

The Oregonian

Trump Slams Portland Mayor for 'Shameful' Treatment of ICE Agents

*By Gordon Friedman
August 20, 2018*

President Trump on Monday tore into Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, saying Wheeler "shamefully" instructed city police officers not to assist federal officers patrolling a protest at the local Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office.

Wheeler's decision left federal officers "to face an angry mob of violent people," Trump said during a White House speech commending immigration and border patrol officials. Though protesters participated in acts of civil disobedience and some were unruly, there were no documented incidents of violence by protesters at the ICE facility.

Though he did not call out Wheeler by name, the president's comment Monday is perhaps the most direct rebuke of Wheeler, who has previously been an indirect target for Trump's ire because of Portland's status as a sanctuary city.

Wheeler was not available for comment Monday. Michael Cox, his chief of staff, shot back at Trump on Twitter. "I'll simply say that @tedwheeler has a highly skilled staff who make sure the mayor is well-briefed on things like 'facts' and 'the law' before he makes sweeping public statements," Cox said.

Protesters demonstrated at the ICE field office in Portland for five weeks before Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw agreed the demonstrators' camp must be removed. Until that point, Wheeler had maintained that federal police officers could adequately protect their building and said city police officers would not get involved at the camp unless immediate threats to health and safety arose.

Security Deposits, Tenant Background Checks May Be Curtailed in Portland

*By Gordon Friedman
August 20, 2018*

The Portland City Council will soon consider an ordinance to cap what landlords can charge for security deposits and limit how they may use renters' credit and criminal conviction history to deny them tenancy.

"Screening criteria and security deposit reform" will be the subject of an upcoming council agenda item, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly wrote in an August 14 post to her Facebook page. The ordinance is scheduled for a hearing September 20, said Eudaly spokeswoman Margaux Weeke.

It is exactly the kind of move that Oregon landlords feared when they banded together to try to raise \$2 million to fight those and other restrictions they say will undermine their businesses.

Policymakers in other cities have also explored regulating security deposits, citing mounting pressures on renters who struggle to save up cash for move-in fees. New York City's comptroller

in July introduced a deposit-limiting measure. The Seattle City Council adopted a similar ordinance in December 2016, and landlords filed a lawsuit to challenge it.

In Portland, landlords may currently charge what they like as a security deposit, and there are few regulations over how deposits must be returned after a tenant vacates. That would change under Eudaly's ordinance. In the Facebook post, Eudaly described one effect of the ordinance as "limit security deposit requirements."

The ordinance would also change how landlords may use information about potential tenants. Property owners typically perform criminal records and credit history checks on rental applicants. Some renter advocates have described the background checks as offering landlords a pretense for discriminating against those with criminal pasts or poor credit.

Eudaly said in her Facebook post that changing how landlords may use information about rental applicants to deny them tenancy is in part intended to "reduce barriers to housing" and "prevent discrimination."

According to a draft of the ordinance provided by Eudaly's office, she has considered establishing a system that requires landlords to approve tenants on a first-come, first-served basis, though a minimum credit score would still be allowed.

To deny applicants, landlords would be required to rank applicants on their credit history, criminal convictions and housing record and give them a chance to provide favorable information.

The draft ordinance includes a list of crimes that are not to be judged by landlords as meaning a tenant convicted of them would likely harm the property or cause the premises to be unsafe, if the applicant was sentenced at least three years prior or released from prison one year prior. The list includes felony assault and battery, felony burglary or breaking-and-entering, stalking and misdemeanor domestic violence, dealing or manufacturing illegal drugs, and non-forcible sex offenses, among others.

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: Council to Consider Filtration Plant

*By Jim Redden
August 21, 2018*

Plus, bike parking update feedback sought, and East Side Plating sues city over unused campsite.

The Portland Water Bureau recommended the construction of a "granular media" filtration plant on property it already owns east of Oxbow Park to fight contaminants found in Bull Run water during a City Council work session last Tuesday.

Bureau officials stuck by earlier cost estimates for such a plant of between \$350 million and \$500 million. They also will ask the council to approve the contracting process next week, but do not need a decision on the type or location of the plant until early 2019.

The council authorized the plant after cryptosporidium, a potentially deadly parasite, was repeatedly found in the reservoir in the Bull Run Watershed. It will consider approving a contracting process for the plant this week but will hold another hearing on its type and location before early 2019.

