



Dr. T. Allen Bethel
President

**ALBINA
MINISTERIAL
ALLIANCE**

4222 N E 12th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97211

Phone: 503-288-7243
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June 6, 2012

Nick Fish,
Commissioner of Public Works
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 240
Portland, OR 97204

Commissioner Fish,

It is with great pleasure that I write to wholeheartedly support the renaming of the University Community Center in honor of Charles Jordan. Charles has been a pillar in this community and city serving in several capacities and much towards the development of parks within our region to the prestigious honor the system received last year. It is on the foundation of those before him and the next level he brought to Portland Parks and Recreation and indeed the City of Portland that the system is where it is today and its many accomplishments. Charles always believed that parks were more than recreation and play, but an integral part in the development, relaxation, educational and healthy framework for all citizens and to that end he sought to make parks and its services accessible to all citizens and visitors to our region. I could think of no one better for such honor than Charles Jordan.

On behalf of The Albina Ministerial Alliance, our support for the renaming of the center to become THE CHARLES JORDAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CENTER is hereby offered and we encourage the City Council to pass this with a unanimous voice of support and congratulatory honor to Mr. Charles Jordan.

Shalom!

The Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel
President

THE CONSERVATION FUND

1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3199
(703) 525-6300 Fax: (703) 525-4610
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City Commissioner Nick Fish
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Street
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear City Commissioner Fish:

Please add my support, along with parks and recreation leaders from across America, to those good Portlanders who hope to rename the University Park Community Center in honor of Charles Jordan. I first met Charles in 1985, when we both were asked by President Reagan to serve the U.S. President's Commission on American Outdoors. His leadership on that Commission was instrumental in sparking a rich legacy of conservation and recreation initiatives from which our entire country continues to benefit.

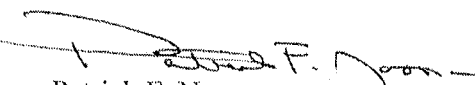
Soon after that, I asked Charles to join the board of directors of my organization, The Conservation Fund. He did, and eventually became chairman of the board. He was the first African American leader of a major national conservation organization, and his legacy today is over 7 million acres protected in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by The Conservation Fund.

He also has served in leadership positions of many other national organizations, including the boards of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Land Trust Alliance.

But these and his many other honors do not really describe the real depth of Charles' impact. His breadth of thought, his ability to touch everyone he meets, and his unyielding commitment to recreation and youth have inspired generations of Americans to use, to care about, and to actively support the protection of open space for education and recreational opportunities for us all.

Charles Jordan's life-time commitment to parks and recreation in Portland and across the nation is his remarkable legacy in service to others.

Sincerely,


Patrick F. Noonan
Chairman Emeritus

cc: Michelle Harper
Dr. G. Jon Roush





homeforward

hope. access. potential.

Executive Office

June 5, 2012

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Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 240
Portland, OR 97201

Director Mike Abbate
Portland Parks and Recreation
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Fish and Director Abbate,

I was pleased to hear of the plans to rename University Park Community Center after Charles Jordan. This kind of recognition is both timely and well deserved. In 1989, when Mr. Jordan took over leadership as Parks Director, University Park Community Center was facing many of the same social challenges that our neighboring community Columbia Villa was facing. It was through Charles' leadership that University Park was reclaimed as a vital and energized center, now situated to a likewise revitalized New Columbia.

Executive Director

Steve Rudman

University Park Community Center is a tremendous resource and its staff are engaged members with what is referred to as the Community Campus of Partners, namely the Regence Boys and Girls Club, Rosa Parks Elementary and New Columbia. This working partnership continues to be a national model of collaboration. The center sits adjacent to the thriving Village Gardens operating by Janus Youth Programs and is just down the street from a WorkSource Center, the Village Market and McCoy Park, Portland's 100th city park. The vision of Charles Jordan and others who came before us has never been so evident than what is thriving here in North Portland. Our mutual staffs and community members work hard to ensure all organizations and programs are strategically integrated to provide the best support and programming for our community.

