Mel Mason Short Bio

From the age of 13, Mel Mason grew up in Seaside, California and soon became one of the greatest basketball players in community college history. In March 2011, he was inducted into the California Community College Athletic Association’s Hall Of Fame.

Mel joined the Black Panther Party (BPP) in the late 1960’s and is currently a member of the BPP Speakers Bureau established to educate people about its true history. He remains involved in a 40 year campaign to free former Panthers who were framed and imprisoned by the FBI’s notorious Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO).

In 1980, amid death threats, Mr. Mason was elected to the Seaside City Council. In 1982, as a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, he ran for Governor of California and in 1984 for President of the United States.

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Mel has played leadership roles in many local organizations including three terms as NAACP Monterey Branch President, the Black United Farm Workers Union in support of the Great Lettuce Strike of 1970, both the Civil Rights and the Peace Coalitions of Monterey County, and the Regional Alliance for Progressive Policy. A licensed clinical social worker, Mel is the clinical director of The Village Project, Inc.