

## The Oregonian

# Portland Likely to Withdraw from FBI Anti-Terror Operation

*By Gordon Friedman  
December 4, 2018*

Portland is on a path to withdraw from the FBI's anti-terrorism task force for a second time after Commissioner-Elect Jo Ann Hardesty is sworn into office early next year.

Hardesty has said forcing Portland's removal from the Joint Terrorism Task Force is among her Day One priorities.

She likely has allies in that pursuit: Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Chloe Eudaly, both of whom told The Oregonian they lean toward pulling the city from the law enforcement pact.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman, whom Hardesty is replacing, on Tuesday bemoaned that Portland is all but certain to withdraw. "It's almost a fait accompli," Saltzman said.

Membership in the task force affords Portland police officers and other select officials access to federal agencies' information about potential terrorist activities in the Portland area. The task force in 2002 famously caught the Portland Seven, a group of locals who attempted to join an al Qaeda cell.

Portland leaders have vacillated on whether to stay a member of the law enforcement cooperative ever since the city joined in 1997. The FBI operates joint terrorism task forces out of field offices in more than 100 cities. Portland drew national attention when it cut ties in 2005, rejoined partly in 2011 and rejoined fully in 2015.

Hardesty, a long-time activist for police reform and social causes, has stressed her concerns with the task force lie with complaints that its members have used it as a pretense to surveil Muslims or deport immigrants.

Hardesty said in a statement Tuesday that she intends to have the city withdraw given "the fear of community members, especially recent immigrants and refugees, who feel targeted by federal agents."

"At the end of the day we must listen to those most impacted by policy," the statement said.

"Time and time again our leadership has been called to protect our fellow community members and remove ourselves from this agreement. Their request is unwavering and now is the time to listen and act."

Fritz said FBI agents have assured city leaders that "they aren't doing anything improper." But the agency is not transparent about its work, Fritz said, leading her to say it is right for the city council to discuss if Portland should remain in the task force.

"I would need to be convinced of reasons to stay in," Fritz told The Oregonian.

Eudaly said she is concerned that the task force is used to help Immigration and Customs Enforcement make deportations – actions that she said would violate the spirit of Portland's sanctuary status policy.

"I lean toward withdrawing," Eudaly said.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said last year that he is satisfied with Portland's involvement in the task force. Whether his position has changed is unclear; his office did not return a request for comment Tuesday.

Commissioner Nick Fish said in a statement that Portland should continue its membership in the task force despite worries about its activities, which he said he shares.

"I believe Portland is safer when we exchange information with our federal law enforcement partners," the statement said. "And I also believe we must enter into that relationship with our eyes wide open."

Fish said he has been privy to confidential briefings showing Portland is vulnerable to domestic and international terrorism. Local police access to information about potential threats is of critical importance, he said.

The FBI's special agent in charge for Oregon, Renn Cannon, made the case to the media Tuesday for why Portland should remain in. He said a more inclusive task force would be better equipped to keep Portlanders safe.

Though Saltzman believes Portland's withdrawal from the pact is all but certain, the retiring commissioner said Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty should "think about the consequences" of ending the agreement.

Saltzman, who noted that he is Jewish, said Portland's religious minorities and abortion providers still face threats of terrorism.

"It'd be nice to know the city council has our backs," he said.

## **It's Winter. Here's How to Find Shelter or Help Those in the Cold.**

*By Molly Harbarger  
December 4, 2018*

Temperatures have started to dip in Portland, which can be deadly for people who are living on the street.

The city-county Joint Office of Homeless Services has four shelters available for the winter months, on top of the 1,500 year-round beds. When the weather is especially dangerous for people without a roof, there are even more spaces available.

Here's what you need to know if you need shelter this season, or if you want to help people who do.

The 75-bed winter family shelter is open in a former recording studio at 1150 NW 17th Ave. The space is donated by Tom Cody, developer and owner of Project ^, which has an office just a few feet away on the same block.

The shelter will be open from 6 p.m. to 6 am. every day, with day center space open at the First Unitarian Church building at Southwest 13th Avenue and Salmon Street. There, families can take showers, do laundry and hang out.

Portland Homeless Family Solutions will operate the shelter and day space, with support from Congregation Beth Israel, which hosted the shelter last year.

The family shelter will take in six families a day, each day, until filled up. To get a spot, call 211 or visit [211info.org](http://211info.org).

