

## **The Oregonian**

### **Ted Wheeler: Climate Protection and Economic Development Go Hand in Hand (Guest Opinion)**

*By Ted Wheeler  
February 2, 2018*

The Oregon Legislature is poised to consider landmark climate legislation in the upcoming short session. The Clean Energy Jobs bills would raise \$700 million per year by requiring the state's largest emitters to pay for putting carbon pollution into the air. The revenues would be re-invested into communities across the state.

The bills will stimulate hundreds of million dollars in economic activity, which is good for all Oregonians. But the legislation specifically focuses investments in rural and urban communities that are most at risk of being disproportionately affected by climate change, and supports economic diversification and workforce training.

Repeatedly, the bill's opponents have said, "Now is not the time to pass climate legislation in Oregon." On this, we might agree. The right time probably was 20 years ago. More time is a luxury we do not have.

The Third Oregon Climate Assessment Report published by Oregon State University researchers warns that climate change is already evident in Oregon. We can expect more summer wildfires and more winter floods, costing lives and millions of dollars in damage and recovery efforts. Sea level rise and ocean acidification already threaten coastal communities. Oregon's signature industries -- its forests, fisheries, farms, vineyards, ski areas -- are affected by climate change. People will suffer more heat-related illnesses and death.

Opponents have claimed that regulating carbon will hurt the economy and businesses. The economies of California and British Columbia prove otherwise. The Oregon Business Alliance for Climate and more than 800 businesses across the state have endorsed the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

Portland has been working to address climate change for nearly 25 years and has steadily cut carbon emissions for more than a decade. Since 1990, Portland has welcomed 33 percent more people and grown jobs by 24 percent, while reducing total carbon emissions by 21 percent. This demonstrates that reducing carbon emission can go hand-in-hand with growing the economy and population. In fact, it is imperative that our region transitions to low-carbon economy to effectively compete with the rest of the world: From China to our neighbors in California and British Columbia, other regions are enacting policies to reduce carbon emission and drive innovation.

The trading mechanism proposed in Clean Energy Jobs is based upon sound free-market principles. It will allow emitters to find the most cost-effective ways to meet emissions reduction goals. It allows businesses to explore different technologies and processes while reducing emissions.

As contemplated in the bill, the emissions cap would not take effect until 2021, giving the state Environmental Quality Commission time to develop program details in consultation with stakeholders. The Clean Energy Jobs legislation will provide predictability and certainty for large carbon emitters.

And by reducing carbon pollution in our atmosphere, we are protecting our air, water, mountains, forests, deserts, valleys, coasts and rivers -- the astounding natural ecosystems that support all life and make Oregon the special place we call home.

Inaction now will cost Oregonians. The time for a responsible, economy-wide cap on carbon emissions is now.

## **Police Sweep New Homeless Camp, Village of Hope**

*By Molly Harbarger  
February 2, 2018*

Fifteen minutes before police arrived, Steve Kimes arrived at a new homeless camp called Village of Hope where about seven people slept in tents and on platforms.

At 7 a.m., about a dozen police and city park ranger vehicles pulled up to clear the muddy, forested hillside at Big Four Corners on the Columbia Slough and by 8:30 a.m. everyone had been moved off.

Police did not arrest anyone.

It was modeled after other homeless communities in Portland where residents follow rules, get hot food and have access to garbage removal. But Village of Hope didn't gain approval from city officials as Right 2 Dream Too or Dignity Village have.

Mayor Ted Wheeler made it clear from the start that he wouldn't sanction the budding "homeless village." He said that police offered homeless services to the campers who stayed at Village of Hope, but would not allow them to stay.

"Parks and natural areas are not appropriate places for building homes. Parks belong to everyone, and each has designated purposes established through community processes," said Wheeler and Commissioner Amanda Fritz in a joint statement. "We have learned from past experience that even well-intentioned, well-run camps draw other campers to the area which the organizers cannot control, causing environmental degradation that squanders previous investments in restoration work."

Village of Hope was founded by people who say the city's homeless population needs stability for folks to have a shot at getting back on their feet.