Any community center named after a leader like Charles Jordan carries the responsibility to reflect a level of excellence and commitment to the highest quality programming in our City's most diverse and often times challenged communities. To that end, Home Forward supports the renaming of University Park Community Center and the close working relationship that we have enjoyed with Portland Parks and Recreation over the years. Let's make sure that together we continue to identify and meet the needs in this diverse and deserving community.

Sincerely,

Steve Rudman
Executive Director

A new name for the Housing Authority of Portland

36928

Fish, Nick

From: Jon Roush [jon@roush-chinn.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:10 PM**To:** Commissioner Fish**Cc:** Michelle Harper**Subject:** Charles Jordan

Dear Commissioner Fish:

Please add my voice to those in support of dedicating the University Park Community Center to my friend Charles Jordan.

Charles's contributions to the nation in conservation, outdoor recreation, and education are deep and wide-ranging. His leadership in organizations like The Conservation Fund, the Trust for Public Land, and the National Recreation and Parks Association has been very important. But more than that, his spirit and vision and drive have inspired generations of outdoors enthusiasts, including me. I have seen him work with school kids, graduate students, business leaders, and national policy makers—always with his unique capacity for reaching people where they live and inspiring them to walk toward his vision.

I first had the pleasure of working with Charles in 1986, when I was Chairman of the Board of The Nature Conservancy and he was a member of the President's Commission on American Outdoors. Later when I was President of The Wilderness Society, Charles gave us invaluable insights about connecting protected areas with the needs and interests of neighboring communities. He and I also served together on the Board of Directors of The Conservation Fund and in several other capacities.

In 2001, when we realized our dream of returning to Portland, Charles immediately involved my wife and me in local parks and recreation work, as well as issues environmental equity and diversity, and our admiration only grew. He is a gift to Portland and the nation, and he greatly deserves Portland's gratitude.

Sincerely,

Jon Roush

Roush-Chinn Consulting LLC

2542 NW Northrup Street

Portland, OR 97210

503-228-7900

jon@roush-chinn.com

6/5/2012

3 6 9 2 8

Fish, Nick

From: earthws@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Commissioner Fish
Subject: Re-naming University Park Community Center in honor of Charles Jordan

Dear Commissioner Fish,

We are elated at the thought that a building in Portland that serves the people, may be renamed to honor our friend Charles Jordan. Thank you for spearheading this wonderful effort. We do not doubt that your colleagues who know the tremendous level of caring Charles has exhibited will be happy to join you in making this a reality.

As environmentalists and African Americans, my husband Frank and I were part of a relatively small circle in the 1990s. You can imagine our excitement when we met Charles at a conservation conference in Santa Fe, in 1997, and he ignited the crowd with his message of inclusiveness. It was a persuasive message especially because the City of Portland had already shown how that could be accomplished, by choosing Charles to head up the city parks. Subsequently, our paths have crossed all over the country from one speaking and training event to another. Charles and I served together on the Diversity Committee of the Delaware North Parks and Resorts Advisory Board from 2004-2007.

We could hardly be more passionate about this effort, and encourage you to see it through. Please call on us if we can be of assistance.

Love,

Audrey & Frank Peterman
404-432-2839

Audrey Peterman, President
Earthwise Productions, Inc.
Website: [Legacy on the Land](#)
Channel: [MSNBC Interview](#)

6/5/2012

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of OREGON

36928

Serving together in faith

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June 5, 2012

Commissioner Nick Fish
1221 SW Fourth, Room 240
Portland, OR 97204

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Executive Director

Commissioner Fish:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) strongly supports the proposal to honor Charles Jordan for his outstanding accomplishment as former Portland City Commissioner and Portland Parks Director by renaming the University Park Community Center at 9009 N. Foss Street, The Charles Jordan Community Center.

