

29 JUNIPER
Circle
Woodburn
97071

Commissioner Jordon

Dear Mr. Jordon;

Please be reminded that you represent the people. Would you like to patrol North Patuxent wearing a Patuxent police uniform? Would you like to be called a black pig - for doing your duty?

Why not more black officers patrol the black district?

The white officers aren't happy when the black person calls them a pig.

Did you ever reprimand any black man after he called a white man a name?

People do have limits on verbal abuse.

Sincerely,

Ernest M. Crestal



FISHER BROADCASTING INC.

EDITORIAL



KATU TELEVISION P.O. BOX 8799 PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

BROADCAST DATE: 3-26-81

POSSUM INCIDENT

No one has said the involvement of Portland police officers in the possum throwing incident in North Portland was a smart stunt.

It was a dumb stunt. The officers involved have said so, investigators have said so, and members of the community have said so.

Some appropriate disciplinary action will take place, of that you can be sure. An investigative team will report its findings to Commissioner Charles Jordan and his decision will be swift in coming.

While that appropriate action is taking place, some inappropriate action has already occurred that is worth noting.

Yesterday's demonstration by angry citizens from the black community included a march on the Police Bureau's Oak Street headquarters. They were joined by members of the Communist Revolutionary Party prancing past with a pig's head on a stick.

Members of the black community who have been emphasizing the need for redress of this particular grievance can take scant comfort in being joined by the Communist Revolutionary Party and its pig's head on a pike. The kind of sordid barbarism it suggests is not the kind of redress the black community seeks. Rather, it is the reflection of a lynch-mob mentality that is repugnant to everyone.

Some good may come of all this after all. Through due process, which is the hallmark of the legal system and our republic, both citizens and police may get together on common ground to work out their differences. Such a dialogue is vitally needed.

Ba/mh/gj

Qt. 1, Box 277

Albany, Oregon

97321

Mr. Charles Jordan
Police Commissioner
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Jordan,

This is just a letter to let you know that I approve of your handling of the possum incident. I know that you have been under a lot of pressure, and I hope the problems can be solved and confidence in the police department restored.

This incident and the ensuing publicity reminds me of a poem by Rudyard Kipling

entitled "If." The first line goes "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you." I believe you handled the situation in the best possible way.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Evonne Rutherford
RT. 1 - Box 277
Albany, OR. 97321

RECEIVED
MAY 15 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

John/Ba/cy

2433 N. E. 8th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212
May 12, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall - 1220 S. W. 5th
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

Just a note to reaffirm and place on record my support as verbally expressed to you for your action in firing the officers responsible for the opossum prank. I have every confidence that as an administrator you resolve personnel and other matters within the context of good management policies and procedures and feel sure this case was no exception.

The lack of leadership of Mayor Ivancie by failing to stand publicly behind you in your efforts and concerns for the Police Bureau; the overt actions of Stan Peters to keep low morale and undermine the Bureau by emotional appeal to the public and all the other subtle polarizing efforts are truly disconcerting. Please know tho, that I and many others are behind you and stand ready to do whatever is required or desired to make our support known. I'm sure it won't take much effort for your many supporters and even the rational "non-supporters" to demonstrate our confidence in you!

Sincerely,

Betty Thompson
Betty Thompson

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MAY 18 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

*Non-Cy...
personal note to Rodney,*

STATEMENT OF DOWNTOWN MINISTERS OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF OREGON

April 6, 1981

Recent events in the life of the city have begun to polarize our fellow citizens. The shadow of distrust, fear, and resentment have fragmented our common life.

Although some people may feel the opossum incident to be both trivial and isolated, we believe it, and others, to be of grave concern. Therefore, we the Downtown Ministers of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon wish to make the following statement:

We state our support of the current procedures as employed by Commissioner Jordan and Chief Baker. If grievances are to be filed, let them be judged in the proper and approved system apart from police and public pressure groups.

While we bear witness that this opossum incident need be confronted, we are also painfully aware of the fact that all of us are both victims and perpetrators of bigotry.

Let not the passions of the moment nor latent racism rend our community. Let reason and reconciliation prevail as we call upon police, citizens, and elected officials to let the process of justice unfold as we renew our commitment to the eradication of prejudice and racism.

Let us continue together in our common quest for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

*Alan H. Deane is
Jim Allen
Cecilia H
Peter H. Paulson
Dennis C. Phillips
Dale P. Turner*

*Lincoln Reed
Lawrence A. Rouillard
Joe Smith
Bob McNeil
Richard L. Lauer*

March 26, 1981

mh/B/cj

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I am writing this to add to the many other responses you are getting as a result of the recent 'Opossum Incident'.

My father was a dedicated Portland Policeman for 25 years and was well respected throughout the community, especially for his concern for others.

It is my understanding that, to become a policeman, no matter what city, you must undergo several examinations and meet very rigid requirements to assure that each one who does succeed is most capable, for one, but most important, can uphold the reputation that has gone before them and to always remember they are not just representing themselves at all times, but the whole Police Department and city, as well.

This 'Opossum Incident' may have just been a case of bad judgement, however, in so doing, the policemen responsible, have not only made themselves look foolish, but have tarnished the reputation of the whole Police Force.

It should also be mentioned that, even though it was intended just as a joke, due to their 'Code of Ethics' so to speak, they should not have allowed themselves to participate in a deed having racial undertones and slanderous implications.

I feel there is no question as to your course of action. These policemen, having not only grossly misrepresented their institution, but also having caused racial tension within the city, should be terminated without question for Breach of Promise. They have failed to uphold the requirements of their position in our community.

Trusting you will come to a decision that will help bring our city back together and set a precedent to be followed in the future.

Sincerely,

Sally Kramer

Sally Kramer

(daughter of Officer Paul Boeckli)

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MAR 26 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 6, 1981

MR. Charles Jordan
City Commissioner
City Hall
Portland, Or 97201

RECEIVED
APR 14 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MR. Jordan:

As a citizen and a business person
I wish to express my support to you.
I admire and agree with your
intelligent and fair decisions
regarding our police department.

I do not want men protecting me
and my family who are not
responsible. It pleases me to know
that there are police men carrying
guns who act as stupidly as
those two in the passum incident.

I am also disgusted by Mayor
Quancies lack of support. By his
"no comment" he has made his
position clear to all.

I have never written a letter
to a political figure before
but I wanted my support
as you know.

Thank you for being a
person who lives by his
convictions and still works
for all of us.

I hope all citizens of Portland
will make their support for
you know as I am sure we
are the majority.

Sincerely,

Nancy Evers
9747 S.W. Tealatin Road
Tealatin, Oregon 97062

cc. Mayor Francie
Chief Bruce Baker
Kate - Questions & Answers

1854 NW Aspen Ave.
Portland, Or. 97210
April 6, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 SW 5th
Portland, Or. 97204

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Please accept my commendation for your courageous stand in the matter of the "opossum" affair. Portland citizens can feel more confidence in their police department when they see that such stupid and ill-considered actions on the part of policemen do not go unpunished. Pride in POLIce department professionalism should put individual policemen on your side in this matter. I am appalled at the rabble-rousing remarks of the head of the policemen's union.

Sincerely

Evelyn Crowther
Mrs. Oliver Crowther
1854 NW Aspen
Portland, Or. 97210

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APR 07 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Lents Evangelical Church

4/3/81

Dear Mr. Jordan,

A group of our new members meet each Saturday morning for prayer and fellowship and as we met today we remembered you and the mayor in a special way. We know these must be difficult days and we just want you to know that we are praying for you. We appreciate your stand as a Christian and we will be praying for you as you make important decisions.

6220 S.E. 92nd AVENUE

PORTLAND, OREGON 97266

AREA CODE 503/777-5454

Sincerely,

Bob Betscher, Pastor

4/2/81

Dear Commissioner Jordan & Mayor Ivancie,

I am writing you this letter in hopes of ensuring the complete firing of the ~~two~~ police officers. They must not be allowed to get away with this blatant act of disrespect towards others, no matter what their race.

We must not accept this kind of foolishness from those paid by the public's taxes and who are to be "good" and "respectful" examples to us all.

Sincerely,

Daniel L Sickels
4355 Riverview #4
West Linn Oregon

Allan Oliver Art Director

April 3, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I strongly support your decision to fire the two police officers who have come forward as responsible for the incident in NE Portland. Their actions - and those of the others involved - indicate that they are not competent to serve the public interest. As dazzling a display of stupidity as this would certainly result in dismissal from any job, and you took the appropriate steps. You must not be pressured into reinstating them.

Sincerely,
Allan Oliver

April 4, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

This letter is to commend you and Chief Baker for terminating Craig Ward and Jim Solloway from the Portland Police Department after the opossum matter.

I particularly wanted to urge you to hold firm against the considerable pressure you are receiving from the union and some citizens who support the police no matter whether the police are right or wrong.

It is my fear that if you were to reverse your decision it would bode ill for the essential principal of control of the police by elected civil authority.

You have my complete support on this issue.

Sincerely,
Duane C Lemley,
2737 NE 23rd Ave
Portland. 97212

4314 N.E. 41st
Portland, Or.
April 3, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I support you fully, you were elected by the people for all the people.
And if you act for change, you must expect retaliation from those who
will oppose you.

Some whites are experiencing a new consciousness of their whiteness, although
they stated it was not a racial act, but they feel the urge to push this
awareness to its limits. If justice is to prevail, changing attitudes is
not enough. Powers that determine the present must be modified or replaced
by powers that will shape tomorrow.

I do hope the police force will have workshops dealing with stereotype
action. By dehumanizing other in words or action, we sometime feel this
builds up ourselves. But the police force is expected to also represent
all the people and I feel that should be apart of them at all times.
I support you hardly.

A Caring citizen,
Pairy Miles

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APR 07 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 3, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I want you to know that I support you 100% in the firing of the two police officers. In fact, I believe that the additional officers who thought the whole thing was quite humorous should have been reprimanded in some way. It is absolutely crucial not to back down on the firings, and I am writing to Mayor Ivancie expressing this point of view.

The incident did not occur in a vacuum, as far as the fitness of the two men is concerned. Even if they had never previously been involved in any obviously "bad" conduct that was so blatant as to reach formal complaint stage, there must have been many occasions when black persons in Portland felt some subtle kind of prejudice on the part of these two men when dealing with them. If they had had the social attitudes that should be required of every person hired as a law officer, it would never have occurred to them to engage in such behavior. They would have recognized it as insulting. They also would not have been spending time on duty chasing possums down back alleys.

I am joining the march on Saturday to support this point of view.

Sincerely,

Mary E Bolton
Mary E. Bolton
1061 SW Stephenson Ct.
Portland, Oregon 97219

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PROVEN

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY -

4-4-81

JOHN R JENSEN, II
1104 SW, FOX CT
TROUTDALE, OR 97060

CITY COMMISSIONER
CHARLES JORDAN,

I AM A WHITE MALE 23 YEARS OLD. VERY RARELY AM I COMPELLED TO WRITE TO ANYBODY BUT I THINK ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT THE FIRED POLICE OFFICERS IS JUST THAT; A BUNCH OF NOISE. IT GIVES PEOPLE SOMETHING TO ARGUE ABOUT. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOUR POSITION. IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE POPULAR ALL OF THE TIME BUT A LAW OFFICER IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A REPUTATION TO PROTECT. DUMB STUNTS WITH DEAD 'POSSUMS IS NOT PART OF PROTECTING THAT IMAGE.

P.S. - IF THE HARRASSED PEOPLE WERE WHITE FOLK, IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

John R Jensen, II

April 3, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan:-

The opposum incident of the two police did, indeed, need drastic discipline - You are to be commended for your courage in firing them.

The act was insulting with definite anti black racial implications.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H. Thomas

(Mrs.)

C. C. MAYOR FRANK IVANCIE
CHIEF BRUCE BAKER

TO: Commissioner CHAS. JORDAN

4/3/81

SUBJECT: Police
DISCIPLINE

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU HAVE OVER-REACTED TO PRESSURE FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

THE INCIDENT DOES NOT WARRANT FIRINGS. A 30 OR 60 DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY WITH SEVERE REPRIMAND, WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH. THIS IS NOT A CASE OF POLICE BRUTALITY.

IF THE SITUATION HAD INVOLVED TWO BLACK OFFICERS THERE IS NO WAY THEY WOULD BE FIRED. THE N.A.A.C.P., THE URBAN LEAGUE, ET AL WOULD BE ON YOUR TAIL.

IT ALSO APPEARS YOU'VE TAKEN THE HANDLING RIGHT OUT OF CHIEF BAKER'S HANDS.

AS A MANAGER, DEALING WITH UNIONS FOR 25 YRS, I WOULD BET ANYTHING, AN ARBITER WOULD RULE IN FAVOR OF THE TWO OFFICERS.

WHY DON'T YOU RECONSIDER YOUR ACTION, OR HAVE YOU ALREADY GONE TOO FAR, AND WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO BAIL YOU OUT?

I MIGHT ADD THAT I HAVE ADMIRERD YOUR WORK FOR YEARS, AND THINK YOU'RE AN ASSET TO THIS CITY

Sincerely,
Dan Sholin

Apr. 4, 1981

Charles Jordan
Portland City Commission
Portland, Ore 97201

Dear Sir:

I suggest you resign your position dealing with control of the city police department. You are in a no-win situation and there is no way to resolve the situation now that the police union has given its opinion.

Firing of the policemen who were insensitive to the feelings of others was over-reaction, and was a bad decision on your part.

Maybe you can force the policemen to work under your direction, but I doubt if they will be happy, nor will you be happy.

Sincerely yours
Joseph Zellner
3315 SE 68 Ave
Portland, Ore 97206

Mrs. Karl A. Bach
2214 N. E. Brazee
Portland, Ore. 97212

April 5, 1981

Councilman Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Jordan,

We wish to express our anger and disgust at the opossum incident perpetrated by police officers recently. We feel you are entirely justified in firing them. Such juvenile stupidity is totally unacceptable from anyone, especially police officers. It seems to us it does have racial overtones as well, which is even more reprehensible.

The charge against you of political expediency is completely unjustified in our opinion. We support your decision wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bach
Karl A. Bach
Margaret and Karl Bach

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APR 07 1981

Portland, Oregon

April 4, 1981

Mayor Frank Ivancie,
City Hall, Portland,

Dear Sir:

It is my hope that you will back up Chief Baker and Comm. Jordan in the steps they have taken to fire the two police officers for their childish and outrageous act with the opossums. I certainly wouldn't want policemen such as that in my district. I'm not a completely disinterested party as my husband was a policeman (State) for thirty six years and I would expect like justice for him if he had ever acted in a like manner.

Yours truly,

Derna Benninghoff
7635 S.E. 19th Ave.
City 97202

A copy to Chief Baker and Comm. Jordan

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APR 07 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1610 S.E. Holly St.
Portland, Or. 97214
April 5, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent to Mayor Soucie that indicates my concern about Police Union activities of the past week: as a result of the indecent activities of Officers Ward and Gallaway and their subsequent firing.

I support your judicious handling of the matter. Both you and Chief Baker have my vote of confidence in your efforts to retain and improve the quality of our police force.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katherine H. Corrie

13223 S.E. Powell ~~St~~

Portland Or. 97236

Apr. 3, 81

Commissioner Jordan,

Just one more citizen
wanting to express support for the firing
of the policemen who pulled off that
disgusting act. ^{It was} "akin to disturbing the
peace, vicious mischief, or some other
description of a nuisance that
would not be tolerated ^{if done} by a private
citizen. I can picture, if such an
act had been done by some teenagers
in an area of private homes, say out
here in the David Douglas district,
the area residents would talk loudly
of suing the teenagers' parents,
or having the perpetrators sent to
a correctional place, at least to
Juvénile Hall down by 47th. (I forgot
the correct name.)

(2)

It certainly has stirred up a lot of trouble, polarization they call it, among people who probably were prejudiced and ignorant (not necessarily by lack of schooling). In my acquaintance, I'm thankful, everyone I have talked to thinks you did just right - unless it should have been quicker! But I commend you for taking time to get all possible information and angles before you announced what you + Baker probably would have liked to do at once.

The police march today could be viewed as a stupid idea, resulting or intended to result in dividing the public even more. KEX did a service to the city by having you

(3)

on the talk show tonight. Your answers were so straightforward and calm and reasonable. Generally talk shows bring out mostly gripes, I don't bother listening to them unless there is someone special, like yourself, to give out new ideas.

By the way, my nationality is Irish, English and Scotch - but not "Wasp" - and I'm up in my late 70's and living in a low-income apartment complex - and putting these thoughts on paper ^{to you} makes me feel in contact with a better human being than one sees every day.

An Outlooker -

The Oregonian
1320 S.W. Broadway
Portland, Oregon

Attn: Editor

THERE SEEMS TO BE A STRONG, REACTIONARY OUTCRY TOWARD THE FIRING OF THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS WHO MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO ENGAGE IN A SO-CALLED PRANK WHICH WAS A HEALTH HAZARD, INVOLVED RACIAL OVERTONES AND DEGRADED THE PROPERTY AND INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

AS CHARLES JORDON MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY, POLICE OFFICERS ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS. IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, POSITIONS OF TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY IN WHICH THIS ACT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOLERATED. THE FACT THAT IT WAS PERPETRATED BY PUBLIC SERVANTS WHOM ALL CITIZENS HAVE TO RELY ON FOR PROTECTION, WHOM WE TURN TO IN OUR MOST DESPERATE HOURS AND WHOM WE RAISE OUR CHILDREN TO RESPECT MAKES THIS ACT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

I HAVE LIVED IN A LARGE CITY, SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF OFFENDERS AND HAVE SEEN THE FRUSTRATIONS AND ANGER OF OFFICERS. I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO VENT SOME OF THIS FRUSTRATION; HOWEVER, THE VENTING OF FRUSTRATION CANNOT BE TOLERATED WHEN THE COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT THAT ONE REPRESENT BEARS THE BRUNT OF IT.

