

BRADY, from page 3

1,100 jobs. Their whole mission is to continue to grow by doing research and development on what they call personalized medicine. In order to build their vision they need some facilities on the hill or on the water front and the city should be a good partner and say what are the land issues? What are the transportation issues? We should be out ahead of them so we're not slowing the process down.

The Portland Development Commission has some great initiatives like the Main Street Program and the Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative. We should be the best place to start a small business in the country. Ninety five percent of the businesses here have 50 or fewer employees. This is a hot bed of innovation and the city could have a streamlined permitting system for opening and growing small businesses

J.T.: What are your thoughts on the new Office of Equity and Human Rights, and what are some issues you're hoping it's going to tackle?

E.B.: Well, first off. I'd want it to report to the mayor in order for it to really have the credibility that it's looking for. I'm very excited about it. I hope its mission can really get clarified so that it's working on highly leveraged projects that are upstream. Here's how the office could backfire: the City Council puts forward a set of policies they've been working on for months, and someone says, we should have the Office of Equity look at it. That's not a useful thing to do. You've got to have the office looking at projects that are upstream at the initial

stages, so they're going into that as a partner.

J.T.: The affordable housing inventory in the city's core continues to shrink despite a promise by the city to preserve those units. Meanwhile, the waiting lists for apartments are becoming very long. What are your ideas to expand affordable housing to the lowest income households in Portland?

E.B.: We're facing a crisis on funding. On top of that, we have a homeless population that we're not fully addressing. I'm extraordinarily concerned about it. I don't have the solution. I know that there's a number of people working on solutions, and it's got to be one of our top priorities. The one thing that we have to do is be honest and get ahead of it.

It's really disturbing to me to think that right now, according to the last count, we have about 750 kids that are homeless, and since 2009 the number of homeless families has increased 35 percent. That's not acceptable. The measure of a great city is how it takes care of its most vulnerable people. That's one of the things that's going to be on my immediate priority list. This community can solve this. We can muster the compassion to give 750 kids a place to sleep. Right now, we have close to 2,000 people who are sleeping outside or in an abandoned building or a car. It's going to take community partnerships to solve the problem.

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J.T.: How will you work with the county and state to develop better solutions for people experiencing poverty?

E.B.: I've been on the Oregon Health Fund Board and the Oregon Health Policy Board. For the past few years, I've been working on health policy, which really links the state, the counties and private industry in a solution-building process.

We need to have people in the room who are not afraid of the complexity of the problem and recognize that it's a multi-stakeholder problem and find our set of shared values and build something together that can be more than a white paper on the shelf. I don't tolerate white papers on the shelf at all. I'm always looking for the biggest boldest solution, and I don't see boundaries so much on these jurisdictions.

For instance, the Oregon Health Policy Board brought together insurance executives, hospital executives, labor leaders and community activists to say we should cover the kids; we should make sure that every child in Oregon has access to health insurance. That seemed like an impossible dream four years ago. I'm optimistic, even though things can seem complicated, if you get the right people in the room.

J.T.: Employment is at the foundation of self-sufficiency. What will you do to help people

with multiple barriers to getting hired?

E.B.: I've certainly worked in an industry focused on saying that there's a lot of work that people can do if you give them a chance, or a second chance. If you've been an inmate, you deserve a second chance. You have to believe in people and that they can take on different jobs. You have to think past barriers. You can make reasonable accommodations for a lot of individuals in many jobs, and I've been very successful in doing that. It really creates a sense of community to bring in people with disabilities so that everyone is working together.

J.T.: Every year public transportation gets more expensive, while services get cut. The Free Rail Zone is always threatened with elimination. What ideas do you have to preserve the Free Rail Zone?

E.B.: I want that Free Rail Zone. There are three things you're going to hear me talk about in this campaign: One is jobs and the economy, the public safety system and the neighborhoods east of 82nd Avenue. One thing that is key for the neighborhoods east of 82nd is more bus service to job sites and the city center. I'm adding to your question here.

J.T.: How about the Free Rail Zone?

E.B.: I'd have to look at the budget. I think it's one of the great regional draws for visitors, not just for people who live and work there. We have to think about it from a hospitality perspective. Great cities of the world have great transportation systems.

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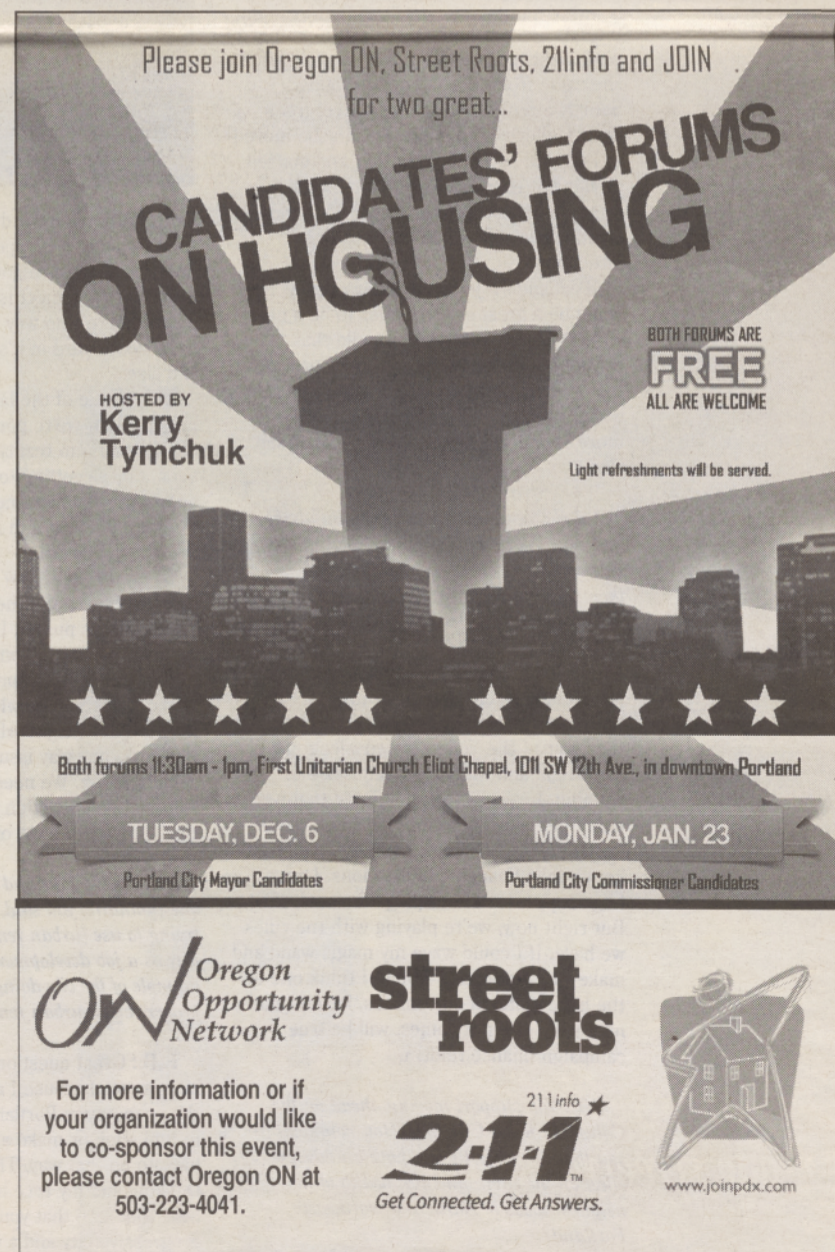
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