

## **The Oregonian**

### **Chief Promotes First Transgender Officer to Rank of Portland Police Captain**

*By Maxine Bernstein  
June 15, 2018*

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw chose Pride Week to announce her upcoming promotion of Stephanie Lourenco, the first transgender officer to hold the rank of captain in the police bureau.

Lourenco will supervise the bureau's traffic division. The promotion will become effective June 28.

Outlaw said she was impressed by Lourenco's leadership qualities and recognition of the importance of community engagement.

"Since its Pride Week, we wanted to highlight her accomplishments but do not want to diminish the fact that this promotion is based solely on her skills and abilities," Outlaw said in a prepared statement.

Lourenco joined the bureau on Aug. 12, 1999, and most recently served as a lieutenant in the family services division. She has volunteered as a Gang Resistance Education and Training instructor, helped teach "Perspectives on Profiling" to officers and has been a part of the bureau's crisis intervention team.

In 2012, Lourenco volunteered to appear in the bureau's "It Gets Better" video, where officers shared their personal experiences as members of the LGBTQ community.

Twenty years ago, Lourenco founded Transgender Community of Police Officers/Sheriffs (TCOPS), with several other transgender police officers across the country. The group provides support and encouragement to its members.

### **Ted Wheeler Appoints Longtime Aide as Chief of Staff**

*By Gordon Friedman  
June 18, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has appointed Michael Cox as his chief of staff, the mayor's office announced Monday. Cox was previously one of Wheeler's deputy chiefs of staff and is a longtime aide.

In a prepared statement, Wheeler called Cox a "strong and trusted advisor to me for years," adding he has high expectations of Cox as his top aide, viewing his role as part community liaison, part internal administrator and part political maestro.

Cox, 39, has worked for Wheeler since 2014, when he handled press relations for the then-state treasurer. He ran Wheeler's mayoral campaign and was made his press manager at City Hall, and later appointed deputy chief of staff.

Cox replaces Maurice Henderson, who recently announced his resignation for a job as chief operating officer of TriMet.

# Portland Likely to Limit Use of Plastic Straws

*By Gordon Friedman*

*June 19, 2018*

Portlanders should get ready to ditch their drinking straws -- the plastic ones, at least.

Citing the effects on animals and the environment from millions of tons of plastic waste, the Portland City Council is poised to pass a resolution Wednesday restricting use of plastic straws and other single-use plastics.

The resolution directs the city Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to by October 1 devise a plan to cut down on use of the straws and other non-recyclable plastics that are used once and thrown out. It cites statistics and studies showing the harm on the environment, and particularly marine habitats, from plastic waste. Plastic straws are one of the most common forms of waste, it said, and cannot be recycled.

An outright straw-ban is not mentioned in the resolution.

If the Portland City Council adopts the resolution, the city will join Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, Boulder and Vancouver, British Columbia as other big -- and liberal-leaning -- cities to move away from use of plastic straws.

## The Portland Tribune

### City Hall Update: Council Renames Stark to Honor Harvey Milk

*By Jim Redden*

*June 19, 2018*

**Plus, city buys first new affordable apartments and PBOT announces gas tax-supported safety projects.**

A 13-block stretch of Southwest Stark Street in downtown Portland was named after gay rights activist Harvey Milk by the City Council last Thursday, just ahead of the weekend Pride Festival.

Milk was one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was assassinated in 1978.

Supporters of the name change noted that much of Stark Street once was the heart of Portland's gay community. They collected more than 2,500 signatures to begin the renaming process.

"Harvey Milk, I think, is one of the most inspirational people, not just to the LGBTQ-plus community, but to the nation as a whole. It sends a signal that we are an open and welcoming and inclusive community," Mayor Ted Wheeler said.

#### **Council buys first new affordable apartments**

The City Council unanimously approved the purchase of the first new apartment building with affordable housing bond funds on Wednesday.

The 52-unit building nearing completion near Southeast 105th Avenue and Burnside Street was purchased for \$14.4 million, or around \$275,000 per unit. Mayor Ted Wheeler, who brought the request to the council, defended the relatively high per unit cost in part by saying the building is built well enough to last many years and will have a lower life cycle cost than a less expensive building.

