

**Air** cont'd from pg 1

sues in depth — and agitated with the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality — to come clean with local residents about what's going on and do something about it.

"There are other concerning levels in other areas of the city that are more disproportionately representative of

school was one of 35 in the Portland metro area which ranked among the worst 5 percent in the nation, no Portland area school ranked better than the bottom 30 percent.

And North Portland schools ranked the worst. Harriet Tubman school specifically came onto my radar, as my daughter

**“Our problem is a system that allows toxic pollution to put people at risk from all sources**

communities of color in North Portland,” Peveto said. “Is this really going to be a popularity contest for communities that can assert the most outrage?”

The *Skanner* interviewed Peveto about the bigger picture of air pollution and how it impacts Portland families.

**The Skanner News:** How long have you personally organized around Portland air pollution?

**Mary Peveto:** I first became alarmed about air toxics in Portland in 2009. But that was only about my daughter's school, Chapman Elementary. I quickly learned that this wasn't isolated to in my family's neighborhood in Northwest Portland.

The same data used for the study published by USA TODAY in 2009 was an analysis that a University of Massachusetts-Amherst research team had done that cross referenced Federal Toxic Release (TRI) data, EPA's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI), and more than 127,000 schools in America. The big picture was equally alarming. While my

was a student there when it was the all girls leadership academy. So I was in the parent community when the EPA chose Tubman as one of 66 schools in 22 states to monitor the air in response to the USA Today report. The EPA found, among other things, high levels of cadmium.

This was significant enough to be one of the few things mentioned in the USA Today story that followed EPA's national monitoring effort.

I was already at the time a member of the Oregon DEQ's Portland Air Toxics SOLUTIONS Advisory Committee (PAT-SAC). So I also knew that the state had consistently measured high levels of cadmium and arsenic at the air toxics monitoring site at North Roselawn (less than a mile from Tubman) since 2005.

The DEQ staff told the PATSAC that the agency could not explain where it was coming from, though they considered consulting a phone book for possible sources. But they hadn't even done that.

Read the full interview at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

**Yerby Takes Helm at Bradley Angle**

Jackie Yerby will serve as the new executive director of Bradley Angle House, the first domestic violence shelter on the West Coast and the sixth in the nation, effective February 22, 2016. Yerby's first volunteer position upon moving to Portland in 1999 was at Bradley Angle's emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors. She most recently worked for Renew Oregon, a campaign to build broad-based grassroots support for meaningful action on climate change. Before joining Renew Oregon, Jackie spent many years in the private sector, serving as the Sustainability Program Manager for Cambia Health Solutions, a Portland, Oregon-based health solutions company with operations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Utah. Yerby holds an undergraduate degree in History from Yale University, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRADLEY ANGLE HOUSE

**PSU** cont'd from pg 1

lecture focused on King's legacy.

They were introduced by Carmen Suarez, Vice President of Global Diversity and Inclusion at PSU, and the conversation was moderated by African American Student Service Coordinator Marlon Marion.

Shortly before the panel discussion started, a group of students seated in the bleachers near the stage, chanted “Disarm PSU!” a few times, and Garza mentioned

**“It has never been a plea to non-Black people to make our lives matter. It was always a demand**

being aware of a “big fight” over the recent decision to arm campus police during her discussion with Tometi and Marion.

“The work is local,” Tometi said. Then she and Garza said they would like to bring someone to the stage.

“You will notice my name is not in the program,” said Alyssa Pagan, an activist with the Disarm PSU movement, after walking up to the stage.

After explaining that activists with the PSU Student Union had been fighting against the Board

of Trustees' recommendation that campus security start carrying arms, an audience member cheered. Pagan reacted by saying she and other students had received multiple letters from the university about their activism, including letters of expulsion.

“I don't need your congratulations. I need your help,” Pagan said.

Pagan also made mention of the introductory speech, which fo-

dition to armed security, Pagan noted the failure of the university to pay a living wage to on-campus workers. A video of Pagan's speech is viewable on her Facebook page.

Students associated with PSU-SU handed out flyers at the door as the event let out, advertising a Wednesday afternoon demonstration calling for the disarmament of campus security, broken ties with Armark, a \$15-per-hour wage for all campus workers and that tuition be lowered by reducing administrative salaries.

The preceding discussion focused on broad issues of movement-building, developing a better understanding of Black history and how social change movements are contextualized in media.

Garza and Tometi, along with Patrisse Cullors (who was not able to attend the event), said they are often credited for starting a movement, but they didn't.

“When we talk about how movements, we focus on one or two people who catalyze it, and that's a bad habit,” Garza said.

Read the whole story at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

**Housing** cont'd from pg 1

global brand exposure and support from a business incubator, according to Poole.

Housing is a very personal issue for Poole, who experienced homelessness after a work accident ended his career. During his training to be a firefighter, Poole suffered a fall which caused a debilitating injury. At a homeless shelter he discovered how difficult it was for people to find housing, even if the rent was being subsidized.

“I lived at the YWCA homeless shelter and I couldn't find a place to live — even though I got a voucher from the YWCA to pay my rent for a year, I couldn't do it,” Poole said.

Poole developed NoAppFee to streamline the housing application process. Renters often have had to fill out applications for housing, and then pay for a new background check for each application. With NoAppFee applicants pay for a single background check, then the site matches renters with the proper-

ties they qualify for.

Poole said getting housing quickly is especially important for those receiving rental assistance. Transitional housing time limits and rent voucher

**“Housing is fundamental. You can't do anything before you are housed. If you are homeless, that is like not having air, it's like not having water**

expirations necessitate a faster rental process. Poole would like to see needy renters matched up with apartments the same day they got their award letters.

On Feb. 11, Portland mayoral candidate Ted Wheeler issued a Tenants' Bill of Rights as part of his campaign platform. In the text, Wheeler endorsed NoAppFee as a tool to promote fair rental practices. Wheeler also supported the creation of a standardized rental

application and background check for renters and landlords.

“Portland entrepreneurs are already lending their talents to affordable housing and tenants' issues. Tyrone Poole recently won the 1776 Challenge Cup Regional in San Francisco for his site NoAppFee.com, which

utilizes data and technology to promote equal access to housing. The city should be capitalizing on these innovations,” Wheeler wrote.

Poole has plans to expand NoAppFee into the single-family home rentals. Currently, the database covers only property management companies. NoAppFee pays to prescreen these companies to qualify to list on the site. Poole said this is to protect the data of their renters.



Tyrone Poole, founder of NoAppFee.com

“Sixty percent of the national rental market is actually single-family owners — Mom and Pop-owned. Even if we got every single management company in the United States, we would only have forty percent of the rental market, so we have to get them on there,” Poole said.