# Historical Context of Racist Planning

#### How land use planning segregated Portland

Individual / Explicit	Individual / Implicit Unconscious attitudes and beliefs. Example: Police officer calling for back-up more often when stopping a	
	<ul> <li>Prejudice in action – discrimination.</li> <li>Example: Police officer calling someone an ethnic slur while arresting</li> </ul>	Individual / ExplicitPrejudice in action – discrimination.Individual / ImplicitDiscrimination.Unconscious attitudes and beliefs.Example: Police officer calling someone an ethnic slur while arresting them.Example: Police officer calling for back-up more often



- Pivotal moment in time when we have the opportunity to do something differently
- Residential Infill Project, Better Housing by Design, Anti-Displacement Action Plan

But in order to move forward, we must first acknowledge our past ...







# Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule

- Provides a framework to more effectively further the Fair Housing Act
- "Recipients also must take actions to address segregation and related barriers for groups with characteristics protected by the Act, as often reflected in racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty."

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Final Rule"

#### Key Points in Portland's Racist Planning History

1900-1930	Early Zoning
1924	Portland's first zoning code
1930s-1980	Expansion of single-family zoning
1968	The Fair Housing Act
1977	Population Strategy
1980-Early 2000s	Contemporary Planning
1980	Portland's first Comprehensive Plan
1981-2000	Annexation of East Portland
1993	Albina Community Plan
1000	
1996	Outer Southeast Community Plan
2000	Outer Southeast Community Plan Southwest Community Plan

Early Zoning 1900 to 1930

# Buchanan v. Warley, 1917

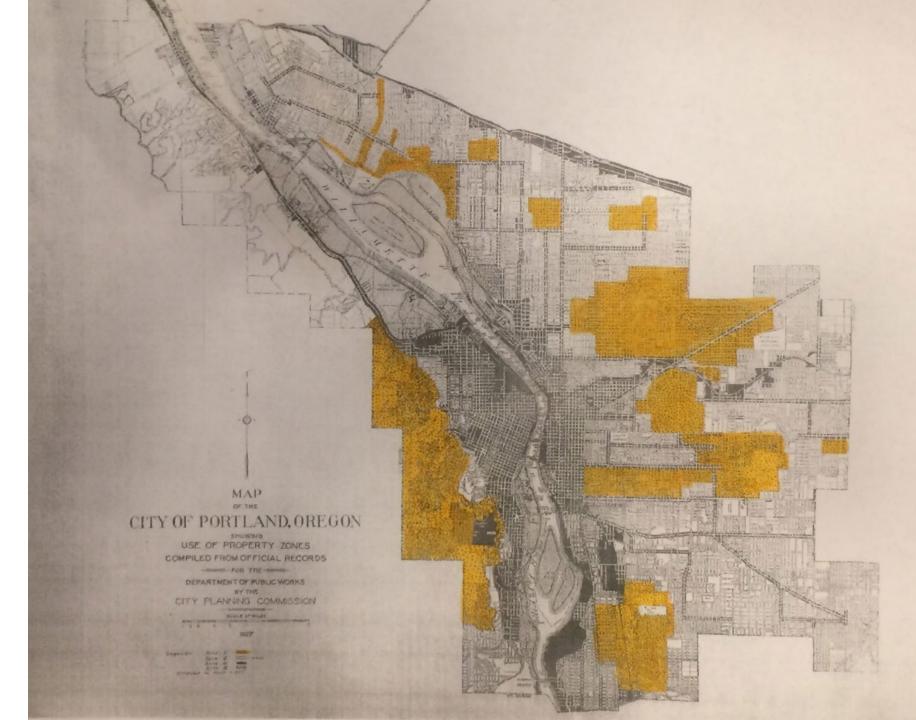
- In the early 1900s, some U.S. cities created separate areas for black and white households
- Ordinances overturned in the Supreme Court case Buchanan vs. Warley
- Many cities found workarounds and continued to segregate using other zoning tactics

RACE SEGREGATION LAW IS ATTACKED Louisville Case Argued in Supreme Court; Other Cities Affected.

WASHINGTON, April 10.-Constitutionality of race segregation ordinances was argued Monday before the supreme court in a case investigating the validity of the Louisville, Ky. regulation, mak-

## Portland's First Zoning Code, 1924

Zone I - Single Family



# Racially Restrictive Covenants in Deeds

premises have a frontage on two streets, the foregoing 20-foot restriction shall apply as to each of such front streets); nor shall said premises or any building thereon be used or occupied otherwise than strictly for residence purposes (or for church or school purposes, and then only with the prior consent of the first party, or its successors or assigns); nor shall the same or any part thereof be in any manner used or occupied by Chinese, Japanese or negroes, except that persons of said races may be employed as servants by residents; nor shall any old buildings be placed on said premises; nor shall any building or any part thereof, on said premises, be erected, maintained or used for flats, apartments, stables, stores or business or manufacturing purposes; nor

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Racist covenant found in Laurelhurst, 1913

#### **Concentration of African Americans in Albina**



board will not be permitted to sell property in white residence districts of this city to colored people or orientals if a proposed amendment to the code of ethics governing the board carries at

