

Jo Ann Hardesty

503.957.4364 • joannhardesty@gmail.com

840 SE 166th Place
Portland, Oregon

09/26/12

Dear Mayor & City Council Members:

You will be supporting the status quo, by re-contracting with Dr. David Corey as the psychologist who determines the fitness of Portland Police officers for duty. In light of the scathing Department of Justice report about the inter-workings of Portland Police Bureau, it seems the city council is poised to repeat past mistakes ... with the hope of different outcomes.

The AMA Coalition for Justice & Police Reform had asked the Mayor & Chief Reese to conduct a broad-based search to replace this psychologist. We wanted to ensure that the pool was broaden to increase the diversity of the talent pool available for psychologist to serve the Portland community. We were willing to assist with an outreach effort and asked the Mayor & Chief many times for updates on this process. We also identified several associations of people of color professionals who were willing to apply for this opportunity.

We were shined on for months, told that this would be an open and inclusive process for a *new* contract. As the City was finishing up its internal process, one of our members was called to review the applications. There were but two applications to consider, and the city has once again decided to renew its contract with Dr. Corey. As I understand it, Dr. Corey has not done an effective job in Portland to weed out officer candidates who have a propensity for violence. Since Dr. Corey contracts with at least three other local law enforcement agencies, by re-opening the search you will add to the pool of expertise available.

Yet due to the lazy nature of the outreach effort by the City of Portland, and by once again cutting the community out of assisting in providing a diverse pool of potential candidates, the city is poised to re-contract with Dr. Corey.

We are very disappointed, especially since the city was unable to articulate an outreach strategy that would have widened the potential candidate pool.

This is yet again an example of our government telling us one thing and doing something that is the complete opposite in practice. The AMA opposes this contract. Widen your search. Work with the community to find the change agents we need to work with the most effective evaluators, trainers & employee managers.