

The Oregonian

City of Portland Looks to Redo Exasperating Job Rankings, Pay Scales

*By Gordon Friedman
August 21, 2018*

The city of Portland is preparing to make a wholesale change to how it ranks and pays non-union employees, after a lengthy study found much to improve about city human resources management.

Portland's current system for managing non-union employees is an outdated and jumbled mess of hundreds of different job classifications, some of which are exceedingly broad and some exceedingly narrow, and none of which are backed up by data, Bureau of Human Resources officials testified to the mayor and City Council on Tuesday.

The system in place today is "not equitable, not balanced, not defensible," said Elisabeth Nunes, the city's manager of classification and compensation.

Nunes, along with Serilda Summers-McGee, the director of the HR bureau, its staff and labor consultants have spent years devising a plan to redefine the labor classifications and align pay scales. They are now ready to have their plan go before the Council for a vote, set for September 5.

Bureau directors who attended Tuesday's meeting expressed exasperation at the way the city classifies and pays its non-union employees, who are generally managers or high-level line staff.

Michael Stuhr, administrator of the Water Bureau, offered the mayor and council what he called "a plea" to do anything they can to improve city hiring.

"My hiring is strangled," Stuhr said, describing a troublesome scenario in which he has been unable to recruit senior-level engineers to work on the multimillion-dollar tap water infrastructure projects the bureau has planned.

"This has been a difficult and arduous process," Stuhr said, noting that he believes the city is "in a good place" with the HR bureau's proposal to adjust employee classifications.

Other bureau directors, such as Rebecca Esau of the Bureau of Development Services and Tracy Reeve, the city attorney, said hiring under the current system has been difficult for them, too.

Esau said her bureau desperately needs to hire experienced engineers but has been unable because the city cannot effectively compete with salary and benefits packages offered in the private sector.

"We need them and we need them yesterday," Esau said of the top-level engineers.

Mayor Ted Wheeler brought the council into a closed "executive session" Tuesday to discuss litigation that may arise from its decision making, according to a state law Wheeler cited.

What is discussed at the executive session is confidential. However, the agenda for the meeting indicated the purpose of the closed session was for Reeve and a senior deputy to outline "legal issues and risks" arising from whether employees are exempt from the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, which establishes the minimum wage and overtime pay standards.

City expenditures will increase by several million dollars if the Council adopts the new human resources plan, economics and budget officials testified Tuesday, but it's unclear by exactly how much and over what timeframe because pay decisions are case-by-case.

Tiny Home Village for Homeless Women in Kenton Must Move by Next Year

*By Molly Harbarger
August 21, 2018*

Kenton Women's Village, the first-of-its-kind transitional housing for homeless women, will have to find a new home soon.

The 14-person community will soon be moved to make way for a long-planned low-income housing development. Transition Projects, which operates many public shelters, received the funding needed to break ground on a complex comprising 36 studio and 36 one-bedroom apartments that would rent from \$300 to \$700 a month.

So now city and county officials are scouting for a new location – particularly one that might have infrastructure such as water, sewer and electricity built in.

Kenton Women's Village was envisioned as a new way to house women who might not thrive in traditional shelter, either because they had experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or other trauma.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services, which is funded by the city of Portland and Multnomah County, worked with the Kenton Neighborhood Association and residents to win approval for the first year of the pilot project in 2015.

Since it opened, the Joint Office reports, 14 of the 24 women who stayed there have moved into permanent housing.

On Saturday, 14 women will move into Portland's newest approach to the city's growing homelessness crisis. They will live in extra-tiny houses and share communal living duties as they work to find more permanent housing.

The residents of the micro-homes – which tend to have enough room to sleep and store a few belongings only – will move with the village. If a new site is not ready by the time Transition Projects breaks ground in February, then the women will be placed in housing or put up in motels or shelters until Kenton Women's Village can be re-established.

Neighborhood residents signaled their support of the village during a vote in 2015. There will be no vote this time around, according to Joint Office spokesman Denis Theriault.

"Wherever it lands, that close relationship with neighbors would remain important, but we don't do approval votes for any of our other established programs," Theriault said.

Officials are already looking at a triangular patch of unused city land with a water main that makes it difficult to develop. Though the site is not suitable for a large building, Theriault said, it might be an option for the sleeping pod structures the village residents live in.

Theriault said there also is a possibility the village would move outside the Kenton neighborhood.

Kenton Neighborhood Association Chairman Tyler Roppe said that he and other residents are cautiously optimistic about the village finding a permanent home there.