Charles Jordan's contributions to the health and wellness of creation touched the lives of people from a diversity of backgrounds. As President of the EMO Board of Directors, he made clear his commitments to the building of equitable communities where everyone has the opportunity to live lives full of possibility. He was outspoken on the issues of justice and creation care and was particularly effective in getting people of color engaged in the environmental movement. His service and ministry impacted many of us in the city of Portland, as well as people throughout this country. Charles believed deeply in the public commons and the value of a strong public park system. As such, naming the University Park Community Center after Charles Jordan would be an appropriate honor.

We urge your approval of this proposal. If you need further information about EMO's support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Leslie
Executive Director

cc: The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., President
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon



36928

Tee It Up For Fun!

3920 NE Highland | Portland, OR 97211 | <http://leisurehourjrs.webs.com>

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May 31, 2012

RECEIVED

JUN 01 2012

Commissioner Nick Fish

Commissioner Nick Fish
City Hall
1221 SW 4th
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Mr. Jordan has always been supportive of the Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program, without him our program would not be what it is today. When Mr. & Mrs. Winchester had that historic meeting with Commissioner Jordan at that time a partnership was developed that is still in existence today.

His integrity, passion and love for the community is untouchable and because of him our youth's would not have had the opportunities that the world of golf offers that help to develop them into outstanding citizens, pursue higher education and giving back to our community.

It is an honor to know Mr. Jordan and to have him connected with our organization.

The Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program recommends that the City rename University Park Community Center as the Charles Jordan Community Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra Ingram".
Debra Ingram
President



African American Health Coalition, Inc.

36928

May 24, 2012

Commissioner Nick Fish
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Fish:

It is a pleasure to provide a letter of support to rename University Park Community Center to honor former City Commissioner and Parks Director Charles Jordan. Mr. Jordan's leadership has been about building community, supporting children and families. He has been a passionate champion and voice for the underserved.

Through his leadership he taught us to look through a different lens about the vital role that parks, recreational play, the outdoors and environment and their connection are critically important to strengthen healthy families and communities.

He was very supportive of the African American Health Coalition, Inc., collaboration with the Portland Parks and Recreation health initiatives. Charles was the first Grand Marshall of the AAHC Annual Walk and advocate for our Annual Health Fair.

Renaming University Park Community Center to honor his legacy of extraordinary leadership is a fitting tribute for someone who has given unselfishly to so many.

Sincerely,

Corliss McKeever, CEO
Cc: Mike Abbate', Portland Parks Director

36928

York, Emily

From: Michelle Harper [m_harperdiva@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2012 8:47 PM
To: York, Emily
Subject: Fw: Support for renaming UPCC to honor Charles Jordan
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

From: David Yamashita <David.Yamashita@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: Support for renaming UPCC to honor Charles Jordan
To: nick@portlandoregon.gov
Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 3:50 PM

Commissioner Fish:

Michelle Harper recently told me of your proposal to rename UPCC in honor of Charles Jordan, former Portland Parks and Recreation director. I am writing to express my total support for the idea, as I'm sure others have done. It is the right thing to do for so many reasons and it's the best way I can think of to honor someone who has given his heart and soul to the city.

Although I am not in Portland anymore, I worked for Portland Parks and Recreation for 23 years, beginning in 1986. During this time, I served under four directors. All contributed in their own way but in my opinion, Charles was the best. He was not your typical director and saw things in a way that no one else did.

As I'm sure you know, he had a deep concern for those who were not typically served or thought of in Portland. He was the first person I know of to speak of how the environmental movement needed to be "color coordinated" (his words). This was not something people said out loud but he had the courage to say it not only locally but nationally as well. I attended several national conferences where he spoke and delivered that message. It never failed to resonate with audiences. He had a unique ability to speak the truth, even if the message was a little uncomfortable. This issue is now standard fare but back in the mid-80s, it wasn't.

