



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMISSIONER STEVE NOVICK
1221 SW 4th Ave. Suite 210
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: 503-823-4682
Fax: (503)-823-4019
novick @portlandoregon.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioner Novick's statement on the Mayor's FY 2013-2014 proposed budget

Portland, Oregon | April 30, 2013— I am very pleased with, and frankly relieved by, many of the choices the Mayor has made in his proposed budget. I was thrilled to see that the Mayor preserved the safety net programs for our most vulnerable citizens. I was glad to see small but vital livability programs such as graffiti removal and noise control preserved. I am also glad to see the East Portland Action Plan and the David Douglas SUN school programs preserved.

I expect to see continuing discussion of how savings in the Fire Bureau budget will be achieved. I have made no secret of the fact that I believe a restructured Fire Bureau should do what the ambulance service does, and have different staffing levels at night than during the day, given that day call volume is much higher. Ideally, I would like to see movement toward that change in this budget.

I believe the Mayor has made responsible and necessary adjustments to the Police Bureau budget. I am pleased that in order to preserve the Bureau's diversity gains, the Mayor proposes using bridge funding to limit immediate layoffs. I offer one gentle criticism: it does not make sense to me to make deeper cuts in the Bureau's property crimes investigation unit than in the Drugs and Vice Unit, which tries to interrupt the supply of drugs. The 40-year national "war on drugs" effort to interrupt the drug supply has not exactly been a rousing success. On the other hand, the situation in which the average Portlander is most likely to call the police is when he or she has been the victim of a property crime. I would like to see fewer cuts to property crimes investigations, paid for by deeper cuts to the Drugs and Vice Unit.