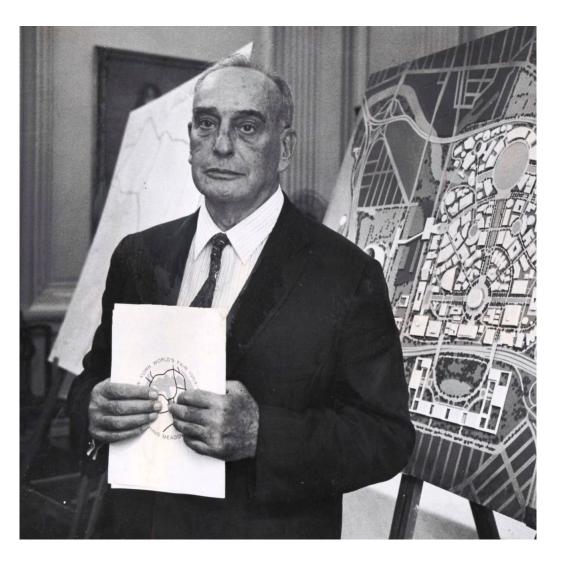


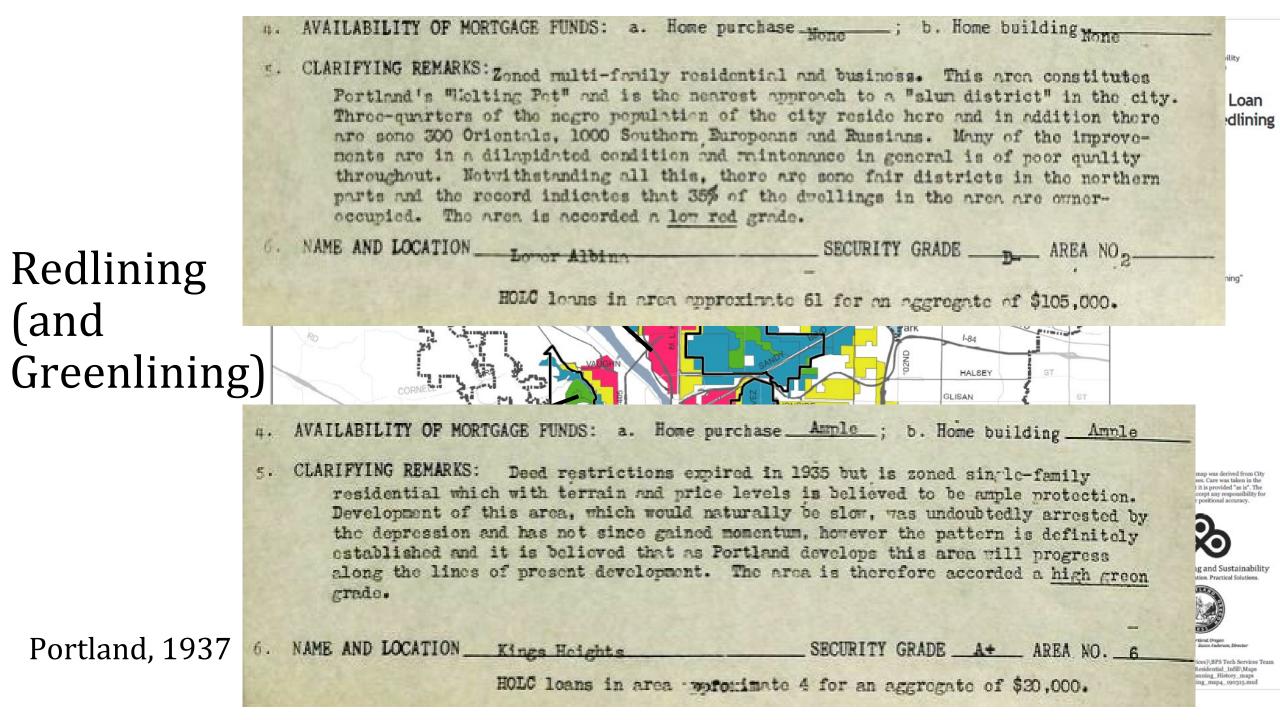
Source: OPB

## Expansion of Single-family Zoning 1930s to 1980s

#### Robert Moses' Portland Improvement Plan, 1943

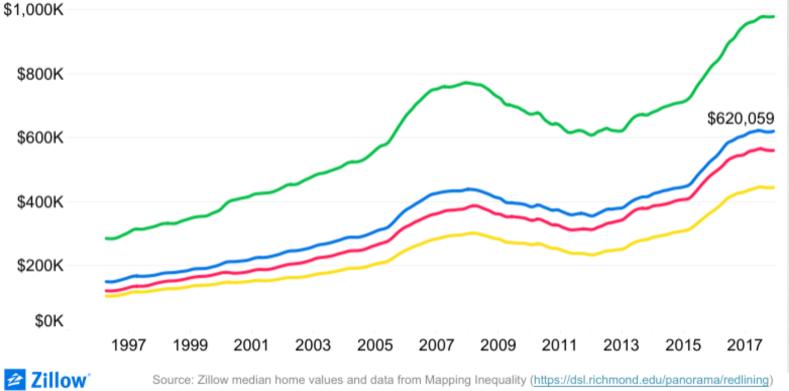
"Excessively large areas have been zoned for apartments, occupying 40% of the total area of the City. **Portland is a city of single family homes.** We are therefore of the opinion that only a very small percentage of the area of the City should be set apart for multiple dwellings."