I REGRET THAT THESE OFFICERS FELT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD VENT THEIR FRUSTRATION AND POSSIBLY THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INVESTIGATE: CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS OF VENTING FRUSTRATION. HOWEVER, WE ALL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTS. I WANT TO COMMEND CHARLES JORDAN AND POLICE CHIEF BAKER FOR THEIR ACTION. AS A PARENT OF TWO YOUNG AND IMPRESSIONABLE CHILDREN, I CAN NOW CONTINUE TO RAISE MY CHILDREN TO RESPECT OFFICERS OF THE LAW, NOT TO FEAR THEIR INABILITY TO HANDLE THE FRUSTRATIONS OF THEIR JOB.

MY CONCERN NOW LIES WITH THE SEEMINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WHO WOULD BE SATISFIED TO HAVE THEIR DEPARTMENT'S INTEGRITY AND ABILITY SMEARED BY A FEW WHO JUST COULDN'T COPE WITH THE PRESSURE OF THEIR JOB.

Karen L. Lloyd

KAREN L. LLOYD
7530 S.W. 76th
Portland, Oregon

bcc: CHARLES JORDAN
POLICE CHIEF BAKER

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PROTEST
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

WILLIAM W. WYSE

3332 S. W. FAIRMOUNT LANE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

April 5, 1981

Honorable Charles Foster
City Commissioner

Dear Charles -

I want you to know that in my opinion your handling of the opossum incident could not have been better. You showed great restraint and exercised very good judgment both before and after the dismissal of the two policemen -

I am very proud to have you as a member of the City Council -

Bill

2020 SW Salmon #704
Portland, Ore 97205
April 3, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Ore 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

The "Possum Police" showed shockingly poor judgment. You did the right thing in firing them. We have to expect and demand better sense from the police - otherwise they are just part of the problem of crime, instead of part of the solution.

Best wishes to you
at this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Susan Landauer

MEMO
from the desk of
PAUL W. KNAUPP

April 6, 1980

Dear Commissioner Jordan -

We want you to know we are back of you 100% - We feel you & Chief Baker did the right thing! We feel you were justified in making the decision you did in regard to the policemen involved in the recent situation.

Sometimes drastic actions need to be taken to awaken people and to make them aware of some of the injustices that are so prevalent in our society! Your decision has been good in that it has "awakened" many

in the city.

Now we pray that our Mayor
will stand back of you and see
the importance and the rightness
of your decision to help make
Portland a better city.

Please pass our thoughts on to
Chief Baker & Mayor Ivancic.

We appreciate your impressive
television interviews.

We ^{are} thankful for your coverage.

Very Sincerely -

Mr. + Mrs. Paul W. Krupp

3842 S.E. Hillward
Gresham, Oregon 97030

City Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am writing to let you know I support your actions in the "possum incident". The actions of the policemen disgraced themselves and the police department. How can a community count on policemen who act like they did? High standards of conduct should be required of all policemen -- if they cannot come up to these standards, they should not be policemen.

Yours truly,

Linda Carpenter

Linda Carpenter

cc/ Police Chief Bruce Baker, Mayor Frank Ivancie

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JAN 11 1981
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY



National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.

PORTLAND CHAPTER A.B.S.W.
P.O. Box 11050
Portland, Oregon 97211

April 6, 1981

Mayor Frank Ivancie
Mayor's Office
1220 SW 5 th
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mayor Ivancie:

The membership of the Portland chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. has requested that I write to express our desire to have Commissioner Charles Jordan remain commissioner of the Police Bureau.

It is the feeling of the membership that the arbitration process is the method in the contract with the Police Association and the city of Portland for solving disputes and not political protest or pressure tactics used in poor taste.

Our chapter hope you will prove your "love" for the city, as stated by you in your inaugural address, by allowing the arbitration process to run its course and not take any action which could damage the livability of this city.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert Phillips
President

cc: Commissioner Charles Jordan
ABSW Membership

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APR 7 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 4 '81

City Commissioner Charles Jordan

Portland, Oregon

Good as their police service records may be, Craig Ward and Jim Gallaway were rightfully fired for their stupid action in the "opposum case".

Their act was racist, unprofessional and beneath human dignity.

They are young and should have no trouble in securing further careers -- in police work if they have learned something from this incident.

"Pranks" sometimes are excused for young 'teens -- but at their ages?!!!

Sincerely,



H. R. Judd
6118 SW 46th Ave.
Portland, OR 97221

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APR 11 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Margaret D. Appleton
9455 S. W. 62nd Dr.
Portland, Ore. 97219

April 4th 1981

Charles Jordan, City Commissioner
City Hall, Portland O.R.

Mr Jordan,

Mrs Appleton & I are very disappointed in the reaction of the Portland police to your absolutely correct action in discharging the two officers for their inexcusable and childish opossum incident.

There can be no room in a modern professional police department for such immature, insensitive, and racist behavior. Their removal from the force is absolutely justified.

We wish especially to commend you for your remarks as reported in the Saturday March 28th Oregonian. You summed up the situation beautifully.

Sincerely

Eldredge Appleton
Margaret D. Appleton

GREATER NORTHEAST PRECINCT POLICE COUNCIL
P.O. Box 11052
Portland, Oregon 97211

April 5, 1981

Mayor Frank Ivancie
Mayor's Office
1220 SW 5 th
Portland, Oregon 97201

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APR 11 1981

OFFICE OF THE
OF PUBLIC

Dear Mayor Ivancie:

The Greater Northeast Precinct Police Council is writing to express our support of Commissioner Charles Jordan and his decision to remove from duty the two officers involved in dropping dead opossums near a black-owned restaurant.

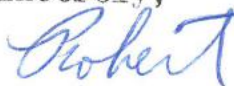
We feel such action is just, due to the fact that we both would not even half to debate and/or question what would have happened had the dead opossums been dropped at your house or neighborhood.

We also feel that any questions the Union have about the Commissioner's decision should be handled in and during arbitration. Any other manner of settling this matter would be unprecedented, and could set a precedural crises for handling future problems.

It is our hope and desire that you will support Commissioner Charles Jordan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert Phillips
Chairman

cc: Commisioner Charles Jordan

3525 S. E. Ninth Avenue
Portland, OR 97202
3 April 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S. W. 5th
Portland, OR 97201

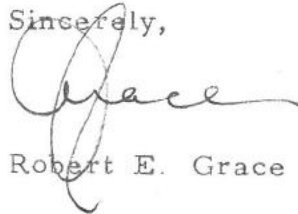
Dear Sir:

The "possum Incident" was a flagrant abuse of their trust on the part of the police officers involved; dismissal of the two principal offenders and disciplining of all others involved is mandatory, if the Portland Police Force is to retain any semblance of credibility and professional reputation.

Although your actions in this matter have been exemplary, it is clear that over the next few weeks you will be subjected to severe political pressures from the police union and assorted community pressure groups. It is unfortunate that a public official discharging his duty in a proper and courageous manner should be subjected to such unpleasantness, but this appears to be the price of democracy. I hope you can take some comfort in the knowledge that I, and no doubt many others, admire you and fully support your position.

Good luck.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Grace

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APR 13 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

OWENS/CORNING
FIBERGLAS
TRADEMARK®

OWENS-CORNING SUPPLY

PORTLAND SUPPLY CENTER

14104 S.W. 72nd AVENUE

TIGARD, OREGON 97233

(503) 620-1010

CHARLES JORDAN
Portland City Council
Portland one
97201

9005 SE 82nd
Portland, OR 97266
06 April 81

Dear Mr. Jordan

I doubt ^{if} you will receive this
but if you do, as ^a past 8 year
resident of the city of Portland,
I am highly in favor of your
actions, and that of Chief Baker,
in firing the two Officers of the
Opossum ordeal. I would like
to see any other person ^(Police) fired
that had a part in ~~it~~ ^{enforcing}
an illegal act. THIS INCLUDES THE
HEAD OF THE PORTLAND POLICE ASSOCIATION.

This action (opossum) is for juveniles
& teenagers - NOT FOR POLICE OFFICERS
Keep up the good work. Sincerely
Dab m. Haskin

771-8823

BUILDING MATERIAL DISTRIBUTOR

620-1010

LARGEST INSULATION INVENTORY IN THE NORTHWEST

3525 S.E. 9TH Avenue
Portland, OR 97202
3 April 1981

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
1220 S.W. 5TH
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I'm sorry to see so much unjust criticism levelled against you over the dismissal from the Portland Police Force of officers Ward and Galloway. Your decisive handling of this unfortunate situation has reinforced my belief that you are one of the most capable and honorable of Portland's political leaders. You have the wholehearted support of many, many people, and I hope they are telling you so.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Grace

Mrs. William R. Senders
2980 S. W. Montgomery Drive, Portland, OR 97201

Dear Commissioner Jordan -

Enclosed please find a copy of
a letter I am sending to Mayor
Ivancie -

You must know you have
the support of many citizens -

Sincerely,

Joanne H. Senders

April 6, 1981

COPY

Dear Mayor Ivancee -

I speak not only for myself but for the many people with whom I have discussed the issue, when I tell you we are appalled by your lack of support for Commissioner Jordan in his firing of the two policemen.

The whole matter now throws a great shadow on your integrity. Since the police are supported by and represent the public, it seems we might expect decency and good judgement on their part. Any deviation from such conduct

deserved the prompt and proper
action it received.

Respectfully.

Joanne H. Senders
2980 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Portland, Oregon 97201

2891 N. W.
Ariel Terrace
#97210

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I support the firing of the police officers in the recent Possum incident. The two policemen displayed insensitivity and racist attitudes that make them unfit to carry out their duties.

As a citizen of Portland, I have no confidence in these men.

Sincerely,

Zedell Cozart
2891 N. W. Ariel Terr.

Portland, Ore.
April 6, 1981

The Hon. Charles Jordan
City Commissioner
Portland, Ore.

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I want to let you know I very much agree with the decisions you have made during the recent unfortunate misconduct of the city's policeman. I admire the fairness and decisiveness with which you have handled the matter.

I am sure there is wide support for you, but most of us don't speak out at a time like this so I hope you will know this letter expresses the feelings of a great many Portlanders.

Sincerely yours,



3403 SE Harold Ct.
Portland

Portland, Oregon
April 7, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I wish to express my approval of your courageous action in discharging the two officers who perpetrated the "passum incident."

That any citizen, especially a black citizen, should be a victim of their own paid public servants is indeed intaluable,

Sincerely

Alvin F. Raeth

7719 SE. Lambert
Portland, Ore. 97206

April 7, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I support your decision to fire those two police officers over that blatant racial harassment incident that they committed in the NE a few weeks ago.

Racists have no business being on the police force.

Sincerely,
Rayfrances

Commissioner Charles Jordan

April 7, 1981

City Hall
1220 S.W. Fifth
Portland, Oregon

742 S.W. Vista
#33

Portland, Or.

Dear Mr. Jordan,

I wish to express my strong support for your decision to take strong action against the police officers involved in the "opposum" incident. I am surprised and disappointed that the Police Association chose to side with these officers who discredit all police officers and the City of Portland. We don't need police of that sort.

I am convinced you have the support of the large majority of Portland residents and the Mayor's failure to express his support for your decision reveals a lack of leadership on his part.

Sincerely yours,
Ingrid Swenson

2188-B NE MULTNOMAH
PORTLAND OR 97232
APRIL 7, 1981

MR. CHARLES JORDAN
CITY COMMISSIONER
CITY HALL
PORTLAND OR 97 —

DEAR MR. JORDAN:

THIS IS A NOTE TO INFORM YOU THAT I SUPPORT YOUR DECISION TO FIRE THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS WHO ENGAGED IN THE 'OPPOSSUM INCIDENT' RECENTLY.

I FEEL ITS TIME TO DRAW THE LINE TO DENOTE ACCEPTABLE AND NON-ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF OUR PUBLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN REGARD TO RACIAL HARASSMENT. WITH THE RESURGANCE OF THE ULTRA RIGHT AND RACIST GROUPS THROUGH OUT THE U.S. IT IS REASSURING TO KNOW THAT OUR OFFICIALS WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TYPE OF ACTION BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

I FEEL YOU ARE DOING A HARD JOB WELL AND YOU HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PORTLAND POPULATION AT HEART. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

SINCERELY,

PAUL JONES

April 6, 81

Dear Mr. Jordan

I am a welder; a member of Machinists
union local # 1005.

I'm writing to let you know that I support
you 100 percent in the recent decision to fire
the two policemen involved the very unfortunate
"possum issue".

I am proud to be a Portlander, and see your
decision as a strong and fair statement that
we will not tolerate irresponsible actions
that violate our trust in Portland's Police Dept.

Thank you very much
Mike Spurluck

4101 S.W. Hillsdale
Ave.

Portland, Or. 97201

Newell V. Hurst
1560 Bonnie Way, NW
Salem, Or 97304

Mr. Charles Jordan, Councilman
City of Portland
Portland, Or.

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Although I live in Salem, I have been following with some interest the "opossum incident" in the City of Portland. I would like to make the following comments:

1. I support your action in dismissing the two police officers 100%. I think the dismissals were completely justified.
2. The conduct and judgement exhibited by these two officers was well below the standard that the City of Portland should expect from its police officers. If professional standards and discipline are to be maintained in the police force such behavior should not be tolerated.
3. Unfortunately the mayor lacks the political courage or the moral honesty to back you in this situation. Right at the time when the situation calls for a strong display of unity by the council he has chosen to play politics.

You have my full support in the stand you have taken

Sincerely, Newell V. Hurst

Incidentally, I am a white male, seventy-three years of age.

4/6/81

Commissioner Charles Jordan -

We are sending you this letter to let you know that we feel you made the right decision in your firing of the two police officers involved in the opossum incident.

We feel officers of the law must use better judgment and be more responsible than these officers showed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Smith
221 S. E. 108TH
Portland, Oregon 97216

8 April 1981

Mr. Charles Jordan
City Hall, Portland

Dear Sir:

I don't believe that the number of phone calls received regarding your recent decision in the "opossum case" by the mayor's office means very much.

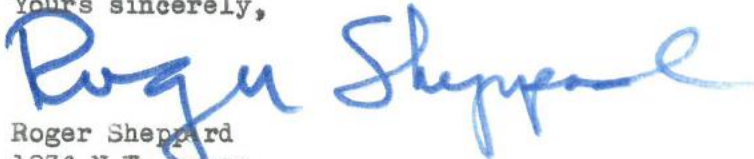
Any elementary student of human behavior knows that the persons upset by a decision of this sort are the ones that make the calls. People who are satisfied never bother to make their feelings known.

Any act that tarnishes the public image of the police department is a very serious matter. It takes years to build a positive image and it is not done with a few acts of heroism, but with slow hard work. One act such as the opossum incident will undo months of diligent public service. In fact, it probably does more harm than the recent case of the former police (vice) officer who was sentenced to prison.

Your recent decision took guts and I am ashamed of public officials who have not come to your support. They are the ones who are playing politics in the bad sense of the term.

My wife and I and all the friends I have talked to agree with your action and believe that it was in the best interests of the Portland Police Dept.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Sheppard
1836 N.W. Aspen
Portland, Oregon 97210

cc/ Mayor Frank Ivancie

mh/pj/cj 4545 S.W. Hwy 101
Lincoln City Ore
April 3, 1981

Councilman Jordan,
Portland City Council.

Dear Sir:

Just a vote of confidence for you
and the Police Chief. The two officers
discharged got what they had coming
to them. Any one knows that a
police officer should consider what
the results of their action is going
to be, before acting; they showed
they lacked the integrity to be law
officers.

I really feel that some of the
leaders in the resulting uprising
should be punished also, as they
are going to create a passable riot.

Count me on your side!

Robert C. Yocom

P.S. I am 62 years old and white.

April 3, 1981

Dear Police Commissioner:

It isn't very often that I sit down to write a letter to a public agency or governmental body but recent activities by the Portland Police Dept. have fired me up to the point that I must do something.

The recent incident concerning the opossum dumping is a gross miscarriage of the duties and responsibilities of a professional police person. Such immature, blatantly racist action can only be met with one appropriate consequence: any and all officers involved with that incident should be fired immediately and made to ~~apologize~~ apologize to the injured party.

Anything less would be seen as an act of condoning this behavior.

Police officers are supposed to uphold justice and peace and fairness. Since when are they supposed to be bigots and racists? Perhaps the KKK is infiltrating the organization? Whatever the cause, I hope that particular ~~is~~ officer doesn't migrate south into our city - keep it to yourselves.

If the tables had been turned and if some black patrol officers had done such a thing to a white owned business I doubt that there would be any hesitancy to a swift retribution.

↓ Only hope some of your other officers are a bit more professional.

Sincerely,
Steven Hume
884 Tyler,
Eugene, Oregon 97402

Dear Mr. Jordan:

4.4.81

I wanted to offer my support for the firing of the 2 officers involved in the famed "^{opposum} opossum incident." I feel it is necessary to demand that the law enforcers be law abiding for they are examples to young and old. It should be known throughout Portland that racially related violence will not be tolerated. Your action was extremely admirable.

