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'City of Roses'



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PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Michael Buonocore, the new executive director of Home Forward, the housing authority for Portland and Multnomah County, says planning the best use of resources is one the biggest challenges his agency faces as it acts on behalf of vulnerable neighbors who are displaced because of gentrification and homelessness.

Housing leader faces multiple challenges

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new leader has stepped into the fraught Portland housing crisis.

Home Forward, the housing authority for Portland and Multnomah County, has recently appointed a new executive director, Michael Buonocore, who is walking into a housing situation in which gentrification is rampant and people of color are being pushed out of their neighborhoods at a faster rate than ever before.

Buonocore comes to the position after having worked for

Uphill Battle Ahead

Home Forward the past 13 years. He has a background of working for other social justice organizations in the Portland area, such as Headstart and Sisters of the Road Café in Old Town.

"Non-profits are where my heart is," he said.

His passion for creating opportunities for vulnerable populations will be tested as Home Forward tries to find a way to help people access affordable housing in Portland, and to end homelessness in the area.

"The development boom in Portland has created opportunities but also a lot of challenges," he says.

He also is quick to praise the things Portland has done right before he gets ready to criticize what's wrong.

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