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years of
community service
‘City
of
Roses’



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Festival to
fill Pioneer
Courthouse Square*
See Metro, page 9

**Outlaw Defends
Response to
Protests**
*Chief says crowd
control tactics will
be reviewed*
See Local News, page 3



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Board members and founders of KairosPDX, a public charter school serving children in the African American community, are disappointed with an offer of a one year lease for the former Humboldt school property at 4915 N. North Gantenbein Ave. Pictured (from left) are KairosPDX board members Tiffani Penson and Chris Nelson; school founders Zaliqa Gardner, Marsha Williams and Kali Thorne-Ladd; and board members Stuart Ellis and Traci Rossi.

Advocating for KairosPDX

One year lease brings uncertainty

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Even as doors opened Monday at KairosPDX, a public charter school serving children in the African American community, a school that will see its first graduating class of fifth graders this new school year, uncertainty for the school's future lingers.

That's because for the second time in less than a year, the school which is tasked with closing the achievement gap for minority students by using evidence-based

methods of increased learning outcomes, and is led by a volunteer, minority-led board, has been offered just a one year lease by the Portland School District, owners of the property.

KairosPDX wanted a five year lease, but the district offered only one year, plus a rent increase of over 30 percent, according to KairosPDX school board members.

Portland Public Schools cited a district-wide shortage of facilities as the reason for the shorter lease, though no plans are in place specifically for the former Humboldt Elementary School, whose doors were shuttered when Kairos moved in.

Tiffani Penson, who is the vice chair of

KairosPDX's board of directors, told the Portland Observer that she's disappointed in the school district's decision.

"I understand that there is resistance to charters, but when you are failing to serve an entire demographic of children; you lose the right to have an ideological argument. You need to focus on what works and support that," she said.

Black students were the lowest performing ethnic demographic in Portland Public Schools this past school year, according to scores from Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. Less than 15 percent of Portland Public Schools black students met the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Cristina Marquez points to the racism behind a ballot measure to kill Oregon's sanctuary law.

Tracking the Hate behind Measure 105 Ballot to kill sanctuary law draws a fight

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cristina Marquez is determined to fight back against racial profiling in our state. Marquez is Director of Advocacy & Civic Engagement for Causa Oregon, part of the broad coalition, Oregon United Against Profiling, which is urging citizens to vote against Measure 105 in the November ballot that would negate the state's 31-year old sanctuary law.

"This law was passed because at the time we were seeing a lot of racial profiling," Marquez said. "So lawmakers, with broad support from both Democrats and Republicans, decided to pass this law to ensure that racial profiling wasn't something that was a norm in Oregon."

Measure 105 (Initiative Proposition 22) seeks to roll back that reform and is sponsored by the Repeal Oregon Sanctuary Law, which is funded by Oregonians for Immigration Reform and the Federation for American Reform. According to the Associated Press, both groups are classified as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5