Thank you

P.S. Sent Post card to
IVANEE, ALSO. 😊

(Ms.) Kelly E. Stapleton

K.E. STAPLETON
2933 NE Sixteenth
Portland, OR 97212



The Honorable Charles Jordan
City Commissioner of Public Safety
City Hall 1220 SW 5th Rm 404
City of Roseburg, OR 97204

mh/pk/cj

14450 S. W. 6th
Beaverton, Oregon
April 6, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Police Bureau
209 S. W. Clark St.
Portland, Oregon

RECEIVED
APR 7 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

I am a retired teacher aged 73 and living in Beaverton. You probably wonder why I am interested in your business. Anything that happens in law enforcement in the state certainly affects all of us.

I agree wholeheartedly with your firing of the two policemen who pulled the typical Halloween prank with the 'possums.

How can our young people have any respect for law enforcement or laws in general when such pranks happen? Our young people are losing the people they should look up to. Teachers and nurses are striking, too. Look what happened in Gresham.

Please don't let the pressure keep you from doing what you know is right.

C. Mayor Ivancie
C. Chief Bruce Baker

Sincerely,
Louise Moen

April 3, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Commissioners' office
1220 S.W. Fifth
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan -

While I live in Lake Oswego so that my writing will be of no political use to you, I want to send you my personal thanks for the courageous stand you are taking and holding against what unfortunately sounds like a lot of pressure regarding the firing of Officers Ward and Gallaway. Weakness in a case like this, though understandable, simply puts things off until worse happens. I admire you, and for the many of us who want to believe in those holding public offices, I send my thanks.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Snyder
653 D Street
Lake Oswego, Or. 97034

April 6, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner

After saying Happy Birthday Portland and reading today's Oregonian it is time for you to hear from me. I, like Mike Lindberg, give you my full support in the opossum incident.

Further, I want to share with you a conversation that occurred yesterday afternoon in our car as my two teenagers and their friend and I were returning from an outing. The opossum incident came up and this is approximately what was said:

Friend: What's the big deal about that? Why should anyone lose their jobs over that?

Flabbergasted Mom: Is this what your parents say about this thing?

F: I don't think I've heard them say anything about it. Who cares?

M: Aren't you the person who was telling me about one of the other girls calling you names and how upset that makes you?

F: Yea----I don't like it at all.

M: If you don't like someone calling you names, how would you feel if that person put a dead animal on your driveway?

F: Oh, I don't know....

M: What would you think if someone burnt a cross in our front yard?

F: Horrible.....

M: I think it would be horrible too. If someone put a dead animal in my driveway I would be just as upset. What would happen if you and Layna picked up a dead opossum and took it to the girls driveway that has been calling you names and her parents saw you do it?

Page 2

April 6, 1981

F and daughter: We would be in a lot of trouble.

M: What would happen if your Dad or ours used a company car to run down opossums?

F and others: They would probably be fired, but my Dad would never do anything like that, never.....

M: What would have happened if the principal would have brought a dead animal to our driveway last year when we had a run-in with the school?

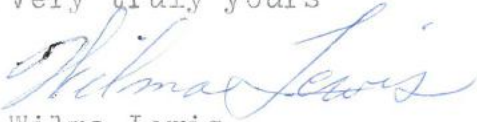
This really got a big laugh because we all know that that could not happen. Could it???? We then talked about the fine line between mischievousness and terrorism.

I am so upset for the dedicated policeman and what this kind of thing does for him/her in our community. Our niece is involved in the Portland Police Explorers program and believe me, we do not want her to think this is the kind of thing that the Portland Police do. If the teenagers in the Explorers program pulled a stunt like this I'm sure there would be a house cleaning. When adult men put themselves into the position of pulling an adolescent stunt I think it becomes terrorism.

Also, as an animal lover, I think it is cruel and inhuman to kill innocent animals for fun and games, to say nothing of the poor use of the city owned cars.

As a responsible Portlander, parent, tax payer, etc., I want to be counted. Keep up the good work, Charles.

Very truly yours



Wilma Lewis
6235 S.W. Huber
Portland, Oregon 97219

cc: Mayor Frank Ivancie

B 105 / 8th Fl.

April 7, 1981

Pam
See Anna
for address

HRB

44200

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I have been sending you good vibrations daily during this low point in Portland Police Bureau history. You should know that support for your decision to terminate the two police officers is running about 10-1 in my circle of acquaintances and associates. Most thinking citizens are shocked more by Stan Peters and his grab for power, than by the Possum stunt itself.

You have shown a steady hand throughout and have the solid backing of thousands of Portlanders.

On the personal side of things, I greatly appreciated your support of my candidacy. We almost won, and considering the opposition, that isn't bad. I am disappointed not to have the opportunity to put what

I have learned about Portland Public Schools to good use in the next four years. But, some significant progress was made, and I take personal satisfaction in that.

Thanks for your support of me, and know that your leadership is respected and needed more than ever now. I'm behind you all the way!

Sincerely,

Sarah Newhall

97242

March, 29, 1981
Gene McLaughlin
5234 N. Oberlin St.
Portland, Ore. 97203

Comm. Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
1220 S.w. Fifth
Portland, Ore. 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan;

Though we believe the act of the two Portland police officers concerning the Possums was one we might expect from juveniles, we do feel the penalty was harsh.

A months suspension without pay would seem more fitting. The fear of losing their jobs could possibly cause the relationship between the public and police to worsen.

At times I too have been upset or irritated by some act of the local police but this caused me to get involved. I served on the advisory committee here in North Portland for a four year period. It was an interesting experience.

Not knowing all details of the possum situation except for that we get from the news we can only judge by that news. Knowing all of Portland's citizens aren't saints we don't know how much harassment the officers had to take.

Perhaps we do need a citizen board to hear and bring into the open the complaints of both the public and police. We certainly don't need decisions made by the person who can shout the loudest.

Sincerely Yours,



RECEIVED

MAR 31 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

97234

Robert L. Gaddis
3423 N. Willamette Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97217

March 30, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

As a concerned citizen I want to express to you my feelings regarding the recent firing of the two police officers relative to the "opossum incident".

While I do not condone the act it was ~~de~~ertainly blown all out of proportion and the action taken by your office and the Chief of Police was too severe. I feel that a suspension without pay and transfer to another area would have been adequate.

The officers involved came forward and admitted their involvement and issued a public apology. The cost to the city for training replacements for these officers certainly needs to be considered.

Sincerely

R. L. Gaddis
R.L. Gaddis

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

March 28, 1981

Commissioner Jordan,

Reverse discrimination
is rampant in this town.

I am thoroughly disgusted
with the outcome of the
Lenox Ave. incident culminating
with the firing of the two
officers. How damn unfair.

I do not condone their
actions, particularly the killing
of the animals, but what
brings that sort of thing on.

Cops in that neighborhood
have to put up with abuse
beyond belief. I think the
citizens around there are
lucky the cops have "their
hands tied" so to speak or they
might learn a lesson or two.

What about that march
on Wed? Carrying a pigs head.
'yet. Seems to me a certain group

~ & this city is calling the
shots, i.e. the firing of
Blanchard.

I voted for you
before because it appeared
you were fair, but I
see I was terribly wrong.
You should be voted out
and hopefully you will be.

Mrs. Dolores Orutt
9347 N. Geneva Ave.
Portland, Oreg. 97203

97240

Portland, Oregon
March 29, 1981

Commissioner:

I feel quite strongly about your unfairness in fixing the two officers in the "Opasum incident". Granted they did a stupid, objectionable thing, but two weeks suspension without pay would have been sufficient. You sold out to a group that made unreasonable demands, and blew the incident beyond all proportion. I read in the paper your statement as to what you expect of the Portland Police officers. I expect integrity, honesty & fairness of a City Commissioner. You have definitely not met these qualifications. Consider yourself fired.

(over)

97239

3344 SW Maricara St.
Portland, Oregon 97219
March 29, 1981

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
City of Portland
1220 SW 5th St.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I wish to congratulate you on the dismissal of officers Ward and Gallaway over the recent racial incident in North Portland. The action was tardy, but perhaps will have helped to retain some credibility between the police force and the black community.

I hope that you are not taking this whole incident lightly in terms of what it means about the attitude of the police toward the black community. It seems alarming to me that two officers, with previously "unblemished" records, should have been able to assume that they could do a thing like this--on duty, in uniform--and not have the full weight of official disapproval fall on them.

I am a white citizen who is profoundly concerned about the deterioration of minority relations in our city. I'm sure you, too, are concerned and I want to assure you that there are many of us out here who are not lending tacit approval to the increase in racial incidents.

Very truly,

Sheila C. Cullen

Sheila C. Cullen

97237

1310 AE 14th Ave, #1
Portland, OR 97214
March 30, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 Ave 5th
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

Re: Recent Firing of Policeman
In "Opusdam Incident"

You are to be commended in your action
to dismiss these two men. This city
must be awakened to its elements of
bigotry and prejudice if we are to, in fact,
improve conditions. It is about time
someone quit making excuses and
took forthright action in this regard.

The citizens of North Portland are not the
only ones who have experienced such
insensitivity and prejudice from the
police patrolling their neighborhoods.
My husband and I have experienced it
in our neighborhood as well.

Again, I commend your action.

Sincerely,

Jaqueline Farlinger-King

71 S.W Oak
97204

April 7, 1981

Dear Charles -

I have been sitting back and quietly agreeing with your actions in the police matter, but that doesn't tell you anything!

So, I just want to write to let you know that Arnold and I support your decision and the manner in which you made it.

The police need to realize they must set an example for the rest of us, and "ignorance" or "ineffectivity" is not acceptable.

From general comments from my listeners on my radio program, I believe you have the majority of citizens behind you. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do -

Best Regards -

Elaine Casan

Dear Mr. Jordan

I am writing you in regards to the "opossum incident".

I personally feel that your actions were in the best intrests of and for the people of Portland. I also believe this ruthless and crude "vote of confidence" is an act of childish camaraderie by the insensitive, overbearing, incompetence, which have infiltrated our police services today

P.S. Keep up the good work

Sincerely,
John Paul Schoepp
John Schoepp

4208 SE 9th Ave
Portland Oregon
97202

2226 NW Hoyt
Portland, Oregon 97210
April 6, 1987

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

Congratulations on the courage and sound judgment you have shown in firing the two police officers of the North Precinct who exhibited such offensive behavior. The extent of the outcry against your action, from police and members of the community, only shows how warped our standard for police performance has become and how badly this trend needed to be checked before it deteriorated further. My only regret is that the blatant racism which some members of the police force practice has not been attacked more strenuously in the past so that such a disheartening event would never have occurred. I encourage you to use every means in your power to convince the members of the Bureau that no form of bigotry has any place in an organization dedicated to protecting the citizens of a free society.

Sincerely,
Margaret Walby

32700 S.E. Fernwood Ln. March 27th 1981

#56

Boring, Ore 97009

Dear Mr. Jordan,

I just had to write to you.

I admire you as a person and
the way you handle your job.
You seem like such a level headed
and fair man! You must have a
difficult time handling certain situations.
I would ~~be~~ think you would be
under alot of pressure at times.
We need more good people like you.

I was wondering if you
were a Christian. I mean one who has
Jesus in their heart. In difficult situations
I think Christians can rely on God to
help them. They can be calm and know
God will help them.

With all the sad racism in
this world, knowing God personally helps one
face these situations without hatred and
bitterness. I feel if I was black and not
a Christian I would feel much hatred toward whites.

Thank you very much, Sarah Rupp



maker

27 MARCH 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I cannot understand the ludicrous reaction to the so-called "possum incident" by the black community, the press and the F.B.I. The incident was un-called for and there should have been some type of minor disciplinary action taken by the police department against the officers involved. That disciplinary action should be meted out only because the pranksters were police officers who performed a prank while on duty.

The overly sensitive black community reacted with a fervor which perhaps indicates that certain ambitious black editors and other would-be politicians wish to exploit a situation to their own benefit.

A prank such as this surely cannot be called a case of racial harassment.

I have moved here from the Southeast and

throughout the South, opossum is eaten by many more white folks than black folks. There is also a growing industry in the South of raising "possums" on farms for sale to consumers.

Why must such a trivial incident be blown out of proportion by the black community, sensationalized by the press and interfered with by the Federal Government.

The firing of trained veteran policemen for such a trivial incident is totally un-called for and will set a dangerous precedent as well as demoralize the rest of the police force.

If Portland's black leaders expended their energies toward positive innovative economic planning for their community; if the press would devote more time and space to important issues; and if the F.B.I. chased bank robbers instead of "possum throwing pranksters", we all might find Portland a better place to live.

I wish to again state that I disagree w/ your decision - thank you for your time -

Sincerely,
J.A. Kumpze

14112 N.E. SANDY Blvd.
Portland, OR

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
City of Portland
1260 SW 5th Ave
Portland, Or 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

For what it is worth, I'd like to voice my "vote of confidence" in your decision re the Possum incident.

It is often difficult for me to have respect for members of the Police Bureau in that some stretch their "power" into areas of their personal interests/beliefs (perhaps my experiences in that area are above average just in the nature of "the business" I've made my career these past 10 yrs. - hotel.)

Your statement, "The public pays a professional wage and expects professional service..." renews my faith in the system. I'm realizing that Police Bureau Personnel are only human and in being so allow room for error; but I also believe that when any of us overstep our bounds, we need to be reminded of our responsibilities.

The very nature of the "joke" played by Officers Ward, Gallaway & party indicates that telling them they had been "bad boys" couldn't possibly change their attitude; but could possibly increase their "glee" in the success of their pranks.

Is there another manner of discipline which could get their attention to remind them that they must abide by the same laws as the rest of society? I'm having difficulty determining so.

I regret that you must be subjected to childish threats; and hope that Mayor Ivancie can see his way clear to back your decision even beyond his personal opinion.

Sincerely,
Margaret J. Ron
2151 NE Tillamook
Portland, Oregon 97212

mlh/bl/gj

RECEIVED
APR 06 1981

Police Commissioner
Charles Jordan

April 3, 81

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear sir;

Listening to the news last night, I was amazed to learn of the opposition to your decision in dismissing the police officers involved in the opossum incident.

I feel great respect for the police and would like to feel confident in knowing that they are trustworthy and responsible in protecting the public.

Whether they realize it or not, they have a lot of power. Their word and judgements carry very much weight. The men involved thought that they were lifting ^{the} spirits of each other by having this so-called "fun", when in fact they were abusing their power and bringing down the good name of the entire police force with them!

It seems as though the Portland police dept. has no pride in their profession, and a good reputation obviously means nothing to them, (otherwise, they would be the ones

demanding the officers to be dismissed.)

I respect your decision and urge you to fight in keeping men (or women) like these out of the police dept.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Riser

ELIZABETH RISER

18014 SE KELLY CT.

PTLD. OR. 97236

8431 SE. BUSH
PORTLAND, OR 97266
MARCH 26, 1981

COMMISSIONER -

I'M DROPPING THIS CARD INTO THE MAIL TO LET YOU KNOW THAT IT IS NOT THE BLACK COMMUNITY ALONE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR DECISION TO FIRE THE "OPOSSUM" OFFICERS. SUCH IMMATURE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO COMMAND RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE CAN ONLY BE MET WITH SEVERE COUNTER-ACTION IN ORDER TO PREVENT A DETERIORATION OF ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL LAW.

TRULY,
Patricia L. Bent

97238

March 30, 1981
Portland, Oregon

Commissioner Charles Jordan,
City Hall, City.

I am a senior citizen and must say I can not understand the actions of the north area police. Planting drugs, tossing dead animals in front of business houses. I abhor such actions as men and police paid by tax payers to protect them instead of idiotic pranks of disgust, fun to police maybe but not bill payers.

I have called for some co-operations by police ^{and} are too busy harassing some one else and call it to busy. I am thru trying to get co-operation out of them for what ever happens - if I can't handle it myself just forget it. These young loco weed smokers are crazy so you do what you have to do to deal with the situation.

I went over to the station to talk to the police, he listened to a short period - then turn off the intercom and started talking to some one else with his back to me - I feel like a fool for even trying. The police should listen to the people of the neighborhood - they might learn a few things they don't know or even hear of.

I hope this will be a lesson to straighten out this police department. Maybe, you think they are great but a lot of citizens don't. The bad ones spoil it for the good ones. The association seem to want the two fired re-instated but they should not be re-instated.

Thank you
D. Paynes (White.)
A senior citizen,

8832 N. Syracuse
#511
City 97203

4-3-81

Dear Commissioner Jordan

I feel the two officers who were terminated for their involvement in the "possum incident" were derelict in their duties and should be punished. However I feel their punishment of being fired is to extreme.

Please consider reinstating them and imposing an appropriate punishment such as 2 weeks suspension. I am sure they have learned an important lesson and will be all the better for it

Sincerely
Peter Muller
610 NW 119ST
Vane Ln
98665

April 2, 1981
Mrs. Charles R. Jordan, Commissioner
City of Portland.

Dear Mr. Jordan,

This letter is being written in support of the action taken in discharging the two policemen.

We urge you to stand firm in resisting pleas and pressures to reinstate these men. They have destroyed their own effectiveness and to keep them on the force would only undermine further the effectiveness of all Portland Police.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hale

1810 N.E. 62 Ave.

4940 S.W. Humphrey Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97221
April 5, 1984

Hon. Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
1220 S.W. 5th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97204

Sir:

You are fortunate to be in the vanguard
of the fight for what is right. I envy
your position; I support your stand with
all my being. Please retain your courage and
know that with you are many who may
not be heard right now. When police
become lawless, as those who were discharged
were, our society becomes greatly endangered,
fatally if the lawlessness of police is not stopped
in time. I know of another example of police
lawlessness based on bigotry. You must, in your
position, know of many more.