The council also passed a resolution approving a \$48 million loan from the Development Services Fund to buy the building and other properties being considered for future purchases. To read a previous Portland Tribune story on the issue, go to: [tinyurl.com/yan2dapx](http://tinyurl.com/yan2dapx)

### **PBOT announces safety projects**

The Portland Bureau of Transportation announced 88 safety projects to be funded by the city's temporary 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax beginning this summer.

The projects were chosen from a list of 1,200 potential ones after a yearlong public engagement process by PBOT Safe Routes to School program staff with school communities and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The remaining projects will be incorporated into other planned city improvements or will need additional funding to be completed.

The top concerns were unsafe crossings, missing sidewalks and traffic speed. You can find details about the projects at: [SafeRoutesProjects.com](http://SafeRoutesProjects.com)

## **Willamette Week**

### **Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Selects New Chief of Staff**

*By Elise Herron  
June 18, 2018*

#### **Michael Cox, Wheeler's current director of communications, will take over the position July 7.**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler today selected his director of communications, Michael Cox, as his next chief of staff.

Maurice Henderson, the current chief of staff, is leaving to become the operating officer for TriMet.

"Michael has been a strong and trusted advisor to me for years," Wheeler said in a statement. "As my Chief of Staff, I expect him to foster positive relationships in the community, work productively with our colleagues on City Council, and leverage the tremendous talent we have on our team to move our policy agenda forward."

Cox has served as Wheeler's spokesperson since 2014, when the Mayor was then-State Treasurer. Cox has also formerly worked in communications roles with Cover Oregon, SEIU California and the Oregon House Democratic Caucus. He will take over the chief of staff position on July 7.

# Goodbye Southwest Stark Street, It's Harvey Milk Street Now

*By Elise Herron  
June 14, 2018*

**City Council today voted to rename a section of Stark in honor of the San Franciscan gay rights icon.**

Portland City Council today voted to rename a 13-block section of Southwest Stark Street after famous gay rights activist Harvey Milk.

As The Oregonian first reported, the name change for the stretch of Stark Street between Naito Parkway and Burnside—historically a hub for Portland's LGBTQ community—was fast-tracked in honor of Pride Month and this weekend's Pride Parade.

Milk was the nation's first openly gay elected official. He won a seat on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1977 and was assassinated one year later, at the age of 48.

The few critics of the commemoration argued that a local leader should be honored instead. As WW noted last fall: Milk had no known connections to Portland, but before its recent gentrification, Southwest Stark Street served as the center of gay life in the city.

City Council members say that one must have made a "significant, positive contribution to the United States," and have been deceased for five years to qualify for a street name consideration.

Around a dozen community members—including Basic Rights Oregon's co-executive director Nancy Haque and Darcelle XV, a Portland local and the world's oldest drag performer—testified in favor of the name change.

"Portland is a travel destination," said Darcelle, according to The Oregonian. "People come for the scenery, the smiles, the doughnuts and the drag queens."

## The Portland Mercury

### City Council Moves Forward in Regulating Portland's Dangerous Brick Buildings

*By Kelly Kenoyer  
June 14, 2018*

Portland City Council has unanimously passed a resolution that will create policies for mandatory retrofits on unreinforced masonry buildings, or URM—the city's brick buildings most vulnerable to collapse during a major earthquake. It's the first step in a long process, but an important step nonetheless.

The decision followed a contentious hearing on May 9, during which dozens of URM building owners came forward to protest what they called an "unfunded mandate." Their concerns—and, specifically, the concerns of Black clergy members in Northeast Portland—led to several amendments to the previous policy meant to protect the buildings from financial ruin.

The most notable amendments lengthened the timeline for mandatory retrofits, sped up the timeline for informational placarding on URMs, and created two work groups devoted to finding financial solutions to the very expensive problem of retrofits.

First, council changed the deadline for commercial URM building owners to retrofit their roofs to 20 years—and extension from the original resolution, which mandated those repairs within 10 years. Council also removed the requirement for commercial URM owners to connect their floors to the walls with bolts—a requirement structural engineers say would have helped prevent the collapse of some of these buildings in an earthquake.