He said he has some concerns about how to improve the experience for the women who live there and the neighbors, but he is supportive of the idea. He also would like officials to ensure neighbors can have input about oversight and accountability for any issues in the village.

"It's obviously special project and I think a lot of people would like to see that success continue," Roppe said.

U.S. Senator Says Portland Mayor Should Resign Over Handling of ICE Protest

*By Gordon Friedman
August 21, 2018*

A U.S. senator from Louisiana introduced a resolution Tuesday demanding that Mayor Ted Wheeler resign over his handling of the occupation of the local Immigrations and Customs Enforcement office.

The resolution brought by Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy states Wheeler should "immediately resign so that a leader committed to protecting all law-abiding citizens and public servants from harm can assume the duties of Mayor of Portland."

Wheeler's decision to not have Portland police assist federal officers guarding the Southwest Portland ICE field office from protesters drew an attack from President Trump, who on Monday cast Wheeler's decision as shameful.

Wheeler issued a statement in response to Trump on Tuesday, saying he desires "a president that we can be proud of" and a country that respects people of differing backgrounds and refugees.

The Portland mayor has also shot down accusations that he denied protection to ICE employees and federal agents.

Wheeler will not respond to Cassidy's resolution Tuesday, said spokesman Sophia June.

Sen. Ron Wyden said in a statement that Cassidy's resolution "is a classic example of politicians whose actions fly in the face of their pronouncements that they're in favor of state and local rights, which they only seem to be when they think the states and localities are right."

"Portlanders don't need a senator from Louisiana telling them what to do," Wyden said.

It's unclear if Cassidy's resolution, first reported by Willamette Week, will receive serious consideration in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The Portland Tribune

Sources: Trump, Wheeler Fight Over ICE Protests

*By Jim Redden
August 22, 2018*

Plus, Outlaw's rally comments draw praise, scorn and density increases are a controversial West Coast issue

Lost in the flap between President Donald Trump and Mayor Ted Wheeler over the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement protests is what actually happened during the 38-day standoff.

Trump denounced Wheeler on Monday for telling the police not to intervene in the protests at the ICE facility in Southwest Portland. Wheeler responded Tuesday by saying he wants a country that welcomes refugees and keeps families together.

But Portland police say they received 44 calls for service from the area during the protest and took reports on 17 of them. Crimes alleged in the reports include aggravated assault, simple assault, vandalism, intimidation, child neglect and disorderly conduct. No arrests were made in any of them.

Outlaw's rally comments draw praise, scorn

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw is being both praised and criticized for comments that seemed to mock the counter-protesters at the Aug. 4 Patriot Prayer rally. Appearing on "The Lars Larson Show" on KXL, Outlaw said the counter-protesters came to "cause physical harm and confrontation" and then complained after being routed by police with what some have called excessive force.

According to OPB, Kristin Malone, an attorney who has chaired the city's Civilian Review Committee, praised Outlaw for volunteering her opinion, saying that previous chiefs have said little after such confrontations.

But OPB reports that Outlaw's comments have outraged some counter-protesters, even though she insisted the police bureau is fully committed to reviewing officers' use of flash-bangs and other crowd-control weapons.

Density a controversial West Coast issue

Portland is not the only West Coast city to consider relaxing single-family zoning rules to encourage the construction of more housing types — or the only one to spark controversy over it.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission currently is considering recommendations from the Residential Infill Project to rezone around 60 percent of all single-family neighborhoods to allow small multifamily projects. The idea is supported by those who favor more housing choices, but is opposed by many homeowners.

Seattle unveiled a similar Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda in 2015. After a fight, the city is moving forward with revisions that would allow smaller lots and modest multifamily homes on 6 percent of the property in that city currently zoned for single-family homes.

And now, according to the Sightline Institute, Vancouver, British Columbia, has announced its Making Room strategy to build more duplexes, rowhouses and small apartment buildings. City

officials plan to work out the details in an 18-month process, but Vancouver already is facing the same tug-of-war.

Willamette Week

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw's Provocative Statements on Talk Radio Pit Her Against Leftist Protesters

*By Katie Shepherd
August 22, 2018*

But what do city officials and other stakeholders think?

Quote of the Year:

"I tell you, 'Meet me after school at 3 o'clock. Right? We're gonna fight. And I come with the intention to fight. And then you get mad because I kicked your butt. And then you go back and you wail off and whine and complain.'" —Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw

Although it's only August, Danielle Outlaw's vivid analogy about antifascist protesters being dispersed by police is the clubhouse leader for most memorable and divisive quote uttered in Portland in 2018.

