

Housing cont'd from pg 1

come effective in February, require developers to designate a certain percentage of units in multifamily homes at prices affordable to renters making less than the median family income for the Portland metropolitan area.

Exactly how that would break down can vary,

total units must be at 30 percent MFI.

Earlier this year the Oregon legislature repealed a long-held ban on local governments requiring developers to include lower-priced units in their projects.

According to numbers generated by the United States Department

“To be affordable to a family making [median family income] in Portland, a three-bedroom home would have to be priced at \$1,905 (including utilities)

and the ordinance offers some incentives to offset the price of lower-cost units – either by constructing new units or dedicating a share of units in existing developments to lower-income households.

The ordinance would require 20 percent of housing units in multi-family housing rent at prices affordable to those earning no more than 80 percent MFI, or 10 percent of units in affordable to those earning no more than 60 percent MFI either by constructing new units or dedicating existing units to households with lower incomes.

The ordinance primarily addresses new constructions, but offers developers the option of setting aside existing housing

- Newly constructed developments must reserve 20 percent of existing units to incomes at or below 60 percent of MFI;
- Existing units must be 25 percent of total units at 60 percent MFI, or 15 percent of

of Housing and Urban Development and published by the Portland Housing Bureau, in 2016 the median family income for a family of four was \$73,300; 80 percent of MFI for a family of four was \$58,650. To be affordable to a family making MFI in Portland, a three-bedroom home would have to be priced at \$1,905 (including utilities); for a family making 80 percent of MFI, rent and utilities would need to total \$1,525.

According to the State of Housing report released by the housing bureau earlier this month, \$1,525 was the average rent for a three-bedroom rental unit in Portland (excluding utilities). That report noted there are few areas in the Portland metropolitan area where a family making 80 percent of MFI could afford rent, and none where families making 50 percent or less of MFI could afford rent. The report also noted that the median income for renters, at \$30,000, is lower than the median family income for the metro area.

Song cont'd from pg 1

University Ed Washington smiled, then shook his head.

Several times, Washington began speaking, then stopped, fascinated, his gaze returning to the paper.

“He really captured it,” Washington said, chuckling. “I’m like ‘geez, that’s right. The radio and handbills, they told us not to run.’”

“I mean, really, the opening lines, ‘But all these waters, they broke in on us.’

‘Drowned just like rats.’ He’s kicking booty there, without really just coming out kicking. That’s Woody, it really is. I think it’s amazing. I had never seen this.”

“They said, ‘Don’t worry, there won’t be danger until Tuesday. These dikes and dams are holding,’ and that’s exactly what they said.”

The song’s lyrics tell the story of the May 30, 1948 flood in classic Woody Guthrie fashion, describing a complicated moment historians are still working to unravel. The flood destroyed

what was then the second-largest city in Oregon – the largest housing project in the nation – in minutes.

*But all these waters, they broke in on us,
Not a warning, not a chance,
By this wild Columbia River,
Trapped and drowned just like rats.*

*And if this dike starts breaking,
We’ll tell you so in time,
So’s you can pack your things and move,
But everything’s just fine.*

“It’s pretty graphic, there’s no question about it,” said Bill Murlin, the BPA archivist who discovered the “Roll On, Columbia” recordings and other material from the period in 1941 when Guthrie was living and working in the Pacific Northwest. “As far as why it’s not been cited in any of the Vanport history, I find that something of a mystery myself.”

Despite reassurances in a “DON’T

GET EXCITED” handbill slipped under doors by the Housing Authority of Portland that morning, a railroad dike owned by Union Pacific caved in around 4 p.m. Vanport residents scrambled to save children and precious possessions and escape churning, fast-moving waters.

“They said, ‘Don’t worry, there won’t be danger until Tuesday. These dikes and dams are holding,’ and that’s exactly what they said.”

“It was horrible, because of the congestion. You only had one way out,” recalled survivor Oregon Sen. Jackie Winters. “Then you had the additional congestion of sightseers, because they had heard what had happened.”

“There was one woman, I believe she dropped an infant,” Sen. Winters said, her voice dropping to a whisper. “Those images stay.”

Many Oregonians risked their lives

to save Vanporters from the churning waters, or opened their homes to survivors – but some, *The Oregonian* reported the next day, showed up to stare and eat popcorn.

“It was basically a spectator sport, if you will,” said PCC’s Harrison. He noted that the song’s lyrics contained symbol-

ic details. “When you mention rats, one of the things that the ex-Vanporters reported, there was a rat problem there. There were thousands of rats that were seen scurrying out during the flood,” Harrison said.

“I think [Guthrie’s song] captures the essence of what many people felt,” Harrison said.

Read more of this story at TheSkanner.com



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Snow Day

Northeast Seventh Avenue was closed to traffic for much of Dec. 16 due to inclement weather conditions. Snow and ice storms hit the Portland metropolitan area the night of Dec. 14 and continued – punctuated by occasional thaw – through the weekend.

Moore cont'd from pg 1

King, Jr. predicted in his writings that have become relevant in recent years.

“I would go back through sermons and some of his writings, his books and some of his best known quotations and then match the contemporary situation to what’s expressed in those ideas, in Dr. King’s ideas,” Moore said. “The idea is to remind people that Dr. King was a prophet and put forth his wisdom and foresight.”

For instance, he said, King wrote about the rise of automation and the threat it imposed on regular jobs. Moore noted the hollowing of the middle class has been enabled by automation, and the advent of self-driving trucks and cars could make it worse: 3.5 million people drive trucks for a living, and Uber – which already relied on a freelance drivers rather than a traditional employment contract with a guaranteed wage – is experimenting with a fleet of self-driving cars.

The future could be very grim if nothing replaces the current economic model, which is quickly being eroded, he said.

“Dr. King talked about having a guaranteed annual wage. No one has discussed that in recent memory. Jobs, as we know jobs, don’t exist in the way they once did,” he said.

Moore was born in Atlanta in

of 10 African American attorneys in the state of Georgia. He traveled with civil rights activist Vernon Jordan on Sundays. Alongside attorneys Donald Hallowell and A.T. Walden, Moore worked to promote anti-discrimination

“Dr. King talked about having a guaranteed annual wage. No one has discussed that in recent memory. Jobs, as we know jobs, don’t exist in the way they once did”

1932, and as a young man worked as a sportswriter for the *Atlanta Daily World*. When he attended Morehouse College, an interest in journalism evolved into an interest in politics. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1954 and an LL.B degree (bachelor’s degree in law) from Boston University’s School of Law in 1960.

Moore served as a clerk for United States District Court Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr. and was admitted to practice law in Massachusetts in 1961. He returned to Atlanta in 1962, where he was one

of 10 African American attorneys in the state of Georgia. He traveled with civil rights activist Vernon Jordan on Sundays. Alongside attorneys Donald Hallowell and A.T. Walden, Moore worked to promote anti-discrimination laws such as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, as well as two court cases – *City of Greenwood v. Peacock* and *Georgia v. Rachel* – which used federal civil action to counterattack against unconstitutional attempts to use state law against citizens exercising their rights. In 1966 Moore represented Julian Bond in his fight to take seat in the Georgia House of Representatives, and he was part of the NAACP team in the 1970 Supreme Court Decision of *Turner v. Fouché*.

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