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# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY TRAVIS PHILLIPS/PORTLAND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT INITIATIVES

Maxine Fitzpatrick of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives addresses her organization's successful application to build new affordable housing on a long vacant lot at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard just south of Fremont Street and give preference to residents who have been displaced from the neighborhood.

# Promise Fulfilled

## City to develop affordable housing on MLK

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On Monday, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Dan Saltzman made good on a promise by announcing the selection of a housing non-profit serving the African American community along with a black owned contractor and architect to develop new affordable housing to serve people with roots in the area who have been displaced.

A long vacant property at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, between Cook and Ivy streets, is envisioned to produce 40 to 70 units of affordable rental housing with a preference policy for people who have been displaced by gentrification. The site would also provide ground floor com-

mercial retail space to benefit the Northeast community as well as its historically African-American residents.

“Even though this is just one site, it is the beginning,” said PCRI Executive Director Maxine Fitzpatrick, responding to the organization’s long term goals of mitigating involuntary displacement of black residents from north and northeast Portland.

PCRI’s project team includes co-developer Gerding Edlen, general contractor Colas Construction, and Carleton Hart Architects, which were all selected following a request for qualifications by the Portland Housing Bureau.

“This is an important opportunity to provide access to affordable family rental hous-

ing in a neighborhood that has experienced displacement and gentrification in the past several decades,” said Fitzpatrick. “Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives was formed as, and continues to be, a solution to involuntary displacement. The project will help ensure everyone can experience the stability, safety, and dignity that a home provides.”

The affordable housing plan follows public outreach led by the Housing Bureau and a commitment by Mayor Hales to allocate an additional \$20 million in affordable housing support to offset gentrification in north and northeast Portland.

The effort followed a backlash from an earlier Portland

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