Sincerely yours,
Luzanne Hanke, M.D.

April 2, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I wish to express my support of your action regarding the recent scandalous action of the two Portland Police Officers. Today I refused to sign a petition on their behalf because I feel strongly that there is no place for such pranks by public servants.

As a public health nurse I feel all public servants have an obligation to act at as high a moral level as possible in the discharge of their duties. My husband, neighbors and I know that you are and will be receiving much negative criticism for your action.

Know that we back you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gertude E. Luther R.N., M.S. (V.N.A. Portland)
and Arthur R. Luther Ph.D. (U. of Portland)

79255

WJ
WJ

March 27, 1980

6735 N. Atlantic
Portland, Oregon

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am writing in opposition to the firing of the officers involved in the opossum incident on Union Avenue. I'm sure everyone agrees that it was a "dumb" thing to do but the punishment is far too harsh. I don't know the officers involved, but I would be willing to bet that if the public could look at their records there would be many good deeds that would more than make up for one mistake.

Another thing that bothers me is why doesn't the restaurant want officers around their building. Any other restaurant owner is happy to have the police in and around their business. It's my guess that they are selling more than burgers at the Burger Barn.

I can't help but hope that someday they need police help and they won't go.

Carol Otis

Carol Otis

RECEIVED
MARCH 30 1980

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

79252
Dear Sir-

~~mhl~~ mlcy

We're disappointed and upset over the firing of two cops with blemish-free records! You could have listened to their side of the story. Everyone seems to listen to Ron Herndon. They deserved another chance! Show us someone who is error-free. Are you sure that you are reflecting the wishes of the majority of Portland's citizens?

Sincerely, Mrs R D Anderson

2128 SW Edgewood Rd
port 97201

79245

~~mh/b/cj~~

26 March 1981

Bruce Baker, Chief
Portland Police Department
209 SW Oak
Portland, Oregon

Dear Chief Baker:

I wish to add my voice to the protest of the opossum incident. I feel there is no excuse for such behavior and I hope that ALL of those involved are dismissed promptly. (I understand there were 4 police cars at the scene!) Even if some did not actually dump the dead animals they are implicated by their presence.

The "apology" I saw on television added insult to injury in my opinion. To see two grown men explain they thought their action would cement community relations by bringing humor to the neighborhood was staggering and insulting. I can assure you if I brought dead opossums to the front door of the police station, or a neighbor brought dead opossums to my front door it would do nothing for good humor or pleasant relations in either case.

Finally, I must say that I hope the men are fired because they seem to be stupid. Not only is there no way to justify their behavior, it is positively frightening to think that they are walking around with guns! The police present were aiding them apparently, and therefore almost equally stupid.

are

Sincerely,

Juanita M. Baker

Juanita M. Baker
4205 SE Reedway
Portland, Oregon

c.c. Charles Jordan

RECEIVED
MAR 30 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

79251

Q

OK
CF
2135 S E 60th
Portland Or. 97206
Mar 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Jordan,

There are many people such as our family who usually don't voice our opinions except at the ballot box who feel you should know we agree with your decision to terminate the employment of the two officers who left dead opossums at the door of a business place.

That was such a stupid childish thing to do that we're suprised they were in the position of officers.

I know, if any in our family or circle of acquaintances pulled a stupid thing like that, we'd expect to be fired right now. When on the job a person must be doing his work. When off work they shouldnt be in a police car.

To me, personally, its unbelievable!
You dont have an easy job —
Blessings on You
and Peace!

Gertrude Smith

79258

~~40 BR CF~~

4449 S. W. Twombly Street
Portland, OR 97201
March 27, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
Portland OR

Dear Commissioner Gordon:

For the past several days I have intended to write you to say that I believe that the two policemen who deposited the dead opossums by the restaurant owned by the black gentleman should be fired. Men of such insensitivity and ignorance should not be in public service. From the news reports on television tonight it appears that you have removed them from the police force.

I wish to go on record as applauding your action. I am a conservative sixty-four-old lady who thinks you did exactly the right thing. Thanks for your courage.

Sincerely,



(Mary El. Zumwalt)

tmh / [unclear] / cj

March 26, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S. W. 5th
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I am writing to you in regard to the Portland police officers and the possum incident.

The papers keep mentioning that the "leaders of the black community" are upset about the possums that were deposited on the doorstep of a black-owned restaurant.

Well, I'm not black, nor a community leader, but I am really angry that ten or so of "Portland's finest" have time enough after chasing criminals and drug busts to go out and run over possums and deposit the remains on doorsteps. Most certainly this incident was racial in nature, not a harmless prank or joke.

I think it's just great that two officers' identities have been made public, but where are the others? Reports said five police cars were involved; if this is true, someone should be investigating the identities of the other officers involved.

This is one citizen that asks you for a complete investigation of the incident, make a full accounting to the public, and dismiss all officers involved, thereby letting everyone know that this sort of behavior will not be tolerated, and putting an end to this disgusting episode.

Sincerely,

M. Booth

Marilyn Booth
0324 S. W. Florida St.
Portland, Oregon 97219

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

3/18/81 MH/BR/CJ

CITY COMMISSIONER
CHARLES R. JORDAN
PORTLAND-CITY HALL

RECEIVED
MAR 19 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN REGARD TO THE
RECENT BLATANT MIS CONDUCT OF THE PORTLAND
POLICE. THIS CITY DOES NOT NOW OR EVER NEED
SOMEONE SO INSENSITIVE AS TO PLACE DEAD
ANIMALS IN FRONT OF A LICENSED BUSINESS.
IN OTHER WORDS DO YOU NEED A POLICE DEPT,
OR A "OPOSSUM PATROL"?

AS A HOLDER OF NORTH AND NORTHEAST
PROPERTIES I AM IN THESE AREAS ALL THE TIME
AND CAN TELL YOU I GET DAMN TIRED OF
SEEING TWO & THREE POLICE CARS PARKED FOR
NO GOOD REASON AT THE FIRE HOUSE AT 19TH
& NE. KILLINGSWORTH. WE HAVE HIGH CRIMES
BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE OFFICERS. JUST
WERE IN HELL ARE THE WATCH COMMANDER'S.
WHO RUNS THE SHIP? *Bay W Livingston*

✓m #1B/R/C/S

Erceg
2446 N.W. Overton
Portland, Ore. 97210
March 14, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S.W. 5th.
Portland, Ore. 97204

RECEIVED
MAR 16 1981

Police Complaint

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Mr. Jordan:

My husband and I each read this morning's Oregonian story with feelings of shock, outrage, and fear. I refer, of course, to the behavior of Portland policemen at the Poe's restaurant.

It is frightening enough to read of bullying, violation of people's privacy and property, and acts of bigotry, when performed by private individuals. But to read of such activity from any official, especially a police officer, is totally horrifying. It so parallels Germany of the thirties: zealous bravado, erroneous feelings of superiority, misuse of position and power, the "defender" twisted against the defenseless.

I don't know how strongly I can express my feelings of horror. People of the mentality of the officers involved in this case have absolutely no place on the police force. The fact that Mr. Poe brought to your attention a year ago that certain officers harassed his customers, and that nothing was done, mystifies me.

Please, Mr. Jordan, do everything in your power to eliminate this misuse of position in the police force. There is no place for it, anywhere. It cannot be allowed to continue. There is no excuse for such behavior—none.

Sincerely,

Elsa Erceg (Mrs. Mrs.
William Erceg Joseph Erceg

79181

~~MN/PR/CJ~~

Mr. and Mrs. O. Seaberry
5430 NE Prescott
Portland, OR 97218

March 17, 1981

Commissioner Jordan
City of Portland

Dear Sir:

We are writing in response to the disgraceful behavior shown by several Portland policemen in the recent "possum" incident.

That this action was carried out by adults is bad enough, but that it was done by uniformed police, while collecting salaries paid by taxpayers, is absolutely unspeakable.

Is Portland so free of crime that the police have the leisure to engage in such (at best) childish stupidity, or (at worst) malicious racial harrasment? These are the policemen that our children in police-in-the-schools programs are taught to respect and befriend? These are members of the agency that feels it is capable of investigating complaints against itself?

You may be sure that if these were Black policemen guilty of such outrageous behavior in a White neighborhood, they would be immediately fired.

If these men, and eyewitnesses report more than two were involved, are not separated and disavowed by the police department, you will be giving consent for more and even worse incidents.

Discipline in the form of a fine or temporary suspension is not enough. Portland already has a reputation for having a poor police department. As citizens and taxpayers we demand that these policemen be fired and replaced with mature men who are willing to carry out their duties in a serious and equitable manner.

Sincerely,

Oveat Seaberry
Belva Seaberry

Oveat and Belva Seaberry

cc: Police Chief Baker

79166

MH/BR/CJ

Mrs. John D. Thorpe
3156 S.W. Sherwood Pl.
Portland, Oregon 97201

March 16, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

It is an embarrassment to know that Portland has police officers who would instigate and participate in such a "prank" as that involving the opossums.

The quality of Portland police must retain a standard of conduct a cut above the ordinary.

At the risk of being judgemental I feel that the action of these officers has racially discriminatory overtones.

In any case this action must not be tolerated in our city. It throws a shadow over the respectibility of all police.

I would like to see all officers involved in the matter dropped from the force.

A copy of this is going to Chief Baker.

Sincerely yours,

John Thorpe

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

12575 S.W. Glenhaven
Portland, Oregon 97225
April 6, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S.W. Fifth St.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Jordan:

This is a letter of support for your actions concerning the "possum" incident.

As a counselor in one of our local high schools, I can assure you this possum incident has been a topic of conversation among the students.

Comments as to what would have been the action if the dead animals had been thrown in front of the Hilton Hotel--or if this act had been committed by juvenile age young people--the comments that would have followed, like mentally weird psychological misfits that need to be locked up in a "special" institution.

There is enough mistrust of City Hall--and the police without the added image that once again they are above the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. V. Schroeder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

Raymond H. Harlow

1224 NORTHEAST 72ND AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

April 7, 1981

Mr. Charles Jordan, Commissioner,
Portland City Hall
1220 SW 5th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

My dear Commissioner:

Surely there must be some law prohibiting vandals from depositing dead animals on other people's property, in public parks, lawns, streets, etc.? But, even if there is no such public statute, such an uncivilized deed is an outrage to public decency. It is even more so, if possible, when the outrage is committed by police officers that are sworn to uphold the laws.

It is hardly creditable when police officers, primary enforcers of laws, would deliberately commit such a yahoo act as to kill opossums (possums), or other animals, and transport the slain animals at public expense, in publicly owned vehicles, and deposit the dead things on another person's property, in stealth.

God knows I could never be so base as to do such a disgusting thing. Furthermore, if I should ever sink so low as to do such a public evil, I could never summon the hypocritical gall to pretend that it was all just a harmless, younker, prank. Indeed!

You are the City Commissioner in charge of the Portland Police Bureau. I applaud your decision and judgement, together with Chief Baker, to discharge the two miscreants from the police force. That is the way it had to be for the good of our city, and even for the good of the Police Bureau. It certainly must be the primary responsibility of every new policeman to learn that he is the servant of the law, and not the law unto himself.

For what little it is worth these days, I want you to know that you have one poor citizen and Portland property owner that is on your side.

Sincerely yours


R.H. Harlow

Stephen R. Fishack
3223 S.E. 9th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97202

April 11, 1981

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
1220 S.W. 5th Ave.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I am writing in support of your position and action regarding what has come to be known as the "oppossum incident." The Portland Police Association would have us believe that throwing four dead opossum on the sidewalk in front of a soul food restaurant is a harmless, if dumb, prank. Nonsense. The symbolism -- of racial hatred and threat -- is clear. Such actions, especially by police officers, cannot be tolerated. To explain away the incident as an ill-conceived practical joke is to give at least tacit approval to such displays of racial prejudice. Dismissing the officers perpetrating the incident was the only acceptable response.

It is sadly ironic that, at a time when the State's governor has been urging passage of a law to make racial harrassment a criminal offense, a most blatant example of racial harrassment is committed by Portland City Police officers. It is thus easy to understand the feelings of distrust and fear of police officers in the black community. Only firm action by yourself and Chief Baker can begin to dispel the distrust and fear.

Don't give in to the pressure of those who would make this incident less serious than it is.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Fishack

April 5, 81

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Or.

My dear Mr. Jordan:

Let me tell you how I admire the character strength of yours in the case of the two policemen. It must not have been easy for you, knowing that you would be assailed by a lot of people for your decision to dismiss them-not young stupid fellows but grown-up men who should have known what the consequences of their maliciousness would be. Justice goes before everything else, or we do have CHAOS. And you did what was just and right.

I'm an old European from a country that didn't know race-, only caste-problems. It was astonishing that the press never told the whole story, why these two men wanted "to clean the atmosphere" between themselves and another group of police officers, who also policed that part of our city. That sounded from the beginning on fishy to me-but the press gave this misunderstanding between officers of a group as reason for the action of the two culprits. To clean the atmosphere? Just on Union Street? And where on the spur of the moment did the two men find four dead opossums? Do they lie around in certain streets, just to be scooped up by two men? The whole story as told first seemed untrue and hiding other problems, as it finally came out. It upsets me enormously, that so many people are afraid of the blacks, and at least suspicious they MIGHT do something to them. Why should they, when not provoked? The murders that are done, oftener are done by whites, so are the raping and stabbing of white women... I'm living between black people, I love and respect my neighbors, and they love and respect me, and their beautiful little ones come trustingly into my house to make music with me and get a cookie.. That is as it has to be; All these professed Christians don't know what Love is, especially, "Love thy neighbor..." I'm glad you had the strength to do what was necessary: remove two adult men from a police force to which to belong they are not anymore good enough.

Excuse me, an old woman, to write such a long letter which you have to read, but I wanted to express my confidence in your character and knowledge what your situation as Commissioner asks from you.

Yours sincerely,

Felice Wolmut RMT

Felice Wolmut, RMT

+ It's quite clear, that this all was purposely done as a provocation.

P.O. Box 201

St. Helens Ore.

Apr. 5, '81

The Honorable Charles R. Jordan,
Portland City Commissioner,
City Hall,
Portland Ore. 97201

Dear Sir:

I've been a tax-payor in Multnomah County since 1933;
I was born on Missouri Avenue near Killingsworth, and I lived next
door to black neighbors, in different sections of Albina for thirteen
years, and had more than one opportunity to observe the behavior
and attitude of policemen in that district.

I agree with those who say the whole group should be
exchanged for a different police force in that section of the city;
It's a fact, those two policemen who were fired would never have left
those dead animals in front of Zell's Jewelry Store.

I can't imagine why that parade was ever allowed; to me,
it was a challenge and a goad to all the hate and resentment
simmering and being aggravated in the Albina District.

Sincerely,

Ruth Edwards
Mrs. Ruth Edwards

April 6, 1981

Mr. Charles Jordan
Portland City Council

Dear Councilor Jordan:

You are altogether right in your position on the possum affair. Policemen do not play "pranks" on citizens. The act of these officers represents very certain contempt for law as well as what appears to be some kind of viciousness. The discipline they have received is the least they have deserved.

Our faith in the Portland police force is strained to the limit. It is of the utmost importance that you not back down! We are behind you and ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Jan + Jim Strassmaier
736 NE Laurelhurst Pl.
Portland 97232

Connie Killham
5764 Aetna SE.,
SALEM, OR. 97301

4-2-81

TO: Commissioner Bordon,

Dear Sir,

I am glad that the two officers who sponsored the opossum incident were dismissed. I hope that you won't allow them to be reinstated. Although, I feel that a suspension would have been fair compensation for this incident, I hope you will stand firm in your decision for the dismissals, with the hope in mind that this penalty will deter other officers from inflicting harassment, pranks, assaults, batteries, & murders on the very people who's rights & persons the officers are hired to protect.

I'm Tired of reading about the police shooting some 16 year old ~~boy~~ in the back while fleeing a house during an alleged attempted burglary (Gresham, last year). and the 16 yr. old ~~boy~~ fleeing a turkey farm, in Clackamas Co., with a turkey who was shot in the back by an officer who said he aimed at the kid's legs but the kid tripped ^(15 YRS AGO) over a limb. Do these guys have a license to kill? they didn't even get slapped on the hands with suspensions.

Sincerely,
Connie Killham

6 April 1980

Charles R. Jordan
Commissioner's Office
1320 S. W. 5th
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

Just a note to express my support of the action that you and Chief Baker took to rectify the "possum" incident. It is annoying for me to think that any officer of the law could possibly use the citizens that they protect as butts for their jokes.

The action that you took was a productive step in maintaining the integrity that the Portland Police Department now has.

The "no confidence" note which you and Chief Baker received from the Police Association says to me that your subordinates know that the two of you mean business and are not afraid of taking whatever measures necessary, controversial issue or none.

You certainly have my confidence and support. I hope you continue to build the credibility of the Police Department as the Commissioner of the Bureau.

Sincerely
Mike Kule
6822 N. INTERSTATE



BUREAU OF
POLICE

Lt. Robert J. Koch

3/27/81

Commissioner Jordan;

I feel that your decision must have been very difficult to make. Please remember that you do not stand alone and unsupported. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we enter into what I believe will be a very healthy phase of bureau development which would be impossible without strong leadership.

Bob Koch

REV. OREN F. HUGHES
~~CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION~~
2455 N.W. JOHNSON ST.
PORTLAND, OREGON 97210

ma/B/cj

March 25, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordon
Portland City Hall
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordon?

