

The Oregonian

Police Withhold Names of Officers Involved in Shelter Shooting, Citing Threats

*By Maxine Bernstein
April 9, 2018*

Portland police are withholding the names of all the officers involved in the fatal shooting of a 48-year-old man who burst into a Southeast Portland homeless shelter Saturday night with a knife, citing "threats made regarding their safety."

Sgt. Christopher Burley, police bureau spokesman, didn't describe the threats or their origin, but said police are continuing to assess them before releasing the officers' names.

Seven Portland police officers and one Multnomah County sheriff's deputy were involved in the shooting that killed John Andrew Elifritz about 8 p.m. inside the Cityteam Ministries on Southeast Grand Avenue.

Elifritz died of multiple gunshot wounds. Toxicology results are still pending.

The eight officers were scheduled to be interviewed Monday by internal affairs investigators, within the bureau's 48-hour requirement.

Internal affairs investigators are conducting a simultaneous investigation to the criminal inquiry to determine if officers followed bureau policies and training.

Twelve other officers were witnesses to the shooting.

The Portland Police Bureau Monday released a timeline of the events leading up to the shooting inside the shelter.

Officers in outer Southeast Portland had an encounter with Elifritz earlier Saturday afternoon but decided to "disengage," or walk away, though they had seen him holding a knife to his throat.

Detectives on Monday continued investigating the shooting inside the CityTeam Ministries shelter as details began to emerge about a series of events that preceded John A. Elifritz's death.

Soon after, police said, Elifritz was considered a suspect in one attempted carjacking, another successful carjacking, a road-rage encounter, and the crash of a stolen car before he entered the homeless shelter holding a knife, startling a group of men gathered for an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

In 2011, Portland police shifted their practice in responding to mental health crises, pursuing a new approach of sometimes walking away from incidents. They began training sergeants to consider not engaging people with mental health problems if they're not an obvious threat to others, even if they're suicidal and armed. Some praised the move, while others criticized it for swinging too far to a hands-off response, potentially putting the public in danger.

Here's the police timeline of Saturday's events they say involved Elifritz:

- About 2:25 p.m., a man who identified himself as Elifritz called 911 and reported his family had been murdered and gave a location in the 4400 Block of Southeast 79th Ave. Officers responded to the location, which was a duplex under construction. The contractor at the location said a man fitting Elifritz's description had been outside earlier

and was acting in a bizarre manner. No one was found inside the duplex. Police later confirmed Elifritz's family was safe.

- Other officers located Elifritz at Southeast 86th Avenue and Holgate Boulevard and attempted to contact him, but he backed away from them, retrieved a knife from his pocket and held it up to his throat. Elifritz ran from officers. A decision was made to de-escalate the situation by not pursuing him, but rather "make a referral to the Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit for follow-up."
- As officers were discussing the encounter, a community member approached and told them a man waving a knife had just attempted to carjack him. The victim did not want to report the crime, but wanted the police to be aware of the incident.
- At 4:37 p.m., a 911 call was made by a woman who reported her 2003 silver Honda CRV had just been stolen from her by force at Southeast 72nd Avenue and Foster Road. Officers responded and learned a woman had struggled with Elifritz, who had jumped into the passenger seat and was wrestling for control of the vehicle. The woman's father was in a separate vehicle behind her at a stoplight. He got out of his vehicle and was able to disengage his daughter from the suspect. The suspect jumped in the driver's seat of the car and drove away.
- At 7:25 p.m., a man called 911 and reported he and his family had been a victim of road rage in the area of North Columbia Boulevard and Chautauqua Boulevard. Officers responded and learned the suspect in this case was Elifritz in the stolen Honda CRV. The victim said the driver was tailgating him and driving next to him in the bike lane and pointed a black object at him, which he believed to be a gun. (Police did not include this, but a recording of 911 dispatch indicated that officers later said over the radio that no gun was seen in the North Portland incident)
- At 7:29 p.m., a 911 caller said he saw Elifritz jump out of a moving vehicle on Southeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Stark Street. Police responded and the community member said the man appeared to be "drunk or high" and had left eastbound on Stark.
- At 7:46 p.m., a 911 caller reported a man had been standing in the doorway of a store in the 600 block of Southeast Grand Avenue for the last five to 10 minutes, holding a knife in his hand. At 7:50 p.m., the call was updated that Elifritz was walking southbound on Southeast Grand Avenue.
- At 7:55 p.m., it was reported a man had been standing in front of the 500 Block of Southeast Grand Avenue, holding a knife to another person's throat.
- At 7:58 p.m., officers responded to the Cityteam Ministries shelter on Southeast Grand Avenue. The suspect was located inside. Officers deployed less lethal rounds and then broadcast that shots were fired at 8:00 p.m.