Commercial buildings fall under "Class 3" and "Class 4" in a URM ranking system. Class 1 and 2 buildings are high occupancy buildings, like schools, and buildings that are important for emergency response, like fire stations and hospitals. Classes 3 and 4 buildings are mostly commercial buildings, apartments, and other privately owned buildings (the majority of them are privately-owned).

Class 1 and 2 buildings will have very high safety standards under the new resolution, while Class 3 and 4 were originally expected to meet a "reduce risk of collapse" standard meant to protect passerby and, perhaps, make things a little safer for inhabitants.

But the removal of that requirement may only be temporary. "Council has put off the question about these specific classes of buildings for another year," said Jamie Dunphy, Commissioner Nick Fish's senior policy director, after the Wednesday council meeting.

Commercial buildings make up 80 percent of URMs. To address their owners' concerns, the council has asked staff to create two working groups—one will include stakeholders like private building owners, tenants, and financial experts to determine a clear path to achieve retrofits without financially devastating building owners. Estimates for the cost range from \$43 to \$105 per square foot, or around \$450,000 for a 9,500-square-foot building.

The other working group focuses primarily on churches and other nonprofits, which have unique difficulties financing such construction due to their nonprofit status. Churches and other tax-exempt groups will not be required to implement new seismic standards immediately, and the working group is meant to help them find the financial capacity to increase safety in URMs.

This decision was inspired by a meeting Wheeler had with leaders from predominately Black churches in Northeast Portland, where he discussed how the policy would harm their congregations. Many of those leaders and congregants came to the meeting to voice support for Wheeler's amendment and raise concerns that they had not been included in the conversation previously.

"Safety is important to us," said J.W. Hennessy, president of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. "There are people who live in [class 3 and 4 buildings] who are voiceless, and we want to stand there for them." But, he added, "Our concern was about engagement in the process.... We want to have access to information to make good decisions for the community."

Class 1 and 2 buildings, which include schools, meeting halls, fire stations and hospitals, will move forward to the code writing part of the process, and that code adoption should be before council in about a year. "We took some important steps: retrofitting community centers, schools, critical facilities, those are really buildings that are so essential to emergency response," says Jonna Papaefthimiou, a Resilience Manager at Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM). Those buildings are also on a 20 year timeline, but have significantly higher safety standards than those proposed for class 3 and 4 buildings.

A safety-focused amendment brought forward by Commissioner Dan Saltzman also passed unanimously. That amendment speeds up the timeline for labeling URM buildings with informational placards that describe the risks associated with that building type. The Portland policy will come before council in three months. Placards may be required on URM buildings as soon as March 1, 2019. "It's incumbent upon us to share that information so our citizens can make informed decision," Saltzman said.

"This is the clearest issue for me," said Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. "Every tenant and occupant has a right to make an informed decision on whether they want to live in an URM."

## **The Portland Business Journal**

### **With Intel's Help, Portland Launches Smart City Pilot Aimed at Traffic Safety**

*By Malia Spencer  
June 18, 2018*

The city of Portland, in working with Intel and Portland General Electric among other partners, believes it can make its roads safer.

The city is installing 200 sensors into streetlights along roads in Southeast as part of the Smart City PDX initiative. The pilot project looks to use technology to address safety and traffic.

The city is working in partnership with Intel Corp., AT&T Inc., GE Co. and Portland General Electric (NYSE: POR). The sensors, called City IQ, are being installed on Southeast Division Street, 122nd Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard at a cost of \$1 million.

The sensors contain Intel technology that collects traffic and pedestrian counts as well as speed information. The sensors are installed in a smart lighting system made by Current, a startup within GE. If the pilot project is expanded, the same sensors can be adapted for new applications.

"Designing safe streets starts with good data," said Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Leah Treat in a written statement. "Until now, collecting this data was time and volunteer intensive. Now with these smart sensors, we can get real-time data about how Portlanders are using our streets. As a result, our traffic engineers will be smarter and Portlanders will be safer."