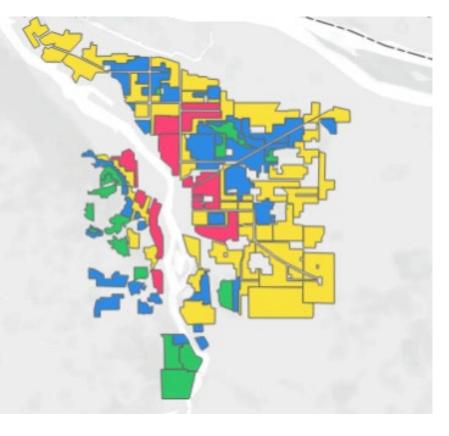




#### Home Values Still Lag in Most Redlined Neighborhoods

Median home values for areas the government designated best, still desirable, definitely declining and hazardous for mortgage lending





Source: Zillow median home values and data from Mapping Inequality (https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining)

# 1959 Zoning Code

- Expansion of single-family zoning
- Duplexes and apartments
   outlawed in much of the city

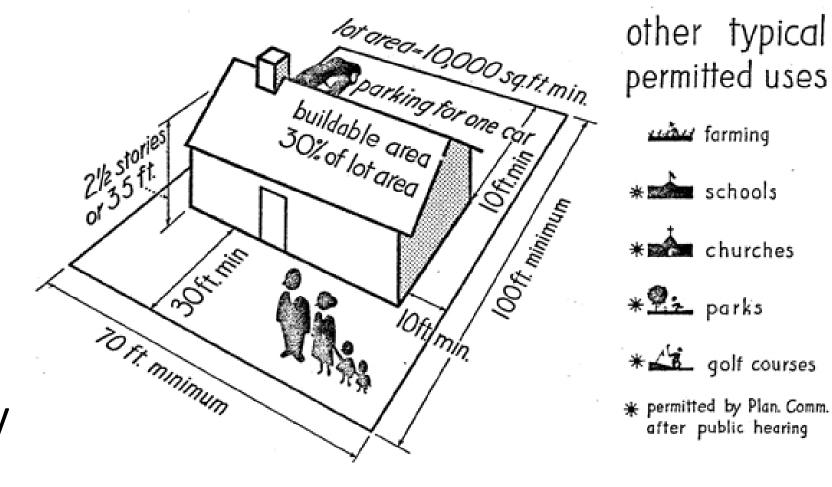


Illustration of R10 One-Family Residential Zone, 1959

# National Context

#### Fair Housing Act, 1968

• Prohibited discrimination in housing based on federally protected classes

#### **Community Reinvestment Act, 1977**



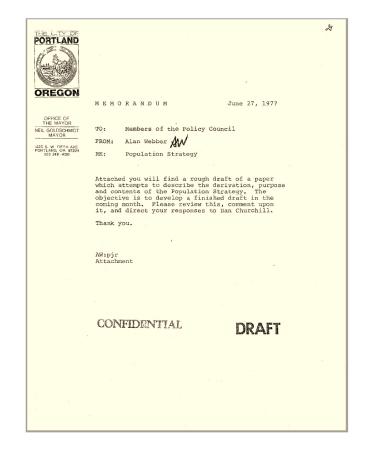
- Financial institutions must provide credit assistance to all neighborhoods, especially those historically affected by redlining
- Banks still continued to discriminate in those areas

## Contemporary Planning 1980 to Early 2000s

# Population Strategy, 1977

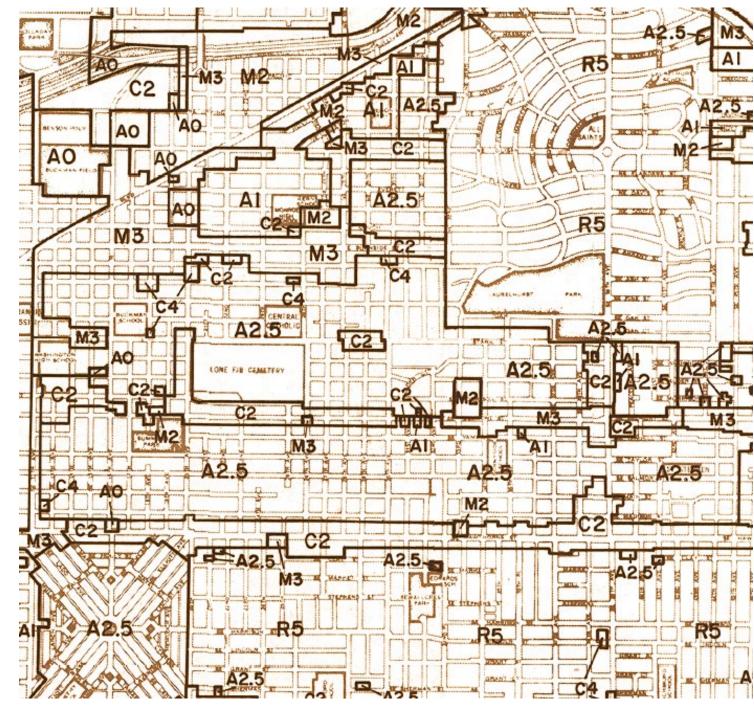
"Increasingly the city is becoming a community of extremes, populated by the young and the old, the lower income and unemployed, minorities and renters."

