



Local residents bring their demands for fair and affordable housing to City Hall. PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Affordable Housing Injustice

Protesters say 'Enough is enough'

Years of cuts to crucial housing programs and the dismantling of the nation's affordable housing infrastructure has galvanized dozens of local organizations to demand housing justice.

"Enough is enough," said Mary Latourette, board president of the Community Alliance of Tenants. "Oregon simply cannot afford cut-backs that undermine the stability of our families, seniors and people with disabilities."

Latourette helped organize a Thursday rally in front of Portland City Hall, co-sponsored by Affordable Housing NOW!, Elders in Action, Portland Grey Panthers and several other organizations.

According to an American Community Survey, low incomes and high housing costs make Oregon the second least affordable state

for renters in the nation. One in four Oregon renters pay more than half of their total income in rent each month.

Yet over the past four years, Congress and the president have made cuts to the Section 8 housing assistance program, slashed the Community Development Block Grant and HOME

Why is the Bush Administration cutting housing programs for the most vulnerable people in the country?

— Steve Weiss, Community Alliance of Tenants board member

programs, and restructured Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules to reduce funds to public housing programs

serving the lowest income seniors and people with disabilities.

In Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, there are nearly 18,000 income-qualified households on waitlists of at least three years for the Section 8 housing assistance program.

The Bush Administration's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget proposes a 26 percent cut to the Section 202 housing program for the elderly, and a 50 percent cut to the Section 811 program for people with disabilities.

"Why is the Bush Administration cutting housing programs for the most vulnerable people in the country? Because it's the most convenient way for them to fund the president's tax cuts for his rich friends and to bankroll an increasingly unpopular war," said Steve Weiss, a founding Board member of the Community Alliance of Tenants. "Doing this sort of thing at the expense of the poor is a hallmark of this administration."



Portland State University President Daniel Bernstine (right) congratulates Sam Brooks on his PSU Vanport Legacy honor for lifetime achievement in advancing business and individual success.

Advocating for Minority Business

continued from Metro

capability with opportunity, administrative services, information and networking programs and new businesses incubation, in part through a partnership with the Business Outreach Program

at Portland State, which has an office at the OAME Cascade Plaza facility, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave.

The School of Extended Studies serves and empowers lifelong learners by delivering programs that are flexible, responsive, and innovative.

Distinguished Service Award

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nated free flights to Chamberlain and her team to the Gulf Coast, and Bridgestone Tires, which donated an 18-wheel truck and driver,

Chamberlain's dream was fulfilled.

"Every child got whatever they asked for or something like it," said Chamberlain. "We saw many tears from the children and their parents. I also cried a lot."

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— Art Laws, Founder
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Edie and Ronald Bryant