

Lawmakers Advance COVID Relief

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

as far-right protesters opposed to COVID-19 restrictions attempted to force their way in, with some demonstrators toting guns and others attacking authorities with bear spray.

Protesters banged their fists against the doors chanting, "Let us in" and others attempted to break glass doors leading into the Capitol building. The Capitol was closed to the public as part of COVID-19 safety measures. However virtual testimony about the bills was allowed earlier.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat from north Portland, described the violence and damage to the Capitol as "disconcerting and frightening."

Senate President Peter

Courtney, who is Oregon's longest-serving lawmaker, said the protests "shook" him.

"It was sad today," Courtney said. "There was a lot of anger — real anger — a lot of meanness and a lot of open division, and I can't find a way to stop it."

The four bills that lawmakers passed were an eviction moratorium that includes \$200 million in relief for landlords and tenants, a restaurant relief package that includes a provision legalizing cocktails to-go, a bill that protects schools from some coronavirus-related lawsuits and a measure that will transfer \$600 million in to the state's emergency fund for COVID-19 and wildfire-response and recovery.

The bill that has dominated discussions focused on evic-

tions. With the federal and state eviction moratorium set to expire at the end of the year, the issue has been pushed to the forefront. Housing advocates have implored lawmakers to extend the moratorium, estimating that between 20,000 and 40,000 Oregon households could be at risk for eviction.

The bill extends the moratorium on residential evictions through June 2021. It also requires that tenants to submit a sworn statement that they've experienced financial hardship in order to be protected from eviction.

In addition, the bill allocates \$150 million for a Landlord Compensation Fund to pay landlords back rent owed, however landlords must forgo 20% of past-due payments.

--Associated Press

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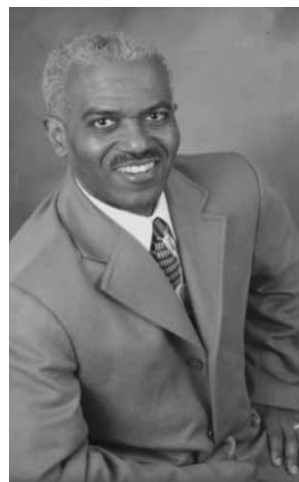
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Wait List Opening

Notice is hereby given that Vancouver Housing Authority will open the following waitlist on December 18, 2020:

The Elwood supportive housing development is for people exiting homelessness with behavioral health needs. The Elwood consists of 46 one bedroom units, located at 6317 NE Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver, Washington.

Applicants must be homeless, in need of supportive housing, and referred through the Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center (HSC). The HSC refers people in need of supportive housing who are interested in the Medicaid Foundational Community Support (FCS) program to Sea Mar-Community Services Northwest (CSNW). CSNW then works with that person to enroll in the FCS program and refers them to the waitlist. The first step to finding out if you are eligible is to contact the Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center for a housing assessment at 360-695-9677.

Applications will be selected from the waiting list based on preference. Among applicants with the same preference, applicants will be selected through a random lottery. Applications will be accepted starting December 18.

Vancouver Housing Authority welcomes qualified individuals/families of diverse backgrounds and, in accordance with various Federal and State laws or regulations, does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, familial status, creed, veteran's or military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

Vancouver Housing Authority will make reasonable accommodations to individuals whose disabilities require accommodation in order to enjoy full and equal access to our programs and services. This includes the application process, the informal hearing process and the residency period. Please contact a staff member if you need a reasonable accommodation.

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