The owner of the Maple Leaf Restaurant, who spoke Monday with the Oregonian/OregonLive on the condition her name not be used, said Elifritz had walked into her restaurant on Southeast Foster Road Saturday afternoon before the alleged carjacking. He wore a rain poncho, was acting erratic and demanded to know what kind of soup they had.

"I told him chicken potato," the owner recalled in an interview.

"I don't like that kind of soup," the man told her, the owner said.

When the owner suggested another kind of soup, the man said it was too expensive. Then he asked her if the restaurant had wireless internet.

"I said, 'No, I don't have any WiFi,'" the owner said.

The man stormed out of the Maple Leaf and walked half a block east along Southeast Foster Road to 72nd Avenue. Restaurant patrons then saw the man dragging a woman out of an idling car before getting into the vehicle and speeding off, the owner said. Within minutes police were on scene interviewing the owner and patrons, she said.

Just before police arrived at the Cityteam Ministries, a dispatcher alerted officers the man with the knife had been identified as Elifritz.

"The suspect is going to be John Elifritz. ... A couple of calls earlier today he had a knife to his throat. He was ranting about his wife and daughter being murdered," the dispatcher told officers. "We disengaged from that on East."

On Monday, Mike Giering, executive director of Cityteam Portland, declined to detail his understanding of Saturday's chain of events but said it's been traumatic for clients of his organization who were on hand.

The organization closed after the shooting and remained closed all day Sunday, he said. It was to reopen early Monday evening for dinner, and its emergency homeless shelter, which serves 58 men per night, was also set to reopen.

Giering described the police shooting as scary and tragic and said it's heartbreaking that someone died in his organization's building.

He said his organization wasn't aware of having any previous contact with Elifritz.

Giering estimated about 10 of Cityteam's long-term recovery clients were attending an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting when the incident unfolded. He said some interns who live on site were at the shelter at the time, but no full-time staffers were there, which is usual practice on a Saturday night.

Everyone who saw the shooting was later sequestered into TriMet buses and questioned by police, Giering said.

Cityteam, a nondenominational Christian nonprofit, has operations in Portland, California and Pennsylvania.

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury said in a statement Monday that she asked county staff Sunday "to work with partners to provide counseling and support."

She said Trauma Intervention Program of Portland/Vancouver personnel have responded and thanked Cityteam, Imago Dei and Transition Projects "for moving quickly to continue to shelter and support visitors to the shelter."

Multnomah County residents who need mental health support can call 503-988-4888 or visit the Urgent Walk-In Clinic at 4212 S.E. Division St., according to Kafoury's statement.

Oregonian Staff Writers Shane Dixon Kavanaugh and Jim Ryan contributed to this story.

Columbia CEO to Pay \$1.5 Million for New Downtown Portland Homeless Shelter

By Gordon Friedman

April 10, 2018

Columbia Sportswear chief executive Tim Boyle plans to pay \$1.5 million to jumpstart construction of a 100-bed homeless shelter and services center on city-owned land under the Broadway Bridge, officials will announce today.

The shelter, which officials are calling a “navigation center,” is intended to offer the homeless a place to sleep, eat and bathe plus connections to health care and social services.

Boyle’s gift will be paid as a donation to Oregon Harbor of Hope, a nonprofit run by real estate developers working to find solutions to Portland’s intractable homelessness problem.

“This project is an important step forward, providing assistance to Oregonians who need services and support and who deserve our compassion,” Boyle said on Monday in a statement to *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. “This investment is an example of how governments, the private sector, philanthropic communities and nonprofit service providers can come together to improve the city and region for all who live here.”

One of Oregon’s few billionaires, Boyle has been a vocal critic of the city’s approach to the homeless in downtown. He said in an op-ed published in *The Oregonian* last November that workers at Columbia-owned bootmaker Sorel had been intimidated by homeless people and bothered by detritus left on sidewalks by the homeless. Boyle threatened to relocate Sorel and voiced support for Mayor Ted Wheeler’s request to hire at least 80 more police officers to help regulate homeless people’s conduct and downtown crime.

