



THE UNITED STATES  
**DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE**

United States Attorney's Office  
District of Oregon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 18, 2021  
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Contact: Public Affairs Officer  
Phone: (503) 727-1000  
[USAOR.PublicAffairs@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAOR.PublicAffairs@usdoj.gov)

**Community and Law Enforcement Leaders to Convene for 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Building Bridges of Understanding in Our Community Event**

*Event to be held virtually on October 21, 2021 at 6:30pm PDT*

PORLAND, Ore.—Community members and law enforcement officials from throughout the tri-county area will convene this week for the sixth-annual Building Bridges of Understanding in Our Community event on October 21, 2021 at 6:30pm PDT.

This two-hour virtual event is open to the public and hosted by the Muslim Educational Trust (MET) in Tigard, Oregon. To register, please visit <https://conta.cc/3jwOKem>.

This year's theme is "What is Public Safety? Joining together to build bridges, share perspectives, and create solutions." Criminal justice and community leaders will share perspectives in two moderated panel discussions: "What is public safety and what does it mean to you?" and "A year after George Floyd's murder: Where are we now?" Each panel discussion will include a question-and-answer period.

Participating organizations include: MET, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Washington County District Attorney's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Clackamas County District Attorney's Office, City of Portland's Office of Violence Prevention, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Portland Police Bureau, Department of Safety Standards and Training, Oregon Department of Justice, Lake Oswego Police Department, and Beaverton Police Department.

For six consecutive years, leaders from public safety and civil society organizations have come together to build and strengthen trust in one another and to cultivate trust with the communities they serve. The annual event has been held at MET since its inception in the fall of 2016.

To view a video of last year's event, please visit <https://youtu.be/ae3Zj6TNDIY>.

The Building Bridges event series is sponsored by the Washington County District Attorney's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Administration, Clackamas County District Attorney's Office, City of Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Respond to Racism, Concerned Citizens of West Linn, Latino Network, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, IRCO, Muslim Community Center of Portland, Tigard Police Department, Portland Office of Civic Life, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Portland Police Bureau, New Portland Foundation, Portland's New Portland Policy Commission, Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center of Corvallis,

Multnomah County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon.

For media inquiries or to book interviews with steering committee members, please contact Stephen Mayer of the Washington County District Attorney's Office by emailing [stephen\\_mayer@co.washington.or.us](mailto:stephen_mayer@co.washington.or.us) or calling (971) 708-8219.

Media outlets are also welcome to contact the following steering committee members directly:

- Wajdi Said; Muslim Educational Trust; [wajdi@metpdx.org](mailto:wajdi@metpdx.org)
- J.W. Matt Hennessee; Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church; [vafbchurch1@aol.com](mailto:vafbchurch1@aol.com)
- Jack Hanna; New Portlanders Foundation; [jackahanna@gmail.com](mailto:jackahanna@gmail.com)
- Linda Castillo; Commissioner for Hispanic Affairs and DEI Manager at IRCO; [lindaC@irco.org](mailto:lindaC@irco.org)
- Erin Hubert; Multnomah County Sheriff's Office; [erin.hubert@mcsos.us](mailto:erin.hubert@mcsos.us)
- Kevin Barton; Washington County DA; [stephen\\_mayer@co.washington.or.us](mailto:stephen_mayer@co.washington.or.us)

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