known by them. [They] have likely never encountered any real evil in their lives." He claims their criticism proves police are doing a good job: "We have shielded them from the criminals so much that they can't recognize real wickedness passing by their well-groomed front yards." The problem, of course, is that the two men were not engaged in any criminal conduct and the "yuppies" were right; if those two men were trying to get on with their lives, they were stopped by police for no reason and it could just discourage them from thinking there's any reason to try living an honest life.

In what seems like a mixed message, a February piece by Det. Peter Simpson, editor of the *Rap Sheet*, quotes retired PPB member Dave Barrios cautioning officers about the downturn in the economy. *"People who have never had police contact before... will resort to violence, drugs and otherwise irrational behavior."* It seems Barrios

-Nếu bạn đang điều khiến xe Bạn có trách nhiệm phải xuất trình bằng lái, giấy chủ quyền xe (giấy đặng ký xe), và những giấy tờ bảo hiêm xe. Nếu bạn bị tình nghi có men rượu trong khi điều khiến xe, cũng như bạn từ chối không cho nhân viên cảnh sát xét nghiệm hởi thờ của bạn (breath test), bằng lái của bạn có thể bị đình chỉ.

-Nếu cảnh sát muốn khám xét Họ có thẻ sẽ ép bạn xuông để kiểm tra vũ khí. Bạn có quyền không chấp nhận bất kỳ cuộc khám xét nào khác. Nếu nhận viên cảnh sát mang theo "lệnh khám xét", bạn hấy yêu cầu họ xuất trình. Nếu họ khám xét nhà hoặc xe hỏi của bạn với lý do "có liên quan bị tỉnh nghi", bạn có quyền không chấp nhận cuộc khám xét đo.

#### -Nêu bạn bị bắt giữ

Bạn có quyền không cần trả lời bất kỳ cậu hỏi nào ngoài việc cho nhân viên cảnh sát biết về lý lịch của bạn. Bạn không nên điềa ra bất kỳ lời biện hộ hay giải thích nặc, Bất kỳ điều gì bạn đửa ra đậu có thể bất lợi cho bạn. Bạn chỉ nói "I want to talk to a lawyer" (Tôi yêu cầu được nói chuyện vối luật sự của tôi). Nếu bạn không có luật sự nêng, kấy đề nghị với nhân viên cảnh sát đề bạn có thể liên lọc với một luật sự bất kỳ.

#### -Nếu bạn đang quan sát nhân viên công lực:

Hảy cho họ biết bạn không có ý định cản trở công vụ của họ. Điều này có nghĩa, răng, bạn fải giữ vị trí cách xa hiện trường khỏang 10 bộ (10 feet) hoặc xa hơn, và không nên can thiệp vào công tác hành sự của nhân viên công lực đối với kẻ bị bắt giữ.



Portland Police yearbook

is noting that the next person cops arrest could be the victim of the recession/depression; however, that ignores the economic conditions of those already locked into the criminal justice system. Barrios adds it will be hard on the police, and "*We would all benefit by coming together*." Does he mean we all need to support those who have nothing, or everyone has to help bring the heavy hand of the law down on those who use unconventional means to support themselves and their families?

#### LOVELY TIDBITS FROM THE MARCH RAP SHEET

—Det. Simpson complains that an officer who got a staph infection had his disability claim denied. "An 'independent' (hardy frickin' har) medical examiner

stated that a police officer is at no greater risk than the general public." Simpson invites the disability board to "search some of the lowlifes under the Burnside bridge or along 82nd... I'm sure the 'general public' is at the same risk when they go to Starbucks.... as the police officer who physically handles these people."

—Lt Col Dave Grossman, director of the "Warrior Science Group," wrote more about the oft-used metaphor that police are sheepdogs protecting sheep (citizens) from the wolves (bad guys). He says sheep don't like the sheepdog, because he looks like the wolf. They would "prefer he didn't tell them where to go, give them traffic tickets or stand at the ready in our airport in camouflage fatigues holding an M-16."

—Dean Scoville of the LA Sheriff's Dept. urges officers not to worry about "taking the first punch." Relating a story of his own schoolyard fight, he says he told the other kid, "You hit me first," then expresses surprise: "The little asshole hauls off and nails me with a roundhouse." Scoville warns against the "Pernicious 'don't hit back' sophistries" from teachers, and warns officers not to hesitate.

The Portland Police Association does not set policy. However, some PPA leadership and officers express negative attitudes toward citizens and civilian oversight in their newspaper, so we worry these ideas may spread throughout Portland's rank-and-file.

The Rap Sheet is available from the Portland Police Association, 1313 NW 19th, Portland, OR 97209. The PPA's website is <www.ppavigil.org>.

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Letters/submissions welcome. Contact us by e-mail: newsletter@portlandcopwatch.org

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CLIP AND SAVE THIS "YOUR RIGHTS AND THE POLICE" CARD				

We have cards available in Vietnamese (Left), Spanish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and English. If you can translate and/or typeset into other languages, want more copies or can print more copies for us on card stock, contact Portland Copwatch at (503) 236-3065.