The two police officers involved in the very serious oppum^{ss} affair are suppose to have said "to get people to laugh again, to pull the neighborhood together." I have not heard of more absurd statement. Dead animals runned over by a police patrol car are to make people laugh.

If, these two officers remain on the polic force(I think they should be terminated) they should be forced to under=go a psychiatry evaluation.

This a serious affair, Mr. Jordon, this not only concerns the blacks but the whites as well.

It is my personal opinion that the Police Bureau lacks leadership.

Sincerely,

Oren F. Hughes

Rev. Oren F. Hughes

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Commissioner Jordan

Thank you! You did the right thing to fire those irresponsible policemen. I know it was hard to do, and I respect you for holding up standards and principles.

I am a union member myself but I can't believe the Police Association would defend that kind of outrageous unprofessional behavior which anyone would assume was motivated by racism (I am white) and contempt for our part of town.

Stick by your principles!

Thank you

Laurie Foster

126 NE Monroe

Portland Ore 97212

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford A. Fetty
5902 N. Maryland
Portland, OR 97217

Dear Commissioner Jordan - We
are white - registered voters -
tax payers -

We are behind you solidly
100% on the firing of the two
officers for misconduct - Do
not hire them back as they
do not deserve to be on our
police force by their own
actions -

Sincerely
Rueh + Clifford
Fetty

Br
G-
mit
April 3, '81

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall

Dear Sir:

Just a note to thank you for your stand on fining the two policemen, who certainly were not functioning according to the standards of their profession. (Possum incident).

It takes courage to stand up for that which is right.

Thanks again. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Esther E. Keller
8800 S.E. Mill St
Portland, OR 97216

Br
Cy
mH

4/3/81

Commissioner Jordan -

Congratulation on your stand in the Opposum fisco. A few questions arise in my mind.

#1 How could one auto Kill 4 Opposums in one alley? I believe part of them came from some other area to create the problem.

#2 What would the 2 Police have done if they saw six or seven black men throwing four dead animals on their porch? Know doubt they would of grabed their service gun + shot one or more + then in defense would say they thought they were being bombed.

#3 They state it was just a prank and Not harassment. If it wasnt, Why did they place them in front of a black Mans door? Why did they not place them in front of a white mans door? If it wasnt harassment it sure danggled right in the fringe area.

Hurrah for what you did. Those Officers got exactly what they

deserved. I also think the other officers should be reprimanded for coming to witness this stupid act. I am a white taxpayer & believe a police man are hired to help the public & not create problems.

What infantile minds some people have to think up such stupid acts.

Keep up your fine work. The biggest percent of your men are doing a fine job. Don't give in an inch, fight back.

Harry F. Sprague
5736 S.W. Illinois St.
Portland Ore.
97221

DR. E. S. OLIVER
1220 N. E. 17th Ave. #5C
Portland, Oregon 97232

Br
g
ml

April 3, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I join with the thousands of other Portlanders who think you much over-played your hand in response to the few extremist Black Union spokesmen parading before the media when you insisted on firing the two policemen over the Possum incident.

If anyone or anything is "polarizing" the population of this city it is the vocal and visual display made in the Black protest parade which led to your extreme action, which can only appear to reasoning observers as an example of political opportunism.

The editorial position of the Oregonian that the firing was necessary and justified does not appear sound or valid to me. I see this firing as sacrificing two men's professional position to placate a small vocal extremist group. I would like to see the two men restored to the police force, with some more appropriate reprimand.

Sincerely yours,

Egbert S. Oliver
Emeritus Professor of English
Portland State University

4/3/81

Br
m
H

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I just wanted you to know that I, as a resident of Portland, am behind you 100% in your decision to fire the two police officers, regardless of the racist overtones of the incident in question, I feel that these men showed not only poor judgement in their actions, but also a complete failure to appreciate the seriousness and crucial importance of the jobs they held. What they did has reflected very badly on their fellow officers.

So hang in there, and don't let the Unions bulldoze you!

yours sincerely
Nathan B. Davis

715 S.W. King #61
Portland, OR 97205

4-3-81

Br —
G —
mt

Comm. Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Ore.

After seeing and listening to you on T.V. yesterday and knowing you did not talk to the two Police officers face to face we have decided you are wrong, we voted for you but not again as you are playing for Black votes. You and the chief of Police and Goldsmith should all go back to Berkeley, California where you all can have your fun.

Being residents of Portland since 1933, we never seen any nuts like you there in City Hall.

Sincerely
Marian & Fred D Sparks
P.O. Box 14753
Portland - Ore. 97214

Br
G
mt-1

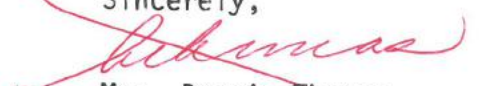
April 2, 1981
4212 N. E. 62nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon
97218

Commissioner Jordan
1220 SW 5th
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner:

I don't correspond very often with public officials but I thought you'd like my opinion on the recent incident involving the two dismissed policeman. I do think it could have been handled in another way, you could have suspended for 30 or 60 days w/o pay, etc. I do not think they should have lost their jobs. I remember a few years ago (in Portland) when the terminology was used regarding policeman as "pigs" and I remember two motorcycle policeman wore pig masks one day in the afternoon traffic and they weren't dismissed. I realize the incidents are different, but nevertheless they were called on the carpet so to speak. As a citizen of Portland for 50 years I in my opinion think that you could have ^{handled} this problem different. I think you have too much pressure from some communities that might influence your thinking. I thank you for reading (if you do) my letter. I hope in the future you will allow enough time also to hear all of the evidence, etc.....two weeks isn't long when a lot is at stake.....maybe more time should have been taken.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Bonnie Thomas

Br
G
MH

April 3, 1981.

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
Police Chief Bruce Baker
City of Portland
1220 S. W. 5th
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Sirs;

This letter is in regards to the present "situation" concerning the firing of two police officers who deposited dead possum in front of a local restaurant. I whole heartedly support your actions dismissing these men. There should have been no question as to how to punish these people once guilt was established. Policemen acting like juvenile delinquents should not be allowed to serve as officers of the law.

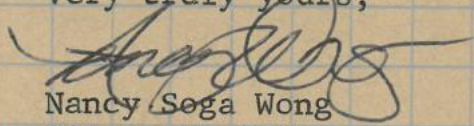
How am I justified in asking my child to respect the law and respect the rights of others when those in responsible positions feel they need not do so? It seems silly to me that all this hoopla and protest is taking place over something that is so obvious. Policemen obey the laws as well as protect us from those who do not, or so I was raised to believe.

I think I am most upset by the fact that other police officers are not in total support of their chief and commissioner on this matter. I was appalled to hear that these officers are as foolish and lacking in integrity and judgement as the two men fired (voting "no confidence" and marching in protest) - GOOD GRIEF! I'm paying these people to work for me?

Please continue to endure and pursue your good work ; carry us through this inane situation.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Nancy Soga Wong
904 S. E. 70th
Portland, OR 97215

Br
G
mt

805 SE Peacock Lane
Portland, Oregon, 97214

April 3, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon, 97204

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I have been reading papers, watching T.V. news, and listening to radio news, - concerning the firing of those policemen. It is hard for anyone who doesn't have all the facts to judge, but I believe you did right in firing those policemen who left dead carcasses in front of that restaurant. Racial tension is running so high now, especially in that neighborhood, that not even a foolish "prank" should be tolerated. Policemen are hired to protect the public of all skin colors and nationalities. Greater maturity should have been shown here, even if it meant carrying dead animals to a proper disposal site in police car.

I am one who firmly believes in promotion from within an organization, grooming employees to become supervisors. All too much "bring supervisors from the outside" - persons not familiar with the operation of a department or

2719 S.W. Custer
Portland, Oregon 97219
April 3, 1981

Br
CJ
mH

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

As a City employee, I am usually reluctant to participate as a citizen in decisions made by Council members. However, reactionary elements of this Community force me to take a position on your action regarding the opossum incident.

I applaud you and Bruce Baker for your decision to fire the two policemen involved in the incident. Their misconduct is a clear example of the increasing amount of racial and anti-Semitic harassment occurring in this country. It is bad enough that groups of individual citizens are seeking to destroy the social justice that has been so dearly fought for. To not have fired these two policemen would have meant that harassment is sanctioned within the police force.

I thank you for upholding the type of professional and ethical standards that call for the respect of all of Portland's citizens. Your constructive actions, combined with those of other elected officials, are the only hope we have for allowing a just society to continue.

Sincerely,

Carol Berkley
Carol Berkley

cc: Rabbi Rose, Congregation Beth Israel

April 3, 1981
Colton, Ore. 824-2535

Commissioner Charles Jordan :
Dear Sir:

We called your office yesterday to register our response to the firing of the two police officers.

You have our two votes in support of what you did, you handled this matter in the only way it could be handled.

We are appauled to think that men with such poor judgment, carry a gun and are supposed to protect us. Is this the kind of act that our children and grandchildren can look at and say the police did it so it is alright.

If these two men are allowed to remain on the police force, then all we have to say is that you are opening up a can of worms that will end up being deadly snakes and will bite you. This will be refered to in many incidents to come as the thing to do.

We are christians and God surely wont let us get away with such things. There is no excuse or gray area where he is concerned. There is right and there is wrong and the decision is ours which course we take.

We could say much more but we will let it go at this. Oh yes, the father and son where this took place are to be commended. On T.V. they said all they wanted was for these men to be transfered from their district. WOW.

Sincerely.

A.K. Lundmark
Muriel A. Lundmark
30928 S.Wall st
Colton, Ore. 97017
824-2535

A. K. Lundmark

Muriel A. Lundmark

April 5, 1981

Mr Jordan -

You and yours are always bitching about something, you bitched until you got two good police officers fired, over some lowly possums. I hope when you call for help from the police dept. they'll refuse to help and let you die in your own bitch juice.

And now I see by the Oregonian you've all found something else to bitch about. "Let's make a front of us and boycott the schools" Bitch, bitch, bitch. I don't see any possums in the school yard. But you folks don't need possums to bitch about. You need no reason - you just bitch. Here's to the lot of you, I didn't say what.

Anonymous CRANK
Letter

97255 mh/Br/cy

9316 S.E. Woodstock
Portland Or 97266
March 30, 1981

Commissioner Jordan:

I think your firing of those
two policemen was a terrible
mistake. You gave the impression
that they were racists - it
seems to me you are the racist.

One mistake should not have
cost them their job - did you
never make a "goof"? Maybe
a suspension would have been
in order, nothing more.

Yours truly,
Lillian Dean

RECEIVED
APR 01 1981

Chrys Anne Martin

4-3-81

Dear Charles,

I want to take this opportunity to let you know of my full support of your actions in dismissing the two police officers involved in the Burger Barn incident.

Having worked in law enforcement I observed many PPB officers and feel for the most part their behavior is very professional. To maintain those high standards, the poor judgment of a few cannot be tolerated.

I'm sure this was a hard decision for all, but there are many of us in the community who support you fully.

Sincerely,
Chrys

George L. Doolittle, Jr.
4333 S. W. 54th Place
Portland, Oregon 97221

April 3, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

I think you made an error in firing the two officers involved in the opossum incident. However, I also think it is absolutely necessary to stand by your decision.

As long as you're in your job, you run the Police Bureau. Don't let the Police Association run the Bureau.

I do wish there was some way of placating all sides, but I'm afraid there isn't a way without you abrogating your decision... Hang in there, it will blow over! Sincerely, George L. Doolittle

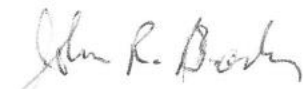
April 3, 1981
1626 S.E. Spokane St.
Portland, Ore. 97202

Commissioner's Office
City of Portland
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, Ore. 97204
Commissioner Charles R. Jordan

Dear Sir:

In light of the recent "'possum incident", I must commend you on your courageous decision, to fire the police officers involved. Eventhough, as you have stated, "this was not a racial issue", we cannot allow our police force to harass any law abiding citizen, whether he be black or white. The very least that should have been done, was to dismiss the officers involved. I think that they should also be prosecuted under the public nuisance law. However, I again must commend you on your action. I further, wish you luck on your future dealings with the policemen's union, concerning this issue.

Sincerely,



John R. Barber

April 3, 1981

Mr. Charles Jordan
City Commissioner
Portland City Hall
Room 404
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: Firing of Police Officers in Opposum Incident

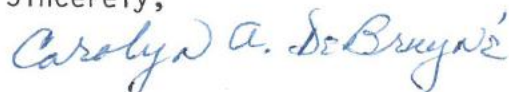
Dear Mr. Jordan:

Let me congratulate you on your firm stance with regards to the swift firing of police officers Gallaway and Ward.

After reading the front page of today's Oregonian, many feelings of outrage and humiliation on behalf of my race (Caucasian) once again surfaced. Indeed the indignity of the entire human race is felt when such inhumane and wicked acts as the opposum incident are allowed to be excused or justified. The very first time I read of the incident prior to your action, I was totally disgusted. This kind of harrassment must not be allowed to continue. As a citizen of the city of Portland, I do not want such individuals representing the welfare of our populace.

Thank God you are on our city commission! And this is not ~~the first~~ time I have felt that way.

Sincerely,



Carolyn A. DeBruyne'
4521 SE 48th

cd

3 April 1981.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I
SUPPORT THE DECISION TO DISMISS
THE POLICE OFFICERS. I DON'T WANT
MY TAX MONEY TO PAY FOR
UNTRUSTWORTHY OR RACIST POLICE.

A FREE SOCIETY CANNOT
CONDONE A RACIST POLICE DEPARTMENT.
WE MUST DEMONSTRATE TO OTHER
OFFICERS THAT THEY WILL NOT
BE SUPPORTED WHEN THEY USE
THEIR AUTHORITY TO INTURE OUR
SOCIETY.

David W. Goller

DAVID W. GOLLER
3927 SE TAGGART
Portland, OR, 97202

Friday, 3 April 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan -

Your dignified, professional conduct during these past tumultuous weeks has made me even prouder that I've voted for you! (Along with Bill and the four daughters still registered to vote in Portland!)

You certainly are to be commended, along with Chief Baker, for refusing to be swayed by the rhetoric of the Police union leaders - and for maintaining that the stupid, juvenile misconduct of the two officers involved reflected upon the entire Portland Police Force.

(over)

CICERO

“no rights”

that were (not open to all alike would be

“Rights”

In fact, as my father used to say, "Bully for you!"

The entire police force should recognize that your action truly restores - and maintains - credibility to the force -

With pride and sincere personal regards;

Ann M. Shepherd

proceeds from sale to further the work of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

Calligraphy: Clyde Van Cleave

SYLVIA DAVIDSON

1054 S.W. DOUGLAS PLACE • PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

(503) 222-4277

April 3, 1981

Dear Charles,

Jeby & I want to offer
our strong support of your action
firing the police officers in the
possum case.

It is inconceivable that
officers who are employed to protect
the public be allowed to free-wheel
around in a vulgar display of
anti-social behavior. Even if there
were no racial motives involved (which
I don't believe), the taxpayers in
a free society should not tolerate
an élite, armed Corps of police who
seem to feel accountable only to
their own organization.

(over)

We have every right to expect police to be good role models. In these sad days when more and more, unacceptable behavior becomes acceptable — Those who wear a badge — Cannot forget their profound obligation to maintain standards of civilized conduct.

Would the police think it was an amiable "prank" if I vented my frustrations by dumping a trace of rats in front of Headquarters?

Please let us know if our endorsement of your position should be manifested in any way.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Davidson

J.O. BOLES * BOX 8363/PORTLAND/OR 97207 * 503-249-0123

April 3, 1981

The Honorable Charles Jordan, Commissioner
City Hall
1220 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Charles:

Stick to your guns! You were entirely right in firing those two police officers who dumped the possums in front of the Burger Barn.

I am now living in Portland's "ghetto" next to Humboldt School, and I can tell you feeling is running fairly hot about the incident. Those two officers -- and the others involved -- did more damage to the image of the police than they will ever understand.

As we look forward into summer -- the usual time for civil disturbances -- the citizens need to have faith their government doesn't stack all the cards against them.

I know your act took considerable political courage. I only hope things simmer down soon for you.

Sincerely,



Joyce Boles

79263

~~mh~~/br/cj

Mar. 27, 1981

Commissioner Jorgenson.

I hope for all concerned that you don't make any more mistakes as the one you just did against the two Police Officers. You have committed the crime against them by taking their lively hood from them, after ^{they} working for 12 yrs or so among hoodlums & etc, & They really committed no crime.

A suspension of a month or two would have been sufficient, not what you did by any means.

I do not know either Officer but I do know what you did was wrong.

A. Killian
1687 NW Division St
Corvallis, Or. Apt. 215

79238

RECEIVED

MAR 27 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

mk/bl/cj
4828 N. E. Mallery Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97211
March 26, 1981

Dear Charles -

It is my opinion that by now you need to know that some one (among possibly many Blacks) does respect your decisions as a City Commissioner. I am sure it took much prayer, on your part, to rationally look at the overall problems of the City. The Appsum incident, specifically, was or is a real test.

I must admit that my reaction was not one of objectivity initially. I wanted you to be the storm-trooper that many others wanted you to be and say, "hey this is the absolute end. You've gone too far when you publicly abuse my brother. You've had it!" But because of my trying to reason out why you didn't, I had to try putting myself in your shoes (an impossibility)

Then a glimmer of light came through. Knowing you as the spiritual thinker that you are I had to say to myself "If beating a

drum, tearing my hair out and not listening ^{to} any reasoning (except my own emotions) I'd be worse off than the officers involved."