Charles also paid attention to those of us who worked for Portland Parks. He fostered a real sense of "family" within the department and always took the time to chat and joke with employees. I was lucky enough to see him outside the office a few times and to witness his incredible sense of humor. I still remember laughing so hard as we ate dinner in Austin at a little hole-in-the-wall place he remembered from his days there. As many will tell you, he genuinely cared for his employees and it's something I will always remember. Even to this day, as a manager with the County of Maui Planning Dept., I often ask myself "How would Charles deal with this?"

In summary, I commend you for proposing the name change and would like to offer my unconditional support. It is one of the most fitting gestures the city can make to honor someone who has made such a difference in the lives of Portland's citizens and employees. Thank you Commissioner and thank you Charles.

Sincerely,

David M. Yamashita

6/6/2012

PROPOSAL FOR RENAMING
UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
IN HONOR OF CHARLES JORDAN

TO: Commissioner Nick Fish
Mike Abbaté, Portland Parks & Recreation Director

FROM: Michelle M. Harper, Co-Chair
David Judd, Co-Chair

April 3, 2012

Charles Jordan has served Portland well. A committee of his peers, former employees, and citizens met to discuss how to honor this man and his contributions to Portland—and its park system. Thank you, Commissioner Fish, for your support and understanding of the importance of this man and his legacy.

After careful deliberation, our committee respectfully proposes to honor Charles Jordan for his outstanding accomplishment as former Portland City Commissioner and Portland Parks Director by renaming the University Park Community Center at 9009 N. Foss Street, The Charles Jordan Community Center.

Charles Jordan's childhood experiences fueled his passion for fairness. He spent the early part of his life in a segregated and racist community in rural Texas. He lived on a reservation surrounded by children of different ethnicities, who played together without prejudice or judgment. After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, he received his B.S. degree from Gonzaga University in Education, Sociology, and Philosophy. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law degree by the University of Vermont.

Charles Jordan was Portland's first African American City Commissioner. He was appointed in 1974 to fill an unexpired term on the Portland City Council. He was elected in 1976 and reelected in 1980 and 1984. During his service on the Council, Jordan served two years as Fire Commissioner, five years as Police Commissioner, and three years as Parks Commissioner. Jordan briefly left Oregon to serve as the Parks Director in Austin, Texas, but returned to Portland in 1989 to serve as Parks Director—a position which he held for fourteen years.

As City Commissioner, Charles Jordan was noted for his innovative and unconventional approaches to problem solving. He developed the Community Juvenile Officer Program that put Portland Police officers in local schools to engage youth through positive interaction and activities. As Fire Commissioner, he developed an outreach training program to recruit people of color to the Fire Bureau.

On the national stage, Charles Jordan broadened the agenda of the environmental movement and land conservation to make it more inclusive. He is known for his groundbreaking approach to putting people--particularly people of color--at the heart of the American Conservation Movement.

When Charles Jordan returned to Parks as the Director, he was determined to make sure that University Park Community Center was a safe place to play for all families. Despite the leaky ceilings, uneven floors, and crumbling exterior, he had a vision. Instead of taking the advice of others to bulldoze the center, he inspired staff and the community to see the Center's potential.

Through two voter-approved initiatives, multiple grants, and creative partnerships, the University Park Community Center was reborn as one of the best community centers in Portland. The surrounding community is now a model for diversity, including New Columbia, Rosa Park Elementary School, McCoy Park and Community Garden, and the Boys and Girls Club.

At his essence, Charles Jordan is a passionate, visionary leader who inspired thousands of parks, recreation, and conservation professionals--and touched the lives of even more Portland citizens. For these reasons, we propose to rename the University Park Center in honor of Charles Jordan. In his entire breadth of service, he demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to children, families, and to building community. The University Park Community Center was made possible by his determined efforts.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you on the formal renaming process. Please let us know how we can clarify or address any questions or concerns.