

## Carl Talton: A man of influence

Continued from Front

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. "We need more density in and around the boulevard, but I don't want us to go too far down that road," he says.

"I know we need more density for the city to retain its place in the region, but I don't want it all forced on inner north and northeast, and I don't want it to be all low-income housing," Talton says. "We need to be able to walk to business services and when necessary, able to drive there."

The MLK Main Street Project, whose advisory committee he chairs, is the way to fine tune and implement the vision, Talton says.

"It's going great," he says. "You couldn't task for a more committed group of people, better participation from gov-

ernment agencies, or a smoother process."

Because of it, he says, "MLK will

'The old median didn't allow people to pull over and park.... You can't just remove all of it everywhere, but we have to rethink it,' Carl Talton

look like what people want it to be." That will probably include less center median, more on-street parking.

"The old median didn't allow people to pull over and park in front," he says. "You can't just remove all of it every-

where, but we have to rethink it."

Among the engines for change in inner northeast are the Neighborhood Partnership Fund, using money from private foundations administered by the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, and the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal District.

The Convention Center District funnels increased tax revenues from increased business property values into public projects. "It's proving to be a highly successful district, much more than anyone expected," Talton says.

When he was growing up, Talton says, northeast Portland had "more black-owned businesses, less crime and more home-ownership." It was a smaller community where almost everyone knew everyone else. Now people are moving

in from outside and it's hard to know your neighbors. We do have housing development going on now, we've gotten the city's attention and businesses are moving in."

"The downside is that the cost of living here is going up rapidly, and we're losing a lot of people who paid a lot of dues here. We didn't get the other pieces - business and home ownership - in place and now we have to proceed at a rapid pace," Talton says. As part of this, Talton would like to see schools train students for business careers or family wage jobs.

"How do we get kids at an early age exposed to and prepared for high-tech jobs?" he asks. "We've done pretty well at getting more jobs here, not so well at getting inner-city people into them

## Governor Appoints Kenny Director

Focus is building healthy communities

Governor John Kitzhaber has appointed Jack Kenny as the acting Director of Oregon's Housing and Community Services Department.

Kenny Serves as the current Chief Financial Officer and oversees an agency biennial budget of approximately \$680,000 million. He has been with the department since January 1996. Prior to joining the Department, Kenny was the Chief Financial Officer for the Public Employees Retirement System. He has

also worked as an auditor with the Secretary of State Division of Audits. Mr. Kenny is a graduate of the University of Oregon and a CPA.

"My role will be to keep the department on a sound financial track," said Kenny. "We will continue to work with our partners in the community to provide services and affordable housing to Oregonians. The former Director's emphasis on building healthy communities remains a primary focus of the Department."

# IMAGINE A Great Street

N.E. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.  
TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

*Review the street design for MLK*  
*Also review proposed MLK signing from I-5*

## Public Open House

December 4, 1997

King Elementary School Cafeteria  
4906 NE 6th Avenue

View designs between 4:00 - 8:00 PM

*View the future*

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