



Funk Master Tribute

Ural Thomas joins Oregon Music Hall

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On Race and Class

Profile Theater tackles a divided nation

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The Albina Christian Life Center in north Portland is one of a number of historically black churches in Portland that do not meet new earthquake safety standards, along with hundreds of other commercial buildings and several schools. Bishop Marcus Irving, pastor of the Albina center, says the cost to make \$1 to \$1.75 million in upgrades to the church would be difficult to obtain and fears that could trigger the city to condemn the church building or force it to close.

Shaking Up Controversy

Earthquake retrofits seen as next wave for displacements

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A city-led effort to post and label some buildings in Portland as potentially unsafe during a major earthquake, the first step to requiring major and costly upgrades, is shaking up controversy with many African American community church leaders, among others, who say the unintended consequences of such a measure may lead to an undesired repetition of history: homes, businesses and non-profit organizations in

traditional communities of color being displaced at the hands of the city.

A proposed placarding ordinance, slated to be voted on by the City Council on Wednesday, is the first part of an over-arching effort to get certain buildings made of brick and mortar or brick and plaster, called unreinforced masonry (URM), up to current codes over the next several years. Over 1,600 such buildings exist in Portland, according to the city's website.

Though scientists consider Portland to



A new placard warning for unreinforced masonry buildings.

be due or overdue for a major earthquake, the city has more URM buildings that are at risk of collapse during an earthquake than any other city on the West Coast, a city official said.

Bishop Marcus Irving of Albina Christian Life Center on N Willamette Blvd says his church is one of the properties the city has earmarked to receive a warning sign for posting, which conveys its message in 50-point bold font.

Irving was upset to learn about the requirements, just one month prior to a resolution being passed back in June setting guidance for an eventual adoption of the

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