Intel is particularly keen on communities adopting smart cities infrastructure since the systems touch on several key products. For instance, smart city infrastructure creates vast amounts of data. That data either needs to be crunched on site through what's known as edge devices, or sent back to data centers. Intel has a piece of all of that.

Additionally, the company sees huge potential in the connectivity that it will take for this infrastructure to work. It has made a big bet on the next generation of wireless technology, known as 5G, another critical component for smart cities.

In fact, earlier this year, Intel released a smart cities report that included Portland's efforts along with 19 other global cities such as Singapore, Seoul, Tokyo and Dubai.

"Smart collaborations between city officials, corporations and software developers are creating infrastructures that empower citizens while making our cities more resilient and responsive," said Jonathan Ballou, vice president of the Internet of Things Group at Intel, in a written

statement. “The city of Portland deployment of smart traffic sensors is a great example of this and will improve the safety and quality of life for its citizens.”

Funding for this pilot came from the companies involved as well as general transportation revenue and system development charges.

This week, the city council is scheduled to vote on a framework to guide Portland’s smart city initiatives.

## **Wheeler Joins Mayoral Coalition Pushing for Federal Cannabis Reform**

*By Pete Danko  
June 12, 2018*

Portland’s Ted Wheeler has joined with five other U.S. mayors in a new coalition advocating for federal cannabis regulation reform.

The Government for Responsible U.S. Cannabis Policy Coalition was unveiled at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Boston, where a resolution calling for cannabis to be removed the federal Controlled Substances Act was also adopted on Monday.

“Cannabis prohibition has failed to keep our children safe, failed law enforcement, and has especially failed communities of color disproportionately targeted and prosecuted for low-level drug offenses,” Wheeler said on social media. “Eventually, legalization will come to every state.”

The mayoral moves come amid new reform proposals in Congress, most notably a bipartisan bill introduced last week that would allow states to pursue their own cannabis policies without fear of federal meddling.

Sen. Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican and co-sponsor of the bill, is counting on President Donald Trump’s support. Asked about the legislation on Friday, Trump said, “We’re looking at it. I probably will end up supporting that.”

In addition to Wheeler, mayors in the new coalition include Mark Farrell of San Francisco, Jenny Durkan of Seattle, Oakland’s Libby Schaaf, Heidi Williams of Thornton, Colo., and Michael Hancock of Denver.

Durkan, Hancock and Farrell were also co-sponsors of the resolution, with Wheeler, along with Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, Carolyn Goodman of Las Vegas and Christopher Cabaldon of West Sacramento.

**OPB**

## **Portland Leaders Rename Downtown Street For Harvey Milk**

*By Anna Griffin  
June 14, 2018*

The Portland City Council has renamed part of a key downtown street after gay rights activist Harvey Milk.

Milk was one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was assassinated in 1978.

City leaders voted Thursday to rename a 13-block stretch of Southwest Stark Street after Milk. They say the change sends a message to the world about what Portland represents.

“Harvey Milk, I think, is one of the most inspirational people not just to the LGTBQ-plus community, but to the nation as a whole,” said Mayor Ted Wheeler. “It sends a signal that we are an open and welcoming and inclusive community.”

Supporters of the change noted that Southwest Stark was once the heart of Portland’s gay community. They collected more than 2,500 signatures to begin the renaming process.

Previous efforts to rename streets in Portland have come with a great deal of political controversy. But the Milk effort was, comparatively speaking, fast, easy and noncontroversial.

During the signature-gathering effort, the only real opposition came from people who wondered why Portland didn’t recognize a gay rights pioneer from Oregon.

To an extent, that decision was dictated by city renaming rules, which require honorees to be household names and also deceased for at least five years.

Organizers of the renaming said they hoped to find other ways to honor lesser-known figures in the gay rights movement who are from Oregon or did the bulk of their work here.

Milk helped successfully kill California’s Proposition 6, which would have barred gay people from working as school teachers, and helped pass a San Francisco city ordinance ensuring equal rights for gays and lesbians. He was also a champion for the notion that being out and proud is the best way to overcome bigotry.