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AAAC

African-American Advisory Council to the Portland Police Bureau

c/o Chief's Office, Portland Police Bureau
1111 SW 2nd Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97204

503.823.0546

Louis Fontenot, Jr.
Chairman

Gahlenah Avidan
Vice-Chairman

Linda Hunter
*Community
Dialogue
Committee Chair*

Robert Richardson
*Community
Concerns &
Information
Committee Chair*

Soloman Mensah
*Citizens Police
Academy
Nominations
Committee Chair*

For Immediate Release

December 31, 1998

Contact:

Linda Hunter, 823-5136

A sub committee of the African American Police Advisory Council—
appointed to review police procedures related to Daniel Binns' Beach Party '98 —
wants to report back to the community their recommendations.

On Saturday, January 16 from 10:00 — 12:00 Noon the committee will
take testimony from interested parties regarding additional recommendations for
consideration by the Portland Police Bureau. In an effort to conclude its review,
the committee will only hear testimony related to the Binns Party incidents.
The hearing will take place at Portland Community College Cascade Campus in
the Lecture Room of Terrell Hall, located at 705 N. Killingsworth.

The committee submitted a draft list of recommendations to Chief Moose
on November 16 and to City Council members on November 18. Additional
recommendations that may emerge from the hearing on January 16 will be
included in a final report to the African American Police Advisory Council at
their next meeting on January 26. For more information, contact **Linda Hunter**
at 823-5136.

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 24, 1998, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Northeast Community Policing Facility
449 NE Emerson, Portland

NOV 20 1998

AGENDA

✓ Binns Report Update



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
BUREAU OF POLICE

NOV 25 1998
VERA KATZ, MAYOR
Charles A. Moose, Chief of Police
1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

MEMORANDUM

November 16, 1998

To: Community service provider

Re Portland Police Bureau Vision: Taking Community Policing to the Next Level

In just a few months we in the City of Portland will have reached the 10th anniversary of our transition to community policing. While the Police Bureau and community have made great improvements in enhancing livability by addressing policing and public safety issues, there is always room for growth. The Police Bureau recognizes the potential in supplementing its annual strategic planning with a major assessment of the city's continuing direction in community policing.

This milestone provides an excellent opportunity for an appraisal of where we are and how we will continue to enhance the livability of Portland's neighborhoods into the next century. In order to accomplish this task, the Police Bureau has embarked on a short-term project entitled *PPB Vision: Taking Community Policing to the Next Level*. The Institute for Law and Justice (ILJ) consultants, used in the beginning days of the community policing transition, have been contracted to assist us in objectively accomplishing this task. Part of their charge is to facilitate a series of focus groups throughout the city encompassing neighborhood, business, school, and other government service provider perspectives.

As a leader of a service providing entity, we would ask that you (or a designee) participate in an appraisal of our community policing status present and future. You are cordially invited to participate in the Service Providers Focus Group, Thursday, December 17, 1998 at East Precinct, 737 SE 106th Avenue. The meeting will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. If you accept our request to participate, please RSVP to Officer Steve Morrow at 823-0286 by December 10, 1998.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this activity vital to the future of our community. Your input, openness and willingness to serve are very much appreciated.

Charles A. Moose

CHARLES A. MOOSE, Ph.D.
Chief of Police

FILE
COPY

MEMORANDUM

November 16th 1998

To: Vera Katz, Mayor
Gretchen Kafoury, Commissioner
Charlie Hales, Commissioner
Eric Sten, Commissioner
Jim Francesconi, Commissioner

From: African America Advisory Council To The Portland Police Bureau

Re: Subcommittee Review of Binns Report

Good Afternoon Mayor Katz and members of the City Council. I am Jo Ann Bowman, my address is 3145 NE 15th Ave Portland Or. I am testifying before you today in my role as Chair of the subcommittee of the AAPAC tasked with reviewing the Binns report of the PPB. Chief Moose established the AAPAC in 1996 and given the charge to advise him on issues the African American Community identified as needing attention, recruitment/retention issues and the relationship between this community and the police department.

