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Portland Observer
Online



HOUSING SPECIAL EDITION



The Portland Observer 45

'City of Roses'



Volume XLV
Number 17



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • April 27, 2016



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PHOTO BY CERVANTE POPE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Officials from Portland Community Investment Initiatives, Inc. celebrate a future site for affordable housing on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and the adoption of a city policy to help families that were displaced or at risk of displacement receive preference when new affordable housing is built. Pictured, from left, are Travis Phillips, PCRI housing development manager; Maxine Fitzpatrick, the nonprofit's executive director, and Andrea Debnam, PCRI manager of resident services.

Right to Return Home

Pathway 1,000 aims to fix troubled housing history

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Attempting to fix a troubled housing history in the city, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI) and the Portland Housing Bureau have pioneered a new campaign in hopes of acknowledging and fixing the longtime displacement of mostly people of color and low income

residents from north and northeast Portland.

Approximately 10,000 mainly African American residents have lost their homes between the years of 1990 and 2000 in the city's close-in and historically black neighborhoods. Statistically, that's three people every day for 10 years having lost their home.

PCRI's Pathway 1000 Initia-

tive may be part of the solution.

As a part of the Portland Housing Bureau's North/Northeast Neighborhood Housing Strategy, the initiative is a displacement mitigation plan with the goals of dulling and in turn, reversing the involuntary displacement of those former long term Portland residents that have been pushed out, as well as those who are current-

ly at risk of displacement themselves.

As the longtime executive director of PCRI, Maxine Fitzpatrick has witnessed numerous African American families left abreast to Portland's continual rising housing costs and loss of affordable housing options.

"We cannot undo the harms done, but rather must focus on re-

storing housing justice for those who were harmed. PCRI's goal is to support and encourage displaced African Americans to focus on the future," says Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick and PCRI, along with the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, the Portland Housing Bureau, the Portland

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