About a dozen activists huddled on the berms and median of Northeast Airport Way as the cleanup proceeded. They held signs, strategized and comforted the people who were evicted. Legal observers from the National Lawyers Guild interviewed witnesses and kept watch in their fluorescent green hats.

Barbara Dodge, who was sleeping in a friend's tent for a week while waiting for her own, said police gave campers 10 minutes to pack up and leave. She panicked in the chaos of being suddenly awakened and everyone moving, but managed to get her belongings moved out with the help of fellow campers.

For hours after, she sat on a rock on the opposite side of Northeast Airport Way, eating McDonald's breakfast sausage burritos that someone brought for the evicted campers and rolling cigarettes from tobacco she keeps in an underwater disposable camera case.

"That's my family, my friends, my everything over here," said Dodge, who has been homeless off and on for about seven years. "These are people I trust and feel safe and secure around."

Dodge's feelings are the reason advocates are pushing for the self-governed village model, even when city officials are resistant. The Joint Office of Homeless Services offered campers a bed in one of the public-owned shelters.

But often the people who choose these communities don't want to stay in a shelter, either because they want privacy, their experiences with trauma make it hard for them to be around so many people, or they struggle with the structure of shelter.

Kimes, a pastor for Anawim Christian Community and longtime homeless advocate, said that he was focused Friday on helping campers retrieve their personal possessions. Police usually bag those and keep them at one of their storage sites.

Some of the residents will then stay for the time being at one of the other self-governed homeless villages, he said.

Then, he and other advocates, including Ibrahim Mubarak, who helped start Right to Dream Too, will figure out their next moves.

"The goal is to establish a sustainable village that will help folks get off the street and we are still going to pursue that goal," Kimes said.

He said he reached out to the city when they started Village of Hope and several times throughout the process of raising platforms and building infrastructure -- but never heard back.

Wheeler and city and county officials advocated for a village for 14 homeless women in the Kenton neighborhood and haven't kicked people out of Hazelnut Grove, an unsanctioned tiny house village in the Overlook neighborhood that has been allowed to stay for several years.

Some advocates saw that as progress and hoped that officials would come on board with the Village of Hope effort. But now he doesn't expect that future plans for the village will include city input either.

Kimes said he's disappointed that Wheeler didn't open a new shelter in time for the winter. He's lost faith that top city officials are interested in helping homeless people, he said, and believes they're more interested in just removing them from housed residents' sight.

Ibrahim Mubarak said that's why they chose the largely wooded location near an industrial park.

"We try to sleep in neighborhoods, we try to sleep in the industrial district, we try to sleep downtown and they all chase us out like Frankenstein's monster," said Mubarak, who now lobbies for state tenant and homeless protection policies with his organization Right 2 Survive. "The million-dollar question is, where do we go?"

## **Cyclist leaving World Naked Bike Ride breaks bones, sues city for \$566k**

*By Aimee Green  
February 2, 2018*

A bicyclist is suing the city of Portland for \$566,000 after he hit a pair of concrete islands on Southeast Morrison Street, crashed and broke his nose, arm and two fingers on his way home from the World Naked Bike Ride.

Charles Ziemer was pedaling back to his car after participating in the ride -- and was fully clothed -- when his wheels suddenly struck the islands, according to his lawsuit filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court. They were a few inches high.

The crash happened at 12:25 a.m. on June 26, 2016. Ziemer's lawsuit faults the city for failing to put reflectors or lights on the islands and situating them in a lane of travel. That created a particularly dangerous obstacle for cyclists at Southeast Morrison and 11th Avenue, the suit claims.

No city attorney has yet been assigned to the case. But an employee at the Portland city attorney's office said the city doesn't comment on pending litigation.

The city transportation website states that there were 300 crashes -- by motorists and cyclists alike -- in a six-block section of Morrison Street, from Grand Avenue to 11th Avenue, over 10 years. But it's not clear if any of the other crashes involved the concrete islands Ziemer ran into.

The city also called the traffic configuration along that six-block stretch "unusual," but it's not clear if the city was including the concrete islands in that assessment.

It appears the concrete islands were set in place to encourage motorists in the far left-hand lane to turn left onto 11th Avenue instead of going straight onto Morrison, which would have put them into oncoming traffic.

