

Faith leaders call on city to stop the public subsidy of bank profits through foreclosure evictions

As people of faith and leaders in our communities, we call on the Mayor and City Commissioners to stop spending public money on policies and practices that make bank profits more important than keeping families in their homes. Spending tax dollars on foreclosure evictions –as was done recently when Portland police were deployed on October 30th to aid in the eviction of Patricia Williams and her husband Darren from their SE Portland home – amount to public subsidy to bank profits and the profits of a developer industry that is poaching homes for profit in Portland.

We also ask that the City implement policy that specifically puts the welfare of homeowners, families and the community before the profits of banks. On the issue of confronting blight, for instance, we believe that policy that keeps people in their homes is the best solution, preventing blight before it occurs.

We write this letter to support the over 3,000 families throughout Multnomah County, now facing foreclosure.

The economic down-turn of the last four years has caused a crisis in our communities. While the banks were bailed out with our tax dollars, they are not extending a similar helping hand to those who are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure. Instead, the banks are taking this opportunity to seize property and are changing our neighborhoods for the worse. Families endure the trauma of displacement as neighborhoods are uprooted and blighted homes sit empty.

In a bank-caused economic crisis, that affects our community's jobs, access to healthcare, and ability to pay mortgages, combined with the ongoing efforts of banks to avoid responsibility, no foreclosure can be called fair.

This is a deeply moral issue that should have special significance to those who believe that we are called to be our brother's keeper, our sister's keeper. It threatens the very fabric of our community and is not in keeping with our shared values as Oregonians and people of Faith.

We see the patterns of greed and destruction wrought by banks. But when the question comes of a single family or homeowner, we are repeatedly asked to put the responsibility for the tragedy on them. It would be a moral failing not to hold banks accountable for the individual effects their actions have wrought. We must take a stand, house by house, and say "not one more home".

We, the undersigned leaders in communities of Faith, call upon the city to take the people's side against the powers of greed and corruption. Keep Portland families in their homes!

Signed,

Rabbi Joseph Wolf, Havurah Shalom
Rev. Lynne Smouse-Lopez, Albina Ministerial Alliance
Rev. Cecil Prescod, Ainsworth United Church of Christ
Rev. Mary Sue Evers, Cedar Hills United Church of Christ
Rev. Linda C. Stewart-Kalen, Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church
Fr. Jack Mosbrucker, Ret. Catholic Church
Ed Kaiel, St. Ignatius Justice and Peace Team
Fr. Bob Krueger, St. Francis Of Assisi Catholic Church
Marco Mejia, Coordinator, Faith/Labor Committee, Jobs With Justice
Joe Rastatter, Co-Chair, Faith/Labor Committee, Jobs With Justice
Robert Brown, Chair of Jubilee Oregon
Bishop Grace Osborne, Grace Fellowship Covenant Church

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Cecil Prescod [cecilprescod@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 4:27 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Request to testify before City council on November 7th

Dear Ms. Moore-Love;

I would like to be put on the agenda for the Portland City Council meeting on November 7th. I would like to present a letter signed by 27 clergy and faith leaders that addresses the foreclosure issue in general and Alica Jackson's situation in particular.

My home address is 28 NE Fargo Street #4. My phone number is 971-275-3032.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Cecil Charles Prescod, OCC
Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries
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*"The glory of God is man fully alive,
and the life of man is the vision of God."*
Saint Irenaeus

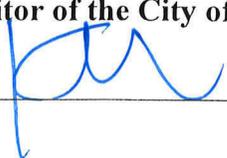
Request of Rev. Cecil Prescod to address Council regarding the foreclosure issue and Alicia Jackson's situation (Communication)

NOV 07 2012

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LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		