

# Ministers rally, call for greater police accountability

**Beanbag shooting** | A Portland alliance counters a police march that backed a cop on leave for use of force

By **MAXINE BERNSTEIN**  
THE OREGONIAN

An alliance of Portland ministers gathered outside the Justice Center in

downtown Wednesday to call for greater police accountability after an officer fired a beanbag shotgun at a 12-year-old girl who resisted arrest.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance decided to speak out because of the "police union rhetoric" when hundreds marched in support of the officer in downtown Portland a day earlier, members said in a statement.

"We stand in solidarity with Commis-

sioner Dan Saltzman in placing Officer Humphreys on paid leave," said the Rev. T. Allen Bethel, standing with about 20 fellow ministers and supporters on the center's steps.

The alliance called Officer Christopher Humphreys' use of force Nov. 14 excessive and questioned why the officers present couldn't work together without a weapon to control the girl. Members said Humphreys has showed

he is unable to make sound judgments as an officer and called for an independent review of the police.

Humphreys was also involved in the arrest of James P. Chasse Jr., who died after being injured by officers.

The Rev. A. A. Wells said it seems as if the police union will support any officer, even if there's wrongdoing, and

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# Ministers: Pastor recalls cop who kept gun holstered

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pointed to Tuesday's march as an example.

"That is very disturbing, and we are here to say it's unacceptable," Wells said.

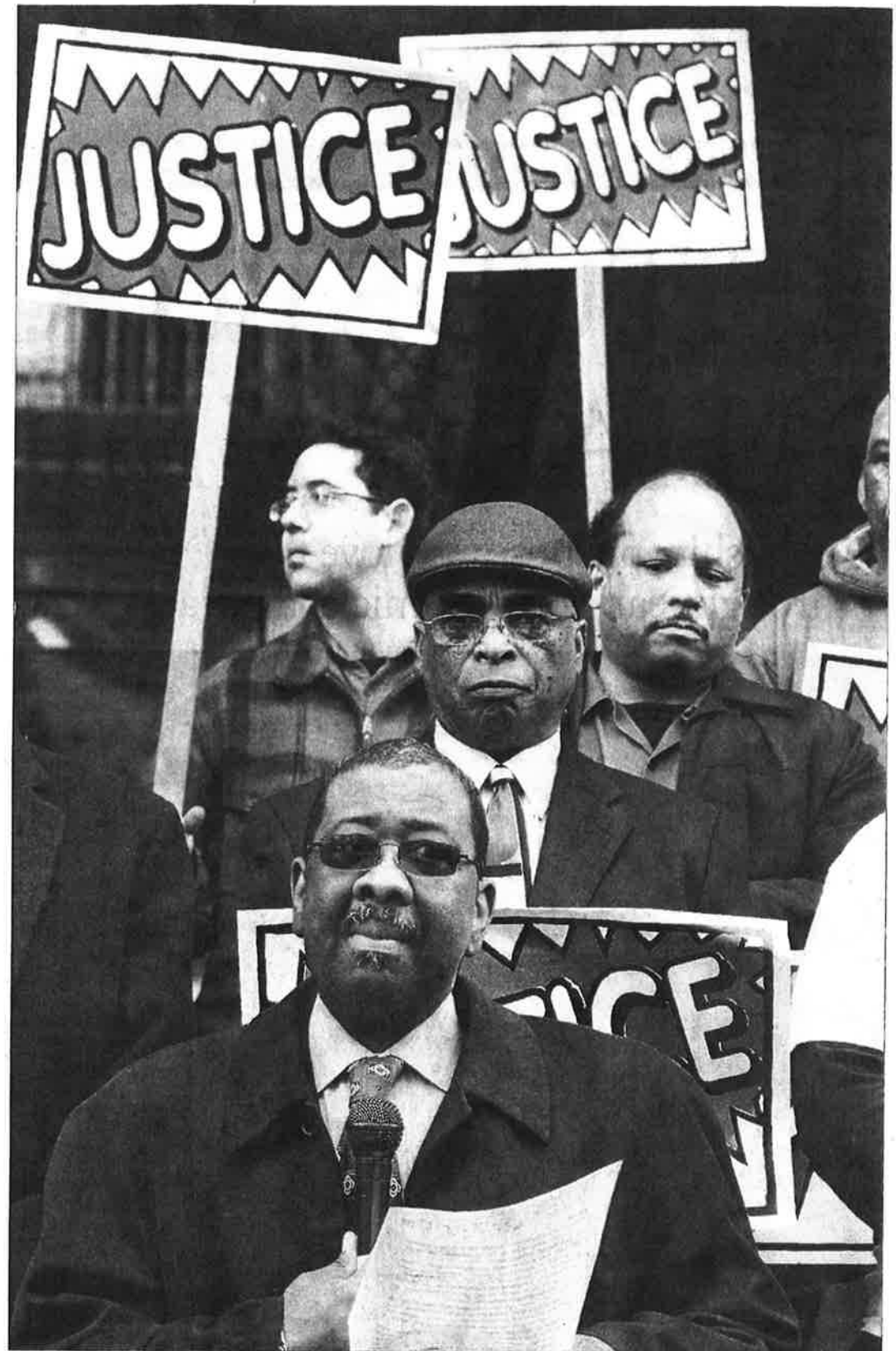
Pastor Robin Wisner, wearing a white T-shirt in remembrance of deceased Portland Officer Mark Zylawy, referred to Zylawy as an example of an officer who worked in volatile situations with drug addicts and dealers but didn't use his weapon. "I hope the police don't forget the spirit of Zylawy and lose that spirit of community policing," Wisner said.

Alliance members organized protests after the fatal police shootings of Kendra James in 2003 and James Jahar Perez in 2004. The alliance also decried the use of a Taser against 15-year-old Sir Millage in 2006 and the in-custody death in September 2006 of Chasse, a 42-year-old man who suffered from schizophrenia.

Wednesday's statements came after the Portland Police Association held a large rally and march to City Hall on Tuesday. Union leaders demanded public support of city police officers and defended Humphreys. They also accused the police chief and police commissioner of playing politics in placing Humphreys on paid leave while an investigation into his actions proceeds.

On Nov. 14, Humphreys, a 10-year veteran assigned to transit police, fired one shot in the thigh of a 12-year-old girl, described as 5 feet 7 and at least 150 pounds, after she had swung at Officer Aaron Dauchy on the MAX platform at Northeast 148th Avenue. Dauchy took the girl to the ground and continued to struggle with her. Humphreys was caught on TriMet video circling the pair and then firing his beanbag shotgun.

Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman directed that Humphreys be placed on paid leave as internal affairs investigates whether the shooting at close range was justified and fell within bureau training. Portland



BRENT WOJAHN/THE OREGONIAN

**The Rev. T. Allen Bethel, president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, speaks on the steps of the Justice Center in downtown Portland on Wednesday. He and others decried the police use of a beanbag shotgun against a 12-year-old girl who was resisting arrest.**

Police Chief Rosie Sizer called the video "troubling."

Humphreys, who filed a stress disability claim last week, also faces a proposed two-week unpaid suspension for his role in the Chasse case. Humphreys knocked Chasse to the ground

and, along with two other officers, struggled with him before taking him into custody.

Chasse had run from officers who suspected he was urinating in the street in the Pearl District. A federal lawsuit is pending, accusing Portland police of using

excessive force and the ambulance paramedics and police of failing to get Chasse proper medical attention.

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