The Walnut Park shelter will house 80 men, women and couples at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Transition Projects Inc. will operate the Multnomah County-owned building. To get a space in the shelter, either call 211, visit Bud Clark Commons at 655 N.W. Hoyt St. or call the day center at 503-280-4700.

Do Good Multnomah's homeless veteran's shelter will make 30 beds available for non-veterans as well as 10 winter beds available just for veterans.

Pets on a leash and with a carrier are allowed.

To get a space in the shelter, either call 503-490-0285, or visit Do Good Multnomah's website. Do not go to or call the church.

The shelter will be open 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day of the week.

Portsmouth Union Church in North Portland will become an all-winter shelter rather than just a severe weather shelter. The shelter at 4775 N Lombard St. will be supported by Do Good Multnomah and have 50 beds for men, women and couples over 18 years old.

Pets on a leash and with a carrier are allowed.

To get a space in the shelter, either call 503-490-0285, or visit Do Good Multnomah's website. Do not go to or call the church.

The shelter will be open 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Sundays.

Additional shelters will open in extreme weather. Those shelters will only be available the duration of the bad weather.

Those conditions are:

When temperatures drop to 25 degrees or lower; at least an inch of snow is predicted; the temperature drops to 32 degrees or lower overnight while there is also an inch of driving rain; other conditions that could include wind chill or extreme temperature fluctuations.

These shelters will be low-barrier, with space for carts, bikes and pets.

No one will be turned away, but the space may be tight, especially after several days of bad weather.

After three days of severe weather, the city-county Joint Office of Homeless Services and 211 treat the weather as a full-time issue.

Shelter might be expanded, if needed. That also might include public buildings, such as the Portland Building which has been used as a shelter in the past.

For people who refuse shelter, volunteers and staff will bring cold weather gear to where they camp.

Winter also means that people living outside need warm clothes and gear.

If you want to donate items, homeless services providers ask for thick socks; waterproof gloves or mittens; waterproof winter coats; waterproof hats; sleeping bags and warm blankets; knit hats; tarps; hand warmers; and rain ponchos.

You can drop the items off at Transition Projects, 665 N.W. Hoyt St., or JOIN, 1435 N.E. 81st Ave., suite 100 in Portland.

Transition Projects is open 24 hours a day, every day of the week. JOIN is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To donate your time, the family shelter needs people who can bring meals, lead activities for kids or help with chores, such as laundry or sorting donations. To volunteer, email [bethany@pdxhfs.org](mailto:bethany@pdxhfs.org).

They also need twin sheet sets, blankets, pillows, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coats, diapers and baby wipes. To donate, email [emma@pdxhfs.org](mailto:emma@pdxhfs.org).

## **Portland Falls Short on Tracking ‘Green Streets,’ Watershed Work, Auditor Says**

*By Gordon Friedman  
December 4, 2018*

Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services lacks a system to evaluate its multimillion-dollar spending on eco-friendly watershed programs, Auditor Mary Hull Caballero’s office said in a report published Tuesday.

Auditors' focus was on the bureau’s wetland restoration projects and “green streets” – curbside recesses planted with grasses that are designed to slow and treat water run-off.

The programs are undeniably good for the environment, auditors said, but they found insufficient planning and monitoring. Many of the green street recesses were built in places where risk of sewer overflow was low, and once built, many of the water-collecting green spaces aren’t monitored often enough or at all, auditors wrote.

“In 2018, the bureau spent nearly \$1 million in maintenance and \$12 million in construction on watershed protection, including restoration projects and green streets, however there was no formal method to track and report progress towards goals,” auditors said. “Instead the bureau relied on piecemeal reporting and staff assurances.”

In response, the officials in charge of Environmental Services – Commissioner Nick Fish and bureau director Michael Jordan – said they will work to do better, and said many of the auditors’ recommendations to track and report their projects are already in the works.

## Willamette Week

# Portland's Mayor Is Struggling on the Job. And It's About to Get Harder.

*By Rachel Monahan  
December 5, 2018*

**No man is an island, but Ted Wheeler looks marooned.**

The swimming pool in the basement of the Multnomah Athletic Club is an unlikely setting for a breakup.

The brightly lit, 25-meter pool, kept at a balmy 88 degrees, is one of three pools in the city's best-known members-only athletic club, tucked into the foot of the Southwest Hills.

On a Sunday morning in July, Mayor Ted Wheeler was swimming laps shortly after dawn.