Several major American cities, particularly San Francisco, operate homeless navigation centers. Former Portland Mayor Charlie Hales proposed building one in Portland in 2016, but the plan never became a reality. Josh Alpert, then Hales’ chief of staff, said at the time that opening the shelter was “too expensive, too complicated, and in the end, not worth it for our purposes.”

Wheeler, who took over after Hales, supports the navigation center concept and public-private partnerships aimed at tackling homelessness, spokesman Michael Cox said Monday.

“Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on our streets, and demands a community-wide response,” Wheeler said in a statement to *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. “I want to send the message that if you have ideas, or resources or expertise – and you want to put them to work addressing homelessness – government can be an effective partner.”

The chairman of Oregon Harbor of Hope, developer Homer Williams, has championed a variety of non-traditional homelessness solutions. He’d previously pitched converting city-owned properties, including a golf course and warehouse, into affordable housing, and a \$100 million one-stop homeless campus. But, like Hale’s plan, none of the ideas have come to fruition. Last week he offered \$7 million to buy the county-owned Wapato jail in a bid to turn it into a homeless shelter.

Don Mazziotti, a developer and Oregon Harbor of Hope board member, said Monday his group’s vision for a downtown navigation center is to help the homeless “find a way to recovery and productivity” and “show them where to go next.”

Mazziotti said notable Portland attorney Robert Stoll helped drum-up political and business support for a navigation center, adding that Stoll pitched Boyle on the project. Stoll said last

week that he has been building support for the project while also advising Wheeler and Multnomah County Chairwoman Deborah Kafoury on homelessness policy.

“The mayor and the county chair have asked me to be sort of an informal advisor to them on homeless issues and I’ve been trying to do that,” Stoll said, adding that Wheeler and Kafoury “wanted me to pull some of these groups together and see what we could do.”

Schematics of the Broadway Bridge shelter concept given to The Oregonian/OregonLive by Oregon Harbor of Hope shows its plans are to build a 9,000 square foot shelter building and 2,500 square foot service center on land owned by Portland’s economic development agency underneath the west end of the Broadway Bridge.

The site will be surrounded by an 8-foot chain-link fence wrapped in black vinyl and, inside that, two rows of 6-foot hedges, according to design plans dated April 4. Plans show the grounds will include a community garden, storage containers and nine parking spaces for staff.

Given its location, the new shelter would be about a block from Williams’ Residence Inn hotel, at Northwest 9th Avenue and Marshall Street. Years ago, Williams worked to stop a homeless community from setting up near the hotel.

In 2013, Commissioner Amanda Fritz suggested homeless community Right 2 Dream Too relocate to a city-owned parking lot underneath the Northwest Lovejoy Street ramp, which connects to the Broadway Bridge. The plan was quashed when Hales backed out, following Williams’ objections. (Right 2 Dream Too has since moved to the east side, in a deal brokered by Wheeler.)

Boyle’s November op-ed prompted Wheeler to order police to enforce a broader no-sit policy, including around the Sorel offices. His writing also led to protests that closed Columbia’s downtown flagship for a day. Following the protests, Boyle published a statement saying he had “offered to contribute personally” to homelessness initiatives in conversations with state and local officials. He noted his view that other businesses “should join this effort.”

“I am glad to call business leaders personally to ask them to contribute,” Boyle said in the December 2017 statement.

In his statement to The Oregonian/OregonLive, Boyle said opening a navigation center highlights “an important moment to challenge others” in business and philanthropy to work with government leaders on homelessness. “It should be a high priority for all of us to drive a comprehensive and coordinated effort,” he said.

Boyle will be joined at today’s announcement by Wheeler, Kafoury, Williams, local business and government leaders and several Portland State University deans at William’s Residence Inn in the Pearl District.

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: Zoning Changes May Impact Thousands

By Jim Redden

April 10, 2018

Plus, gang violence up 45 percent so far this year and the Portland Art Tax due April 17.

About 135,000 property owners began receiving mailed notices from the city of potential zoning changes related to the Residential Infill Project last week.

Project recommendations, which have yet to be approved by the City Council, would allow smaller multifamily development in single-family neighborhoods. The notices are required by Measure 56, which was approved by Oregon voters in the November 1998 general election.

Ironically, the proposal for the additional housing options did not trigger the mailing. They were required by the project's recommended new limits on house sizes.