I reread the Montgomery (Ala.) story and saw a close correlation. So... to maintain my own integrity, self-esteem and respect I'd have to be calm, objective and consider the whole area of my responsibility.

This said, now, I want you to know that I appreciate your commitment, endurance, patience, love for people and decisions. I could not afford to wait for Friday's press conference to say to you, "thank you for being Charles Jordan, a man I know to be just in his dealings, honest in his appraisals, considerate of the weaknesses in others and decisive in his deliberations."

Whatever happens I'm now content because I am assured in my own mind that a Divine hand is guiding you. May God ever richly bless you.

Love,
Marion

THE CITY OF
PORTLAND



OREGON

OFFICE OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

CHARLES JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

1220 S.W. FIFTH AVE.
PORTLAND, OR. 97204
503 248-4682

4/14/81

Dear Marian,
Thank so much for the beautiful
letter of support. It really made
a difference. It's always nice to
get support but a little nicer
when it comes from those who
know what you stand for..

Charlie

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" Then a glimmer of light came
through. Knowing you as the
spiritual I thought that you are

Commissioner Jordan

I applauded when your decision was to suspend the police officers who dumped the opossums on the restruant doorstep.

I feel it very necessary now however, to voice my disapproval of the arbitration concerning their reinstatement. REHIRING IS UNTHINKABLE.

A police officer's main function is, as I understand it, to protect the rights of the general populace one of the most basic of those rights is human dignity and the right to consideration and the respect of others.

Rights which the officers willfully and with deliberation, grossly violated.

Horray for our men in blue and their impecable taste!
Ms. N. Schaeffe

AFFILIATED CLUBS

- ALTRUISTIC CLUB
- HARRIET TUBMAN CLUB
- KATHRYN GRAY CLUB
- SEMPER FIDELIS CLUB
- MULTNOMAH WOMEN'S CLUB
- LITERARY RESEARCH CLUB



mb/bj/gj

Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.

PORTLAND, OREGON 97212
 2433 N. E. 8th Avenue
 MOTTO: "LIFTING AS WE CLIMB"

May 10, 1981

Mr. Charles Jordan
 Commissioner of Public Safety
 1220 S. W. 5th
 Portland, Oregon 97204

Pam
Send letter
RECEIVED
 MAY 10 1981
 OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
 OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

The Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs at its April Executive Board Meeting voted unanimously to send you this letter of support--support for you as an elected City Councilman for the City of Portland and as Administrator of Public Safety and your other assigned Bureaus.

The oppossum incident with all its racial, political and emotional overtones is indeed unfortunate and distressing; the police narcotic investigation likewise is confidence shattering--but the overriding positive factor is your strong leadership.

We applaud your fair execution of management and personnel policies--the true mark of an administrator. Your willingness and effort to listen, discuss and understand the many public voices in this matter is noteworthy and we feel has certainly been effective in "defusing" the matter.

Know that you have our support, not only in this issue, but all efforts towards bettering the City of Portland.

Yours, "Lifting As We Climb"

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COLORED
 WOMEN'S CLUBS

La Vera Smith

Mrs. La Vera Smith, President

bt

8
May 8, 1981

Commissioner Charles R. Jordan
City Hall
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, OR 97204

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

In the past months, you have been the target of much criticism, due to your decision of the dismissal of two Police Officers. My evaluation of the matter was that you made an excellent appraisal of the incident and a fair decision. This is the first time I've ever felt impaled to write a letter to say as much. As a Black Woman employed in the business sector, in the downtown area for a number of years, I just wanted to take this moment to say Commissioner Jordan I have the utmost pride for you as a person, not just as a black person, but as a fair person. In these times you don't find many many politicians you can make that statement

B

about, or at least I haven't been able to. I'm not going to start to ramble endlessly about my views, because my primary reason for this letter was to say I'm proud of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jaqueline M. Inniss

May the Lord bless
and keep you as
missioner of the city
Portland.

Sincerely,
Robert and Denise
Brown

- We are also writing
Mayor Ivancie to urge
to support you.

await the outcome of Mayor
Ivancie's decision.

We know that you
were right in your
choice and pray that Mayor
Ivancie will stand behind
you and not be swayed
by the propaganda going
around now.

The City of Portland
needs a man that can
make a firm decision and
stick to it.

The officers had
a responsibility to the
uniform and community
and they let them both down.

~~Whaley~~

8801 E. Mill Plain Blvd
Vancouver, Washington
April 23, 1981

Dear Commissioner Jordan,
although we live
in Vancouver, we are very
interested in the activities
and politics of Portland.

Thank you very much
for deciding the way
you did concerning the
police officers involved
in the "POSSUM INCIDENT".

We agonized with
you about the decision.
Our hearts went out to you
then and now as we

mh/bj/cj
21 April

Dear Commissioner Jordan -

Obviously I am not among your constituents. However I am moved to write to you in support for your decisions to dismiss the two policemen who admitted to the 'possum episode'.

As a professional firefighter for the City of Bend I am shocked and offended by their actions, and conversely encouraged by yours. I am only sorry that you are taking so much heat for it.

I feel personally that the police have acted quite narrowly and immaturely in their subsequent "tantrums." Were I a resident of Portland I would feel concern for professional standards.

2.

I feel that racism is the most serious problem facing this country, partly because it is not being dealt with and ~~partly~~ partly because it is such a long standing venom. It makes economic problems pale ~~of~~ before it.

Actions like yours, tho vocally protested, force people to see that you and the City of Portland mean business. Take heart, stay strong. More people are behind you than you think -

Sincerely,

RECEIVED

APR 24 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

David Howe

417 NW Georgia

Bend, OR 97701

P.S. you are busy: you don't need to acknowledge this. I just wanted you to know.

5100 N. W. Highway/99 W.
Corvallis, Oregon
April 25, 1981

mh/bcl/gj

Commissioner Charles Jordan
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner:

I am at a loss to understand why you are getting criticism for your handling of the recent disgusting conduct of Portland Police Officers. I am a retired first grade teacher and recall a Social Studies unit on Community Helpers in which the police officer is depicted as a law interpreter, enforcer and an all around friend to trust and turn to when one needed help. I might have a little trouble teaching that unit today in Portland although as you say most of the force is composed of hard-working, honest men who should be commended. The dead animal caper is an act we would associate with a juvenile delinquent. Dismissal was right. A police force is no place for irresponsible immaturity. The drug dealing, trying to plant evidence and harassment of blacks is more reprehensible and dangerous. Who is going to feel confident in calling on the police when they are needed and should be called.

From my point of view Scott Deppi is a particularly despicable character because as he was presenting the image of a "pure as a snowflake" Mormon Bishop he was about as corrupt as one can get.

Of course these men should be held for their actions, tried and sentenced as anyone else would be and then given an extra shot for what they have done to the image of the police force. Let them serve their time under the same circumstances as anyone else and not placed under the jurisdiction of good Mormon Brothers who will slap their wrists and then pin medals on them.

I was born and reared in one of Utah's dark corners and I shudder now when I think of what I was taught regarding the black race. Perhaps a more thorough screening of applicants for the force should be given.

At any rate you owe it to the people of the area to continue as you are doing. The remainder of the police force needs to know they can perform their duties with respect and confidence from the people of the area.

Good fortune,

Leah W. Clark

WHL/BL/GJ

4239 N.E. Victoria Dr.
Portland, Ore. 97213
April 26, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jardon
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon

RECEIVED
APR 28 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Commissioner Jardon:

I commend you for your continued interest and leadership for what is right. I have faith in you and pray that you will continue to work for what is right and just for all people.

Your job is not an easy one - "if it was, it would be a waste of your talents". You have what it takes, don't get weary. We need more leaders like you.

I can assure you, you will have my continued support and prayers. Keep on getting the job done. May God Bless You always.

Sincerely,
Armen P. Walker

Dear Charles Jordan,

~~mt~~
~~bc~~
ej

RECEIVED
APR 23 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

In spite of all the protest, I believe you did the right thing in firing the two policemen in the possum incident. It was most surely a racial act: those men would never have dumped possums outside an Italian restaurant "as a joke". People with attitudes like they have are probably incapable of treating black people fairly, and thus they are unqualified to serve as officers of the law.

I do not believe it is a matter of punishment, but rather of keeping only policemen who are capable and qualified.

Thank you for your act of bravery
in firing these two men. I hope
that if any litigation arises, you
will win. Surely, black people
deserve as much protection from
crime and maliciousness as white
people do.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Julie Cole Downs

g

Fran (Francesca) Ariniello
1728 Northeast Stanton
Portland, Oregon 97212
281-3394

APRIL 24, 1981

DEAR COMMISSIONER JORDAN,

FIRST I WANT TO EXEMPLIFY MY SUPPORT OF YOUR ACTIONS TO DISMISS THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE POSSUM INCIDENT.

YOU MAY HAVE READ MY RATHER ANGRY LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, I WAS LIVID OVER THE OFFICERS ACTIONS. THEY ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLICE FORCE, AT LEAST FROM MY EXPERIENCE.

OUR FAMILY HAS USED PORTLAND POLICE OVER THE YEARS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME, SOMETIMES MY YOUNGER TEENAGERS NOT AT THE RIGHT BUS STOP AND PAST CURFEW. I HAVE EVEN REPORTED MY OLDEST MISSING WHEN HE RAN OUT OF GAS IN GRESHAM AND DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A DIME TO CALL HOME, MUCH LESS BUY GAS AT MIDNIGHT!

I WISH TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY STATEMENT TO THE OBSERVER THAT "PERHAPS YOU WERE SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME WITH YOUR FEET ON THE DESK". THAT STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN UNCLEAR STATEMENT BY YOU THAT THE INCIDENT HAD (OR DID NOT HAVE) RACIAL OVERTONES.

ED, MY HUSBAND TOOK A DIM VIEW OF MY STATEMENT AND EXPLAINED THAT YOU MAY HAVE LEGS TOO LONG TO FIT COMFORTABLY UNDER THE DESK OR HAVE VARICOSE VEINS! IN EITHER CASE, I REGRET SUCH A THOUGHTLESS HASTY COMMENT.

SINCERELY,


FRAN ARINIELLO

RECEIVED
APR 27 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

mh/bc/gj

April 23, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan

Dear Mr. Jordan:

This is to let you know that I support your decision regarding the officers involved in the "Opposum Incident". Their conduct was unprofessional and insulting. In view of racial tensions, dismissal is not too severe. We expect more prudence of our public officials. Continued action of this type could spark rioting.

So far I have heard only affirmation of your stand.

Yours truly,
Dister Anita Mc

BR ✓
CJ -
MH -

RECEIVED
APR 21 1981
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 S.W. 5th
Portland, 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

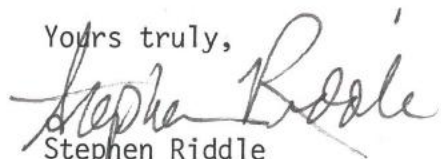
April 11, 1981

As a lifelong Portland resident, I wish to extend my support for your recent decision to terminate Portland Police officers Ward and Galloway for their disgraceful and dangerous behavior regarding the recent "oppossum incident."

In my opinion, the act was disgraceful because it exemplified the apparent disdain these officers exhibited for the neighborhood residents which they are mandated to protect. In addition it was dangerous behavior because the officers involved themselves and other officers in activities which not only made it impossible for them to protect the public, but potentially endangered neighborhood residents by their actions.

The decision was one which will hopefully reduce the prospects of future harrassment of citizens by the police or any other public body. Any police morale problems which might result from your decision should be short-lived, because most officers certainly realize that professional behavior must always be maintained in such a sensitive position.

Yours truly,



Stephen Riddle
3232 N.E. 13th

4130 SE Lambert
Portland, Oregon 97202
April 22, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City Hall
1220 SW 5th
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I think that you did exactly the right thing
injuring those 2 police officers. In the first place,
it's hard to have confidence in the judgment of
men who would pull a prank like that. Secondly,
they are responsible for protecting all of the
public, not only that represented by their own
race. Their pranks certainly seemed race-related
to me. I can't imagine any public person
even attempting to do such a thing to a
white-owned business. People with such atti-
tudes don't belong in the public employ.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Wieting

RECEIVED
APR 24 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Women's
Rights
Coalition

49447
RECEIVED

APR 23 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 21, 1981

PRESIDENT
MONA STURGES
5040 NECTAR WAY
EUGENE, ORE. 97405

VICE PRESIDENT
ROSE GANGLE
5833 N. ALBINA
PORTLAND, ORE. 97217

SECRETARY
CHRISTI CLARK
3717 N.W. BOXWOOD PLACE
CORVALLIS, ORE. 97330

TREASURER
MABEL ARMSTRONG
2580 MC MILLAN
EUGENE, ORE. 97405

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
MERRIS SUMRALL, LOBBYIST
362.8914
1465 STATE ST.
SALEM, ORE. 97301

mit /
CJ
Be
AS -

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City of Portland
1220 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Opossum Incident

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

As you may know, the Women's Rights Coalition is a statewide organization of over twenty member groups. We are a broad based coalition, and we represent many women and men in Portland and the State of Oregon on women's issues.

Our main purpose is to lobby at the state legislature. Our priorities include civil rights for minority groups, whom we see as allies, who suffer similar discrimination to women. Minority women suffer double discrimination. The opossum incident in Portland has attracted statewide attention. We wish to speak to that incident, especially in light of the criticism which you, your office and Chief Baker have received.

The Women's Rights Coalition supports your decision to fire the two police officers who admitted killing and leaving opossums on the sidewalk in front of a restaurant owned by a Black person.

We support your decision because we are aware that: (1) Opossums are associated in many persons' minds with traditional Black soul food; (2) In the minds of prejudiced people and in the awareness of Blacks (and those who have sought to deal with their prejudices toward Blacks) who have experienced that prejudice, the killing of opossums and leaving them on a Black family's doorstep means "Get out of town, or you could meet this opossum's fate"; and (3) Even without the racist connotation, the killing of animals to mock people is callous, and the leaving of those animals, dead, where someone would find them is intended to intimidate and frighten the people who would find them.

We expect that the investigation be continued, and that further disciplinary action be taken where appropriate.

Finally, we hope that the City of Portland and its police department will commit itself by its actions to fighting racism (and sexism), rather than irresponsibly raising tensions between the police and the minority communities.

Very truly yours,

Rose Gangle

ROSE GANGLE, Vice-President
Women's Rights Coalition

RMG:rmg
cc:Chief Baker
Mayor Ivancie



OSCAR F. BRANDT, RETIRED

RETAIL FOOD MERCHANDISING
PIGGLY WIGGLY SUPERMARKET MANAGER

PHONE: (503) 244-4159
12200 S.W. LESSER ROAD
PORTLAND, OREGON 97219

RUTH I. BRANDT, RETIRED
SECRETARY
G.E. CO. LAMP. DIV.

mal/BK/SJ



April 23, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
City of Portland
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204:

Dear Mr. Jordan:

We have been following the OPOSSUM CASE very closely and agree with your decision to fire the two policemen involved. We have read the OREGON JOURNAL articles:

April 21, 1981 OPOSSUM CASE LEAVES OPINION DIVIDED HERE (Journal poll)

April 22, 1981 HUMAN RELATIONS MEMBERS BACK "OPOSSUM" DISMISSALS

April 22, 1981 JORDAN VOWS POLICE SHAKE-UP,

April 22, 1981 JORDAN SEEKS IVANCIE STAND IN OPOSSUM CASE, and it was this article that prompts me to send you a copy of our April 7, 1981 letter to Mayor Frank Ivancie stating that we are in agreement with your decision to fire the two policemen involved. We should have sent you a copy of this letter at the time, but better late than never to let you know we think you are handling this situation the best and only way possible.

Yours sincerely,

att.copy letter April 7, 1981

Oscar & Ruth Brandt

cc Mayor Frank Ivancie
City of Portland
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204



OSCAR F. BRANDT, RETIRED

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RUTH I. BRANDT, RETIRED
SECRETARY
G.E. CO. LAMP. DIV.



April 7, 1981

Mayor Frank Ivancie
City of Portland
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mayor Ivancie:

This is written to you as a RIGHT and WRONG of two issues in City of Portland.

DEAD OPOSSUM ISSUE

Over the radio this morning you stated that you were sick of this issue and referred to it as dissention within the "family" -- that is not so. We are firmly in favor of the firing of these two officers by Police Commissioner Charles Jordan and Police Chief Bruce Baker. We are members of the Portland City Club (you have spoken before them) and at last week's Friday meeting there were five men and three women discussing this, one woman was in favor of suspension only and all of the rest of the seven were firmly in favor of the firing and also we were in favor of suspending without pay for a period of time for the other policemen involved. This incident could have started a riot (and still could), and the excuses the two officers gave were more disgusting, if possible, than the incident, very childish. If we are to look up to law enforcement we should have officers above this sort of prankish incidents. We believe that the vote of "no confidence" from the Portland Police Association is wrong and this should be left up to a vote of the people and not a biased organization. Everyone agrees that this was a wrong thing to do, so they should get the punishment of being fired.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

EARL BLUMENAUER VS MARGARET STRACHAN

Again at our table at the City Club of Portland, March 13th above debate -- Most of us liked Earl Blumenauer as candidate because of his experience and good record, although we also liked Margaret Strachan. Due to the fact that Earl Blumenauer wrongly accepted favors of Harris, Oscar and Ruth would not vote for him and voted for Margaret Strachan, we didn't take a poll at our table, but it was evident from the outcome of the election that the people felt that Earl Blumenauer had not done the right thing, maybe he can overcome the blight on his good record, but we would not vote for him for anything in the future because of this wrong act.

