

The Oregonian

City seeking N/NE Portland housing assistance applications

By Jim Redden

April 27, 2016

The Portland House Bureau is now accepting applications for rental and home ownership assistance from longtime and former residents in North and Northeast Portland.

The applications are being accepted under a Affordable Housing Preference Policy adopted by the City Council that recognizes past city actions have displaced many residents in the rapidly gentrifying area.

The policy aims to address the ongoing impact of this legacy by giving priority to households with generational ties to North and Northeast Portland — current and former residents of specific areas that were subject to high levels of urban renewal, and their descendants.

The applications will be taken from May 2 to May 13. Applications are already online and will also be available by mail or at designated application locations.

For more information and to apply, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/article/570604#d.

Applications can also be requested by writing to: N/NE Preference Waitlist, PO Box 28289, Portland, OR 97228.

According to the city, whenever PHB housing in North and Northeast Portland becomes available, PHB will advertise an open application round for households to apply to receive preference for those openings.

Top priority will be given to households (and their descendants) who owned property that was taken by Portland government during the building of Memorial Coliseum or the expansion of Emanuel Hospital, for example. These are “priority status” households.

This will apply to rental apartments and ownership homes. Ownership options include down payment assistance, a grant to purchase a permanently affordable home, and self-help home ownership.

The Portland Mercury

City Approves More than \$31K to Help PSU Research Heavy Metal Pollution

By Dirk VanderHart

April 27, 2016

The City of Portland will spend more than \$31,000 on a new air and soil monitoring program to be carried out by researchers at Portland State University, the Portland City Council decided this morning.

As part of its twice-annual budget monitoring process (BMP or "bump") the council allocated \$65 million from various city funds, \$3.8 million of it from the all-purpose general fund. Among

that outlay was \$31,250, added to the emergency ordinance late at the request of Commissioner Steve Novick.

Novick announced this morning the money will go to study the "dispersion of metals in Portland soil and air," in the wake of revelations that Portland glass companies have been emitting chemicals like cadmium and arsenic for decades.

"I think that we've heard a lot of concerns about Portland's air quality in the past couple of months," Novick said before approving the total spending package. "A lot of citizens have been following this issue and raising concerns for years."

Novick, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, and other officials—including PSU Environmental Sciences and Management professor Linda George—will release more information about the new research effort early this afternoon. That announcement is expected to unveil a partnership between the university, county (which is also kicking in money), and city, and detail the use of technology to better track heavy metals throughout the city.

Outcomes from the research likely wouldn't have regulatory heft, and wouldn't be as forceful as a local air quality authority officials have mulled in recent months. Still, the studies should be able to increase understanding about where metals are present in the area

Stay tuned for more details.

The Portland Observer

Biggest Housing Push Ever

By Cervante Pope

April 26, 2016

In an effort to counteract an increasingly problematic housing crisis in Portland where soaring rents and housing costs have displaced thousands of residents, the Portland Housing Bureau has delivered its highest funding allocation to date to support the construction of affordable homes. Roughly \$47 million in both local and federal funding was earmarked last week for eight proposed affordable housing projects.

The city expects the support to create 585 new affordable housing units, as well as preserving another 255 units through renovation. Of the renovated projects, more than 120 of them are specifically targeted for the lowest-income households, meaning those earning at most 30 percent of the median family income.

Last fall, Commissioner Dan Saltzman ordered the Housing Bureau to dispense all of its available resources into Portland's housing emergency, including urban renewal funds allocated for future years.

The bureau will be working with Home Forward, Central City Concern, Bridge Housing Corp, REACH, and the Meta Housing Corp on these projects, with developments and renovations spanning from north and northeast Portland all the way to the Hazelwood, Lents and Montavilla areas.

The projects were selected to align with a new N/NE Neighborhood Housing Strategy, “A Home for Everyone” plan to end homelessness, and give priority to longtime and displaced residents under a new preference policy.

Additionally, the non-profit housing organization Human Solutions is negotiating with Portland housing officials on creating 40 affordable housing units for low income families in Gateway, as well as some specifically reserved homes for families at risk of becoming homeless or who are already homeless, and refugee families.

“This unprecedented level of funding is helping move the needle by providing affordable housing for vulnerable Portlanders,” said Kurt Creager, housing bureau director.

Creager said the projects also are expected to leverage an additional \$141 million in public and private funding and create new employment opportunities across the city.