The recommendations would affect approximately 60 percent of all single-family neighborhoods in the city. They would only apply to property owners who expand the housing on their property after they are adopted. For more information, visit: portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/678846.

Gang violence up 45 percent

Gang violence in Portland increased 45 percent during the first quarter of the year compared to the same period in 2017.

According to the most recent statistics released by the Portland Police Bureau, the Gang Enforcement Team investigated 32 cases through the end of March versus just 22 in the first quarter of last year. The cases surged to 17 this March, compared to eight in January and seven in February.

Most of the cases were shootings. Police suspect many of them are in retaliation for the killing of at least one gang member in January.

The 2018 total is still slightly below the three-year average of 33 for the first quarters of 2017, 2016 and 2015, however.

Art Tax due April 17

The Portland Revenue Division is reminding residents that the annual \$35 Arts Tax is due April 17.

Each city resident 18 and older must pay the tax, which supports hiring arts teachers in public schools and activities by nonprofit arts organizations aimed at marginalized and lower-income communities. Those in households with incomes below the poverty level can request an exemption.

The Arts Education and Access Income Tax was approved by Portland voters in the November 2012 general election. It can be paid online or through the mail with a completed form mailed to households or downloaded from the city's website at <https://tinyurl.com/y7yhuxhr>.

Police: Suspect's Behavior Escalated Before Fatal Shooting

*By Jim Redden
April 9, 2018*

Newly released timeline says man shot by police in homeless shelter had threatened people in the hours leading up to the fatal confrontation.

Portland police have released more details about the officer-involved shooting of a car jacking suspect in a homeless shelter on Saturday, including a timeline of their encounters with John Andrew Elifritz, who died in the encounter.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner confirmed that Elifritz, 48, died of gunshot wounds. Toxicology results are pending.

Police say the bureau is continuing to investigate the in the Cityteam Ministries Portland Shelter, located at 526 Southeast Grand Avenue. Seven Portland officers and one Multnomah County sheriff deputy were involved.

According to police, the identities of the officers and sheriff will not be immediately released because of threats to their safety. An investigation is being completed to assess these threats before the release of their names.

There were also 12 officer witnesses, who have been interviewed by investigators. The involved officers are scheduled for their administrative interviews today. The deputy is scheduled for tomorrow. There were also numerous community members who have been interviewed.

Police say investigators learned the timeline of events on the day of the shooting. Based on information gathered at this time, it is believed Elifritz was involved in the following incidents:

- On April 7, at approximately 2:25 p.m., a man who identified himself as Elifritz called 9-1-1 and reported his family had been murdered and gave a location in the 4400 Block of Southeast 79th Avenue. Officers responded to the location, which was a duplex under construction. The contractor at the location said a man (described as Elifritz) had been outside earlier and appeared to be acting in a bizarre manner. No one was found inside the duplex. Police later confirmed Elifritz's family was safe.
- Other officers located Elifritz at Southeast 86th Avenue and Southeast Holgate Boulevard and attempted to contact him, but he backed away from them, retrieved a knife from his pocket and held it up to his throat. Elifritz ran from officers and a decision was to de-escalate the situation by not pursuing him, but rather make a referral to the Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit for follow-up.
- As officers were debriefing the incident, a community member approached them and said a man was waving a knife and had just attempted to carjack him. The victim did not want to report the crime, but wanted the police to be aware of the incident.
- At 4:37 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was made by a woman who reported her 2003 silver Honda CRV had just been stolen from her by force at Southeast 72nd Avenue and Southeast Foster Road. Officers responded and learned a woman had struggled with Elifritz, who had jumped into the passenger seat and was wrestling for control of the vehicle. Meanwhile, the woman's father was in a separate vehicle behind her at the stoplight. He got out of his vehicle and was able to disengage his daughter from the suspect. The suspect jumped in the driver's seat of the car and drove away.
- At 7:25 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was made by a man who reported he and his family had been a victim of road rage in the area of North Columbia and North Chautauqua boulevards. Officers

responded and learned the suspect in this case was Elifritz in the stolen Honda CRV. The victim said the driver was tailgating him and driving next to him in the bike lane and pointed a black object at him, which he believed to be a gun.