Commissioner Nick Fish is in charge of the bureau until Sept. 4, when it transfers to Commissioner Amanda Fritz as a result of Mayor Ted Wheeler's recent reassignments.

Bike parking update feedback sought

The Portland Bureau of Transportation is seeking public comment on the first update of the city's Bicycle Parking Code in 20 years. The update is intended to support secure, accessible and convenient bicycle parking in all new developments and major redevelopments.

Working with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, PBOT has released a discussion draft update project for review. It says such additional parking will encourage more bike riding, which will help reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, two goals of city policies to fight climate change.

Comments are due by Oct. 1 and can be online or by mail. For more information, go to: tinyurl.com/y8nkphht

Business sues city over unused campsite

East Side Plating has sued the City of Portland over its failed effort to relocate the Right 2 Dream Too homeless camp to the inner east side.

The longtime industrial company is located next to the short section of Southeast Harrison Street the city bought for the camp's relocation from Old Town, but which it abandoned after the state Land Use Board of Appeals ruled camping is not allowed there.

As first reported by The Oregonian, the longtime inner east side business asked the Multnomah County Circuit Court to rule that the city has given up its rights to the property, or to award it \$9.9 million in damages. The city has invested over \$1 million in the unused parcel.

The city subsequently moved the camp to its current location on Portland-owned property in the Rose Quarter area.

Willamette Week

President Trump Berates Portland Mayor for His Decision to Have Police “Stand Down” During Protests Against ICE

*By Rachel Monahan
August 20, 2018*

Ted Wheeler moved to try to keep police out of the way of the protesters, but police ultimately swept the Occupy ICE camp.

President Donald Trump today blasted Portland's mayor over his orders to police not to intervene in a protest blockade of a federal immigration building.

In remarks at the White House, Trump criticized Mayor Ted Wheeler's decision to ask police to not involve themselves in the weeks of protests at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices.

"Last month, the mayor of Portland, Oregon shamefully ordered local police to stand down, leaving federal law enforcement officers to face an angry mob of violent people," Trump said in a speech today honoring border police, according to the White House transcript.

Trump did not call out Wheeler by name.

As WW first reported this month, ICE agents sent a cease-and-desist letter to Wheeler claiming that they repeatedly called 911 for help in the early days of the "Occupy ICE" protest, only to be told that police officers had been instructed not to intervene.

Wheeler's office denies that any policy ever existed barring officers from responding. Instead, he says he told police to stay out of federal business unless public safety was at stake.

Documents obtained by WW—including emails from a police commander—show that ICE employees did call local law enforcement, but were told that police would only respond if someone was in imminent danger. Police Chief Danielle Outlaw says that decision was standard procedure with low police staffing. Outlaw has also claimed responsibility for making the decision to sweep out the Occupy ICE encampment on July 25.

Wheeler has also been admonished for his handling of the ICE protest by the president of the Portland police union.

But in a city where Trump is deeply unpopular, a tongue-lashing from the president might boost the mayor's public standing, even as criticism of police tactics intensifies.

U.S. Senator Calls for Mayor Ted Wheeler's Resignation Over His Handling of ICE Protests

By Katie Shepherd

August 21, 2018

The senator's resolution condemns Wheeler for refusing to intervene when "a mob of leftwing activists recently surrounded an ICE office."

A U.S. Senator formally called for the resignation of Mayor Ted Wheeler while asking his fellow federal lawmakers to vote for a Congressional resolution to support U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana) introduced the resolution Tuesday morning, in direct response to the controversy surrounding Wheeler's attempts to keep Portland police from becoming entangled in a dispute between protesters and federal officials outside of the local ICE building.

The call for Wheeler to step down comes the day after President Donald Trump publicly berated him in a speech honoring border patrol agents.

The senator's resolution condemns Wheeler for refusing to intervene when "a mob of leftwing activists recently surrounded an ICE office in southwest Portland, Oregon, trapping ICE employees inside the building."

The resolution quotes Portland Police Association president Daryl Turner, who said Wheeler "failed miserably" in regulating the 39-day long protest outside the federal building on Southwest Macadam Avenue. It also quotes a cease-and-desist letter the national ICE union sent to Wheeler last month, alleging the mayor's policy of keeping local police away from the protest "created a zone of terror and lawlessness."

