

# Commission Candidate Sets Priorities

## Childs' emphasis on children, seniors and the displaced

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the May 17 Primary Election rapidly approaching, voters are fervently looking at candidates to prove their worth. For those that live within the confines of Multnomah County District 1, which encompasses the west side of Portland, inner southeast Portland from I-84 to Sellwood and east to Cesar Chavez, Marisha Childs just may be the answer needed.

Childs is an attorney and member of the black community in Portland for the last 11 years. She is running on a platform primarily focusing on three specific priorities – improving mental healthcare for senior citizens, food insecurity (especially concerning children) and culturally-relevant affordable housing.

Childs points to her experience on housing issues in the operation of her own family and senior based law firm in Vancouver and having worked on community projects such as finding housing for seniors and foster youth.

Understanding the importance of properly representing



Marisha Childs

communities of color and other disadvantaged populations, she makes a pledge of working with minority-based organizations like Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), the Urban League of Portland, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and the Center for Intercultural Organizing on solidifying housing for those who have been forced out.

“Recognizing the significant impact created by the city in displacing many communities of color, I will work to bring people back to the neighborhood they were displaced from. Living in housing that meets your cultural and emotional needs is uplifting and when you’re uplifted, your whole outlook on life can shift,” says Childs.

Having quality and healthy food is another important facet of life not everyone experiences and Childs seeks to change that. With the somewhat recent cuts to SNAP (food stamps) benefit qualifications and the steadily increasing prices of nutrient rich foods, many are left in food deserts, starved by food insecurity.

“I have yet to understand the disconnect between a city that has such an abundance of ‘great restaurants,’ yet has a food shortage,” Childs says. She hopes to see county buildings and schools brightly livened by the colors of healthy treats. “I envision fruits and veggies being biked around like SoupCycle to area food deserts. Think of ice-cream man music, but a new tune.”

## Black Families Talk Madison Rebuild

A community conversation with the African American families in the Madison High School cluster will take place on Tuesday, May 3 at the Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. Dinner will be provided starting at 6

p.m. with the community meeting kicking off at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

The school district is asking for the community’s thoughts on what a future Madison should look and feel

like as plans to remodel the school move forward. What parts of the building and campus work well? What parts don’t? How can Madison better support its students and families?

Because Madison High School is a uniquely diverse school, the district seeks to ensure that all the voices of the Madison community are represented in the process.



### Remembering Prince

Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times was found dead at his home on Thursday in suburban Minneapolis. His longtime lawyer called the death a complete shock and said Monday that the 57-year-old singer lived a clean and healthy lifestyle, disputing suggestions that he had a drug addiction.

### Tamir Rice Family Settles

The city of Cleveland has reached a \$6 million settlement in a lawsuit over the death of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy shot by a white police officer while playing with

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a pellet gun outside a recreation center.

### Tubman to Face \$20 Bill

Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist who was born a slave, will stand with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin among the iconic faces of U.S. currency. The \$20 bill will be redesigned with Tubman’s portrait on the front, becoming the first African-American on U.S. paper money, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew an-



nounced last week.

### Intel Workers Face Layoffs

Intel has notified Oregon officials it plans to lay off nearly 800 workers in Portland’s western suburbs. The company announced last week it is shedding 12,000 jobs worldwide. The move is part of a restructuring caused by declining personal computer sales. Intel is Oregon’s largest private employer with 19,500 workers in Washington County.

### Diverse Workforce Threats at Intel

Intel executives have faced unspecified “threats” from their own employees over their push to diversify the company’s workforce, according to the company’s CEO.

“We’re not bringing in women or African-Americans or Hispanics in exclusion to other people. We’re actually just trying to bring them in and be a part of the whole environment,” Brian Krzanich said at a Friday conference in San Francisco.

### PSU Viking Pavilion Construction

Portland State University broke ground Saturday on the new Viking Pavilion and Peter W. Stott Center. It marks the beginning of a \$50 million renovation of an outdated athletics facility.

### Earth Day SOLVE IT Cleanup

Folks came out in force Saturday to make a difference in communities across Oregon for the 27th annual SOLVE IT for Earth Day clean up. Over 41 tons of trash and debris were collected from 173 sites including neighborhoods, parks, school grounds and natural areas around the state.

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