- At 7:29 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was made by a man who said he saw Elifritz jump out of a moving vehicle on Southeast Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard and Southeast Stark Street. Police responded and the community member said the man appeared to be "drunk or high" and had left eastbound on Southeast Stark Street.
- At 7:46 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was made by a community member in the 600 block of Southeast Grand Avenue, who said a man had been standing in the doorway of a store for the last five to 10 minutes, holding a knife in his hand. At 7:50 p.m., the call was updated that Elifritz was walking southbound on Southeast Grand Avenue.
- At 7:55 p.m., it was reported a man had been standing in front of the 500 Block of Southeast Grand Avenue, holding a knife to another person's throat.
- At 7:58 p.m., officers responded to the Cityteam Ministries Portland Shelter, where there were a number of community members present. The suspect was located inside the location. Officers deployed less lethal and then broadcast that shots were fired at 8:00 p.m.

Police say this is an active and ongoing investigation. The bureau's directive outlining the procedures followed after an officer involved shooting may be found at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/656780>

Interviews with witnesses and others continue. The bureau says it will also be reviewing additional videos of the incident. The vehicle in question has been towed and will be processed.

As part of the use of force review process, the Bureau will conduct an internal review of the entire incident and the case will go before the Police Review Board, which is comprised of community members, Bureau members and representatives from the Independent Police Review Division.

The results of the criminal investigation will be presented to a Multnomah County grand jury, which is established procedure.

Once the entire investigation and legal process is complete, the investigative files and any grand jury transcripts will be posted on the Bureau's Open Data page and can be found here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/52175>

Anyone with information about this investigation should contact Detective Mark Slater at 503-823-9319 or Mark.Slater@portlandoregon.gov or Detective Erik Kammerer at 503-823-0762 or Erik.Kammerer@portlandoregon.gov.

To see a previous Portland Tribune story, go to <https://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/391810-283822-wheeler-urges-patience-in-police-shooting-investigation>.

Willamette Week

In a Reversal, Portland Developer Homer Williams Ready to Welcome Homeless Shelter Close to the Pearl District

*By Rachel Monahan
April 10, 2018*

The Pearl District developer says he's looked at the housing crisis and had a change of heart.

Homer Williams, best known as the developer of the Pearl District, is making an announcement today that will represent something of a mea culpa.

In media advisory Monday, Williams announced that he is holding a press conference today, joined by Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

When contacted by WW after the advisory went out, Williams would only say he intends to open a homeless shelter near the very spot where he once opposed an organized homeless camp.

But he admitted that represents a change of heart.

In 2013, Williams did everything he could to block a move of Right 2 Dream Too, the self-organized homeless camp that was supposed to be located near hotel he was developing in the Pearl.

Now he's doing everything he can to bring a shelter to a nearby location.

"I realize now that as a community we need to embrace shelters and make sure they're well run," Williams tells WW. "But they're still our citizens, our people."

What changed?

As he's dug into the issue of homelessness, Williams says he's realized it's not just a problem affecting a certain class of chronically homeless people.

"It's going to be many other people who are not going to be able to afford the housing they're in," he says.

The other realization, he says: "We can't build our way out of this at this point. There's not enough money or time, so every neighborhood should embrace the concept of shelters."

Williams has been pursuing various paths to aid in the effort, including a failed effort to open a mass shelter at Terminal 1, a complicated land swap that would begin with changing a golf course to industrial land, and, most recently, a bid for Wapato, the county's never-used jail.

The details of today's announcement remain under wraps.

As he's pursued various options for opening shelters, a question has hung over the proposals: What's in it for Williams, a real estate developer known for turning a brownfield into luxury condos?

Today's announcement may begin to allay skepticism of Williams' motivations. Or perhaps not.

Look for an update after the 9 am press conference.

Citing Threats, the Portland Police Bureau Isn't Releasing the Names of Officers who Killed a Man in a Homeless Shelter

*By Katie Shepherd
April 9, 2018*

Police say they encountered John Elifritz hours before he was shot, but did not pursue him at the time.

Portland police have walked back promises to release the names of officers who shot and killed a man who appeared to be in the midst of a mental health crisis Saturday.

Sgt. Chris Burley, spokesman for the Portland Police Bureau, says "threats" have been made against the officers involved in the fatal encounter at a homeless shelter in Southeast Portland. He said in a statement that the names may be released after the threats have been assessed.

The agency also laid out a timeline of the events leading up to the shooting.

According to police, John Elifritz called 911 on Saturday afternoon to report that his family had been murdered, but gave the wrong address. Over the course of several hours, Elifritz had been spotted acting erratically around Southeast Portland.

Officers encountered him and tried to approach him, but say Elifritz held a knife to his throat and then ran away. They decided not to pursue him.

