

[Home delivery](#)



[Contact us](#)

[Site map](#)

[Traffic](#) | [Weather](#) | [Your account](#)

[Movies](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Today's events](#)



[Advanced search](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Shopping](#)

[Homes](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Post an ad](#)

[Home](#)

Local News: Thursday, August 08, 2002

[E-mail article](#) [Print view](#)

[Local](#)

Urban League president sorry about gun

[Nation / World](#)

By [Alex Fryer](#)

[Business / Tech](#)

Seattle Times staff reporter

[Editorials /](#)

[Opinion](#)

James Kelly, president of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, agreed to perform 80 hours of community service to resolve criminal charges that he carried a firearm while attending a meeting on a high-**school** campus.

[Columnists](#)

[Sports](#)

"Bottom line is: I apologize," he said yesterday. "I apologize to my family, my friends and the **school** district."

[Entertainment](#)

[Comics / Games](#)

Kelly paid no fine but surrendered his handgun to his attorney. The City Attorney's Office did not seek to revoke Kelly's concealed-weapon permit.

[Living](#)

[Pacific Northwest Magazine](#)

A Seattle Municipal Court judge approved the agreement between Kelly's and the city's attorneys on Monday. If Kelly complies with the agreement, charges will be dismissed after a year.

[Travel / Outdoors](#)

[Real estate](#)

In the past decade, only five other adults have been charged with the misdemeanor of bringing a firearm on **school** grounds, said Kathryn Harper, a spokeswoman for the City Attorney's Office. Firing a weapon on **school** property is a felony.

[Obituaries](#)

[Special reports](#)

The plea arrangement with Kelly is typical of someone with no prior convictions, she said.

[Photography](#)

[Corrections](#)

In earlier interviews, Kelly said he and his family had received threats in recent months from people opposed to the Urban League's plans to develop a former **school** in the Central Area into apartments, offices and an African-American heritage **museum**.

[Archive](#)

[Alerts / E-mails](#)

[NWsource shopping](#)

Local sales & deals

Search retail ads



Today's featured ads

[2 for 1 lunch at Billy McHale's!](#)

[Hurry in to the Dollar Tree grand opening](#)

[Funky Janes one day sale: 25% off everything](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Autos](#)

[Homes](#)

[Rentals](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Shopping](#)

[NWsource](#)

[Personals](#)

[Post an ad](#)

[Services](#)

[Your account](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Submit listings](#)

[Send us news tips](#)

[Seattle Times store](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[RSS feeds](#)

[Wireless](#)

[Newspapers In Education](#)

[Home delivery](#)

On the night of May 29, Kelly told police that during a community meeting that evening at Rainier Beach High **School** he'd had a run-in with Kwame Garrett, 25, son of community activist James Cordell Garrett.

On Aug. 2, the elder Garrett, also known as Omari Tahir-Garrett, was sentenced to 21 months in prison for assaulting then-Mayor Paul Schell with a bullhorn last summer. He claims to be the true leader of the heritage-**museum** effort at **Colman School**, and he opposes the Urban League's plans.

In his statement to police, Kelly wrote that the younger Garrett confronted him about the Urban League's proposals and blocked him from leaving a hallway outside the school's performing-arts center. "I decided I needed to do something or I was going to be attacked," he wrote.

He said he placed his hand on a gun under his coat but did not pull it out or point it. Observers broke up the altercation, and Kelly left the building.

In an open letter to the community yesterday, Kelly wrote: "Today, no one who is not in my position can understand the regret and remorse I have felt since May 29, 2002, in trying to respond to two individuals who unlawfully detained me at a community meeting held at Rainier Beach High **School**."

"We all must be held accountable for our actions. I fully accept my responsibility."

Kwame Garrett was arrested yesterday for allegedly assaulting police officers.

Copyright &\; 2002 The Seattle Times Company

[More ads](#)

Don't miss it
[REI winter clearance sale](#)

Save 50% off already reduced winter outdoor clothing and gear.



[Save up to 70% off clearance furniture at Masins winter sale](#)
[Save 25% off all luxury yarns at Tricoter](#)

[Shopping events](#)

[Create sale alert e-mails](#)

[Store guides](#)

[Grocery coupons](#)

[Travel deals](#)

[Looking for a car?](#)





[seattletimes.com home](#)

[Home delivery](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Low-graphic](#) | [Search archive](#)

[Site map](#) | webmaster@seattletimes.com | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)

[NWclassifieds](#) | [NWsource](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [The Seattle Times Company](#)

[Back to top](#)