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‘City
of
Roses’

**Protest Turns
to Brawl**
*Repeated clashes
has mayor calling
for new rules*
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**Blazers mourn
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had loyalty to
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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Katrina Holland of the Community Alliance of Tenants is working to get the city to adopt more equitable housing policies in order free up housing stock for people of color and other residents who face huge obstacles to finding a house or apartment.

Advocating Tenants' Rights Security deposit, screening and other reforms urged

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Several community organizations representing Portland tenants and communities of color have united to ask Portland city officials to address housing discrimination and the disparate treatment of renters from marginalized groups. The goal is to provide more access to housing for people who currently face huge obstacles to finding a house or apartment to rent.

Spearheaded by the Community Alliance of Tenants, a statewide social justice organization, and co-signed by the Urban League of Portland, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, and Unite Oregon, among others, the housing advocates sent their request last week to Mayor Ted Wheeler and the City Council citing the harm that current housing policies by landlords, such as screening criteria, high security deposits, and predatory credit

practices, cause African American, Latino, and other communities of color.

Citing a Portland Housing Bureau report that showed that communities of color are more likely to be barred from housing access in the city, the tenant advocates pointed to Fair Housing testing reports that showed discrimination against people of color was prevalent at each stage in the Portland rental market, from receiving preliminary information

about an apartment, all the way to when they moved out.

In some of the worst cases, "We've heard of situations where people have been unfairly screened out or told that a property isn't available because of what they look like or what language they speak. Whereas somebody who has the same qualifications will probably walk in,

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