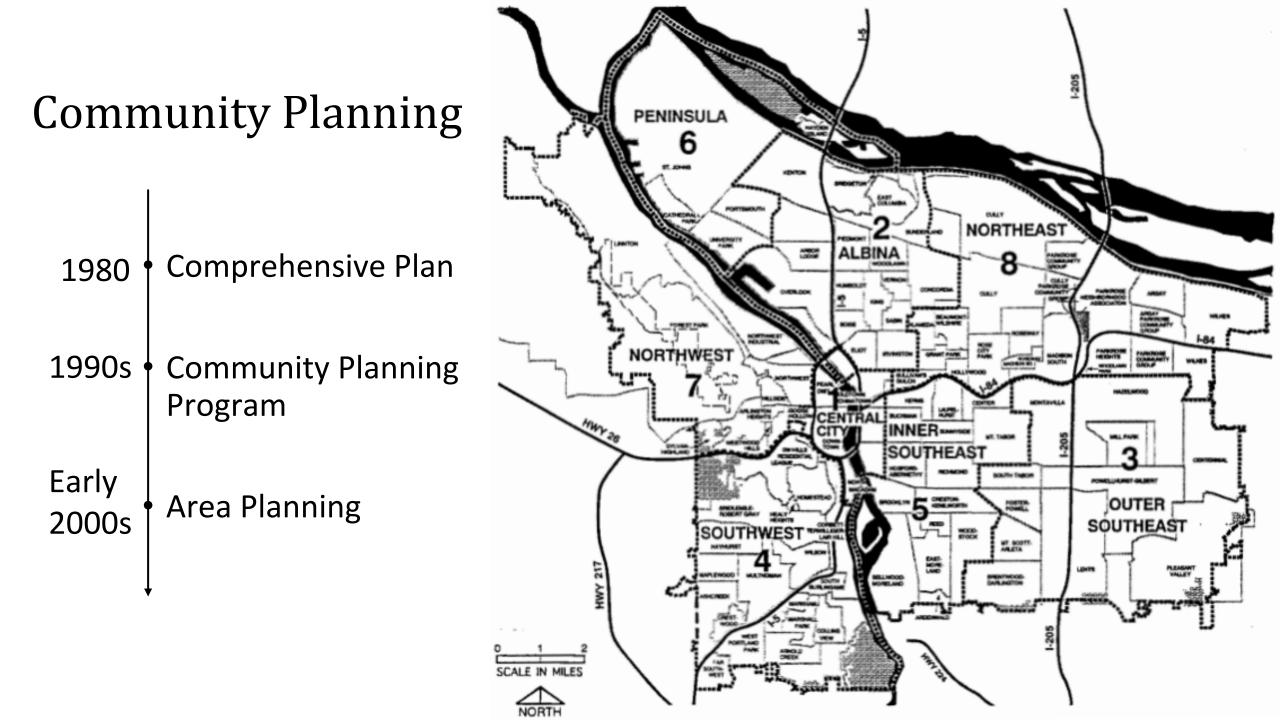
- Prioritized educated, employed, middle class families to reverse "white flight"
- Guided the 1980 Comprehensive Plan