Wheeler, 56, enjoys a physical challenge. The mayor, who once summited Mount Everest, runs half-marathons and participates in "Iron Man" contests, and still has enough energy for a hectic work schedule.

That morning, Wheeler encountered one of the first people to help him reach Portland City Hall: John Russell, who was swimming in the next lane.

In the past three decades, few private citizens have been as close to Portland mayors as Russell, 73, a real estate investor who built the PacWest Center. In 2016, Russell joined with other downtown power brokers to help end former Mayor Charlie Hales' hopes for a second term by throwing their clout behind Wheeler instead. (He gave Wheeler's campaign \$1,000 that election cycle and another \$5,000 earlier this year.)

Just prior to their encounter at the MAC, Wheeler had left a message for Russell, soliciting another \$5,000 contribution to his re-election.

But that morning, as the two men took a break from their laps at one end of the pool, Russell had an answer for Wheeler: no.

"This city is adrift," Russell recalls saying. "It's not ambitious. It leaves the citizenry without a sense of pride about getting things done."

Wheeler responded by inviting Russell to the mayor's office to pitch ideas. At that July 16 meeting, Russell offered suggestions. Some were self-serving, like removing off-ramps from the Morrison Bridge to make his properties easier to develop. Others were civic-minded: He pitched a financing plan for paving East Portland roads, and suggested Wheeler convene a "kitchen cabinet" of unpaid advisers as a sounding board.

Wheeler just stared at him blankly, Russell recalls. And that was the last time they talked. (The mayor's office declined to answer questions about the interaction with Russell.)

Is Wheeler a better mayor than Hales, whose term was characterized by equal parts petulance and inaction? In response to the question from WW, Russell offers a simple "no."

No man is an island, but Ted Wheeler looks marooned. Next month will mark his second anniversary in one of the highest-profile jobs in Oregon politics—and Wheeler is struggling in a remarkably public manner.

No one doubts his intelligence or his integrity. But nearly all of the two dozen people WW spoke to about Wheeler say those qualities are not enough. They describe a mayor unable to move the city forward on challenges large and small. He's disappointed the left and the right, while frustrating the institutional players who want to see Portland's achievements measure up to its potential.

Wheeler seems unable to take control.

Real estate developer Homer Williams says Wheeler has been overwhelmed by Portland's ills—including the homeless camps that line city streets.

"Unfortunately, Ted had to step into a situation that's rapidly turning into a crisis that's much bigger than any of us anticipated," says Williams. "It's not that he's not trying."

Wheeler is a technocrat in an era when people have picked sides. He arrived as the Trump era dawned—and divided people. No previous mayor had to deal with the anger and despair of protesters drawn downtown by right-wing extremists seeking bloodshed. And the mayor is notably unsettled by the taunts of dissenters—and he has picked public fights, including with the American Civil Liberties Union.

His former allies on the left say he abandoned them—on housing, on the environment, on cops.

"This administration ran on strong, progressive convictions," says Nathan Howard, a former Wheeler staffer who says the mayor failed to toughen inspections of housing-code violations or direct funds from new homes built after demolitions to build affordable housing. "And then the administration abandoned many of its convictions."

Right-wingers see him as a public enemy, coddling leftist protesters, keeping police from interfering with a blockade of federal immigration offices, and ignoring the proliferation of homeless camps.

"There was the hope he would be the grown-up in the room," says Jim Pasero, a conservative political consultant. "I think he strategically, when he got elected, decided to take a deep dive into the progressive end of the pool. But he is an MBA and a state treasurer, so I'm not sure it was a natural fit for him."

Wheeler's office declined to discuss the details of criticisms but says he's living up to campaign pledges.

Perhaps the biggest problem: The wonky Wheeler hasn't gotten much done.

Even in a booming economy—with two dozen cranes on the skyline—indicators show Portland adrift.

By some measures, conditions downtown continue to deteriorate. The number of used hypodermic needles picked up by Downtown Clean and Safe, for instance, will reach nearly 39,000 this year—about four times the total in 2015. The amount of garbage the group has picked up doubled over the same period. And the number of car thefts in Portland has risen by 45 percent in the past two years.

He made big promises on the campaign trail—then shelved or changed many of them. "In my mind," says Russell, "it's what he's not doing, as opposed to what he's doing."

Last week, WW asked Wheeler to grade himself on his achievements. The mayor nervously rocked back and forth in his chair with his palms together—a nervous tic that's been noticed in City Hall. He caught himself and stopped rocking, giving himself an incomplete.