Portland Copwatch member Dan Handelman analyzes the Police "Union" newsletter, the "Rap Sheet" for the People's Police Report

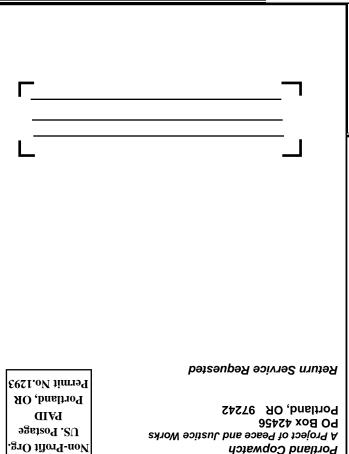
# Growing Grumbling Gets Gendarmes to Give Gripes Up for Good Guidance?

# Intermixing Police, Politics & Corporate Power=??

A rticles in recent *Rap Sheets* have given insight into the political leanings of police, raising concerns in those places where police, politics, and corporations intertwine.

On the broadest scale, we have seen an uptick in the militarization of police since 9/11. In January's *Rap Sheet*, a statement from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) asserts that the events of 9/11 "*fundamentally altered the traditional role of the law enforcement profession*."

The article cites the passage of the PATRIOT act, and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to "confront the menace of terrorism." The piece is critical of the federal government for not coming up with a centralized plan to combat socalled terrorism, while pouring money into new programs and causing some hardships for traditional law enforcement tasks. However, their suggestion is to integrate law enforcement and homeland security, a move that will likely make the current hardships look like a picnic. People suspected of minor crimes will be branded as terrorists and immigrants will refuse to cooperate with



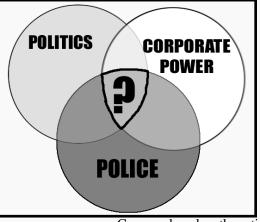
local law enforcement as they fear deportation. The IACP's overall

suggestion may have promise: to create a Commission about the criminal justice system like the one created under President Johnson in the 1960s, involving all elements of criminal justice and stakeholders (hmm, you think suspects, convicts and their families will be included?).

Dbama: Goo Dad for cops

Members' Members' section now available

Moving to the state level, the December *Rap Sheet* features a report from Oregon Council of Police Association (OCPA)'s Brian Delashmutt on the November elections. He reports that of 38 State



Representatives and 9 State Senators endorsed by the OCPA, 36 won in the house and 7 in the senate. With Greg Matthews (D-Gresham, an officer for eight years before heading the Fire union) and Sheri Sprenger (R-Lebanon/Sweet Home, a former Sheriff's Deputy), there are five current or former law enforcement personnel in Oregon's 90member legislature. Delashmutt notes that most labor issues will have a better chance to pass with the larger Democratic majority.

Conversely, a lengthy article from David Griffith of *Police Magazine* ponders the harm to law enforcement after the election of Democrat Barack Obama to the Presidency (February *Rap Sheet*). While Griffith concludes that Obama is a moderate on public safety issues, he cautions that Obama sees terrorism as a law enforcement, rather than a military issue. He also states that more liberal judges could mean an increase in the use of the "exclusionary rule" (excluding evidence obtained without a warrant), restrictions on (*continued on p. 10*)

#### NHỮNG QUYỆN LOI CỦA BẠN -Nêu nhân viên cảnh sát có ĐỔI VỚI NHÂN VIỆN CANH SẤT thái độ không đúng đán: Bong Hướng dân tôm lước glành chò Bạn hãy lưu ý đến việc ghi rõ tên của tất những cử dân tại thanh phố Portland. cả nhân viên cảnh sát có liên quan, và yêu cấu được biết tên của sĩ quan chỉ Khi nhân viên cảnh sát yêu cầu ban huy (supervisors) neu có thể. Bạn hãy dung xe (bằng tin hiệu qưay đến) ghi rõ tên và số lượng những người có Bạn hãy ngồi bình tĩnh tại chỗ, hãy mặt chứng kiến tại hiện trường. giữ cho tay ban ở nói mà cánh sát có -Nêu bạn bị nhân viên cảnh thể trộng thấy rõ. Bạn nên cần thận sát hành hung: (sử dụng vũ lực trải chức năng) khi tra lài những câu hỏi của nhân Bạn hãy mau chóng lập hồ sở ghi rỡ viên cánh sát. Nêu ban không fai là những chứng thường trong vụ hành người đang điều khiên xe, ban hung. Ban có nhiều cách để lập hỗ sơ không nhất thiết fải có "iD card" (thể kiện và gời đến phòng "điều tra nội căn cước) trong người. Ban không vy" (IPR) tại trụ sở cảnh sát yêu cầu. cân thiết phải xuất trình quấy tờ tùy Những số diện thoại cân nhớ: thân. (hoặc không cần fải thông bốo cho nhân viên cánh sát biết lý lịch Portland Copwatch..(503) 321-5120 của ban), tuy nhiên, nêu ban từ chội Independent Police Review các thủ tục xuất trình, nhân viên Division (IPR) ......503-823-0146 canh sat co the se tam giữ bạn. Bạn Mavor Sam Adams....503-823-4120 không thể bị bắt giữ vì lý do không Metro Public Defenders..503-225-9100 mang theo ID card (the can cuoc). Multhomah Defenders..503-226-3083