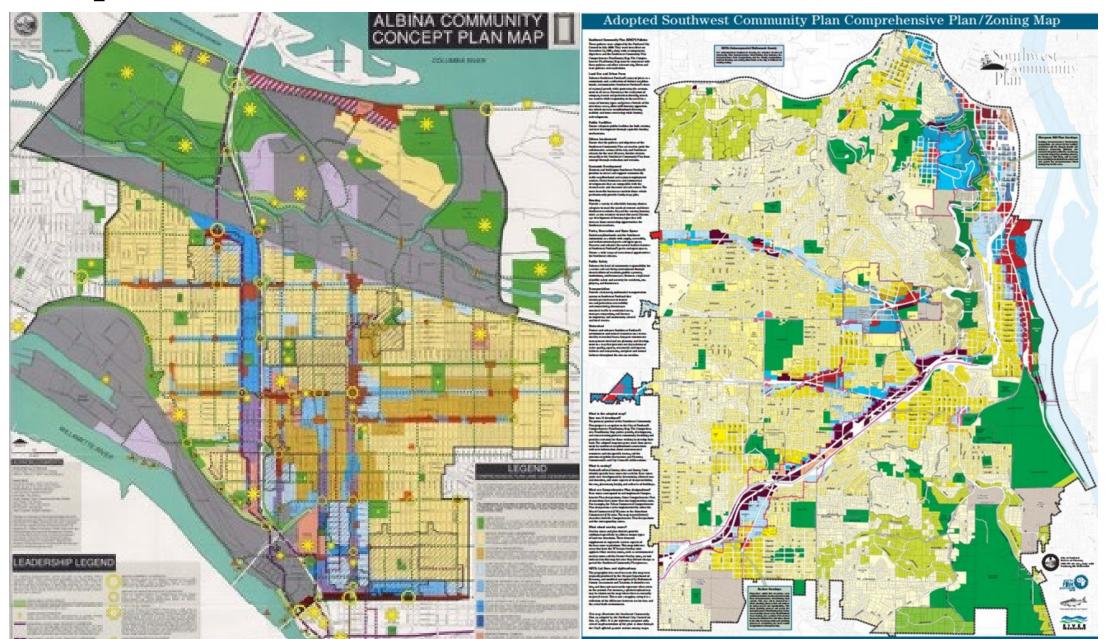
## 1980 Comprehensive Plan

Map of inner SE Portland, 1979

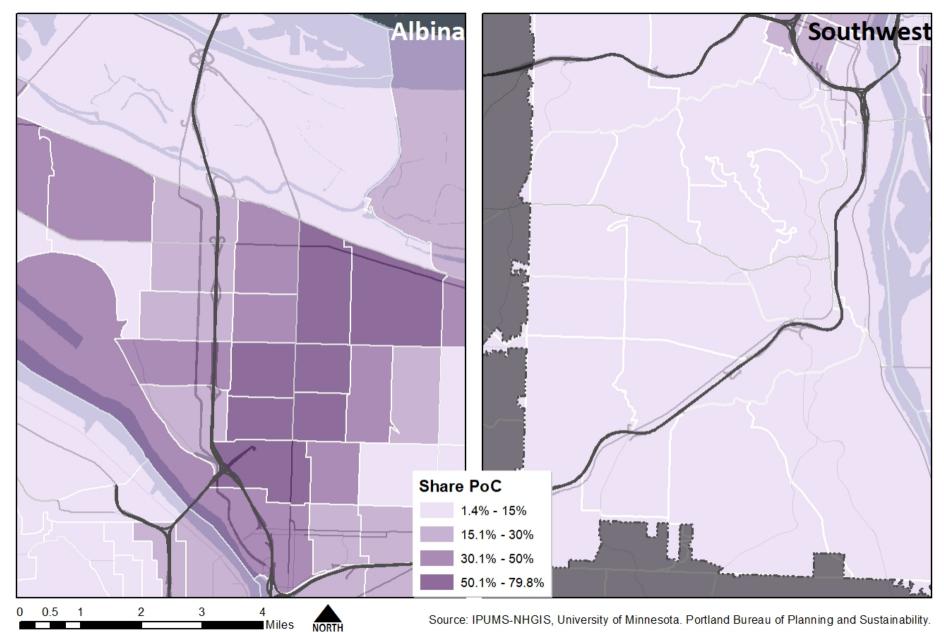




## Disparate Treatment: Albina vs. Southwest



#### Share of People of Color in 1990: Albina vs. Southwest



# Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area (ICURA) Plan, 2000

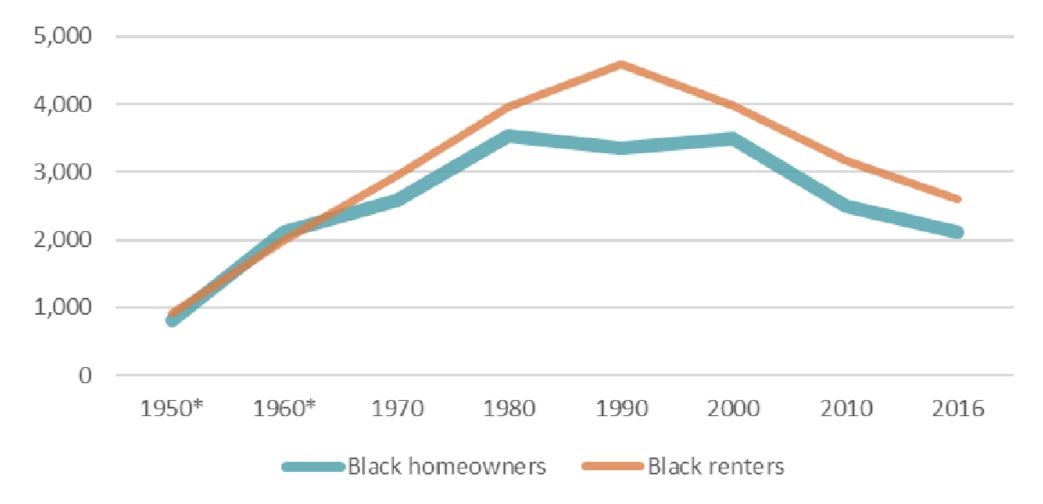
• Goal #6 of the Housing Strategy:

"Increase the housing stability of existing residents and **protect them from involuntary displacement caused by gentrification**, increases in housing costs and loss of housing choices."

- Promised 2,000 units of affordable housing in the area.
- The City **failed** to implement these anti-displacement goals.

