CAMPAIGN POLICY BRIEF · ATIIM.ORG · ATIIM4PORTLAND@GMAIL.COM

EVERY VOICE MATTERS

The Research Behind the Priorities

This brief presents the research and data behind Atiim Boykin's six platform priorities for Portland City Council At-Large 2026. Every statistic is sourced from primary, peer-reviewed, or government sources. Atiim is a mental health clinician, community organizer, artist, and 20-year public servant — running on the belief that barrier removal, equity, and evidence-based policy can make Portland work for everyone. Each priority name links to its full research brief.

64%	$48K	7.4%	$86M	80
ME HOUSEHOLDS UNABLE TO AFFORD MEDIAN HOME	INCOME GAP VS. MEDIAN HOME PRICE	PORTLAND PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FY2026	PORTLAND NONPROFIT ARTS ECONOMIC BOOST	PORTLAND PED & BIKE CRASHES, 2025

Sources: MaineHousing 2026 · Maine Development Foundation · Portland Press Herald · Americans for the Arts AEP6 · Bicycle Coalition of Maine 2025

Who Is Atiim Boykin?

Atiim Boykin is a mental health clinician, community organizer, musician, painter, and spoken word poet with more than 20 years of experience across nonprofits, government agencies, and community-based initiatives. He served as Director of Clinical Case Management for the Young Adult Court (YAC) in San Francisco — part of the founding team of a first-of-its-kind collaborative court for criminal-justice-involved young adults. He has worked in forensic intensive case management for Maine DHHS across Cumberland County, and now serves as Clinical Liaison for Maine State Forensic Services. Boards: Cultural Alliance of Maine, Portland Ovations, Avesta Housing. Circle of Advisors: Indigo Arts Alliance. Graduate, Leadership Portland 2022. MA, Counseling Psychology (USF) · MHRT-C (ME) · MFT (CA).

> *"Barrier removal is central to my career. Anything I do professionally or creatively promotes community health, renewal, and resilience." — Atiim Boykin*

■■ THE PORTLAND ADVOCATE · atiim.org

Weekly newsletter from the doors, the neighborhoods, and the people who make Portland what it is. Real conversations. Real data. Every Thursday at 7:30 AM.

Every statistic in this brief is sourced, dated, and cross-checked — because Portland deserves a councilor who does the reading before making the promise.

Six Priorities — Research & Links

Each priority is backed by independent national research and proven models. Click any priority name to open the full research brief.

PRIORITY 01 — Housing That Works

ME households unable to afford median home rose from 39% (2020) to 64% (2024). Income gap: $48,000. The city's own 2025 Housing Report shows the gap between approvals and completions plainly: 1,420 units approved in 2025 (a record), just 187 completed. Since 2017 Portland has added 3,669 units — beating its own goal by nearly 43% — yet the affordability gap persists because the units approved and the wages people earn still don't meet. Policies: recalibrated inclusionary zoning where developers choose their own path, IZ-free pilot zones on identified sites, density bonuses, artist live/work housing, essential-worker housing on public and institutional land, and One Door coordination with homelessness response.

Sources: City of Portland 2025 Housing Report · MaineHousing 2026 · Maine Development Foundation · Terner Center, UC Berkeley · Artspace Projects

PRIORITY 02 — Caring for Our Coast

Caring for our coast means both the small scale and the large. On land: moving from bags to secured bins to stop the litter fouling our streets and harbor — while honestly accounting for the non-tax revenue the purple-bag program brings in, so any change is funded, not passed to property taxes. Offshore: Portland hosted 100 cruise visits in 2025, with 144 scheduled for 2026 (+44%). Scrubber wastewater discharge is toxic to Casco Bay marine life. Tariff 11 (2026) raised fees but stopped short of a discharge ban; Seattle already bans berth discharge. Same coast, two scales, one responsibility.

Sources: NewsCenter Maine 2026 · Friends of Casco Bay · Portland Cruise Control of Maine · Portland Press Herald · Waste Dive

PRIORITY 03 — Keeping Us Safe

The most likely way a Portlander gets hurt this year is a car. Four pedestrians were killed on Portland's streets in the span of four months in 2025, and the city recorded nearly 80 pedestrian- and bicycle-related crashes and fatalities — statewide, 26 people walking or biking died, the deadliest year since records began in 2003. Beyond traffic: every diversion program in Maine, including LEAD, screens out anyone with a violent charge or history, without exception — the person a neighborhood fears most is the person no program is built to reach. Maine's own Progressive Treatment Program allows court-ordered treatment for exactly that population, yet only 78 people statewide are enrolled, and a 2022 bill to fund officer training on it died in Augusta over a $272,000 price tag.

Sources: Bicycle Coalition of Maine 2025 · Portland Public Health 2025 · NewsCenter Maine 2025 · Maine DHHS 2024 · Jutola 2025 · Colorado BHA 2026 · Nature Human Behaviour 2025

PRIORITY 04 — Building Our City

Portland approved a $285.6M general fund budget for FY2026, raising property taxes 7.4% and drawing $8.8M from reserves. Not all economic development is equal — a data center displacing housing land is a different proposition than mixed-use development that houses families and employs tradespeople. MaineHealth is the state's largest employer; the care economy is Portland's quiet backbone.

Sources: Portland Press Herald, June 2025 · Maine MECEP 2026 · Prosper Portland FY2026-27

> **"The person a neighborhood fears most is also the person no diversion program in town is built to reach — Maine has a legal tool for that gap, and it's sitting almost unused."**

PRIORITY 05 — Growing Our Community

400+ people who sought Portland's Homelessness Services Center (2024-2025) came from other Maine towns — this is a regional responsibility, not Portland's alone. Community connection reduces crime, improves mental health, and increases resident retention. Across 15 neighborhoods walked since June, neighbors named the same thing they love: knowing each other. Open streets, participatory budgeting, and New Mainer civic integration are proven tools Portland can adopt now.

Sources: NewsCenter Maine 2025 · Harvard Kennedy School · Portland canvass record 2026

PRIORITY 06 — A Place for the Arts & Artists

Portland nonprofit arts delivered an $86M economic boost (2022), supporting 1,872 jobs — and statewide, Maine's creative economy is a $2.5B industry supporting 18,700+ jobs. Maine ranks 35th nationally for public arts funding. 90% of State Theatre employees cannot afford to live in Portland. Denver's arts tax fund distributes $85M annually. Portland needs its own Arts & Culture Fund, and to fund public art like the infrastructure it is.

Sources: Americans for the Arts AEP6 · Cultural Alliance of Maine 2025 · NASAA 2024 · Mainebiz 2023 · Colorado CBCA 2025

The Whole City Is Connected

These are not six separate boxes. Housing is a safety issue. Safety is an economic issue. The arts are a housing issue. Underneath all six runs a silent partner — the economic engine. Everything funds or costs something, and this campaign names that out loud: what we're clear about, and what we're still working on. That's what "WITH" means — governing with the city, every part in relationship to every other part.

> *"Research your own experience. Absorb what is useful, reject what is useless, add what is essentially your own." — Bruce Lee, Tao of Jeet Kune Do*

Join Our Movement

This research exists because neighbors keep opening their doors and telling the truth about this city. If any of it resonates, there is a place for you — knocking doors, texting voters, tabling at a market, hosting eight neighbors in your living room, or simply bringing one friend.

▸ Read the Volunteer Brief

The Saturday Call · 2 PM · register once, join any week (Aug 8–Oct 31)

▸ Full Résumé & CV

"ah-TEEM" means our team. This was never going to be one person's campaign.

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Every Voice Matters.
WITH — always.