

## Gresham cont'd from pg 1

talking but I don't hear a lot of people talking solutions. So I'm here to talk solutions," he said.

Gresham officials say they are trying to catch up with help from Multnomah County, which is investing \$130,000 in new services through the A Home for Everyone program.

They also plan two-per-

sleep on the sidewalk if they don't use any kind of tent or structure, only keep their bag out between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., "on rights of way (other than sidewalks) and remnants," with no group bigger than 6 people in any one location.

- Groups camping together must obtain a

**“An estimated 2000 people sleep outside in Portland every night**

son crews called "clean teams" who, Gresham officials say, will clean up dirty campsites as well as offer services to people trying to get off the street.

Meanwhile, the city of Portland's housing crisis emergency plan has swung into place, with new guidelines allowing tent camping during certain hours and overnight car camping in certain church parking lots.

Portland's plan also features heightened social services outreach to individuals who seem at highest risk on the street.

The emergency rules have been triggered by the lack of affordable housing across the metro area; an estimated 2,000 people sleep outside in Portland every night.

Mayor Charlie Hale's office issued the homelessness toolkit last year, piecing together resources for affordable housing, and people already stuck on the street.

Hales' chief of staff Joshua Alpert did not respond for a request for comment. The new plan is his brainchild and is built around four basic strategies:

- Allowing people to

permit from the City, allow the City to select or approve a "camp host" for the group, create and abide by a code of conduct and must provide restrooms and sanitation.

- Groups banding together for vehicle camping must obtain a permit from the City, allow the City to select or approve the "camp host," create and abide by a code of conduct, and provide toilets and sanitation. Church parking lots will be allowed "when in partnership with City."

- The fourth leg of the emergency plan is already-existing shelters, and access points including 211info.org as well as calling 2-1-1 and texting 898211

Portland has also made available a gigantic shipping container for houseless people to store their belongings during the day.

And lastly, Portland's plan offers a one-point-of-contact complaint system that gives the city flexibility in tracking complaints about the campers and compiling that info for analysis.

PHOTO BY BRIAN KIM



## Marilyn Keller in Jazz Hall of Fame

After 35 years as a revered member of the Portland music scene, Marilyn Keller was inducted into the 2016 Jazz Society of Oregon's Hall of Fame March 16 at Jimmy Mak's. She started her career as a vocalist in ragtime and Dixieland. Her style has morphed into a wide range of interpretations including jazz, R&B, pop, blues, and gospel. Her career has included tours in Europe and Australia, and her vocals have appeared on movie soundtracks, numerous recordings, commercials and documentary narratives. Keller also works with bands and choirs at Jefferson High and many other schools as well as The American Music Program. Keller will perform with the Augustana Jazz Quarter April 16 at the Inner City Blues Festival, a fundraiser for Healthcare for All Oregon ([www.hcao.org](http://www.hcao.org)). The evening is co-sponsored by KBOO and the Cascade Blues Association.

## TriMet cont'd from pg 1

smart cards instead of cash.

BRU organizers are concerned about a host of recent changes that create a greater burden for low-income riders who depend on public transportation. The new budget doesn't include an increase in regular fares, but is the first full budget to include last September's increase in honored citizen fares for seniors and people with disabilities. The proposed low-income fare would be the same as the honored citizens' fare — \$1.25 per ticket.

The agency currently provides fare assistance and fare relief programs in the form of grants or discounted tickets to qualifying nonprofits, according to TriMet spokesperson Roberta Altstadt. King County Metro offers a reduced fare for people living at 200 percent of the poverty level and San Francisco also offers low-income fares.

BRU organizer Nic Phillips said the elimination of the fareless square zone in 2012 and a fare hike that same year have placed a substantial burden on low-income riders, and a reduced fare could mitigate that problem.

"With low-income fare, this will provide a needed break for

families and individuals who are already paying a large burden of the system operating," Williams told *The Skanner*.

While TriMet's website touts Hop FastPass as a more conve-

fore they make those changes," Phillips said. "With e-fare, it's been kind of backwards." She said the agency didn't start soliciting public comment on the change until late last year — after it had

**“The elimination of the fareless square zone in 2012 and a fare hike that same year have placed a substantial burden on low-income riders**

nient way to pay for bus fare, — since riders won't use cash or need to find exact change — BRU's organizers are concerned the system will be less convenient for some riders. While the reloadable fare cards will be available at retail locations, and riders can reload cards every month using cash or cards at a retail outlet or online, organizers have said the logistics of purchasing or reloading a card will be difficult for some users, like those living in less developed neighborhoods and those who don't have bank accounts.

"Normally when there is a major change in the system, because it is still a public service, they have to speak with the public be-

already begun publicizing the concept — and it has already begun installing e-fare machines.

Phillips, who said she first got involved with BRU about three years ago, said the organization has been considering proposing a low-income fare for a few years. With the implementation of e-fare coming down the pike and sharp increases in housing costs burdening low-income people throughout the metro area, now seemed like the right time to bring the idea before TriMet.

"A lot of people are struggling right now. Many people are living paycheck to paycheck. With what's happening with housing and everything, every little bit helps," Phillips said.

## SOUL cont'd from pg 1

Northeast Portland and a Jefferson High School Graduate. He worked as an executive at Portland General Electric and Pacific Power and Light. Most recently

Boulevard. Another member is Anyeley Hallova, who recently completed a 405-bedroom sustainable apartment community in Eugene, Ore.

**“The group plans to focus on community cultural offerings, such as ethnic food markets and Black-owned entertainment venues, as well as technology companies**

he was chair of United Fund Advisors, which provides investment capital and advisory services for community development and renewable energy projects.

Talton joins development professionals in BICEP such as Jeana Woolley and Ray Leary, who created the Vanport Square business center on Martin Luther King Jr.

The group also has venture capital expertise with Stephen Green, the community director at Elevate Capital, as well as business incubation insight from Dwayne Johnson, deputy director of Innovate Oregon, and the community activism experience of Charles McGee from the Black Parent Initiative.

This new proposed SOUL District is an area that spans from Interstate-5 to Northeast 7th Avenue, and from Broadway to Northeast Rosa Parks Way. It would encompass the Humboldt, Boise and Eliot neighborhoods.

Talton says the group has a contract with the Portland Development Commission to create a substantive plan. The group plans to focus on community cultural offerings, such as ethnic food markets and Black-owned entertainment venues, as well as technology companies.

The combination would bring together the past identity of Northeast Portland community with the future projected job growth in Portland technology.

Plans for the SOUL District

Last fall the city began rolling out its new approach to housing starting with a stated goal of maximizing permanent housing with an ambitious five-part playbook:

- Tenant Protections, including new requirements that landlords provide 90-day notices for no-cause evictions and potential rent increases 5 percent or greater over a 12-month period
- Scraping up \$61.6 million in local and federal funds for affordable housing development with the goal of producing over 600 new affordable housing units
- Tax Increment Funding Set-Aside Increase from 30% to 45%, potentially bringing in an additional \$66.7 million for construction of affordable housing
- North/Northeast Neighborhood Housing Strategy against displacement and gentrification with \$20 million to fund community-led effort to prioritize public investments in affordable housing, home repair and retention, land banking and down payment assistance
- Linkage of Short Term Rental Taxes to Affordable Housing taxing short term rental companies like Airbnb for the City's Housing Investment Fund to bring in approximately \$1.2 million annually for affordable housing construction

—from [www.Portlandoregon.gov/toolkit](http://www.Portlandoregon.gov/toolkit)