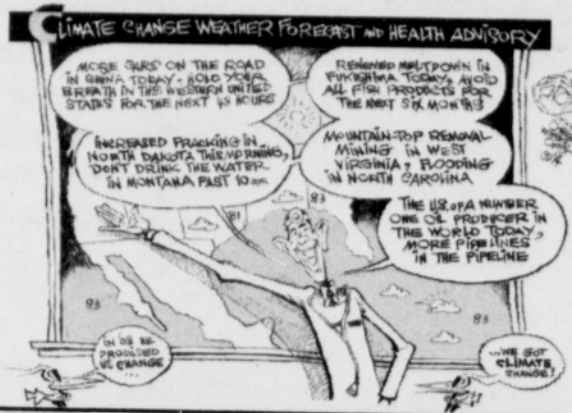


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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY COLIN STAUB/PORTLAND OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

A home available for short-term rental in the King Neighborhood of northeast Portland is advertised for \$125 a night, \$850 a week, or \$2,300 a month. Vacation rentals by homeowners in the Portland market is a dramatic new housing trend that opponents say will contribute to gentrification and the loss of affordable housing options.

A Nice Place to Visit

Short term rentals another blow to housing affordability, access

BY COLIN STAUB
PORTLAND OBSERVER
CONTRIBUTOR

As Portland gains prominence on a national scale, it is increasingly becoming a destination for tourists and vacationers. People visit our neighborhoods, take in the sights, and see what life is like in America's hippest city.

Unfortunately, aspects of this very process can threaten affordable life in Portland, as short-term vacation rentals begin to drive up housing prices and lessen the supply of available traditional rentals.

A growing number of homeowners are renting out one or two bedrooms, and sometimes an entire house, for a nightly rate. There are around 1,600 short-term Portland rentals advertised on Airbnb, the foremost short-term listing website. Three years ago, there were only 107 listings.

In the King Neighborhood of northeast Portland alone, there are 71 listings, 35 of them advertising entire houses available for rent short-term.

During this entire period of growth, the practice has been in violation of

zoning laws. But this month marks the beginning of a change.

The Portland City Council passed amendments to zoning regulations this summer, which, as of September, allow homeowners to legally rent out rooms on a short-term basis. Previously, it was allowed through a conditional use permit. According to city data, in the past 10 years only 24 rentals have been approved through conditional use, suggesting that virtually all the Airbnb listings have been illegally rented.

The new rules create a new designation for these short-term rent-

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Housing Bureau Reaches Out

Input sought on affordable housing commitment

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Portland residents sent a message to the City of Portland about the displacement of people of color from their historic neighborhoods when they protested a new Trader Joe's moving to Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. At the end of the dispute, Mayor Charlie Hales allocated \$20 million towards creating affordable housing in north

and northeast Portland through the course of the next five years.

Now, the Portland Housing Bureau is reaching out to the community and hoping to come to a consensus on the best way to invest the new funds. Affordable housing has become an increasingly pressing issue in the last decade, and these funds are intended to alleviate at least some of the tensions surrounding some of the negative impacts from gentrification.

The investment marks a win for the Portland African American Leadership Forum which originally criticized the Portland Development Commission project citing its lack of a housing plan. The forum will be an important voice when it comes to deciding where the \$20 million is spent, officials said.

Community members are invited to discuss what they want in terms

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