In a revealing interview with conservative talk-radio host Lars Larson on Aug. 14, Outlaw sharply criticized antifascist protesters and defended police tactics in the wake of multiple people being sent to the hospital after being hit with riot control agents.

Her comments place local officials in an interesting position. The first black woman to lead the city's Police Bureau is now pitted against protesters rallying against white supremacy and right-wing violence. She says the antifascist protesters behaved in an infantile and dangerous way. Protesters say police targeted antifascist demonstrators while protecting their right-wing adversaries.

WW asked city officials and other stakeholders to respond. Several stayed mum. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler—Outlaw's boss—pointed WW to statements issued before Outlaw's interview. City Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Chloe Eudaly and the Portland Police Association declined to comment by press deadlines.

But others, including the two black women running for City Council this fall, had plenty to say.

We asked:

Do you accept Chief Outlaw's explanation for why police targeted antifascist protesters and not Patriot Prayer during the recent demonstration?

Loretta Smith, Multnomah County commissioner and candidate for the Portland City Council:

"I support Chief Outlaw and how she has been approaching her job over the past several months. I also support her approach that focuses on an individual's behavior, and if people are threatening and potentially causing physical harm, regardless of their affiliation, then the police have to take appropriate action for the safety of all of our citizens."

Jo Ann Hardesty, candidate for the Portland City Council:

"There is no doubt that Chief Outlaw and I have disagreed on many policy issues regarding police accountability and reform. After learning of Chief Outlaw's comments, I was disturbed, so I did what I believe leaders should do—I picked up the phone and called her. After speaking to Chief Outlaw, I believe her statements were a mistake. I am prepared to look past Chief Outlaw's statement in favor of judging her actions, which she has a chance to make by acting on recommendations from community leaders such as myself and the results of the pending independent report."

Mat dos Santos, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon:

"No. Chief Outlaw's comments show a deep disconnect with the events on the ground that day. Not only did the Portland Police Bureau rush a largely peaceful crowd leading to numerous serious injuries, but they also fired a munition at the head of a protester leading to a near-fatal injury. We need to remind Chief Outlaw and Portland police that their job is to facilitate peaceful protest, not respond to isolated events with massive shows of force."

Juan Chavez, spokesman for the National Lawyers Guild, Portland chapter:

"We don't agree with Chief Outlaw's assessment. We too focus on behaviors, and the behavior we saw from the Portland police was a continuation of their pattern of bullying leftist protestors. It's a dangerous precedent for a Police Bureau to say that they're policing 'behavior' or 'tone' at a protest, then choose to focus not on the right-wing protestors with a pattern of violence but the community members facing them."

City Commissioner Amanda Fritz:

"I do not have firsthand knowledge of what transpired at the protest/counterprotest, and I will wait until investigations are completed before reaching any conclusions."

City Commissioner Nick Fish:

"It wouldn't be appropriate to make a judgment about what happened at the Aug. 4 event without full and complete information, which I don't have at this point."

Andrew Hoan, CEO of the Portland Business Alliance:

"When individuals are exhibiting behaviors that harm other people or property, it is appropriate for police to intervene and enforce community standards to ensure the safety of participants."

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Made Bold Claims in a Radio Interview Last Week. Were They True?

*By Katie Shepherd
August 22, 2018*

One of the most interesting claims: Outlaw says antifascist hurled racial invective at her.

What Outlaw said:

"I went down there on Naito Parkway, and they were yelling at me and calling me everything but my name. Saying 'How dare you?' 'You're a hypocrite.' 'How do you think other black people feel?' 'How do young black girls, how do you think they can look up to you now?'"

Is it true? Yes. And it's not the first time antifascist and leftist protesters have hurled racially charged insults at law enforcement officers who are also people of color. At the Occupy ICE

protest outside a federal immigration building this summer, several protesters screamed at black, Asian and Latino Federal Protective Service officers who stood in a police line in front of the building's driveway, alleging that the federal officers were betraying other people of color.

What Outlaw said:

"At that particular time, [the counterprotest] is the group that was lobbing projectiles and setting off smoke bombs and, you know, showing up in flak jackets and bringing guns and wearing helmets."

Is it true? Yes, but it's misleading. Outlaw's claims that some counterprotesters wore helmets and flak jackets is accurate—but so did many of the right-wing protesters who showed up on Aug. 4. After the interview, the Portland Police Bureau clarified that officers reported seeing guns among both protest groups. Whether protesters threw objects at police is still disputed.