Police say a man told police a man with a knife had attempted to carjack him. A woman later called 911 to report that her Honda CRV had been taken by force by a man police believed to be Elifritz.

Eventually, Elifritz entered the Cityteam Ministries Shelter on SE Grand Avenue. Police showed up at 7:58 p.m. and fired on Elifritz.

Videos taken at the shelter show he stood a room's length away when police killed him.

Burley said in the statement that seven officers were directly involved in the shooting and another 12 had been at the scene. All of the involved officers are scheduled for administrative interviews either today or tomorrow.

Portland City Council Candidate Jo Ann Hardesty Gets Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's Endorsement

*By Rachel Monahan
April 9, 2018*

Eudaly is the first city commissioner to endorse in the race for City Hall's open seat.

Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly won office in 2016 partly on the strength of her social media presence.

She founded the Facebook group "That's a GD Shed," and maintains direct contact with supporters via Facebook posts.

Today Eudaly played off that strength to make an endorsement—and kicked off a fundraiser—in a hotly contested City Council race.

Eudaly went on Facebook to endorse Jo Ann Hardesty in a six-way race for the City Council seat being vacated by Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

"Each of the candidates in this race brings unique gifts and strengths, but Jo Ann rises above them all in my estimation," writes Eudaly.

"She will be just the 9th woman elected to Portland City Council, and the first woman of color to ever serve," she writes. "I am thrilled at the prospect of getting to work with a champion for economic, environmental, and social justice!"

Hardesty, a former legislator who is running for Portland City Council, is the first candidate to get an endorsement from a sitting city commissioner in the race for the open City Council seat.

That may be because such endorsements backfired in the last election cycle.

Three of Eudaly's four colleagues on City Council endorsed former Commissioner Steve Novick, whom Eudaly toppled in an unexpected upset.

The awkwardness of having endorsed Eudaly's rival has created reticence at City Hall to weigh in again. But Eudaly's endorsement may change the political calculus.

Eudaly's post today also announced a fundraiser for Hardesty will be held Friday. And Eudaly promised donors to Hardesty between now and Thursday would be eligible for a remarkable prize: One donor will win a date with Eudaly to the fundraiser.

"Don't worry, will be chaperoned.," writes Eudaly.

"Not open to people with business pending before City Council," Eudaly notes.

The Portland Mercury

It's Time to Pony Up for the Art Tax

By Kelly Kenoyer

April 9, 2018

It's time to fork over that yearly \$35 art tax... or else. The tax is due April 17 and can be paid online at the city's website—and if you fail to pay, you can be fined an additional \$35. The only exceptions to the rule are those who make less than \$1,000 a year and those under 18.

"It is our hope that most Portlanders will choose to file and pay online," Revenue Division Director Thomas Lannom said in a press release. "Paying online is fast and easy, and keeps administration costs lower so more money flows to schools and arts organizations."

The cost of administering the tax is a big deal—back when voters passed the tax in 2010, it promised to keep administrative costs under five percent of the total revenues from the tax. In recent years, however, the city's Revenue Division has spent close to 9 percent of the arts tax cash it collects trying to get citizens pay their \$35.

But there are benefits to this regressive art tax: the money goes to arts education for grade schoolers in the Portland area. So far, the tax has pulled in nearly \$48 million for those kids, funding 60 teaching positions across six school districts. Pay up!

Portland Police Knew Man Was in Crisis Before Fatally Shooting Him

*By Alex Zielinski
April 9, 2018*

Before Portland police entered Cityteam Ministries homeless shelter Saturday night and fatally shot 48-year-old John Elifritz, they knew he was in the midst of some type of mental crisis.

This finding comes from the latest Portland Police Bureau (PPB) report, which gives a more thorough account of the hours leading up to Elifritz' death Saturday evening.

According to the report, police first spoke with Elifritz around 2:25 Saturday afternoon. Elifritz allegedly called PPB to report that "his family had been murdered," and gave them the address of an empty house under construction. Officers didn't find Elifritz at the location, but confirmed that his wife and 12-year-old daughter were safe.

Shortly after, another set of officers came across Elifritz at SE 86th and Holgate—but when officers approached him, Elifritz allegedly pulled out a knife and held it to his own throat. Then, he ran.

Instead of following Elifritz, the officers chose to "make a referral to the Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit for follow-up," the report reads.