Since Ziemer's crash and the 10-year crash study, the city dramatically reconfigured that section of road by making Morrison an entirely one-way street in that area. The city also put in a bike lane marked off by pylons and buffered from traffic by a parking strip.

But the concrete islands remain.

Ziemer, 61 and a Northeast Portland resident, was using a front headlight, but wasn't wearing a helmet, said Ziemer's attorney, Leah Johnson.

Johnson said a helmet wouldn't have prevented Ziemer's broken nose, mouth injuries that included two cracked teeth, broken arm and broken fingers.

The suit seeks \$66,000 in medical bills, plus \$500,000 for pain and suffering.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Children's Levy Extension Could be on May Ballot**

*By Jim Redden*

*February 4, 2018*

City Council to consider asking Portland voters to extend levy funding children's services on Wednesday.

The City Council will consider asking Portland voters to renew the Children's Levy for another five years at the May 15 primary election on Wednesday.

The levy, which was first championed by Commissioner Dan Saltzman and has been unanimously supported by the rest of the council, provides grants to nonprofit organizations that serve children.

The measure to be considered Wednesday would renew the existing local option tax at \$0.4026 per thousand dollars of assessed value and raise an estimated \$118.4 million over five years.

Voters first approved the levy in 2002. They renewed it 2008 and 2013. Levy funds have annually supported service programs for more than 14,000 children and hunger relief services to more than 15,000 children. It currently supports 74 different programs throughout Portland metro area, as well as in Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties. Examples include those operated by Hacienda CDC, Lifeworks NW, Janus Youth Programs and Meals on Wheels People.

A committee that oversees levy spending has ensured that it has kept its promises of spending no more than 5 percent of its funds on administration. According to the most recent audit, the funds are being correctly spent in the following areas:

**Early Childhood programs:** these programs offer early childhood education and intervention, parenting education and home visiting so Portland's at-risk children reach kindergarten healthy and prepared to succeed.

**Child abuse prevention and intervention programs:** these programs provide services to reach children affected by neglect, family violence, parental drug and alcohol use and homelessness. They also support stressed families most at-risk for abuse and neglect by providing intensive case management, therapy, counseling, respite care and parent education.

**Foster care programs:** these programs provide intensive academic support education advocacy for youth in foster care, work to help foster children develop a plan for the future, and provide services to help youth establish permanent connections.

**After school and mentoring programs:** these programs provide at-risk children with safe, constructive activities that promote academic achievement and provide positive and consistent adult and peer role models.

**Child hunger:** programs to improve children's access to nutritious meals, leading to improved health and academic success.

You can learn more about the levy at [www.portlandchildrenslevy.org](http://www.portlandchildrenslevy.org).

You can read the resolution and proposed measure at [www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/article/671771](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/article/671771).

You can read a previous Portland Tribune story on the levy at [portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/219524-78204-levy-hopes-to-put-food-on-kids-tables](http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/219524-78204-levy-hopes-to-put-food-on-kids-tables).

## **Willamette Week**

### **ACLU: City Sweep of Tent Village “Certainly Shameful,” Possibly “Unlawful”**

*By Rachel Monahan  
February 3, 2018*

In an open letter published Friday night, Mat dos Santos, legal director for the ACLU of Oregon, criticizes Mayor Wheeler's decision to sweep village set up last weekend.

The ACLU of Oregon sharply criticized the city's decision to sweep a newly erected homeless tent village Friday, but stopped short of promising legal action.

"The City's actions may have been unlawful; they were certainly shameful," wrote Mat dos Santos, legal director of the group, in an open letter to the city of Portland posted to the ACLU website on Friday.

"But let's keep the focus on the people of Portland, many of whom live in poverty, unsheltered, or barely sheltered. Today, Portland is failing them. And when the City fails to protect its most vulnerable residents, it fails us all."

Village of Hope, as organizers called it, was set up on Portland Parks and Recreation property last weekend, the Portland Mercury first reported. (Organizers claim they established the village on land zoned for industrial uses.)