My involvement in this incident began the morning of August 18th when I called Commander Foxworth and requested a meeting to discuss the incidents that took place on August 16th & 17th. Comm. Foxworth immediately set a time for us to meet, including Margaret Carter, State Rep. District 18th since she called with the same request. At the conclusion of the briefing we arranged to reconvene at PCC Cascade at 4pm to conduct a media briefing and to meet with some community leaders and some of the individuals directly involved. At the conclusion of the media briefing, the media was asked to leave. We continued the meeting with Comm. Foxworth behind closed doors for more than two hours and several agreements were reached.

1. Both sides agreed there were things they could have done differently.
2. Matthis agreed to call off the protest that was scheduled for that evening.
3. Comm. Foxworth agreed to work with the Binn's party organizers to ensure all appropriate permits & requirements would be met for a future party. Other community members volunteered to work with this effort as well.
4. The AAPAC would review the actions of law enforcement officials and make recommendations to prevent a repeat of these events.
5. The NE Precinct and the AAPAC would report back to the community the findings and recommended policy changes identified through this process.
6. The community and NE precinct would work together to continue the dialog with the NE Precinct that began at this meeting.

This issue was then brought to the AAPAC's next scheduled meeting 8/25/98. At this meeting the committee agreed to send a letter to Chief Moose requesting an

independent investigation of these actions. This request was not made lightly. The testimony at our 8/25/98 meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of an independent investigator. The members present did not believe that a report produced by the officers involved would satisfy the concerns of the NE Community. We believe that an independent investigator is necessary to assure the public that these incidents were looked at objectively and that the necessary policy changes would be implemented. This letter was sent in September of this year. As of this date the committee has not been offered an official response.

The AAPAC convened a subcommittee to follow up on these incidents and to track the progress toward resolution. The role of this committee was to make recommendations to prevent this type of event in the future and to report back to the community on the policy changes that were recommended for adoption. The AAPAC seeks to strengthen the relations between the NE Community and the NE Precinct.

The subcommittee included Louis Fontenot, Jr., Chair of the AAPAC, Gahlenah Avidan, Vice-Chair, AAPAC, Linda Hunter, MHRC and myself. Mr. Travis West, who is mentioned throughout the report, volunteered to serve on this committee. However, due to the sensitive nature of this report & the desire of Chief Moose and the subcommittee desire to report back to this body and the broader NE Community in an educated fashion our findings, we decided it was inappropriate to include him in our deliberations. I remind the council that the recommendations of this subcommittee are based on the information contained within the Binns report produced by the Portland Police Bureau. It is not the intent of this committee to evaluate the actions of the individual citizens that were involved in these events. Our recommendations are based on the Binns report, videotape provided by NE Precinct and the community meeting that took place on Tuesday August 17th. In most cases we only had one side of the story on these events and the activity that led to the actions taken.

In reviewing the Binns report we sought answers to the following questions:

- Is the report complete? Are there areas that require clarification?
- What are the findings of the report? Were all official actions appropriate? What changes to current department policy were recommended and/or implemented based on the report findings?
- What additional policy changes will the committee recommend to the AAPAC?
- How will feedback be provided to the broader NE Community?

In addition to reviewing the report the committee reviewed videotapes of the march/protest that took place on Monday August 16th, 1998.

Several points stood out for the committee during its deliberations:

Portland Police had authority to close Sellwood River Front Park 5 days prior to the scheduled beach party, but did not relay that information to the public. We believe many local young people would not have shown up if they knew the event was not going

to take place. Using the PPB's contacts with religious leaders, the media and with other community leaders, the young people showing up at the park could have been greatly reduced.

Utilization of the Crisis Response Team and other community members in the early planning around the protest may have prevented so many young people from "going along for the ride" when the protesters were marching down the street. We have recommended a review of the role of CRT's and other community members should play in these types of activities.

Communication training for patrol officers is crucial. This report demonstrates that calls for more officers to assist with a potentially riotous crowd prepared officers for a different response than less inflammatory language would have served the same purpose. This was also reported on at the community meeting when activities had escalated outside of Chief Moose's home. Community members (one minister talked of asking police officers what was going on and having guns pointed in their face and being told to "Just go home or I will shoot"). If officers show up prepared for a riot, then that is what they will see when they arrive, regardless of the actual circumstances.

Language is a powerful tool. When officers identify citizens using terms like gangsters, gang involved etc. on the radio and among themselves without any confirmed knowledge of the individual, this also creates an expectation of confrontation by responding officers.

