

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday Rally to March to City Hall,
Joining with the Committee for Justice for
Mejia Poot and the Latino Network to Mark
Four Years Since the Killing of Jose Santos
Victor Mejia Poot.

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Date: Friday, April 1st, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

**PPRC Friday Rally and March Join with Committee for Justice for Mejia Poot,
Latino Network to Mark Four Years Since Shooting of Mental Patient.**

The Committee for Justice for Jose Santos Victor Mejia Poot and the Latino Network are hosting a community rally on police accountability and other issues raised by the police shooting of Mr. Mejia. The gathering will take place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th, downtown Portland, beginning at 5:00PM. The regular PPRC Friday Rally and March will meet at Pioneer Courthouse Square and then march to City Hall to join with the action already underway.

“The tragic and avoidable killing of Mr. Mejia Poot continues to haunt our community, in spite of the departure of the chief of police who awarded the two police officers involved with medals of commendation,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. “We look forward to putting in place procedures and safeguards to prevent this sort of tragedy from continually being repeated in our community.” Seaman said that recent police shootings are a sign that there is much more work to be done. “Yes, we remain hopeful that Chief Foxworth and our new mayor, Tom Potter, are charting a course towards greater accountability, more comprehensive training, and a more constructive dialogue between the City, the Police Bureau and the many communities that have been most affected by police misconduct and abuse,” said Seaman. “At the same time we cannot ignore the fact that we have a long way to go before we have a police bureau and criminal justice system worthy of a democratic community that respects and protects the civil and human rights of all its members.”