Dos Santos accuses the city of various constitutional violations in the way they sweep homeless camps and in the specific approach to Village of Hope:

As we have said before, the destruction of property owned by people who are living on the streets is likely a violation of the Fourth or Fifth Amendment. We believe sweeping people from tents when there are insufficient beds available for sleeping is a violation of the Eighth Amendment. And when Portland Police explicitly refused to allow National Lawyer's Guild legal observers to film law enforcement actions against village residents, they likely violated the First Amendment. Finally, when Park Rangers and other City officials took action against residents of the Village of Hope early today, they may have violated not only the U.S. Constitution, but also City Code.

City officials have said they store homeless people's possession, though WW has documented a case where that did not happen last year as well as raised questions about how often those items were stored in the past.

In a statement issued Friday, city officials said the Village of Hope occupied park land, not industrial land.

The also said they'd offered people in the Village of Hope the option of going to a shelter and had handled their possessions carefully.

"We are pleased that the camp cleanup at Big Four Corners occurred without incident this morning," said Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who is parks commissioner, in a statement Friday.

"Park Rangers and Police acted with courtesy and compassion, and assisted the two resident campers in gathering their belongings and moving off the site. Those camping were offered shelter options. The campers and organizers were cooperative, and no arrests were made."

## **Environmental Groups Blast New City-Funded All Timber Building for Shirking Environmental Standards**

*By Rachel Monahan  
February 2, 2018*

The innovative new material cross-laminated timber will be used to create the tallest all-timber high-rise in the United States. Enviros worry that promotes clear-cutting.

Developers could break ground as soon as March 1 on the nation's tallest all-timber highrise, thanks to a innovative building material hailed by Oregon's lumber industry and Gov. Kate Brown.

Boosters of the innovative product—cross-laminated timber—say it offers something for everyone: the potential to revitalize the rural Oregon timber economy and the potential to be friendlier to the environment than the building materials such as the concrete it replaces.

But now a group of leading environmental groups are raising questions about that last claim—and they are taking their argument to one of the new building's leading funders—the city of Portland.

Critics say the 12-story Framework building, which will be in the the Pearl District and include 60 units of affordable housing, relies on manufactured wood products that are not subject to sustainable harvest standards established by the Forest Stewardship Council.

"Without such a requirement, the City of Portland may be encouraging the already rampant clear-cutting of Oregon's forests," write a who's who of Portland environmental leaders in a Jan. 29 letter to Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.

The complete list of who signed the letter to the mayor: Audubon Society of Portland conservation director Bob Sallinger, Bark executive director Rob Sadowsky, Center for Sustainable Economy president John Talberth, Oregon Wild conservation director Steve Pedery; Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility executive director Kelly Campbell and Oregon Chapter Sierra Club conservation director Rhett Lawrence.

Cross-laminated timber is created by gluing together smaller boards to make large panels that can replace concrete and steel in a building's structure. Because the component parts do not need to be large, younger trees can be used to make CLT.

"Promoters of CLT argue that if large beams and construction materials can be made from small diameter wood, such products could alleviate pressure to log mature and old growth forests on public lands," the letter states.

"However, CLT can also be sourced from clear-cuts on state, federal, and private lands. In fact, because it can utilize smaller material than traditional timber construction, it may provide a perverse incentive to shorten logging rotations and more aggressively clear-cut. Shorter rotations mean more frequent clear-cuts, more mud and silt running into rivers, and more applications of herbicides."

Clear-cutting may not be the only potential environmental risk from CLT:

"Like any other industrial activity releasing potentially harmful chemicals, CLT production facilities must strive to eliminate or minimize the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other pollutants into our air," the letter says.

The mayor's office confirms they received the letter and says they are reviewing it.

A project in North Portland, called Carbon 12, where condos are on sale for \$1.5 million on North Williams Avenue, also used CLT.

The city has faced previous questions about Framework's cost: \$651.43 per square foot, according to the countywide housing authority Home Forward, which is a partner with Portland Housing Bureau on the project.

"As the letter states, we are not opposed to CLT as a technology, but right now it is Oregon's version of 'clean-coal,'" Oregon Wild's Pedery tells WW.

"It is often said that what coal mining is to West Virginia, clear-cut logging is to Oregon, and I think that is on full display with this issue. Unless more is done to ensure the wood actually

comes from sustainable sources, and that the mills producing it minimize toxic emissions, CLT will actually make environmental problems worse, not better."

