

Homeownership

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ermere Realty Trust in Portland.

"Homeownership rates are significantly lower among Oregonians of color," task force co-chair Rep. Mark Meek (D-Clackamas County) said, citing statistics from the Federal Reserve when opening the group's first

Manning added, "I want to make sure that the hourly wage earner, if they choose, can be able to purchase their home. But all too often the bar is too high. That means limitations on access to finance or capital."

The task force has been examining data from Or-

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meeting in September. "Sixty-seven percent of Oregonians of non-Hispanic White households are owners of homes in Oregon. Only 46% of Native American households are homeowners, and 37% of Latino households are homeowners, and 34% of American American and Black households, and as low as 24% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are homeowners in Oregon."

He and co-chair Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene) emphasized the correlation between home ownership and intergenerational wealth.

"We know that wealth all too often begins with owning property," Manning told *The Skanner*. "And if you're unable to own property, then you are very challenged on how you're going to build wealth – and more importantly, how you break the chains of generational poverty. So I think that right now we're in a good place to make sure that we bring the conversation out, call it what it is, and then develop these types of access to capital, streamline the processes, and make sure that the bar is at a level that is affordable."

regon Housing and Community Services. When the group meets again on July 29, it will specifically focus on specific barriers to homeownership it previously identified, including building costs, purchasing costs, housing supply, credit, insufficient funding for home ownership programs, mortgage lending, and housing programs and policy gaps. The task force will then meet again on August 14.

"We can identify things at the state level, and we can incorporate those and find out the actual federal laws are not being taken seriously," Manning said.

"Oregon can make a difference," Meek agreed. "And knowing the history of our state, we can change that narrative of who is welcome here, who can buy a home here."

Meek told *The Skanner* he is interested in exploring better financial education programs in schools, improved access to education for first-time homebuyers, and enforcing regulatory financing processes throughout the state.

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PCCEP

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emails, doing PCCEP-related work.

"A lot of my other work overlaps with this," Drury said. For the past four years Drury, who is originally from Wisconsin and moved to Portland by

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way of Philadelphia four years ago to social studies at Rosemary Anderson High School, recently accepted a new full-time position as executive director of Word is Bond, a Portland nonprofit created last year to improve relations between law enforcement and young Black men.

At a Tuesday-night PCCEP meeting on the PCC Cascade campus, the committee reviewed the Portland Police Bureau's annual report, a city-commissioned private survey on public attitudes toward and experiences with po-

lice and heard – but tabled – a request from a subcommittee member asking the city to offer more formal condolences to families of individuals killed by police.

Amanda J. Marshall, an Oregon City attorney who serves on PCCEP's subcommittee for people with mental illness (and who uses a middle initial to distinguish herself from former US Attorney for Oregon Amanda Marshall) said after meeting with Donna Martin, the sister of Andre Gladen, who was killed by police in January, the subcommittee arrived at some ideas for more sensitive handling of deaths caused by police use of force.

The family was still on traveling to Oregon when they learned that a grand jury had declined to indict Gladen, Marshall said, and received only a brief phone call informing them of the news. Gladen was legally blind and suffered from mental illness; police initially said he charged officers with a knife,

and later it was revealed the knife in question belonged to the officer.

The family also said, after a long meeting with Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw in February, they were told, in Marshall's paraphrase, "We're sorry this had to happen."

The family asked PCCEP to formally recommend that the city engage in a more detailed and tailored process for interacting with families affected by officer-involved shootings.

"We're not asking them to apologize because they'll never do that because their lawyers will tell them not to," Marshall said. "It would be nice to have a written letter of condolence tailored



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Métier Brewing First Anniversary

Rodney Hines, the co-owner of Métier Brewing pours a beer taster for a customer during the brewery's 1st Anniversary Celebration July 14. Métier is located in Woodinville and is the only Black-owned brewery in Washington. The establishment is family- and dog-friendly and, in its first year of operation, won two bronze medals at the Washington Beer Awards.

Homeless

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than 4,100 homeless individuals in Portland, representing almost a 10 percent increase in homelessness since 2015. While homeless individuals represent less than three percent of Portland's population, people experiencing homelessness represent more than half of all arrests in city in 2017, per analysis conducted by *The Oregonian*.

Inadequate Data, 'Mere Conversations' Lost in Documentation

The IPR report stresses the need for increased data quality controls and clearer written guidance related to documenting housing status. Insufficient data and irregularities hinder the bureau's ability to blueprint effective policing solutions.

"The Police Bureau has no written guidance for report writing or data entry to record a person's housing status. Officers said they received no verbal guidance either," reads a portion of the IPR report. "Sometimes a suspect may not want to tell officers where they live. In the past officers wrote 'refused,' but they

were told not to do that and enter 'transient' instead." Officers were also told not to use old addresses for those arrested."

Following an arrest, police of-

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ficers enter report data into a database known as the Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN). In its current iteration, this database does not include a field allowing officers to specify the housing status of an arrested person. Similarly, a "field related to mental health" currently exists in the database, however, "officers do not appear to use it," meaning the bureau is often missing opportunities to provide an additional level of detail to arrest reports.

Officers are not required to enter data or write reports if an interaction does not result in an arrest. Additionally, interactions such as "mere conversations" do not require documentation. At

the moment, there is no data related to instances where police officers refer individuals to a homeless shelter or requests a person to vacate a sidewalk. Data rep-

resenting all interactions with homeless individuals is needed to track and understand overall arrest rates for these encounters.

Policing Homelessness: Unclear Expectations, Gray Areas Abound

Pointing to previous programs – namely the 2016 'safe sleeping' pilot – officers made note of unclear and inconsistent expectations. The report also underscores "broad discretion" when it comes to homeless policing procedures and arrests. Clearer guidance from the Police Bureau and City Council could resolve some of these issues.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Committee members listen to survey results at a July 23 meeting of the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing.

to them." The subcommittee would also like police to "do something substantive with regard to this particular incident."

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