

Hi my name Raquel Valle and I am a resident in outer SE Portland. In August of 2014 I began organizing a tenants association at my property with other residents at Gladstone Square. We began organizing to get repairs done but to also get attention to tenant on tenant harassment. I work as a much needed Spanish interpreter to my community. I do this free of charge because I know the importance in providing people information to be able to stand up for themselves especially people in my Latino Community. In October of 2014 I received a letter from Cascade with allegations made towards me that were false and untrue. I believe this was retaliation for aiding in organizing my community to address harassment issues and maintenance issues. We have sent many letters with the assistance of Community Alliance of Tenants. Still we have many repairs that have not been completed. Earlier this month a Co2 leak was detected in our home. This would not have happened if the repairs would have been made when requested. The management does not do anything to help tenants and they allow other tenants to use racial hate speech and threaten members in my community. I have been called names threatened and watched other residents threatened even with deportation or ICE. The management company not only does not protect us with repairs that could be harmful they also allow tenants to remain on the property that attack people who are organizing to make it better and safer. They allow people to be attacked for the color of their skin and the language they speak.

Things have been getting way out of hand and they have heightened and even increased over the last month. We recently had a city inspector come to the property and since then one of our community members was given a 10 day notice.

I do not want to be afraid to leave my little sister and mom at home to go and follow my dreams and continue my education. I do not want to worry they will be attacked for trying to make our home better. I don't like racism I don't like to be judged for my color or being Hispanic or speaking Spanish. My family worked hard to get here we should not be allowed to be attacked in the place where we live. We need more affordable housing in Portland so people have options. We need more programs to provide education to the community and assist in outreach especially my Latino Community. People should not be afraid to ask for repairs or to contact the police if they are victims of crimes.

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