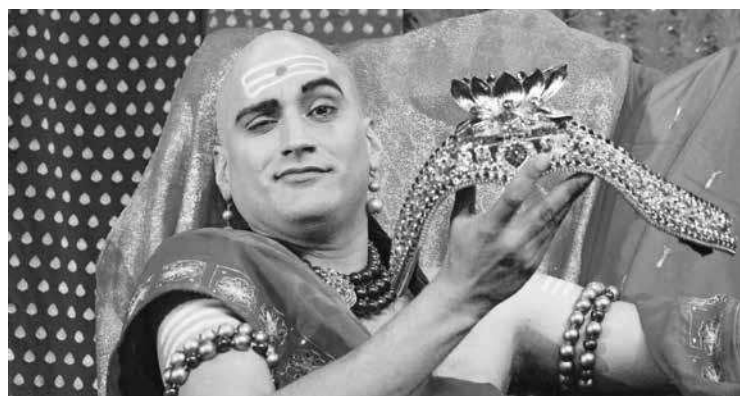


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LOCAL NEWS



Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty signs a 'No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge.'

Earth Day Pledge

Commissioner challenges fossil fuel industry

One day after protesters in Portland planted a "Victory Garden" along Northwest Front Avenue and partially blocked a train track to protest Alberta tar sands oil shipments to Portland's Zenith Energy terminal, Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty issued a challenge to advance the environmental concerns about

pollution from fossil fuels.

Hardesty says she will not knowingly accept any future campaign contribution of over \$200 from Political Action Committees or front groups of fossil fuel companies amidst the climate protests and calls for action locally and internationally. In addition, she says she will not take any money from these groups, according to her statement, issued on Earth Day.

"We need a city where every voice matters. Where our democracy works for everyone and our government listens to all of us.

Fossil fuel money corrupts that and elevates the voices of dirty energy at the expense of people's health, the climate, and our democracy, something I will always reject," Hardesty said.

Hardesty previously championed the Portland Clean Energy Fund, a city ballot measure that voters passed last fall that is anticipated to bring in \$54 million to \$71 million in new revenue aimed at generating green jobs and environmental home improvements.

She also spoke with youth at the Youth Climate Protest in front of City Hall last month and more recently supported earlier protests at the Zenith Oil terminal.

Worker Wins Discrimination Case

Multnomah County is set to pay \$100,000 to a former black employee who filed suit against the county, alleging a work place that failed to foster a racially sensitive environment.

Karimah Guion-Pledguir said she suffered health problems and debilitating stress after a co-worker pinned up a "Blue Lives Matter" flag on the wall of the parole and probation office, a move she claimed was to "demean and denigrate" the Black Lives Matter movement. County officials retaliated against her when she spoke

up about it, she said.

Though Karimah Guion-Pledguir and other black co-workers complained about the flag, supervisors did not require it to be removed, the suit said. Supervisors later told Guion-Pledguir to take down an "equity wall" she put up more than six months later, which displayed photos of people of color killed by officers, the suit said.

"Thanks a lot" and "bitch" read two sticky notes that were found placed on her equity wall, among other forms of harassment from

coworkers, the lawsuit said.

As part of the terms of the settlement, Guion-Pledguir resigned from her position last week as a Department of Community Justice corrections technician, a position she held since 2011. She will be allowed to re-apply for a job with the county, however, under terms of the agreement approved Thursday by Multnomah County Commissioners.

Guion-Pledguir originally asked for \$420,000 in the lawsuit filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court in January.