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **In An Early-Morning Crackdown, the City Swept the New Village of Hope Today**

*By Thacher Schmid  
February 2, 2018*

As threatened, Portland police and park rangers swooped in at roughly 7 am this morning to clear out the Village of Hope, the new homeless encampment that sprung up last weekend near Northeast Airport Way and Mason, organizers say.

Advocates Jamie Partridge, Lisa Lake, and others say about a dozen police and parks rangers used yellow tape to rope off access and gave residents and supporters mere minutes to leave, threatening arrest.

Platforms holding tents, along with other structures, were deconstructed by Rapid Response Bioclean, a city subcontractor that often works in the area, they said.

"They effectively out-maneuvered us this morning," Partridge told the Mercury, noting that there were about eight people in the village when police showed up earlier than expected—an hour before dozens of village supporters were planning to arrive.

The city has been promising action against the small, organized camp ever since it arose in a Northeast Portland natural area on Sunday morning. The Big Four Corners Natural Area is owned by Portland Parks and Recreation (though zoned for industrial use), and contains the waters of the Columbia River Slough, along with lots of wildlife.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's office released a statement Monday calling the new village "unacceptable" and saying the office would "work with the Parks Bureau to quickly address this situation."

Now five unhoused persons are working with advocates to find new places to go, Lake said, declining to offer specifics.

"I don't know where I'm going to go," said John "Thumper" Boggs, one of the five houseless residents and a manager at the nascent village. He's not sure when or how he'll be able to reclaim his possessions.

"I barely got a bicycle out of there," Thumper said. "We're being persecuted, dude. We don't have a house. That's why we're being persecuted. If we were Indian we would be the untouchables."

The city's swift crackdown differs from how City Hall has treated similar incursions in the past. When Lake and others took over a piece of land owned by the Portland Development Commission in 2016 in order to set up a camp for domestic violence victims, then-Mayor Charlie Hales chose to negotiate rather than bring in police. Hales' office promised Lake and other advocates promised they could have another piece of city-owned land if they vacated the PDC plot. The advocates agreed, but the city never produced the promised property.

Lake said this morning she was angry, but not surprised by the city's actions.



"I feel angry that the city's not looking at alternatives that are sustainable, scalable, replicable. I'm angry that our people are still suffering, and that the city's still wielding their power every time a solution's brought to them," she said.

Lake and others who were present said legal observers from the National Lawyers Guild were refused access to move behind officers' yellow tape to witness the sweep. "I approached [police] and said, 'We need a legal observer in there,' and they said, 'Get back behind the line or you'll be arrested,'" Lake said. "Not okay."

National Lawyers Guild attorney Cathy Highet referred the Mercury to another NLG member who could not immediately be reached. Mat dos Santos, legal director at the ACLU of Oregon, said his organization is working on a response to this morning's sweep.

"We have been in close contact with the organizers for the Village of Hope and have deep concerns about the city's handling of this issue," dos Santos said. "Those concerns are both legal and ethical, as we believe the city has taken an approach that was both not required and potentially very problematic."

Ree Campbell, of advocacy group Boots on the Ground, says campers aren't going to be dissuaded by this morning's sweep.

"We are going to regroup probably around 3 o'clock for the next round of fuckery," Campbell said. "[Mayor] Ted [Wheeler]'s in a rage and we just think this is fun."

Partridge wouldn't be specific, but indicated more actions are on the way.

"It's a community that isn't going away, and it has a spirit and it's organized and resilient and it will bounce back."

## **"Office of Beyoncé Involvement" and Other Great—and Ignored—Suggestions For Renaming ONI**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
February 2, 2018*

Portland has spoken and—SURPRISE!—it doesn't want change.

The city's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) earlier this month had a simple request. ONI's thinking of changing its name to something not so redolent of the neighborhood association system, and it wants citizens to help.

So the bureau created an online survey, accepting your best suggestions from early January until January 24. The office, controlled by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, has since posted a sanitized version of the results on its website, but it left plenty out.

Sure, ONI was happy to tout anodyne suggestions like "Center for Civic Imagination" and "Office of Neighborhood Vitality" but a record request for the full survey results show that ONI isn't considering lots of spicier options.

