

# The INSIDE

HEALTH  
pages 6-7



OPINION  
pages 8-9



CALENDAR  
page 10



METRO  
page 11



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT  
pages 12-16

CLASSIFIEDS  
pages 17-19

FOOD



page 20

This page  
Sponsored by:

# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?.

## LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Leslie Goodlow-Baldwin keeps equity in focus as operations manager at the Portland Housing Bureau.

### Evening the Field

#### Housing executive looks to lift up those left behind

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Seven months as an executive with the Portland Housing Bureau and Leslie Goodlow-Baldwin has one main goal in mind; to even the playing field in the city's housing needs. It is a lofty goal, but considering her credentials, it is certainly achievable.

With more than 16 years under her belt as a senior manager with Multnomah County, specializing in mental health and developmental disabilities, the new business operations manager for the Housing Bureau not only has a solid grasp on the workings of the city, but also how to make policies work.

She sees her position as an opportunity to support city efforts in giving needed attention to groups that have often been ignored and sometimes taken advantage of in the housing market.

"To have an even plane, you've got to give less attention to those who have been most serviced, so you can start to bring up those that have been left behind," Goodlow-Baldwin said.

Housing has long been a prominent issue for people of color in Portland, from the Vanport housing projects (then the largest in the country, housing upwards of 40,000 people at its peak), to redlining which confined African-Americans to inner north and northeast Portland, to gentrification which is now effectively uprooting these same families from north and northeast to the outskirts of the city while, more financially stable, mostly white homeowners take their place.

She also recognizes the historic downside for many low-income residents who were bought out of their

homes for much less than the true value of their homes.

Goodlow-Baldwin, one of the few minority residents left in her Piedmont district home, says her mailbox is flooded with offers to purchase the house she shares with her husband and two children.

The renovation that accompanies gentrification has not only left many African-Americans without a cultural center in the city, it is leaving many struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

She wants the Portland Housing Bureau to look at housing as a right, and said it is time that the most vulnerable get the attention necessary to begin to prosper.

Her commitment to equity brings new energy to the bureau into placing families in homes.

Goodlow-Baldwin has a spot in her heart for the Rose City and the people inside its borders. Whether serving on the board for the Portland Sister City Association, or recruiting princesses for the Portland Rose Festival. She was the first African-American president of the historic event in 2007 and served on the Rose Festival board for 10 years.

### Fluoride Vote Draws Activists

Activists from Portland's minority communities are stepping up campaigns for and against a May 21 ballot measure to add fluoride to Portland water supply.

The Urban League of Portland calls fluoridation a much needed public health intervention. The group has joined other social justice organizations and community activists in hosting phone banks

and neighborhood canvasses to spread the word about the benefits water fluoridation can provide to our community.

On Tuesday, the Center for Intercultural Organizing held a rally at their North Killingsworth Street headquarters to showcase families of color who are impacted by poor dental health, and the shortage of dental care for low-income households.

On the other side of the issue, the Portland branch of the NAACP voted last week to oppose fluoridating Portland's water supply.

"Children growing up in communities of color already face risks from many different environmental chemicals," NAACP Political Chair Cheryl Carter said. "They do not need more chemicals added to their drinking water."