What Outlaw said:

"The fact that I, as a very obvious African-American female police chief, have been accused by those within [the antifascist] group or those that support that group as being a supporter and protector of those who are believed to be white supremacists (if that's even the case) is ridiculous."

Is it true? No. Outlaw's claim that it is ridiculous to suggest she protects racists is more a matter of opinion than fact. But her questioning whether the right-wing protesters had white supremacists in their ranks ignores reality. Racist and anti-immigrant activists have always flocked to Patriot Prayer rallies. On Aug. 4, people with SS bolt tattoos, a Nazi symbol, were seen in the crowd, as reported by WW.

What Outlaw said:

"I wasn't asking for permission to go out and clear this [Occupy ICE] camp. I said, 'This is what's going to happen and here's how it's going to happen.' And again, I got the support to do that."

Is it true? Yes. Mayor Ted Wheeler's office confirms Outlaw's description of this conversation is accurate.

Scooters Are Making People Mad—and They Might Spur the Next Breakthrough in Portland Transportation

*By Rachel Monahan
August 21, 2018*

For advocates of active transportation, the whining about sidewalk scooting is a welcome sound.

If Portland's new favorite pastime is riding scooters, complaining about people riding scooters is running a close second.

In the nine days after electric scooters appeared on the city's streets, at least 122 people contacted City Hall to gripe. That's a rate of one complaint every two hours. The vast majority of grievances focused on people riding on sidewalks or not wearing helmets.

"I'm really disappointed that Portland decided to allow these toys on civic property," wrote a resident named Matthew Sanders on July 31. "We have roads for cars, bike lanes for cycles, and

sidewalks for pedestrian traffic. The last thing we need is another, fuzzy, class of transportation that doesn't fit within our current infrastructure plan."

But for advocates of active transportation, the whining about sidewalk scooting is a welcome sound.

It puts pressure on city officials to accelerate their efforts to build a city where more people have ways to go car-free.

"Scooters highlight a weakness in the system," says Michael Andersen, senior fellow at the Sightline Institute, a Seattle-based urban planning nonprofit. "To the extent that they're riding on sidewalks, there's inadequate bike infrastructure."

That's part of why bike activists have become combative scooter rooters: The enemy of cars is their friend. The demand for scooters—and the shortage of places to ride them—is creating a visual that spurs city officials to take a more aggressive approach to bike lanes and other places to ride safely.

The scooter companies, which have been badly received in many cities where they've launched, are happy to have Portland's bike boosters as allies.

"Our objective as a company [is] getting people out of cars. To do that, you have to actually give them an alternative," says Lime's director of strategic initiatives, Gabriel Scheer. "We are trying to create the alternative. Ideally, you do it in a way that's fun and that makes people's lives better."

Portland prides itself on being a city of cycles. But its efforts to offer alternatives to car commuting—and ease congestion and meet the city's landmark climate change goals—have stalled.

In 1993, Portland pledged to reduce carbon emissions 40 percent from 1990 levels by the year 2030. To meet that goal, the city needs to cut in half the percentage of commuters driving by themselves to work. It wants half the county to go to work on bikes or public transit.

Portland's not on pace to meet either of those goals. The percentage of commuters in cars hasn't meaningfully declined since 2010. Transit and bike commuters? Stuck at 19 percent.

But scooters have been ardently received by Portlanders. Data show the number of rides increases each week, and most riders are using them for exactly the kind of short trips—2 miles or less—that urban planners want to pull people out of cars for.

To be sure, scooters still account for a tiny fraction of trips in this city, and they may be cutting into bike ridership. The scooter pilot program isn't guaranteed to continue past November. But if they catch on, they would add a new mode of transportation that would help Portlanders shift from owning cars to renting multiple devices to get around.

"It gets more people used to buying rides when you need them, rather than buying vehicles and using them every once in a while," says Marc Schlossberg, co-director of the Sustainable Cities Initiative at the University of Oregon. "The more we get into a situation where we buy a car ride when we need it, we buy a scooter ride when we need it, we use our own bike when we need it, I think that's a good future outcome."

If that happens, the result could be pressure on Portland officials to protect cyclists and scooter riders from cars—a goal bike activists have long desired.

City officials running the scooter pilot program acknowledge new demand could spark new infrastructure.