What's so wrong, for instance, with: "Portland: Cha Cha Cha"? Or "Office of Beyoncé Involvement"? Or the elegantly reductionist: "Nimbys, Yimbys, and Free Pizza Once a Month"?

All great suggestions from you, the people. All left on the cutting room floor as ONI presses on toward a new identity.

One thing about that new identity: Lots of people don't want it. More than 13 percent of the 163 completed surveys suggests ONI remain as it is. One merely read "Dont." Another said "stop wasting time and money on a name change." And others just suggested "Office of Neighborhood Involvement."

Predictably, lots of people typed in things like "ONI McONIFace" and "Eudaly McEudaly Face." One contingent—or one very bored person—seemed to favor riffs on "Chloe's Council of Clowns." Those are out, too.

Some used the survey to make comments about ONI's changing role. One suggested the office be named "Program dumping ground"—presumably because of the many disparate projects (like recreational pot enforcement and campaign finance) that have found their way to the bureau over the years. Someone else just wanted it called "Kitty cats on Unicorns." Neither will be considered.

Oh, ONI's only too happy to entertain the idea for a "Portland Office of Community (POC)." It's not having any part of a "Portland Office of Progressives (POOP)."

Anyway, here's the whole list. [PDF]

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **Gateway Affordable Housing Project Received Well**

*By Chuck Slothower*

*February 2, 2018*

An affordable housing project proposed for the Gateway area, in Northeast Portland, appears well on its way to approval after a largely positive reception from design commissioners on Thursday.

Northwest Housing Alternatives, a Milwaukie affordable housing organization, is calling for 157 apartment units for residents at 60 percent or below the Portland area's median family income. The apartments would be a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom configurations.

The Portland Design Commission held a second design advice meeting for the project Thursday that continued from an initial meeting Nov. 30.

The four-story building would be constructed at 9747 N.E. Glisan St. and encompass 90,940 square feet. The 1-acre property is bordered by Glisan Street and Irving Street, a low-density residential street. To the east of the site is 99th Avenue; to the west are MAX light-rail tracks and Interstate 205.

The property was most recently purchased in 2006 for \$941,280, according to public records.

A new pedestrian path would need to pass behind the building as part of a city requirement intended to improve circulation in large blocks in Gateway.

"The blocks are huge," said Grace Jeffreys, a planner with the Bureau of Development Services. "This is just a location where there's a requirement for a pedestrian path."

The property would also have a community garden.

Design commissioners pushed for an enlarged entrance to the building and better articulation of some of the exterior materials. Planned building materials include brick, metal panels and fiber cement.

Design commissioner Sam Rodriguez said the building's street frontages were much improved. "It has a whimsical quality that works well, and it didn't before," he said. "I think it's really good."

The design led by Bill Lanning of MWA Architects features a gabled roof. It has two long sides facing I-205 and the pedestrian path. At the first design advice meeting, commissioners urged Lanning to find ways to break up the mass on the two long sides that stretch approximately 384 feet.

On Thursday, design commissioners said they were pleased with the overall plan.

"It's really close," Tad Savinar said.

Design changes have reduced the number of apartments from 160 to 157 since the first design advice meeting. The project would also offer 10 parking spaces and two loading spaces.

The project team agreed to raise the height of the first floor to the city's 12-foot minimum to aid the function of the ground-floor canopy.

A narrow, 6-foot building entrance attracted the attention of commissioners, who feared it would be too small for residents to use for practical purposes like putting on their shoes.

"Entry is super tight," Commissioner Julie Livingston said. "If people are going to be standing there waiting for their ride, there just needs to be more room to stand there and be."

Plans call for 99 studio units, 51 one-bedroom units and seven two-bedroom units. They would range from 350 square feet to 795 square feet, with 11 built to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

The Northwest Housing Alternatives project would be the first in the area that would come with a required pedestrian path. Lanning asked the Design Commission if there should be consistent standards for lighting and other aspects. The paths would not be continuous throughout the neighborhood, but confined to each property.

The project will return for a design review hearing in coming weeks. As of Thursday, no date was set yet.

Walsh Construction is serving as general contractor.