#### NUMBER OF BLACK HOUSEHOLDS BY TENURE

**INTERSTATE CORRIDOR URA, 1950 - 2016** 



\* 1950 and 1960 censuses mark race of householder as either white or non-white. Source: University of Minnesota, NHGIS. Portland BPS.

## Racial Equity in Planning Current Era

#### VisionPDX, 2008

Engaged community members, particularly underrepresented groups, in shared vision of Portland

### The Portland Plan, 2012

"Advancing equity in Portland means improving the way the city works — starting with how the city government and its partners make decisions, invest, and engage with Portlanders and each other to measure success."



## Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, 2011

- City of Portland, City of Gresham, and Multnomah County
- Fair housing complaints, demographics, mortgage data, zoning, and land use policies
- Findings:
  - Single-family zoning contributes to overwhelmingly high white student body at Alameda Elementary and Grant High School
  - Low-income residents and communities of color concentrated in low opportunity areas

## City's Response: New practices and investments

- Fair Housing Advocacy Committee Portland Housing Bureau
- Annual State of Housing report Portland Housing Bureau
- Preference policy for Northeast Portland Portland Housing Bureau
- Opportunity mapping Portland Housing Bureau
- Housing Bond Portland Housing Bureau
- Landlord discrimination testing Portland Housing Bureau
- Rental Services Commission, Rental Services Office Portland Housing Bureau
- Tax Exemption Program changes Portland Housing Bureau
- Inclusionary Housing Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

#### Offices of Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Bureau of Development Services - 2015

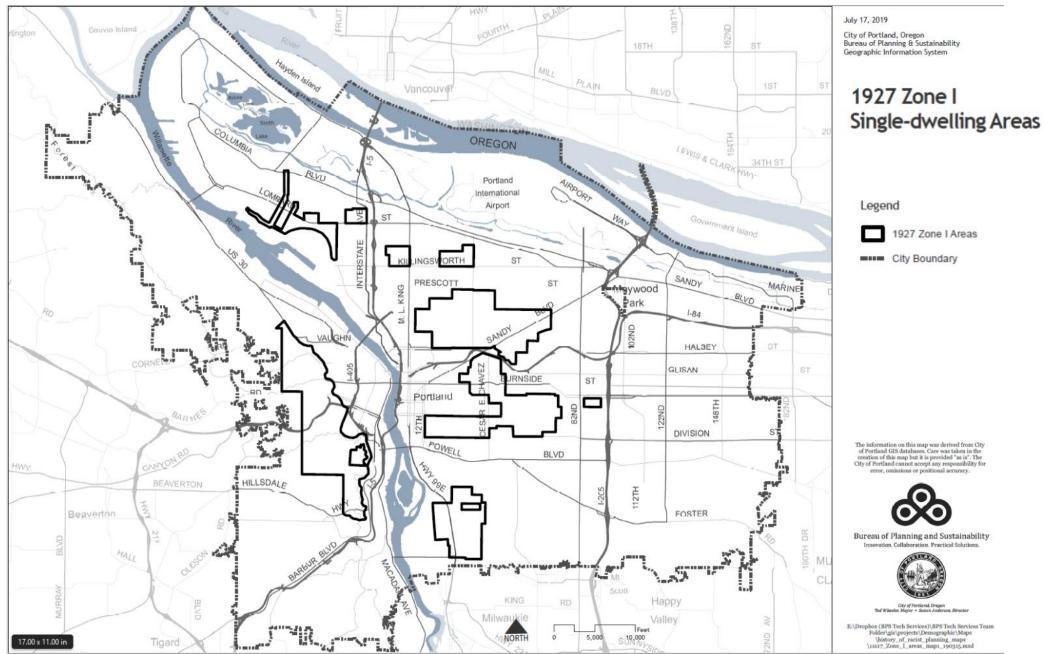
# 2035 Comprehensive Plan, 2016

- 5.10: Coordinate with fair housing programs
- 5.11: Remove barriers
- 5.12: Impact analysis
- 3.3.f: Coordinate housing, economic development, and public facility plans and investments to create an integrated community development approach to **restore communities impacted by past decisions.**
- 5.18: Rebuild communities