Just after 4:30 pm, Portland police received a call from a woman reporting her Honda CRV had been stolen from her while she was waiting at a stoplight at SE 72nd and Foster. A man had jumped into her passenger seat with a knife and wrestled with her for control of the vehicle, she told officers.

Another call at 7:25, from a guy reporting a man in a Honda CRV had tailgated him and then drove alongside his car in the bike lane, all while pointing a black object at him.

And finally, at 7:30, another man reported Elifritz jumping out of a moving car on SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Stark. By 7:58, officers had tracked Elifritz down inside of the Cityteam Ministries shelter nearby.

What happened next was recorded on a shelter visitor's cellphone: More than a dozen armed police officers cornering a dazed-looking man behind a (estimated) 4-foot-tall wall. Police first shot a few non-lethal beanbags at Elifritz, then tossed a few flashbangs, and asked him to drop his knife. And then—according to the police report—seven Portland Police Officers and one Multnomah County Sheriff Deputy opened fire.

PPB originally said it would release the names of those officers last night, but has decided to keep them private after the bureau received threats "regarding their safety."

The police officers were all scheduled for "administrative interviews" today—barely making it in under the city's new "48 hour rule," which requires officers speak with internal affairs investigators within two days of a shooting. The deputy involved, who doesn't have to abide by the city rule, won't be interviewed until tomorrow.

PPB says 12 other Portland police officers who were witnesses to the shooting have been interviewed. It's still unclear why, since officers were well aware Elifritz was in crisis, officers chose to shoot.

David Rogers, ACLU of Oregon executive director, said the recorded incident raised "serious questions about how police handled the situation and whether lethal force was called for."

"Was there any attempt to de-escalate the situation before officers open fire inside the homeless shelter full of innocent bystanders?" Rogers asked in a Sunday press release. "If not, why not?"

Friends of Elifritz call what happened Saturday "murder." Like others who witnesses the shooting, they believe their friend was having some kind of mental crisis, and should have been treated like it.

"We believe what the police did was wrong," said Victoria Nevaraz, who visited Elifritz' memorial outside of the Cityteam shelter Monday afternoon. "We understand he was in crisis. They're all trained to work with people in mental health crises—why didn't they use that here?"

Nevaraz, like many who attended a Sunday night vigil for Elifritz, has known Elifritz since she was a teenager.

"Portland's home for him," she said. "He was loved by all... would do anything for anyone. He was one of my dearest friends."

Another close friend, Cliff (who asked we only use his first name), pointed to the photo of Elifritz propped up against Cityteam's outside wall, surrounded by flowers. "This was one of his proudest moments," Cliff said. The photo was taken not more than 6 months ago, when Elifritz graduated from an addiction recovery program at Central City Concern. "He was getting back on his feet," Cliff added. "This is not the same man we saw in that video Saturday."

Neither Cliff nor Nevarz say they sensed Elifritz was struggling with a behavioral health issue last week. But that doesn't change how they see their friend.

"We all face challenges," Cliff said. "We're all in recovery from something."

OPB

Portland Police Release New Details About Deadly Shooting

*By Lauren Drake and Conrad Wilson
April 9, 2018*

UPDATE (April 9, 5:30 p.m. PT)

John Elifritz called 9-1-1 Saturday afternoon to report that his family was murdered. When Portland police officers responded, Elifritz showed suicidal tendencies — holding a knife to his own throat — and eventually fleeing from the officers.

Hours later, Elifritz was dead, shot by police at the Cityteam Ministries Shelter.

More details about the events leading up to Elifritz's death emerged Monday afternoon.

Officers said they had hoped by not pursuing Elifritz, the situation would not escalate. Instead, they called the Portland Police Bureau's behavioral health unit.

But later in the day, at 4:37 p.m., officers learned Elifritz had stolen a car by force. Calls to 9-1-1 continued to come in about Elifritz; one caller said he was engaged in a road rage scenario, tailgating and pointing a black object, believed to be a gun, at him.

Another caller reported Elifritz jumped out of a moving vehicle and appeared “drunk or high.” Later, there was a report of Elifritz holding a knife to someone’s throat.

Close to 8 p.m., Elifritz was inside the Cityteam Ministries Portland Shelter, where an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting was ongoing. A video posted on social media showed the chaos inside Cityteam Ministries Shelter as police entered the building Saturday night.

The video appears to show people trying to flee the shelter, the police officers entering and shooting across the room at Elifritz. The homeless shelter’s six security cameras could reveal a more complete picture, but the footage is currently being reviewed as part of the investigation.

