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Volume XLIV
Number 34



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • August 27, 2014

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Humboldt Gardens in the Humboldt Neighborhood of north Portland is a diverse housing community operated by Home Forward. The housing agency has always accepted Section 8 participants.

Housing Options Open Up

Section 8 reform bill
goes into effect

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hopes are high for a Section 8 reform bill that went into effect this summer that might help reverse the effects of gentrification and curb discrimination. In 2013, the Oregon

Legislature took an important step forward in expanding affordable housing options for low-income residents by preventing landlords from categorically refusing to rent to Section 8 voucher recipients.

House Speaker Tina Kotek put forward House Bill 2639 that passed both chambers and was signed into law by Gov. John Kitzhaber. The law protects low-income Oregonians and welcomes landlords to rent to a wider variety of residents. It also establishes a fund for landlords to be reimbursed for any damages incurred by housing residents who qualify for the federal Section 8 rent subsidies.

The bill went into effect in July, but its impact may take some time to have any measurable effect, according to attorney Lin J. Hendler who follows housing cases closely and has represented Section 8 recipients who have taken

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