

The Oregonian

Portland must rehire cop fired after killing unarmed man in 2010, court rules

*By Everton Bailey Jr.
December 30, 2015*

The Oregon Court of Appeals announced Wednesday that it agrees with an arbitrator's and state board's orders to reinstate a Portland police officer fired after fatally shooting an unarmed man in the back with an AR-15 rifle in 2010.

Ronald Frashour was fired the same year, after a Portland Police Bureau investigation found the officer's use of force against 25-year-old Aaron Campbell was unjustified because Campbell did not pose an immediate threat.

Frashour was one of several officers who responded to a Northeast Portland apartment in January 2010 to check on Campbell, who was reportedly distraught and suicidal after the death of his brother earlier that day. Campbell soon emerged from the apartment with his back toward officers and put his hands behind his head. He was struck with one beanbag-shotgun round and ran toward a parked car as an officer fired another five beanbag rounds. Frashour fired a single shot as Campbell ran, killing him.

Frashour said at the time that he thought Campbell was reaching for a gun, but investigators included he was unarmed.

A grand jury declined to indict Frashour on criminal charges. They attributed Campbell's death to critical police errors, including no central command, a lack of communication between officers and training that taught officers how to shoot without key decision-making skills.

The Portland Police Association filed a grievance challenging the termination and the case was reviewed by an arbitrator. The arbitrator determined the city did not have enough cause to fire Frashour and ordered in 2012 that the city rehire him. The state Employment Relations Board also ordered Portland to reinstate Frashour after the police union filed a complaint with the agency when the city did not reverse the termination.

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales said in a statement that he was disappointed with the appeals court ruling and that Frashour will go through training again when he returns to the police force. His assignment after the reorientation training will be determined at a later date.

"Portland Police Bureau training emphasizes de-escalation, and while the vast majority of our officers perform exceptionally well, incidents like the tragic death of Aaron Campbell undermine that success," Hales said in the statement.

A protest of the appeals court ruling is planned outside of Portland City Hall at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday. Members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, which is organizing the event, say they will call for Frashour's new police department assignment to be one that requires the least possible amount of contact with the public.

The group said in a statement that it stands by the city's decision to fire Frashour.

"The reinstatement of Frashour continues a long line of arbitration overturning firings of officers who wrongfully use deadly force, or otherwise take actions often targeted at communities of color," the alliance wrote.

[Read the Oregon Court of Appeals ruling](#)

The Portland Tribune

Sources: All eyes on Overlook homeless camps

By Jim Redden

December 31, 2015

Neighborhood associations and local business groups across the city are closely following the sparring between the mayor's office and the Overlook Neighborhood Association over the size of the homeless camps along North Greeley Avenue.

Their concern is based in part on a Nov. 23 report on KGW 8 News that said all neighborhoods would be asked to accommodate such camps, according to Commissioner Amanda Fritz. When asked about the report by Sources Say, Fritz said she only meant the city should provide services to all camps, wherever they exist.

Whatever the case, the inability of the mayor's office, so far, to limit the size of the camps along Greeley is being noted by neighborhood and local business owners in other parts of town. Homeless advocates argue the city should leave the camps alone because there is not enough shelter space to house all of those living on the streets.

The city recently installed a chain link fence around the original Hazelnut Grove camp on its property. It could be used as a boundary for moving other campers out of the area, if the city enforces it.

Street fee returning to City Council

After suspending discussions for a year, the City Council on Jan. 6 will return to the contentious issue of a street fee to fix and improve Portland's deteriorating roads.

That's when the council is scheduled to take up the City Club of Portland's recommendation that it place a city gas tax measure on the ballot and approve other fees and charges to raise money for the streets as soon as possible.

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick put their evolving street fee proposal on hold during the 2016 Oregon Legislature at the request of former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and legislative leaders. After state lawmakers deadlocked on a new transportation funding package, the City Club issued a report in September saying the council should move ahead on its own.

Hales and Novick have endorsed a 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax measure for the May primary election ballot. It is unclear where the rest of the council stands on it, however — nor whether a majority supports any other fundraising proposal.

Mass shootings prompt mixed response

Despite the public uproar over recent mass shootings, the 2016 Oregon Legislature does not yet appear ready to do much about them.

Although the session does not start until February, no legislators have yet announced they will introduce any new gun control measures. And state Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said last week that it is unlikely lawmakers will approve a statewide student threat assessment system.

But, according to the Capital Insider, Prozanski anticipated a companion proposal to establish a student threat text tip line would gain a large swath of support in the New Year.

The Skanner

City Forced to Re-Hire Frashour

By Christen McCurdy

December 31, 2015

Ronald Frashour, the Portland Police Bureau officer who shot Aaron Campbell in January 2010, must return to duty, according to a court ruling released Wednesday afternoon.

Frashour was terminated after being dispatched to a 911 call reporting Campbell distraught and possibly suicidal due to the recent death of his brother. The caller initially believed Campbell to be in possession of a gun, though he later turned out to be unarmed. Campbell

The Portland Police Association filed a grievance regarding Frashour's firing, which ultimately went to arbitration. The state arbitrator ruled Frashour's termination had not been justified, but then-Mayor Sam Adams announced the city would not honor that ruling.

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that the arbitrator was correct in determining Frashour had not violated any city policy regarding use of force.

Mayor Charlie Hales issued a statement Wednesday saying he was "disappointed" with the decision to block Frashour's termination.

"The City of Portland takes use-of-force seriously, and demands that it be employed judiciously. Portland Police Bureau training emphasizes de-escalation, and while the vast majority of our officers perform exceptionally well, incidents like the tragic death of Aaron Campbell undermine that success," Hales' statement said.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police reform has announced a protest and press conference at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall in downtown Portland. The Coalition demands Frashour be assigned to a desk job or shift that will minimize his contact with the public.