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Kymberly Horner, the new executive director of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, picks up the mantle to a mission to see 1,000 new living units built in the next 10 years to help alleviate the housing crisis. PCRI is a housing nonprofit rooted in Portland's African American community.

Housing and a Backup Plan

New housing director advances PCRI mission

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Kymberly Horner took over as executive director of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives this past fall,

she vowed to have an impact on Portland's housing crisis and now she is moving forward on the nonprofit's goal to build 1,000 new housing units in the next 10 years.

Called Pathway 1000, the plan was developed by Maxine Fitzpatrick, Horner's predecessor who founded PCRI in 1994. The organization, rooted in Portland's African American community, was formed in direct response to fraudulent real estate contracts that caused many people of color in north and northeast Portland to lose their

homes. Thanks to the work of PCRI, many of those homeowners back then had their mortgages rewritten and their homes were saved.

Getting people into their own homes today – whether renting or buying – is the main goal of PCRI. But Horner wants to take it a step farther and make sure people can manage the financials to keep their homes once they acquire them. To that end, she's been working with Dr. Karin Edwards, president of Portland Communi-

ty College's Cascade campus to come up with a plan for further education.

"One of the things I would like to be doing for residents and new homeowners is making sure they've got economic stability behind them," Horner said. "The minute there's an uptick in downsizing or a recession occurs...there are certain groups of people who are historically displaced."

That includes people of color, women and

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