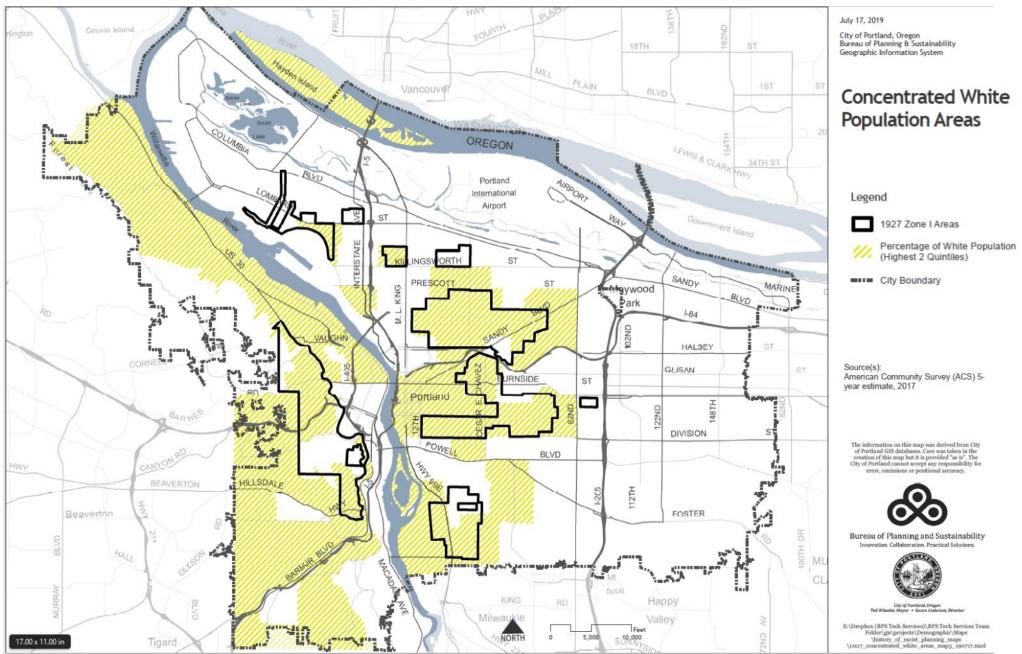


Current Land Use and Demographic Conditions

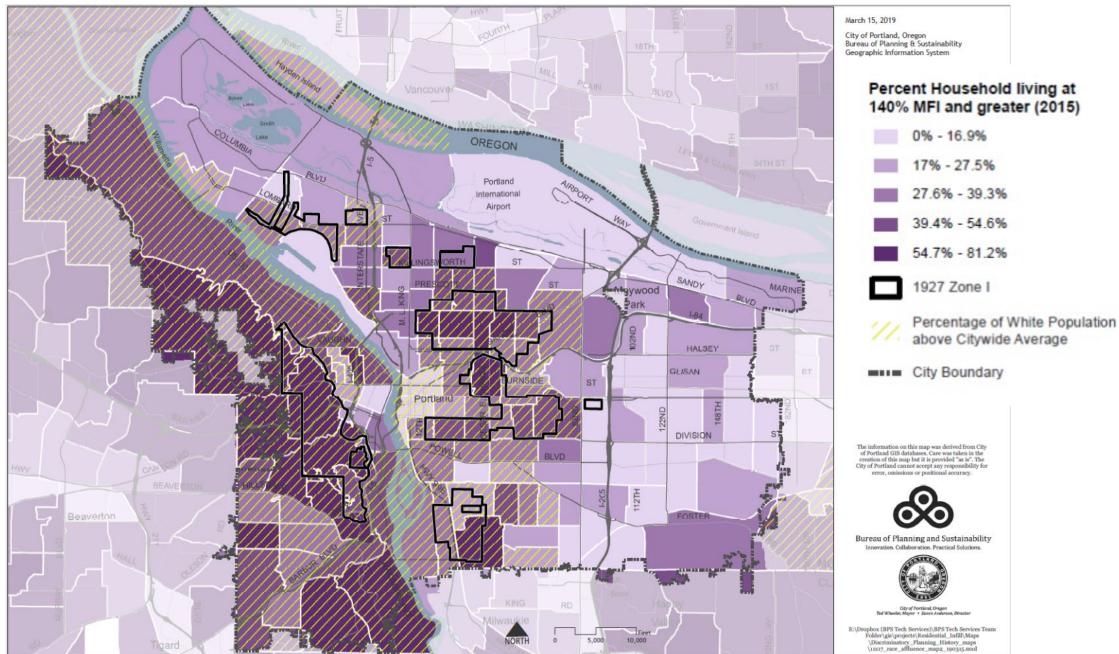
#### **Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence**



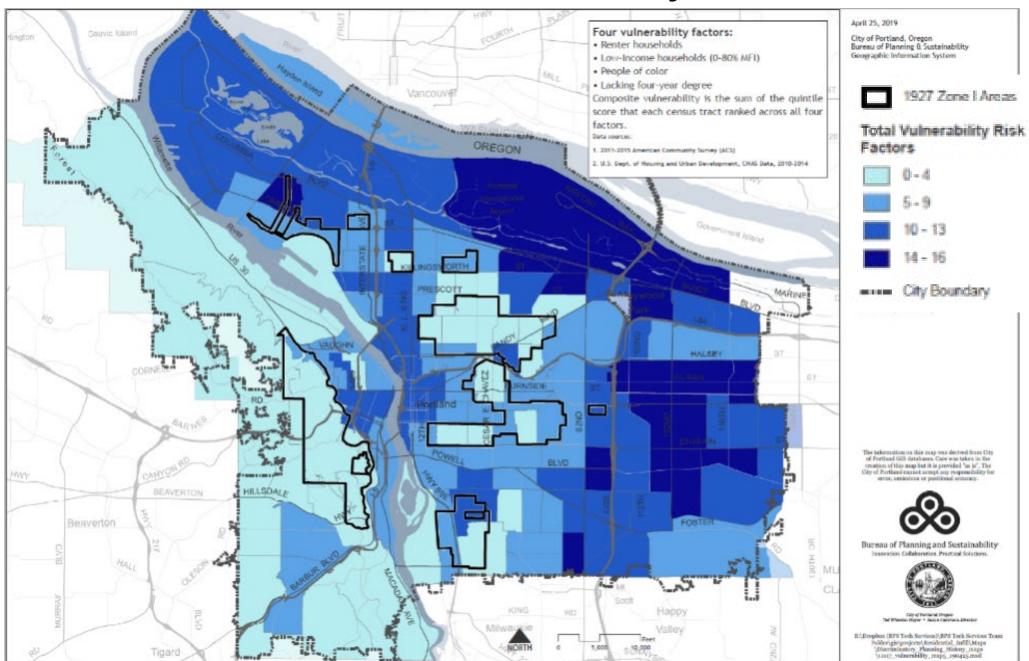
#### **Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence**