During the confrontation, a total of eight law enforcement officers fired either live rounds or less-lethal rounds designed to incapacitate suspects. Seven of the officers were with Portland Police, and one was a Multnomah County deputy who’d been working with PPB’s Transit Division. Sgt. Chris Burley declined to say how many officers fired live rounds, or how many total rounds were fired.

All of the involved officers have been placed on leave, Burley said. In compliance with rules passed by the Portland City Council last year, Burley said all the officers should be interviewed by internal affairs investigators within 48 hours.

The police bureau initially pledged to announced the names of the involved officers on Sunday night, but delayed the release, citing “threats made regarding their safety.”

“It’s my hope we’re going to release the names as soon as we can,” Burley said.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw promised transparency as the department investigates Saturday night’s fatal officer-involved shooting.

“Please be reminded that deadly force investigations are extremely complex and take time,” Outlaw said in a statement. Remnants of a vigil held for Elifritz — extinguished candles, bouquets of flowers and a large photo of him — remained on the sidewalk outside the Cityteam Ministries Shelter on Monday morning.

Friends posted on Elifritz’s Facebook wall.

“He did have the biggest heart,” wrote Mae Howell. “Was there if you needed him. Big teddy bear. RIP John John.”

Another wrote: “You’ve always been good to me. I don’t care what anyone says, you didn’t deserve this ... See you on the high ground.”

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon released a statement from David Rogers, the organization’s executive director. Rogers said the shooting marks the fifth fatal shooting by police statewide in 2018.

“In less than a minute, officers shoot and kill the man, while members of an already traumatized population, Portland’s homeless community, watch in horror. Was there any attempt to de-escalate the situation before officers open fire inside the homeless shelter full of innocent bystanders? If not, why not?” he said.

The shelter is expected to open Monday evening for the first time since the shooting. Mike Giering, the executive director of Cityteam Portland, said the shelter had to sanitize the property and ensure it was ready for meals and shelter again. No shelter staff were on site Saturday night during the shooting. There were some shelter interns on the scene.

Elifritz had not interacted with the shelter in the past.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said his priority will be to discover the facts and circumstances and urged people to reserve judgment.

“Already, there are those who want to immediately define what happened. It would be highly irresponsible for me to participate in speculation at this time. I urge us all to allow investigators to do their work, to uncover the facts and to report on their findings,” he said in a statement.

Portland’s Resistance has called for a demonstration this week in response to the shooting. They will be holding a rally at 4 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall. They will use the event to collect coats, tents, menstrual supplies and other donations for those without homes.

Reporter Dirk VanderHart contributed to this report.

Business-Backed Nonprofit To Announce New Homelessness Project

*By Dirk VanderHart
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Harbor of Hope has an announcement to make — and it’s not about Wapato.

The nonprofit, which for years has pushed the idea of a large-scale campus to assist homeless Portlanders, has called a press conference for Tuesday morning. A release says the group will unveil “a new joint private/public project to address homelessness.”

People joining in the event include Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle and officials from Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University.

The planned announcement comes at an interesting time. Harbor of Hope founders Homer Williams and Don Mazziotti recently made a \$7 million offer for the county’s mothballed Wapato jail facility, which they say could be used to house the homeless. But about the only detail either man would share Monday afternoon was that the never-used jail has nothing to do with Tuesday’s news.

“It’s not about Wapato,” Mazziotti said. Williams and a spokesperson for Wheeler also declined to speak on the record about the announcement.

Still, the fact that something is being announced could signal a large-scale project is afoot. Since 2016, Williams, a prominent Portland developer, and Mazziotti, former executive director of the Portland Development Commission (now known as Prosper Portland), have suggested a series of new ideas for serving the city’s growing homeless population.

In 2016, the group proposed a campus at Terminal 1, a piece of surplus city property just north of the Pearl District. City officials ultimately turned down the idea.

The following year, Williams had a complex plan that involved converting a city-owned golf course into industrial land, then developing housing projects on other industrial parcels around the city.

For the Wapato proposal, Mazziotti has written of creating “a multi-service restoration campus to bring housing, training, employment and productivity to the guests of such a center.”

Harbor of Hope’s \$7 million offer for the old jail is still on the table, but its fate is tenuous. Kafoury and other county officials have reservations about using the facility as a shelter. The

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote Thursday on another, lower offer to purchase the facility.