"If e-scooter use continues to grow, scooter riders will likely ask for more neighborhood greenways, protected bike lanes and multiuse paths," says Dylan Rivera, spokesman for the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

PBOT is currently weighing a plan for 23 miles of protected lanes and neighborhood greenways through the central city. Scooters could push the city to move faster.

And they could help fund the projects.

Santa Monica, Calif., the birthplace of the e-scooter craze, moved forward with an expansion of bike lanes and signals last month, thanks in part to funding expected to come from taxing scooters and bike share.

In a less direct way, activists hope scooters could expedite Portland's aim for more bus and train service—by helping people get to public transportation. In a Lime company survey, 27 percent of users of both e-scooters and bike share in big cities reported they used Lime to get to public transportation on their last trip.

The share of people using public transportation "has been flat to down for years since the turn of the century," says Andersen. "Scooters and bike shares and short hops solve the last-mile problem and increase potential ridership on core lines."

For believers, the scooters represent the first wave in a series of new technologies that could shift Portlanders away from cars and toward transportation that doesn't pollute—but also doesn't require too much exertion.

Another one? E-bikes, which are bicycles with an electric motor. The city plans to introduce e-bikes as part of the next bike share contract in August 2019.

Meanwhile, riders like Neil Heller are accepting the scooter backlash as a healthy conflict.

The 40-year-old small-scale real estate developer was first in line for Lime scooters—he went to the company's warehouse days before it launched. In his dozen rides, he's had people yell at him out of their car windows and flash him a thumbs-down sign.

He doesn't care. "People are getting used to them," he says. "But as soon as they try them, they'll be sold."

The Portland Mercury

Louisiana Senator Calls For Mayor Wheeler's Resignation

*By Alex Zielinski
August 21, 2018*

A US Senator from Louisiana has called on Mayor Ted Wheeler to "immediately resign." Yep, you read that right.

Senator Bill Cassidy introduced a resolution this morning criticizing Wheeler for the way he handled Portland's recent protest outside the Southwest Waterfront Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility. The resolution is co-sponsored by US Senator David Perdue from Georgia. Both men are Republicans.

"Whereas a mob of leftwing activists recently surrounded an ICE office in southwest Portland, Oregon, trapping ICE employees inside the building," the resolution reads. "Whereas the Mayor

of Portland, Oregon, Ted Wheeler, barred the Portland Police Bureau from coming to the aid of ICE employees, stating, "I do not want the @PortlandPolice to be engaged or sucked into a conflict, particularly from a Federal agency that I believe is on the wrong track . . . If they are looking for a bailout from this mayor, they are looking in the wrong place."

In conclusion, the resolution "calls on the Mayor of Portland, Oregon, Ted Wheeler, to immediately resign so that a leader committed to protecting all law-abiding citizens and public servants from harm can assume the duties of Mayor of Portland."

The demand comes less than a day after Donald Trump delivered a speech at the White House, where he called Wheeler's actions during the ICE occupation "shameful." According to Cassidy's office, the senator was working on the resolution before Trump spoke yesterday.

In his resolution, Cassidy lumps Wheeler in with two aspiring liberal politicians, New York gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon and New York congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—denouncing all leaders for opposing ICE.

While Wheeler did note—both during a city council session and on Twitter—that he wouldn't direct Portland Police Bureau officers to assist ICE during the weeks-long campout to protest immigrant family separations, he doesn't have the authority to "ban" police from responding to 911 calls at the ICE facility.

At the time, Wheeler spokesperson Michael Cox said that, "While the mayor can't give tactical direction to the police bureau, he has given strategic direction. His thinking is, 'This is a federal agency on federal property with its own law enforcement agency, and we don't need to get involved.'"

After the camp was eventually swept by PPB on orders from Chief Danielle Outlaw—the person who can give tactical directions—a lawyer representative the ICE officer union also chastised the city for "forbidding" officers to assist ICE employees. Outlaw rebuffed, saying that she instructed officers to "respond to all 911 calls around the Occupy ICE protest" and that officers responded to a total of 41 calls for service during the six-week campout.

"A politician deciding who gets help in an emergency based on politics is the kind of thing that happens in banana republics—not a democracy that ensures equal protection under the law," said Cassidy in a press statement. "For Mayor Wheeler to abandon this principle along with people being threatened by a violent mob is unacceptable. He needs to resign immediately."

[Wheeler's only response thus far has been via a cryptic pair of tweets.](#)

OPB

Weeks After Occupy ICE PDX, Mayor Ted Wheeler Is In National Republican Sights

*By Dirk VanderHart
August 21, 2018*

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Cynthia Nixon. Ted Wheeler?