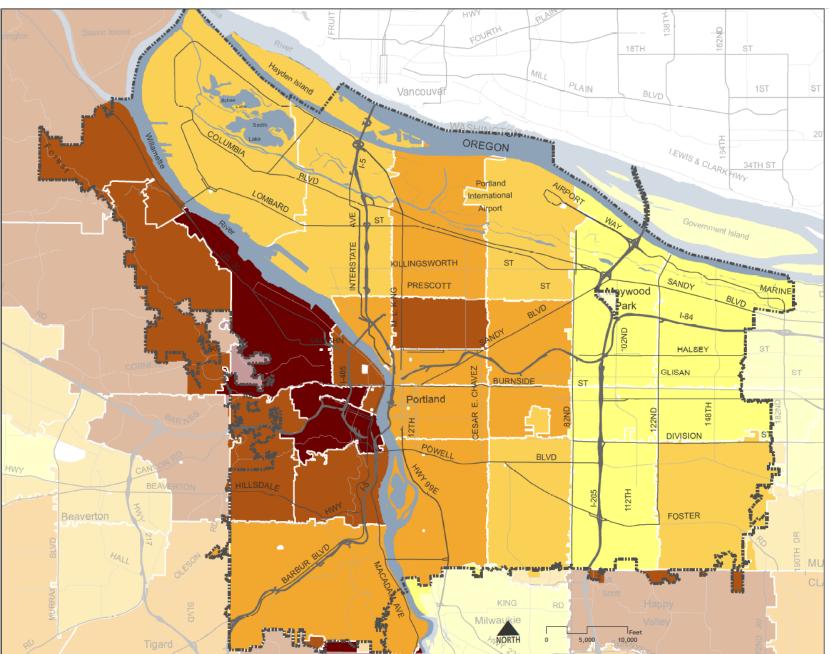
#### **Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence**



#### Areas of Vulnerability



#### Average Mortgage Interest Deductions



July 30, 2019

City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Planning & Sustainability Geographic Information System

#### Average Mortgage Interest Deduction (MID), per Claimant

Legend

Average MID, per claimant (2016)



The information on this map was derived from City of Portland GIS databases. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". The City of Portland cannot accept any responsibility for error, omissions or positional accuracy.



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

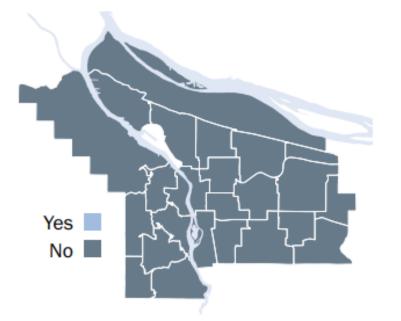


City of Portland, Oregon

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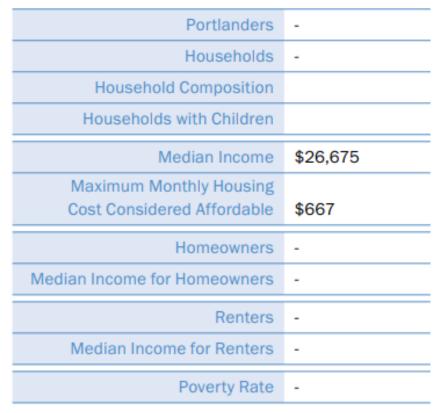
#### Homeownership Affordability

# **Average Black Household**



On average, a **Black** Portland household could afford to purchase a home without becoming cost burdened and spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing, not including taxes, insurance, or utilities, as indicated below.

#### AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD PROFILE



"Hold the City, County, and Metro accountable for the HUD mandate to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing by **ending racial segregation** from opportunity, providing **community development** and **investment without displacement**."



# Significance

- Current zoning patterns uphold and reinforce past harmful practices of exclusion and speculation
- Exclusion in some areas contributes to displacement in other areas
  - Inequitable benefits for privileged white homeowners
  - The Black community and other people of color have been repeatedly excluded, displaced and otherwise harmed

This is unacceptable. We are obligated and authorized to do better.

# Questions

- 1. What is coming up for you after hearing this history?
- 2. How might lessons from this history be applied to how our city develops today?

# Resources

Videos:

- Segregated by Design: <u>www.segregatedbydesign.com</u>
- Invisible Walls Shutting You Out? <u>www.sightline.org/upzoning</u>

Books:

- The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein
- Zoned Out! by Tom Angotti and Sylvia Morse
- Capital City by Samuel Stein