After Watergate, Abscam, and other scandals, people were told the only way to get rid of graft and scandal and wrongdoers was to vote them out of office -- and it would appear that is what people are doing now, maybe that will straighten out people in public service.

We do hope that the firing of these two officers is upheld and also that the other policemen involved will get reprimanded in some way -- maybe some good policemen will be promoted to these open positions.

Yours sincerely,

Oscar & Ruth Brandt

Alice Zapata
4400 N. E. Broadway #307
#97213

My dear Commissioner Charles P. Jordan:

Its not easy to be a leader
nor is it easy to give out answers
that questions are so of this
murder times. But, trying to be a
good guy & right guy to all the
people one has to be a thousand
people but you are one and
knowing your doing the best
you know how, in that the
goodness you set forward,
I'm sure all be good. Sometime
I over look maybe things be
better but fooling one self is not
the answer. To keep peace and
love in time in all office.

But doing & thinking good and
positive can make miracles
and I do believe in miracles
& so can you. walking with God
is not easy, either. Sometimes I
think Im doing the right thing
But God is a pleasure God. and some
times rules can be changed and
what minds together can work
out to best of all concerns. The
thing is, we must know we
all can work together and

Order 6000
307
1100
1100
1100

also, jealousy should not be
in any type of order but to do
what we must do, for others
& also for us. I've called of
known. But this, now,
we can start anew, we
do deserve a second chance
is not that the way the
universe thinks, but every
day we are humans being
capable to learn, I think
I know what you are
going thru, and you should
be understood in your position
and that Bruce Baker also, have
the right full place, because,
he done well, & I do have
great respect & love because of
his works. May God Bless you
both, and that your future
be great and happy one,
& that the people have more
understanding & also more new
rules that can serve all,
Life is beautiful & so are
people, only they stop & listen
to wise words that only can
bring happiness. Your friend
Cecilia Laporta.

2735 NE Wiedler
Portland, OR 97232
April 23, 1981

Commissioner Charles Jordan
1220 SW 5th
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Jordan:

I am writing in support of your plan to accelerate overhaul and investigation of the Police Bureau.

Police acts of vandalism (oppossums), planting of evidence (Gearhart, et al) and heaven knows how much "entrapment" or "Abscam" style temptations to crime, frighten me. These behaviors radically lower my support and trust for the Portland Police, many of whom have been friendly, courteous and just to me.

Further, the proposed immunity from prosecution and the disability award for Neil Gearhart, despite his perjury and "planting", create an indecent invitation to more criminal behavior by the justice system. This injustice, as you are probably aware, is most often directed against poor people, women, gay men and lesbians, and whichever group of "undesireables" the powers that be want to harrass.

What can an average Joe citizen do against this sort of thing? Feeling powerless and appalled, I support your efforts to correct this situation.

Sincerely,



Austin Gray

cc: Mayor Frank Ivancie
Commissioner Strachan
Commissioner Lindberg
Commissioner Schwab

RECEIVED
APR 24 1981

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April, 15, 1981
Gene McLaughlin
5234 N. Oberlin St.
Portland, Or. 97203

Comm. Charles Jordan
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Jordan;

Thank you for your response to my letter
in regards to the discharging of the two police officers in the case concerning the Possums. Until your letter I thought the punishment too severe; now I can better see your reasons and those of the Chief of Police.

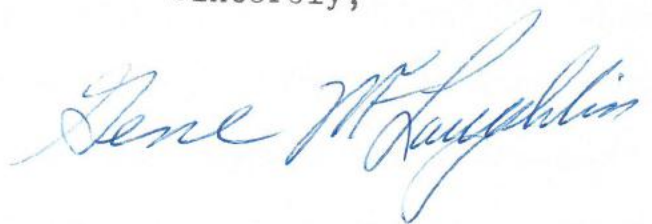
I, m afraid few people knew of the previous problems of harassing citizens of Portland, or that the officers had been warned.

I, m sure the decision you had to make was not an easy one. It, s much easier and more pleasant to give the response the majority of the public wants to hear.

Though I disagreed with you at the first at no time have I ever thought of you or Chief Baker as other than men of honesty and fairness, as well as good leaders.

It, s difficult enough in these times to bring about good relationship between the public and the police without hearing of officers in some sort of game while on duty. Most men on Portlands Police Force are good, dedicated, men; these acts hurt them .

Sincerely;



April 17, 1981

Dear Charles-

I've waited far too long to write this letter, and I'm sorry for that -

I'm very much aware of how uncomfortable your position must be right now and I wanted to add a few words of comfort if I could.

I've always thought highly of you as a person - my estimation of you as both a person, and commissioner has really gone up - what you did took a lot of courage - and is a really complex issue.

Mostly I want to say that next time you are running for re-election I will be there to lend support. Please be aware that a lot of us who don't express ourselves are behind you -

My best regards.

Ginny Buss

2707 S.E. 35th PL
97202



May 1, 1981

Penn
Respond

mjh/15c/gj

Commissioner Jordan,

My wife and I, and we speak for many of our neighbors, wish to inform you of our great respect for the courage you have demonstrated in representing the citizens of Portland. We support your decisions regarding the dismissal of the Portland Police officers and appreciate your efforts in reorganizing the Police Department to make it an even better representation of the quality inherent in Portland civic life. Again, thank you for your leadership.

Sincere regards. Kirk Pawlowski

Opossum case: Was it handled properly?

The decision of City Commissioner Charles Jordan and Police Chief Bruce Baker to fire two officers who admitted throwing dead opossums near a black-owned restaurant last month sparked as much controversy as the "possum incident" itself.

A group led by the Black United Front marched on City Hall, alleging the incident was racially inspired and demanded the two be fired. The two officers, Craig Ward and James Galloway, publicly admitted that the act was a stupid mistake, but denied any racial motivations.

After the two men were fired, a large group of officers marched on City Hall protesting the dismissals and submitted votes of no confidence in Jordan and Baker.

What do you think about the incident and firings?

Clip out and mail this week's poll (no copies accepted) to Journal Poll, Oregon Journal, 1320 SW Broadway, Portland, Ore. 97201. Results will be published Tuesday, April 21.

1. Do you agree with the decision to fire the officers?

Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: NO RESPONSIBLE

PUBLIC OFFICIAL COULD

DO ANYTHING LESS

THAN TERMINATION.

THE P.P.A. ACTION WAS

A TERRIBLE P.R. MOVE

Name and address (optional):

RONALD L. JENSEN
3955 NE 39TH AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97212

journal poll

Opossum case: Was it handled properly?

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: COMM. JORDAN SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR HIS CORRECT IMPARTIAL DECISION. MAYOR IVANKIE SHOULD BE ASHAMED FOR HIS "WISNY WASHY WAYS" & FOR ALLOWING THE DECISION TO GET OUT OF HAND BY BEING QUESTIONED. THE OFFICERS DESERVED TO BE FIRED SINCE THEY APPEARED TO BE IMMATURE YOUNG MEN INSTEAD OF OFFICERS OF THE LAW TRAINED AT TAXPAYERS EXPENSE TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND THEIR PROPERTY!!!

Name and address (optional): WE ARE A MIDDLE AGED, MARRIED WHITE COUPLE, BOTH WORKING AND ARE HOME-OWNERS IN PORTLAND, OREGON

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO GIVE OUR OPINION.

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Because police have extraordinary power they must have equal judgmental abilities.

We cannot afford insensitivity, "games", or arrogance by the police or they
Name and address (optional):

forfeit respect for themselves and the law

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: If the blacks can

demonstrate with a pipe hand on a

stick which is an insult not

only to the police, but to our society

and not be reprimanded

then why can not the officers

Name and address (optional): _____

demonstrate with out being

criticized

KEEP PRINTING POLLS! a great idea for everyone, also for those who are too timid to write a letter

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: The leader of the Black United Front would be a Malcontent if he had been born WHITE, and he is helping to stir up discontent among us blacks. If Jordan had fired Chief Baker I would have marched in protest. Business was lousy at the Restaurant, and this was an excuse to draw attention and perhaps more business.

IF THE BLACKS WHO HAVE CAUSED ALL THIS UPROAR KEEP POUNDING AWAY, WE'LL HAVE A SITUATION LIKE LONDON'S. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE AIMING FOR, BUT NOT ME!

My Grandmother said that during the depression the white CC boys brought possums out here to eat.

journal poll

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments: _____

MAYBE IT IS TIME FOR

WHITEY TO BURN BABY?

BURN?

Name and address (optional): _____

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: IF THIS would

have occurred to a
white business we
never would have heard
about it. The officers
told the truth and

Name and address (optional): _____

have learned their
lesson - Discipline Yes
fringe - NO.

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: MOST OF THE
BLACKS ACT LIKE
THEY JUST CAME OUT
OF THE JUNGLE
IN AFRICA

Name and address (optional):

NICHAI RENFRO
3972 N. UNION
AVE. PORTLAND
OREGON
97212

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Officers should
be reinstated and
fire Comm. Jordan
for making this a
racial issue when
it was not intended
to be one.

Name and address (optional):

journal poll

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1. Do you agree with the decision to fire the officers? *punished*

Yes No *but not fired
govt officers are hard to find*

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *It is my*

FEELING that

Jordan acted like

a racist himself

It all seems

political. I think

Name and address (optional):

Jordan should be

fired himself

Tillamook, Ore 97141

journal poll

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1. Do you agree with the decision to fire the officers?

Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *I am sick*

and tired of a few

loud mouth blacks

screaming race

discrimination

about everything

Name and address (optional):

Rose H. O'Neil

7036 N.E. 8 Ave.

Portland, Ore. 97211

275-0950

Journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Had The

officers been black

they would have

been told not to

do it again but

still had their jobs

Name and address (optional): if

a white looks at a

black cross-eyed it's

Racial. I'm sick of

them.

Journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Any police officer who willingly "plays a joke" on any member of society, regardless of race, etc., should be terminated. The public pays these people's salary and should expect to be treated with respect. If officers cannot play by these rules, they should look for work elsewhere.

Name and address (optional): I absolutely feel Commissioner Jordan acted in a totally responsible manner in protecting the public.

Journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: _____

To do what they did... giving that segment of my race (black), who are just waiting for an excuse to be 'on stage', to yell, march, 'protest', (look-at-me-I'm-on-TV!)... is nothing short of stupid. For those of us who want to be average, productive, (non-color) citizens, it is a put-back and an embarrassment.

As for those who back them...water seeks it's own level.

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2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: JORDAN & BAKER

ARE JUST PUPPETS ON

STRINGS FROM THE BUIF

IT'S TOO BAD THE POLICE

DEPT. DIDN'T CAST VOTES

OF "NO CONFIDENCE" TOWARD

THE BLACK UNITED FRONT.

Name and address (optional): _____

Paul E. Jensen

463 West A. St.

Burns, OR. 97720

the new pro-
process by
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journal poll

Opossum case: Was it handled properly?

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1. Do you agree with the decision to fire the officers?

Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *It was not just*

right thing to do
The blacks are
always finding fault,
whites they would
starve without whites

Name and address (optional):

W.J. Gardner

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *Failure of*
Mayor Ivancie to show
any quality of civic
leadership in this
episode adds another
facet to a most
damaging affair, It
will be a long time
before trust is
regained by police.
Name and address (optional):

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *The officers demonstrated their disrespect and antipathy toward a segment of the community. Such behavior by guardians of the community cannot be tolerated.*

Name and address (optional):

*John T. Booth
1724 SE 40th Ave
Portland, OR 97214*

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *Whether the incident was just a prank, or actually racial harassment is not the point! This behavior indicates such incredibly poor judgment, the officers do not measure up to caliber required for responsible law enforcement !!*

Kay Gloria Orem

Portland

KO

Who wants to call for police assistance and have to wait for an officer to get off "possum patrol"?!?

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journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: The incident was clearly racial harassment & should not be tolerated, The support by others indicate a deep, pervasive KKK attitude that must be opposed by all enlightened people.

Name and address (optional): _____

Laura Chaiwoe
3494 NW Raleigh
Portland, Or. 97210

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: This action by the officers was so obviously racist and stupid especially in an already tense neighborhood, that one wonders at the ability of the officers. Their admission of guilt was of no importance since surely they were already

known.
Name and address (optional): _____

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: I am glad Jordan and Baker had the integrity to dismiss the two officers. Whether it was racially motivated or not, it was still harassment and not to be condoned.

Name and address (optional):

Mark Thygesen
Lewis & Clark College
Portland, OR
97219

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments:

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, THEY HAD BEEN HARASSING THAT RESTAURANT OWNER BEFORE. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A SLUR TO A BLACK MAN! RIDICULOUS & DEMEANING TO OUR CITY, THE POLICE DEPT. & THE BLACK COMMUNITY!

No, I'm NOT A BLACK.

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journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: The firings

were very unfair.

We'll soon have

the blacks

controlling most

things as we

are afraid of

retrebution!

Name and address (optional):

journal poll

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments: They say it was
not racism, however, I
think it was. I do not
feel any person who does
such a think has any bus-
ness being on a police
force in any city. Police-
persons should uphold law
and be trustworthy. These
two individuals are not.

Name and address (optional):

Marjory DeVault
1226 S. E. Gideon St.
Portland, Oregon 97202

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Shocking
behavior by police
officers. Ivancie's
silence indicates
lack of courage. He
has lost our respect.

Name and address (optional): _____

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: I BELIEVE
THE POLICEMEN'S
ACTION WAS RACIST,
AND THEY SHOULD NOT
GET AWAY WITH IT.
(I AM WHITE)

Name and address (optional): _____

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments: Mr. Jordan is
the one who has shown
racial prejudices and
should not have the job
if he can not control
his emotions.

Name and address (optional): _____

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: The demonstra-
tion by the off duty officer
was a very explicit display
of racism, that's not only
current in Portland, Oregon
but all over USA.

Name and address (optional): _____

A. Muhammad Abetulla
2338 NE Killingsworth
Portland, Ore
97212

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: *Very inspired by especially to blacks*

Definitely racial

Name and address (optional):

*Lea J. Ramsdell
14212 NE Fair Oaks
Milwaukie Ore
97223*

journal poll

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments: *Cops are using union to blackmail the superiors and the public.*

If the incident were not racially motivated why did they land on a black restaurateur's property?

If these are "Portland's finest", lets try for some second best.

Name and address (optional):

I'm not stupid. I am scared! These things are not supposed to happen in America.

HONKY

journal poll

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Yes No

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Yes No

Comments: If the officers

who were fired were

black. No protest?
Comm Jordan would
have been fully
supported for the
firings.

Name and address (optional):

(Mrs) Verna Shepherd
8718 NE Beech
City 97220

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: If the

race color had
been in the reverse
the police
they would have been
fired immediately

Name and address (optional):

Wood Runko
2076 S. Rosemont
West Linn, Ore 97068

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: I am a 36 yr old white attorney who cannot understand how this city could allow such racist acts to happen without some severe reprimand and there should be a CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD created NOW. The police union has too much power.

Name and address (optional):

Journal poll

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dump rattle snakes.

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Police are para-military ... the march was a breach of discipline. Concerning the fired officers: their act revealed immaturity and an inherent bias - along with neglect of essential duty.

Name and address (optional):
Sorry about that ... but if the officers showed such bias and vindictiveness they will not have my name ... they might

journal poll

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Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

Yes No

Comments: Discipline should have

been more prompt. There has been too
much blatant disregard of public rights by

a number of city police. We should be able

to expect more professional conduct

from the force.

Name and address (optional):

William E. Patney

2641 S.E. 75th Ave.

Portland, OR 97206

journal poll

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(1) Yes No

2. Do you think it was appropriate for off-duty officers to demonstrate against the firings?

(2) Yes No

Comments: Mayor

Ivanie waffled
badly on this issue

and should have

supported Comm.

Jordan's decision
publicly. It was the right

Name and address (optional):

(1) Holly Nelson

(2) Jon Merritt

3124 NE Couch

Portland, OR

97232

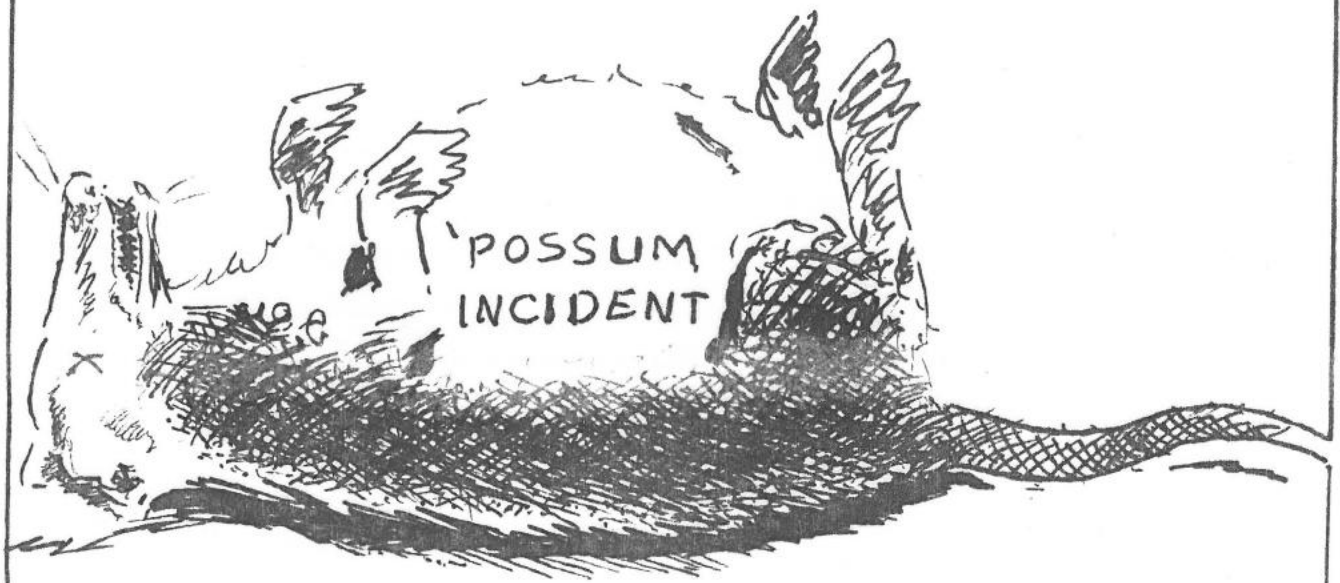
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An incident should ~~not~~ be called racial only if there is obvious proof that it is racial. Dead opossums being deposited where someone happens to be black, does not prove any racial meaning, by itself.

