

DATE:

December 1, 2017

TO:

Portland City Council

Mary Hull Caballero, Auditor

FROM:

Nick Fish, Commissioner WF

CC:

Council Clerk

SUBJECT: 2017 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award

This is the twenty-seventh annual Steve Lowenstein Trust Award. The award was created to recognize individuals who make an extraordinary personal effort and sacrifice to improve the quality of life for distressed and vulnerable populations in the city of Portland.

Presenters:

Joe Herzberg, Steve Lowenstein Trust Board Chair Michelle Harper, former Steve Lowenstein Trust Board Chair & Board Member

Award Recipients:

Reverend Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Senior Pastor and Presiding Elder of Allen

Temple CME Church

Reverend Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Senior Pastor of Maranatha Church

2017 STEVE LOWENSTEIN AWARD

HONOREES: Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes and Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel for their extraordinary service to the City of Portland, as inspiring champions of social justice and community building

For over a decade, Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes – Senior Pastor and Presiding Elder of Allen Temple CME Church – and Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel – Senior Pastor of Maranatha Church – have actively initiated and supported community efforts to address an array of community needs, social justice, and social change issues. They have committed themselves and inspired others to collaboratively create a more equitable society, one march, one meeting, one food basket, one prison visit, one decent pair of shoes at a time.

Pastors Bethel and Haynes have served as advisors to the City of Portland when their understanding and wisdom is sought, including areas of racial justice, gang violence, gentrification, and minority contracting. Both pastors have actively served as intermediaries for peace, to end inequities in the criminal justice system and bring about reform. They have worked with prisons to support families, reduce recidivism, and assist with the return of former inmates to a positive life in the community.

Included in their efforts to support struggling community members is a partnership with the Oregon Food Bank providing meals for those in need. Even while their own space is under construction, Allen Temple's homeless assistance program continues to provide homeless individuals with access to clothing for everyday life and for self-stabilization efforts like job interviews, training programs, or applying for housing.

Pastors Bethel and Haynes have actively supported efforts to address inequities in health care, including HIV/AIDS education, outreach, and support. Pastor Bethel has been particularly involved in advocating for a healthier community by supporting environmental justice and strengthening public investment in urban parks for everyone.

The Lowenstein Trust is part of the legacy of Steve Lowenstein, an inspiring model of public service. In his will, Steve established the annual financial award to provide recognition and assistance to individuals who have made significant ongoing personal sacrifice to help those in need. Steve's sense of purpose, his integrity, and his perseverance inspired many who have worked on issues of human rights and social justice, in Portland and around the globe. A lifelong civil rights activist, he did international service in Ethiopia and Chile after law school, was founding director of Oregon Legal Services, author of a groundbreaking history – The Jews of Oregon 1850-1950 – and, at the time of his death, in 1990 had served for six years as Chief of Staff to former Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg.

2017 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award (Presentation introduced by Commissioner Fish)

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COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:			
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1. Fritz			
2. Fish			
3. Saltzman			
4. Eudaly			
Wheeler			