Community policing strategies do not appear to have been utilized in this situation. Short of life or death situations, there should never exist a reason for law enforcement to attempt to forcibly snatch a baby out of its mother's arms. There were other people around the young mother trusted to look out for her child while under police custody. This is an example of where Community Policing strategies could have lead to a different outcome.

Locking the precinct from citizens coming to file a complaint of police harassment was not appropriate. Providing officers out front or inviting into the precinct the leaders of the protest and providing them with all the necessary information for filing their complaint may have resolved the matter on the spot. Denying citizens access to ways of the official complaint procedure was not only inflammatory, it directly violates Federal law.

Several communications talked about the use of the officers spraying pepper mace into crowds of people that included infants. This is an area where Crowd Control training and department policies, should specifically prohibit this action.

The Enhanced Vehicle Safety Program was utilized on Sunday Aug 18th 1998. Various police reports cover the guns and illegal drugs that were confiscated during this operation but no arrest were made. The committee questioned why no arrests were made at that time yet the next day unarmed protesters were arrested.

I will now address the four issues the committee sought to answer during its deliberation.

1. Is the report complete? Are there areas that require clarifications?

The committee believes the report is completed however reading the report did raise additional questions that we have submitted to the Chief and now to the City Council. We believe the answers to these question may require additional policy recommendations.

2. What are the findings of the report? Were all official actions appropriate? What Changes to current department policy were recommended and/or implemented based on the report?

The report finds that all official actions taken were appropriate. The committee does not concur with this assessment. Please refer to our list of recommendations and questions

3. What additional policy changes will the committee recommend to the AAPAC?

The committee has not been given an opportunity to review Chief Moose's recommendation as of yet or answers to the questions raised by this report. Therefore, we will submit additional recommendations as soon as we have the answers to the questions and have had an opportunity to review the Chief's recommendations.

4. How will feedback be provided to the broader NE Community?

It is our recommendation that the broader northeast community be informed of the findings and recommended policy changes as soon as possible. The AAPAC will assist in facilitating this issue. We also recommend that a representative from the PPB & an AAPAC member make appointments for briefings with the editors of Oregonian, Skanner, Observer and El Hispanic News.

In closing let I would like to publicly thank Comm. Foxworth for his honesty and integrity in addressing the issues in this report. Comm. Foxworth took responsibility early for some decisions that were made and not made during these actions and that was critical to the NE community as we move forward in addressing the issues contained in this report. None of us want to be confronted with the situations we experienced in August again. We look forward to working with you the City Council, Chief Moose, Comm Foxworth and the NE Community to address the recommendations we have provided.

Thank you. I will answer any questions at this time.

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 27, 1998, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Northeast Community Policing Facility
449 NE Emerson, Portland

AGENDA

- ✓ Discussion: ILJ Focus Group
- ✓ Binns Report Update
- ✓ Outreach Project Update



CITY OF
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BUREAU OF POLICE

VERA KATZ, MAYOR
Charles A. Moose, Chief of Police
1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 23, 1998, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Northeast Community Policing Facility
449 NE Emerson
Portland OR 97211

AGENDA

- ✓ Citizens Academy
- ✓ Creation of Information Forum
(to present info to community)

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Present: Robert Richardson, Roy Pittman, Linda Hunter, Louis Fontenot, Solomon Mensah, Terri-Wallo Strauss. (Derrick Foxworth was to sit in for Bruce Prunk, however, he was called away on an emergency.)

Linda Hunter provided a new draft of the operating guidelines.

A **PR Committee** will be established and an individual from the Council to serve as a point of contact and respond to inquiries (with facts). It was suggested that Galenah Avidan serve as the contact person. Solomon Mensah agreed to help.

The Council will assist people in grievances by educating them as to the process and procedures. It will help to track and provide follow up if necessary. It will address community concerns that are brought to their attention and serve as an information source. The **Community Concerns and Information Sub-Committee** will develop procedures and guidelines to carry out this task. Once these are developed, a community forum will be held to provide the information to the community.

Three slots are available for the **Citizens Academy**. Two will be Council members and one from the community. Nominations need to be submitted to Solomon Mensah and a vote will be made in July. The Academy begins in September.

Terri Wallo-Strauss from the Police Bureau's Planning & Support Division, explained to the Council that she is working to develop brochures for each of the Advisory groups. Linda Hunter will work with Terri.

The **next meeting** will be June 23, 1998