Witnesses reported seeing a lot more than just two officers involved. Now I don't think it's very fair ^{to} fire the two fine young officers who are obviously sorry. And who were man enough to come forward and take all the blame.

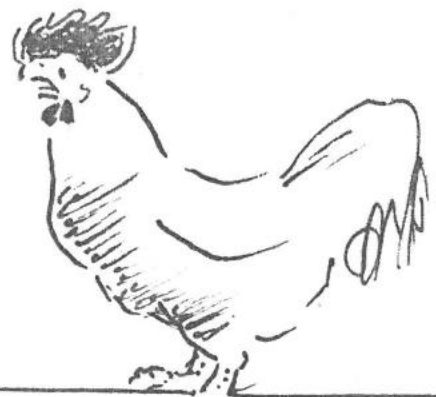
Now, there's no way any other officers are going to come forward on this, or any other mistakes in judgement, since they know they will be fired. [To Error is Human...
And is ^{Also} Against Department Policy]

AT THE HAYSTACK



IS IT DEAD?

JOE



I personally think it was unjust to fire the two policemen, as long as they admitted that this act was a stupid mistake. We should all remember the riots & the burnings that ~~was~~ went on some years ago along Union Avenue. If I recall policemen were harassed and abused. What punishment did the Blacks receive at that time? I have heard also that policemen have found dead possums thrown in their police cars. Why wasn't that put in the newspapers? I ~~was~~ was going to write a letter to both papers, but did not want my name & address printed as I felt my home could be damaged. I am not against the blacks. They are equal to all of us, but there is a certain element that you cannot trust, whether black or white.

Thank you.

Youth Services Welcomes Aboard Officer Jordan

In September, the Youth Service Centers welcomed aboard Police Officer Howard Jordan to serve as Liaison between the Centers and the Police Bureau. Bringing 12 years of street ex-

perience into the position, Howard sees his job as one of introducing to each group the values, needs and style of operation of the other. Although the work will doubtlessly prove challenging,



Police Officer Howard Jordan.

he is, by nature, gregarious, easy-going, and enjoys talking about both the Police and the Youth Service Centers.

As Liaison Officer, Howard Jordan has become familiar with the Youth Services System by making regular rounds to the Centers, and establishing his "office" there. "Howard's influence on our staff has been 'just dynamite' according to Sally Lewis, Director of the Outer East YSC."

"He has provided the staff with a ready access to the Police Bureau," she adds. "At times he has been the emissary, helping Center counselors and individual officers resolve sticky issues." Officer Jordan has also been deeply involved with the Centers on community issues, such as the recent shoplifting forum.

[Also see related article, page 4]

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Seeking Success On The Streets

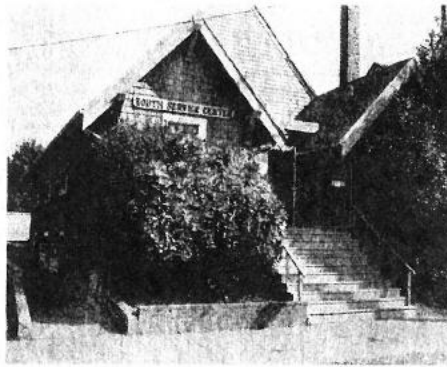
The following article comes from an interview in which Officer Howard Jordan discussed the Youth Service Centers, the Police, and the community. The five neighborhood-based Centers provide a significant link between Police relations and citizen involvement.

To a police officer, success on the streets is balanced on a fine line of duty, set between the ideal and the real, between his or her training and the experience of street work. On one hand, this means being faithful to the letter of the law, that police are sworn to enforce. On the other hand, officers must also pursue the spirit of the law and respond sensitively to the needs of the community where they must work on a day-to-day basis. It takes something of an extraordinary person to serve both interests which are often set in conflict.

Fortunately for the Police officer, the Bureau, and the community, there is a certain discretion built into the system. This flexibility allows the officer on the streets to respond immediately to what Officer Jordan calls the "total circumstances of events". These frequently change from day-to-day — even hour-to-hour in a given case. If a boy is picked up for shoplifting and he is repentant, the reporting officer may take him directly to the nearest Youth Service Center for counseling. If by contrast, that same individual acts surly or resistive, or the officer may find it more appropriate to take him to the Juvenile Detention Home instead.

Because of the different individuals who make up a community, an officer on the street learns techniques that deal not with problem-solving *per se*, but with problem-coping. The effective control of crime in any neighborhood has to rely heavily on the local residents calling in reports not only of crimes as they occur, but of problems in the earlier stages of fomentation. So an officer begins to see the horizons of his or her duties expanding, from the pursuit of crime to include the outlook of crime prevention. To succeed here the officer realizes the need for the full cooperation of the community. This is a must, since his or her well being, both physical and emotional, depends on a series of well-established, good relationships.

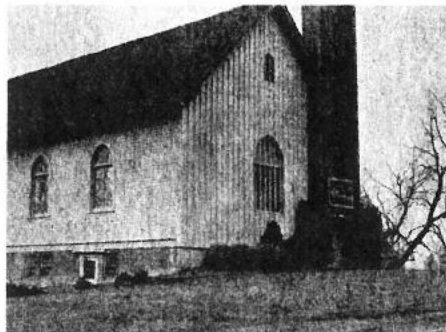
So how does the officer on the street



North Portland YSC
7704 N. Hereford St. (285-0627)

build up that kind of relationship? How does he or she gain the trust of the community? In street work, it is first necessary to recognize, and be concerned with the needs of that community, and identify with them as their own. Second, he or she must realize that the elderly woman who calls in a prowling complaint, the high school girl stopped as a suspect, and their neighbors who peer at the scene through slits in the venetian blinds, are all individuals who make up that community. And their actions, both singly and collectively, express rather dramatically a need of that particular neighborhood.

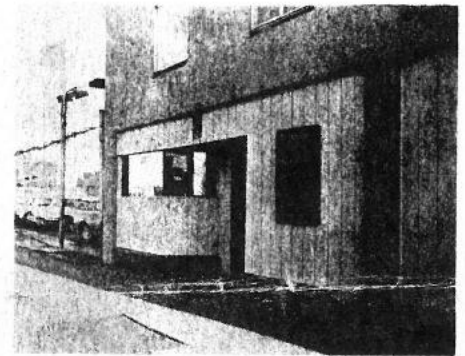
It is crucial that the reporting officer doesn't jump into the scene, make assumptions, and over-react. The prowling incident may have in fact happened at the woman's house. Or, trees scraping the gutter may have triggered the stories of burglary reports, heard by the woman, to seem to materialize at her back door. Again the 16-year-old may have been coming home from babysitting. Or, she may have been a lookout for a crime about to occur. The officer must take the time to hear out the story of each, cautiously making a judg-



Southwest YSC
6950 S.W. Capitol Hwy. (245-4441)

ment, and then take appropriate action.

To develop a good relationship with those individuals and the overall community, officers learn to understand they must be responsive, offer support and be honest in their dealings. Their actions, with both complainant and suspect alike, naturally set the precedents and patterns through which the police become known. This image is shaped continuously, from one day to the next, as the officer drops into cafes, the Centers, and meets with people on the street. The local residents, in turn, begin



Northeast YSC
4128 N.E. Union Ave. (288-6708)



Southeast YSC
2929 S.E. Powell Blvd. (233-1113)

to see that officer as a community member no different than themselves.

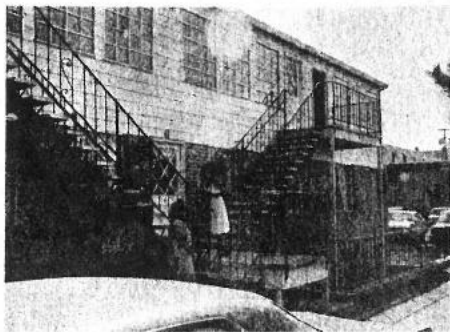
Through the on-going process of developing good relations, common needs and values begin to emerge: neighborhoods that are free of the lurking terror of burglars, muggers and rapists, and neighbors who can rely on each other for help. Police encourage reports directly from residents — such as calling in a suspected prowling — because these represent a community that is motivated to look after itself.

At the heart of any effective crime

[continued on following page]

[continued from preceding page]

prevention program, as Police Commissioner Charles Jordan emphasizes, "is citizen involvement". In an address



Outer East YSG
2003 S.E. 82nd Ave. (777-3921)

to the Police earlier this autumn Jordan stated:

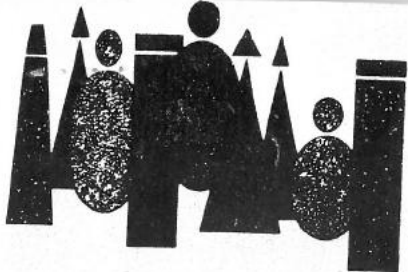
"The public does not always know what the police can and cannot do. We must work harder to get citizens involved in determining the general direction of many of the Bureau's programs, and to get police to see themselves as an important part of the larger city effort to save the community."

And this process of citizen involvement works. Through the Youth Service Centers and the neighborhood block meetings, individuals within the community are sitting down with Police to discuss local problems, and local ways of

working them out. All too frequently in the past, officers were called only after the crime had already occurred, and the damage, harm or injury had been done. At this turn of events, the community often expected an officer to arrive, and invoke, somehow, an immediate and long-lasting solution.

Through the concept of community involvement, the attitude towards Police is expanding from viewing officers as an agent of cure to including them as agents of crime prevention. Where new problem areas challenge and develop traditional approaches, the officer on the street can come to expect the community to support his or her discretion in coping

[continued on page 7]



Seeking Success

[continued from page 4]

with those problems. Thus citizen involvement introduces a new humanizing element in Police work, by lessening the potential conflict between following the letter of the law and the spirit of the law as expressed by the needs and values of the community.

DATE :

5-25-61

TO :

C. Jordan

FROM :

H. Jordan

SUBJ :

you realize that the
witch hunts are on? Again it's
part of the problem. I think the
street facts will bear that out.

For what the community needs
in this day & time the city (POB)
can't provide - hence the conflict.

If police perceive themselves
to be infallible they act inflexible.
And if it's perceived that the public
demand they be more perfect they
then they then the police become
apathetic. And if there isn't the
leadership to guide the police then
the police stumble along - business
as usual.



Bureau of Police

PORTLAND, OREGON

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE : 2.
TO :



Bureau of Police
PORTLAND, OREGON

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM:

SUBJ :

you can't provide the
necessary leadership - part time. Our
leaders like so many in this
community are here to relax -
enjoy the good life. Until the
leaders are perceived to be
working with the troops or
opposed to them then the
policy (PPB) will not change.
According to the stress
test PPB is A-typical and
the future doesn't look promising.
listen to the experts - not
necessarily those w/ rank for brains.

DATE : 3.
TO :



Bureau of Police
PORTLAND, OREGON

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM:

SUBJ :

As a youth in Atlanta
I felt that there wasn't much
of a future. As a police officer
in Atlanta I felt that there was
no future. If the future is
perceived as being bleak then
people become apathetic. Once
you start on a campaign
for improvement don't stop
halfway. Stress the needs
of the future like you
did in your speech in
Springfield. Be positive in
the struggle for improvement.
But be **BOLD**.

Over

4. Keep in mind that
your position is perceived
as being temporary - with
that charges the hope for
improvement is about all
one can expect.

Shouls

P.S. USE the media.

Longview, Wash.

June 1, 1981.

Commissioner Charles Jordan

847-1700

#98632

Dear Sir: -

In regard to the opossum incident I think that people who are in the public service should realize that their jobs do not allow pranks such as that being played on innocent people without suffering the consequences of such deeds.

If these policemen are put back on the force, I think that the restaurant would have reasons to sue someone for about seven million dollars as restitution for damaging the business and feelings of the people who own it.

Sincerely yours
Roy D. Kruger

April 14

Tuesday

Dear Sir -

I feel that this incident was completely reprehensible, careless, thoughtless and not worthy of any policeman - I am certain they were not trained this way and it brings uncertainty + unhappiness on the policemen who may be trying very hard to command respect. They have mine and also Mr Jordan and Police chief Bruce Baker - They just put everyone concerned in a difficult position (the two police), they are well over the age to do something senseless, and ~~childish~~ - childish. I trust our police.

Very Sincerely
E. Burton

① Comm. Jordan had no choice but to fire the officers involved, such unprofessional behavior cannot be tolerated by an organization entrusted with the public security. Once again Comm. Jordan showed his insight, maturity, honesty, and courage in his decision - and Donk Donnie showed his lack of the above with his usual circumvental ~~and~~ vacillations.

② Harassment, racism, unprofessionalism, -vindictiveness, immaturity - is that what the Police are defending? It is inconceivable that such behavior could be manifested by well-trained professionals, and in present day society with all the problems the police are having with their image of integrity it is intolerable. It is also intolerable the way our Mayor handled the entire situation - once again Comm. Jordan has shown the foresight and judgement needed by a Mayor. All in all a very sad situation.

GRANT + MARILYN LINDQUIST

2944 NE 61

PORTLAND 97213

FOR POISE, PROFESSIONALISM,
AND A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF
THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHT ACTION.
OUR SAFETY AND OUR FREEDOM
AND OUR SYSTEM DEPEND ON THE
WISDOM AND GOOD CONSCIENCE OF
MEN SUCH AS COMMISSIONER JORDAN
AND CHIEF BAKER.

THEIR ABILITY TO ESTABLISH
RAPPORT WITH PEOPLE INDIVIDUALLY
AND IN GROUPS HELPED SHAPE THE
DIRECTION THE DEAD OPOSSUM CASE
WOULD GO.

THE MOST DISTURBING ASPECT OF
THE GROWTH IN STREET CRIME IS
THE TURN TOWARD VICIOUSNESS, AS
WELL AS VIOLENCE. IF THE DEAD
OPOSSUM CASE WASN'T VIOLENCE -

WASNT VICIOUSNESS, WASNT
LAWLESSNESS, AND CAN BE EXPLAINED
A WAY WITH IT IS MORALE
BUILDER, THEN SOLDIER BLUE
WARD AND GALLAWAY AND THEIR
DEMONSTRATING COHORTS HAVE
MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT VICIOUSNESS
AND VIOLENCE. TO SUPPORT WARD'S
AND GALLAWAY'S VIOLENT CRIME
IS A SLAP IN THE FACE TO ANY
MAN IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY.

IT IS GOOD THAT OUR ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTHS DERIVE THEIR VALUES,
TASTES, AND LIFE STYLES FROM THEIR
PEER GROUP RATHER THAN FROM
THEIR ELDERLY AND POLICE. THE ELITE,
THE PROTECTOR, THE HELPER THE CHILD
ACROSS THE STREET COP, THEY WAGE
WAR AGAINST OPPOSSUM'S NOT CRIME, SO I
LIKE THE FIRING AND HAVE THE INCIDENT.

YES IT WAS STUPID, BUT ALSO THE OFFICERS SAID THEY DID NOT PUT THEM IN FRONT OF THE RESTAURANT.

IF THIS WAS A RESTAURANT OWNED BY A WHITE JORDAN AND BAKER OR THE BLACK UNITED FRONT WOULD HAVE DONE A THING.

I KNOW I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN JORDAN OR BAKER. THE BLACK UNITED FRONT IS RUNNING JORDAN AND BAKER IS DOING WHAT JORDAN WHAT'S JUST SO HE WILL NOT FIRE THEM OR MAKE IT HARD ON THEM.

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THAT JORDAN & BAKER ARE WORK VERY HARD TO MAKE THE BLACK UNITED FRONT HAPPEN AND NOT WHAT ALL THE PEOPLE WANT. IT IS ABOUT TIME THE REST OF US HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AND NOT JUST THE BLACK UNITED FRONT.

WHEN WILL PORTLAND POLICE
STOP THEIR LOAFING - ?

A REGULAR HANG OUT - "PIE HOUSE"
A CROSS FROM NORDSTROM'S DOWNTOWN

2 WEEKS AGO SAT - 3 SQUADS IN

PIE HOUSE RESTURANT FROM 3 1/2 TO

4 HOURS - INCLUDED WAS FEMALE
DRIVER - (SHOWING OFF PARTY DRESSES)

TO OFFICER IN PARKING LOT -

SOME OF THE CAR'S LIC -

➤ 146-485-146-484 and

OTHERS COULD NOT SEE PLATE

SMUDGED - EAT THERE OFTEN

HAVE YET SEE OFFICERS AFTER
SETTING IN REAR FOR HOURS PAY

THEIR TAB AT THE REGISTER - WHEN
IS SOMEONE GOING TO PUT A STOP TO

THIS LOAFING - IT HAPPENS TOO OFTEN