To Portland activists sometimes given to thinking of the mayor as a law-and-order tyrant, Wheeler might seem out of place on a list with two ultra-left political candidates from New York City.

To a Republican U.S. Senator from Louisiana, he fits right in.

Senator Bill Cassidy on Tuesday filed a resolution for consideration in Congress's upper house, formally calling on Wheeler to resign from office. The Occupy ICE PDX demonstration that shuttered a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland in June has been cleared for weeks, but in the minds of Cassidy — and President Donald J. Trump — the message it sent lives on.

“A mob of left-wing activists recently surrounded an ICE office in southwest Portland, Oregon, trapping ICE employees inside the building,” the proposed resolution states.

In the document, also supported by U.S. Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.), Cassidy “calls on the Mayor of Portland, Oregon, Ted Wheeler, to immediately resign so that a leader committed to protecting all law-abiding citizens and public servants from harm can assume the duties of Mayor of Portland.”

Folding in criticisms from union officials representing Portland police officers and agents of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Cassidy takes to task Wheeler's stance early on in the occupation, when he said he did not want Portland police “engaged or sucked into a conflict, particularly from a Federal agency that I believe is on the wrong track.”

The resolution, first reported by Willamette Week, likens the response to Ocasio-Cortez's support from an Occupy ICE group in Los Angeles. The Democratic Congressional candidate from New York mounted a stunning primary upset of Congressman Joe Crowley earlier this year, and appears headed for victory in November.

Cassidy also folded in a mention of actress Cynthia Nixon, running for governor of New York, who has reportedly dubbed ICE a “terrorist organization.”

But it's Wheeler whom Cassidy targets for resignation.

“A politician deciding who gets help in an emergency based on politics is the kind of thing that happens in banana republics—not a democracy that ensures equal protection under the law,” Cassidy said in a statement Tuesday. “For Mayor Wheeler to abandon this principle along with people being threatened by a violent mob is unacceptable. He needs to resign immediately.”

Cassidy's office said Tuesday that the resolution has been in the works for weeks, well before Trump also singled out Wheeler — though not specifically naming him — in a speech at the White House on Monday.

Trump told those gathered for the address that “last month, the mayor of Portland, Oregon shamefully ordered local police to stand down.”

When OPB requested comment from the Mayor on Trump's comments and the proposed Senate resolution Tuesday, his office referenced a vague post on his Facebook page, apparently aimed solely at Trump.

It reads: “We want a country that respects people of all faiths and all nationalities. We want a country that believes in family and will do anything to keep parents together with their children. We want a country that welcomes refugees and those fleeing political oppression. We want an administration that represents us. We want a president that we can be proud of.”

It's not clear that the resolution being put forward by Cassidy and Perdue will garner enough steam to be called up for a vote in the Senate. It certainly doesn't have the support of Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, who called the proposal “a classic example of politicians whose actions fly in the face of their pronouncements that they're in favor of state and local rights.”

Regardless of the outcome, though, political observers say Wheeler could reap a benefit from the recent Republican ire.

“Being targeted by Donald Trump and a right-wing Senator from Louisiana certainly isn’t going to hurt Ted in his political life in Portland, Oregon,” said Mark Wiener, a Portland political consultant.

Len Bergstein, a Portland-based lobbyist and political pundit, partly concurred, saying: “At one level, it is a dream for an Oregon or Portland politician to be on the opposite side of a policy issue with Donald Trump. It’s a great way to define them on the spectrum of progressive versus conservative.”

But Bergstein also cautions that the outcry from Washington, D.C., could renew scrutiny about Wheeler’s stance toward Occupy ICE.

The protest began in mid-June as a handful of tents outside the ICE building in southwest Portland. Within weeks it had swelled into an encampment with more than 100 tents, makeshift barriers, a kitchen, gardens and more. Portland police stayed away as the camp grew, though officials said demonstrators were trespassing.

In response, ICE temporarily ceased operations at the building, before sending in Department of Homeland Security police to clear protesters away from the entrance. A massive encampment remained on the building’s perimeter. Portland police moved in to clear the camp on July 25 — after many demonstrators had already departed.

Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association lashed out at the city’s response to the occupation, writing that the mayor had “failed miserably” in his oversight of the police bureau. That came after officials with the union that represents ICE workers accused Wheeler of refusing to allow the police to respond to reports of harassment and threats of ICE employees, and issued a “cease-and-desist” letter to the city.

Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw have disputed the union’s version of events.