

Jama cont'd from pg 1

lifted the state pre-emption on rent control and limited no-cause evictions. The bill narrowly passed in the House and died in the Senate.

At 74, Monroe has served in the Oregon state legislature intermittently for the past four decades. The former teacher and lay minister also held numerous

Marylhurst University.

All the while, Jama made a name for himself by helping recent refugees adjust to life in the Northwest. In 2003, he founded the Center for Intercultural Organizing to advocate for the rights of immigrants and refugees. (In February 2016 CIO merged with Oregon Action to become Unite

“Regrettably, the current leadership in my district is out of touch with the everyday reality of the people who live here

elected offices and is, in fact, an East Portland landlord.

Last month, Monroe was sued by one of his tenants in the Multnomah County Circuit Court over a leaky roof in his complex, which apparently caused her an injury.

For Jama, fair and affordable housing is a top priority. He told *The Skanner* that he’s “advocating for full funding of our education system, and (to) ensure renters are as powerful as homeowners, landlords, and property management companies when policy decisions are made.”

Other issues close to his heart include public safety — which he said encompasses traffic, air quality and interactions with police officers — and the protection of immigrant and refugee families from intrusion by the federal government.

Jama is a refugee himself, having fled war-torn Somalia to the United States in 1998. He waited tables at a Somali restaurant in Portland, and later worked the front desk at the DoubleTree hotel while earning a degree at

Oregon.)

In July this year, Jama was successful in passing HB 2355, a Unite Oregon-sponsored piece of legislation which created a system for Oregon police officers to collect data when making pedestrian or traffic stops, in an effort to curb profiling. The bill also hit a milestone by defelonizing small drug possession to a misdemeanor.

The long-time community organizer has spent decades advocating for minimum wage increases, paid family sick days, inclusionary zoning, an end to no-cause evictions, and of course, banning profiling by law enforcement. He says his decision to run for state senator grew out of his frustration at elected leaders who appear disconnected.

“Whether due to entrenched party politics or a lack of understanding of people’s lived experiences, including mine, I felt our own voices were not at the center of the debates that impacted our lives,” he said.

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PHOTO BY HENRY FOSTER

Northeast Precinct Honors Modica

Friday morning the community meeting room at the Portland Police Bureau’s North Precinct Building was re-named to honor former assistant chief Kevin Modica, who retired at the end of July in a separation agreement with the city that allowed him to retire with the assistant chief title. At the time of his retirement, Modica was the highest-ranking Black officer in the Portland Police Bureau. Pictured here are Harry Jackson, Modica, Nike Green, Herman Green and Northeast Precinct Commander Robert King.

Gang cont'd from pg 1

she was on the gang list just a few years ago, when she tried to plan a 40th birthday party at a Portland golf course.

Venue staff told her police had approached them to dissuade them from hosting the party, because she was a gang member.

The bureau’s policy was to notify suspected gang members and affiliates of their status with mailed letters. Harris said she never received one, and when she contacted the city she was told her letter had apparently been sent to the wrong address.

Harris was arrested once on a drug charge when she was younger, but said she has a clean record otherwise. She was never part of a gang, she said, but she knew both Crips and Bloods growing up.

“I was married to a Crip for 18 years. They said I’m a Blood. Both my children’s fathers were Crips,” she said.

Harris’ brother, Durieul, was killed in a 2013 shooting outside the since-shuttered Fontaine

Bleau nightclub in Northeast Portland. Other media have said both Durieul Harris and Xavier Dorrel Bolden, who was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison this spring, were both gang members. Harris said

“It’s a big win for the young men and women who are on that list. But it ain’t over

her brother was never part of a gang, but also appreciated that gang involvement was not discussed in the trial, since the police said the shooting related to a personal matter.

“That man was tried for the crime he committed, not because of his ties or he had nothing to do with. That has never been brought up, which I thought he was a plus,” Harris said. “They judged him on the acts that he committed as a human being.

They tried him on his merits as a man that he was.”

Harris is cautiously optimistic about the change, but worries police will find more covert tools to engage in profiling people of color.

“It’s a big win for the young men and women who are on that list. But it ain’t over,” Harris said.

At Friday’s meeting of the Community Peace Collaborative, PPB’s Acting Tactical Operations Capt. Andy Shearer and Capt. Mike Krantz acknowledged they would have to “find new tools” to investigate violent crimes.

They also said the change shouldn’t be read as an indication that gang-related criminal activity is a thing of the past in Portland. “The idea behind removing the gang designation will ensure investigators will look at the specific criminal behavior of people who are associated with criminal organizations,” spokesperson Chris Burley said.

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Lottery cont'd from pg 1

“It’s really hard to compare Oregon to other U.S. lotteries, because there are only a handful of us that have video lottery as well,” explained Pack.

Of the 44 states and territories in the nation that have a state-sanctioned lottery — every state excluding Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming — most of them operate solely with scratch tickets and draw games, like Powerball and Mega Millions.

“They make an awful lot of money selling them,” said Pack. “In bigger states like Florida and New York the population can drive pretty big dollars through those games.”

Yet few states — including Rhode Island, Ohio, Louisiana, and Montana — offer legal video lottery. And even then, the games are relegated to racinos (combination race track-casino operations) or state-run casinos.

But in Oregon retailers can provide

video lottery terminals inside their establishments. In fact, most of the revenue generated by the Oregon Lottery comes from these types of video games.

“What we’re trying to do is bring in local perspectives outside of the lottery industry to share their experience and ideas

It’s for this reason that Pack said the Oregon Lottery tends to look to the Canadian provinces for a better comparison, which are similar to Oregon in the structure of their games.

According to the NASPL, in 2016, 3,465 Oregon retailers generated over \$1.2 billion in gross sales of lottery tick-

ets. Over \$225 million in prizes was awarded to players, while the economic activity of the lottery generated over \$572 million in transfers to beneficiaries.

Yet while state-run lotteries are often marketed as “charitable foundations” — because of the revenue they generate for services like public education — critics are wary of the long-term positive impacts. For instance, some argue that lottery earnings are not spent as additional funding for education, as is often portrayed.

Rather, legislatures have used lottery revenues to simply displace other funds from the state’s general reve-



COURTESY OF THE OREGON LOTTERY

Barry Pack, director of the Oregon Lottery

nues, which are used elsewhere. That said, lottery earnings are not necessarily improving state services, say critics, more like supplementing them.

According to the Oregon Lottery, 57 percent of its revenue goes into public education; 27 percent to economic development and job creation; 15 percent to state parks and natural resources; and one percent is administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services to programs that treat gambling addiction.

In Multnomah County alone, over \$70.2 million in lottery earnings between 2013 and 2015 helped support projects and programs in education, transportation and business.

The Oregon Lottery was initiated in November 1984 when voters approved an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, making the operation of a state lottery legal.

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