

I've voted Democrat all my life, and I'm long-time supporter of the Community Alliance of Tenants (over 5 years).

However this measure is ridiculous, and it will only cause problems.

This measure tries to make the landlord into some kind of parental figure who must hold the hand of an applicant throughout the process.

In no way should it be a landlord's duty to inform anyone of what the law already states. Landlords are not employers, nor are they the legal counsel of their applicants.

As a tenant, I neither need, nor want to receive extra dead trees from my landlord to tell me what I could easily find out for myself using the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of resources at Portland's libraries, including, free internet.

It is completely pointless to require a landlord to tell every applicant why they were not approved because:

- landlords often get tens or hundreds of applications for a single opening;
- therefore the reason for not accepting an application is almost always, "because you're not the people who paid me a deposit first," or, "because I could only rent this unit to one tenant, and that tenant is someone else, as it happens."

Even if that reason is given under oath, it's still not going to help, because there is no law that says a landlord needs to have a reason for not accepting someone's application to live on their property—nor is there any reason why they should have to have a reason.

Given how extraordinarily difficult it is for a landlord to evict a tenant nowadays, it's completely understandable that a landlord should want to thoroughly scrutinize and investigate any potential applicant, then accept someone based on who seems most likely based on past rental history, credit history, finances, employment, and referrals to hold up their end of the lease agreement.

If I break the law and am convicted, then I apply for housing before I have even found out whether I'm going to be sent to jail or not, why should a landlord not be able to take this into account?

Why should we alter the law to allow criminals to conceal their criminality from someone who is simply trying to evaluate that individual's ability to stay true to a legal contract for housing?

What madness is motivating such crooked propositions to be put forth to the legislature?

Could it be that the same criminals who vandalize Portland businesses on an almost nightly basis are now finding it hard to get apartments because, guess what, taxpaying, law-abiding citizens don't like it when you trash our city?

To insinuate that this issue is even remotely related to the question of racial justice is to spit on Martin Luther King's grave (something I'm sure these rioters would have done if Dr. King's place of peaceful rest was within loogy-shot).

Existing law already requires landlords not to discriminate based on race. Existing law already requires landlords to give a reason for not accepting an application if it's requested. Existing law already allows anyone to buy instead of rent, if they don't like rental law and dealing with landlords (ask me how I know).

We must fight against the urge to enshrine these unnecessary extra entitlements and protections for criminals into the law. There is no rational justification for these changes. It's just throwing small segments of red tape at landlords that will annoy and frustrate them, while doing nothing to actually help people find housing (except, maybe, some criminals who could now hide their malicious deeds).

What we need in this country for the cause of racial justice to succeed, is more and better jobs; more and better education; more and cheaper housing; faster and safer transportation; and less red tape for people who want to start a business or invest money.

What we don't need, is to prop up crooks. and add annoying paperwork around the simple act of choosing not to do something.

People need to learn to be responsible for themselves. Period