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“Six months ago, the Board of Directors and the Portland community entrusted in me the privilege and responsibility to build and transform a public school system that guarantees equitable access, opportunity, and outcomes for all of our students,” Guerrero said in a press release distributed by PPS Monday. “In planning for the 2018-19 school year, given the inadequate resources available to PreK-12 public education in Oregon, we are faced with the real challenge of balancing a budget, while ensuring we can perform our core services to schools, and prioritize efforts aimed at improving student outcomes. This includes an attempt to minimize any impact to schools and prioritizing the implementation of an equitable school staffing model. As a result, we

have realigned a number of our central office functions and made a number of staff reductions at the district office so that we can close the budget gap while concentrating our focus on support for schools and educators that is more squarely student-centered and equity-focused.”

According to Guerrero, the cuts were necessary to “protect high-priority areas such as school staffing and the district’s racial equity priorities.” The district has also said it’s elevating positions that interact more directly with schools, such as a chief of schools position and an area assistant superintendent role.

The school district presented its proposed budget to the school board Tuesday, kicking off a six-week public comment period.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

New Year in the Park

The public is invited to join Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and community partners for the 4th annual New Year in the Park festival, celebrating Cambodian, Lao, Thai and Burmese cultures. Experience cultural music and dance performances, food made from authentic recipes, vendors, traditional games and more. The daylong event at PP&R’s Glenhaven Park is free and open to all. PP&R will also reveal the final design for Glenhaven’s new playground, funded by the Parks Replacement Bond and System Development Charges from citywide construction revenue. Stop by the PP&R tent to see the draft final design. Translation in Vietnamese will be available. Thông dịch tiếng Viet. The event takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 28 at Glenhaven Park, NE 82nd Ave. and Siskiyou Street. For more information, visit newyearinthepark.com.

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fold. First, because census data drives funding for local governments, having accurate data on an area’s demographics is important for social service agencies – not to mention political representation. (Oregon, for example, is projected to pick up another Congressional seat after the next census.)

Advocates also worry the requirement could stoke some immigrants’ fears about interacting with the federal government – especially in the current political climate, in which some advocates worry about how the information will actually be used.

Anne Stacey worked for the U.S. Census in 2009 and 2010, taking surveys in outer southeast Portland, and said some residents were hesitant to speak to her even then. She described visiting a Spanish-speaking household where a child told her to come back later that day because her father would be home, and he spoke better English. Stacey gave the child a pamphlet, printed in several languages, that explained that the U.S. Census Department merely collects and aggregates information – and does not give individuals’ information to other government agencies, includ-

ing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Stacey returned at the suggested time and, she said, the whole family was gone.

“I feel guilty to this day that I didn’t speak enough Spanish to reassure them,” Stacey said. “I don’t think the Census should be a tool to make people afraid or to take away the ability to make sure areas get enough funding.”

Manjarrez noted many Latino families are “mixed-status” – that is, some family members are documented and some are not. Rising rents have also forced more families to “double up” in small spaces, likely increasing the number of mixed-status households in the Portland area.

Her organization is concerned about the fact that funding for the Census Bureau is flat – typically, in the years leading up to the 10-year count, the government increases funding to prepare.

Advocates are also worried about what the federal government will do with the information collected during the next census.

The number of deportations in the U.S. has increased sharply in the last 10

years and under President Trump, who repeatedly promised to crack down on illegal immigration during his campaign, Immigration and Customs Enforcement – the 16-year-old federal agency that enforces immigration law

“I don’t think the Census should be a tool to make people afraid

– has grown more aggressive in its surveillance and detention of immigrants in the U.S.

In 2007, historians confirmed the U.S. Census Bureau provided the Secret Service with the personal information of Japanese Americans, enabling the federal government to more easily locate and incarcerate individuals with Japanese heritage.

The Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, announced at the end of March it would reinstate a question about citizenship, which it has left off questionnaires

since the 1950s.

Shortly after that announcement, a broad coalition of local governments announced they would sue.

The lawsuit, filed April 3 in the U.S. District Court for the southern district of New York, was led by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and joined by the Attorneys General of New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia; the cities of New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Providence, San Francisco, and Seattle; and the bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Manjarrez said her organization is researching the issue and also working to determine the best ways to do outreach to the communities they work with – both about why the census is important and how to keep themselves safe.

“This is going to be a top priority for us over the next few years,” Manjarrez said.

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people – and by that I mean people who are non-White,” Thompson told *The Skanner*.

After Trump took office, Thompson got particularly interested in non-violent resistance. He said he learned more than expected.

“When people use the phrase ‘non-violent resistance,’ it tends to shut down thinking, because the term evokes images of Gandhi and King,” said Thompson, who added how both figures are a good starting point, but they tend to be aligned with a spiritual or saint-like path.

On the other hand, “if you use the term ‘civil resistance,’ then people think the only thing you can do is be out on the street waving a protest sign,” he continued.

In the aftermath of Clark’s death, Thompson is looking in a different di-

rection to channel his frustration.

“We’re going to come together to build community and talk among ourselves about how we can find righteous

“We’re going to come together to build community and talk among ourselves

and equitable solutions to problems – which the leaders of our dominate society have created – rather than shouting loudly to persuade them to do the right thing,” Thompson said.

In addition to constructive conversation, the host is encouraging activities such as stargazing, storytelling and live music. He is, however, asking for

the event to be alcohol-free.

Thompson is also reaching out to other African American heads of household to see if they would be interested in hosting their own ‘Backyard Night’ in different areas of the city. His plan is to host these events on a monthly basis through July.

“What I foresee is that these ‘Backyard Nights’ would be the beginning of people getting together and talking about what they themselves can do to generate solutions to the prevailing problems that we have,” said Thompson. The monthly events would also be an opportunity for attendees to spread the word about their own various initiatives.

To RSVP to Thompson’s ‘Backyard Night’ – or if you would like to host a night at your home – contact him at cthompson2020@gmail.com.

Let us show by this celebration that we are constructing a positive alternative. Join us @ #ATNightInMyBackyard

April Backyard Night

On Friday, April 27, the African-American Community of Portland invites you to a night of celebration, fellowship and hospitality – in our backyards!

In honor of Stephen Clark, who was murdered at night in his grandmother's backyard by officers of the Sacramento Police Department.

COURTESY OF CLARENCE THOMPSON

Insert from ‘Backyard Night’ flyer.