Portland police eventually swept the camp on July 25, after most of the protesters had voluntarily left. Police chief Danielle Outlaw claimed credit for the decision to clear the protest in a radio interview last week.

Cassidy's resolution also condemns statements made by politicians outside Portland. It criticizes two candidates running for office in New York for inflammatory statements they made about ICE.

It denounces Cynthia Nixon, who is running for governor of New York, for calling the federal immigration agency a "terrorist organization" and U.S. House candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has called to abolish ICE.

Wheeler's inclusion among these favorite scapegoats for Republican ire suggests the Portland mayor, usually seen as a moderate, has achieved national notoriety as a leftist—at least on this issue.

Portland Landlords Outraged by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's Proposal to Limit Screenings of Tenant Criminal History

*By Rachel Monahan
August 20, 2018*

Screening criteria and security deposit legislation will go before Council in September.

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly is asking Portland City Council to consider new rules around tenant screenings and security deposits next month.

The screening policy is likely to be particularly controversial—because it restricts a landlord's ability to reject potential tenants based on their criminal history, credit history or financial stability.

Under the proposed rules, landlords couldn't set a policy requiring tenants to have an income that is more than twice their monthly rent when the current industry practice is usual 3 times or 2.5 times the rent.

Landlords are already crying foul.

"It's activism run amok," says Ron Garcia, president of the Rental Housing Alliance. "They're requiring landlords to become social workers and psychologists."

WW first reported in May that her office was working on the policy that would require landlords to take into account exculpatory factors for renting history, credit and criminal background.

The current draft legislation calls on landlords to generally accept tenants with some past criminal history, or justify why they view them as a threat to property or safety of an apartment complex. The policy includes convictions that were over three years ago for felony assault and battery, misdemeanor domestic violence, robbery offenses that involved no weapons, and sex offenses that did not involve force.

The security deposit legislation, meanwhile, has been in the works since Eudaly entered office. The policy, per the current draft, would limit to security deposits to half of a month's rent in cases where last month's rent is required. The screening criteria is also designed to prohibit landlords from taking security deposits for ordinary "wear-and-tear."

The Oregonian reported this morning that Eudaly had posted on Facebook Aug. 14 that the policies would go before Council.

"The policy is designed to:

Reduce barriers to housing

Prevent discrimination

Limit security deposit requirements

Get more Portlanders into safe living situations," she wrote on Facebook.

The Portland Mercury

Trump Berates Mayor Wheeler for His "Shameful" Response to Occupy ICE

By Alex Zielinski

August 20, 2018

Donald Trump called Mayor Ted Wheeler's decision to keep the city out of enforcing federal immigration law "shameful" this afternoon at the White House. Speaking before a room of Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents, Trump excoriated Wheeler (but did not call him out by name) for keeping Portland police out of the recent ICE protests.

"Last month the mayor of Portland, Oregon shamefully ordered local police to stand down, leaving federal law enforcement officers to face an angry mob of violent people," Trump spouted.

Trump's probably referring to when Wheeler said he discouraged Portland police officers from going to the ICE facility on Southwest Macadam to help ICE agents manage the protest—and suggested that officers only be dispatched to the premises if they're responding to a 911 call. Of course, that call was ultimately made by Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, who ordered officers to sweep the protest camp in late July.

Shortly after this sweep, a lawyer representing the Portland Police Association (PPA) sent a warning letter to the city, accusing Wheeler for banning officers from responding to any 911 calls coming from federal immigration officers at the ICE facility. Both Wheeler and Outlaw rebuffed these claims, noting that officers responded to a total of 41 calls for service during the 6-week Occupy ICE campout.

From the sound of it, Trump was briefed on that PPA letter—and not much else.

"The extremists who oppose ICE and CBC [Trump kept calling the CBP the CBC] like to portray themselves as champions of social justice," Trump said. "They are not. But their radical policies are the ultimate injustice, hurting innocent Americans and spilling innocent blood."

Wheeler's Chief of Staff Michael Cox responded to the comments in Trump's own language—a [tweet](#).

Trump reminded the audience that "what you hear in the newspapers and on the news is nothing compared to the way it actually is." He also used the event to congratulate a Latino member of CBP for speaking "perfect English." Can't make this shit up.