"It is too early," he says, "for me to either be popping Champagne corks or berating myself for not getting something done."

The job is about to get harder.

In January, the City Council gets a new member: Jo Ann Hardesty, a longtime police critic and arguably the most left-wing commissioner on the council. She joins Commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Amanda Fritz as a voting bloc that could overrule Wheeler from his left.

On a nonpartisan council, it's as if the mayor has nonetheless managed to find himself in the minority party.

"The council as it will shortly be composed will be more difficult to lead," developer Jim Winkler says.

Wheeler arrived in City Hall at a time when Portland was hungry for a new course. There was also hope after the three previous mayors whiffed—Tom Potter never made a dent, Sam Adams was crippled by scandal before he began, and Hales gave up.

In some ways, Portland got what Wheeler promised. He has created a more congenial atmosphere with his colleagues than Hales did. He proved deft at assigning bureaus. He took away the Bureau of Emergency Communications from Commissioner Fritz, for instance, and the bureau has since dramatically reduced wait times for emergency calls.

"Ted has made some mistakes, but he has only been mayor for two years," says Felisa Hagins, political director of Service Employees International Union Local 49. "It's the toughest job in Oregon politics. You just have to tough it out. That's what made Vera [Katz] great."

As a candidate, Wheeler pledged to provide a shelter bed for every Portlander on the streets by the end of this year. He signed on to a "tenants' bill of rights" that included an end to no-cause evictions and a city office dedicated to landlord-tenant affairs. And he called for police reform, including demilitarizing officers and adding body cameras.

Indeed, Wheeler has struggled to meet key goals.

Last year, he abandoned his plan to provide a shelter bed for every homeless person, and now says he never meant to clear everyone off the streets. In February 2017, he passed a requirement that landlords pay moving costs in many evictions—a big achievement—but junked the idea of a robust tenant-landlord relations office. Police still don't wear body cameras, and they cracked down on leftist protesters this summer with a force unmatched in recent memory.

Russell, who has advised every mayor dating back to Katz, says Wheeler set himself up for failure.

"Wheeler announced he was going to focus on three things—affordable housing, homelessness and police relations," Russell says. "What they have in common is, they are insoluble, not that they are the wrong issues."

The mayor says he's hard at work on those promises. "I ran on a very clear platform of homelessness, housing, transportation and infrastructure, police bureau and accountability," Wheeler tells WW. "And in every one of those areas, this administration has made strong progress, but the work is incomplete."

People trying to figure out what's gone wrong in the mayor's office see a pattern.

Wheeler starts with big ideas, but when he encounters obstacles, he stops talking to people until it's too late. Then he settles for a symbolic gesture.

"They think they can govern by sound bite," says a City Hall source. "How about they do the work—understand the issues?"

Even his allies in City Hall concede Wheeler has room to improve.

"I hope he strongly considers running for a second term," says Commissioner Nick Fish. "I'd like to see him be more proactive and less reactive in his approach to the job."

He started that pattern 11 days before taking office.

On that day two years ago, more than 60 community leaders met at the advertising firm Wieden+Kennedy, which was working on a campaign to make Portland feel proud of itself again. The ideas included broadcasting Wheeler's tweets on electronic billboards.

Wheeler arrived to make a pitch for focusing on racial equity in the first 100 days of his administration. He presented a rehearsed plan that impressed nobody.

Wieden + Kennedy's Portland office. (Cameron Browne) Wieden + Kennedy's Portland office. (Cameron Browne)

"My impression, prior to the meeting, was that he would listen," says state Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-East Portland), "but instead, he was more interested in informing the community of a predeveloped plan."

Besides one follow-up email, that's almost all any of the participants heard about Wheeler's ideas for racial equity. The inspirational campaign went into mothballs. And Hernandez got the sense Wheeler didn't want to hear about the complicated problem of race relations in Portland.

Wheeler "gave up on his commitment," says Hernandez, "after realizing that addressing historical and institutional racism wasn't as easy as providing a top-down plan."

Wheeler has admitted he handled the meeting poorly. But his top-down approach marked a pattern.

This summer, his office tried to show it was engaged on tenants' rights—a plank of Wheeler's campaign platform.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, TriMet, Multnomah County celebrate partnership that upgrades Line 73 to Frequent Service on NE 122nd Avenue. (PBOT) Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, TriMet, Multnomah County celebrate partnership that upgrades Line 73 to Frequent Service on NE 122nd Avenue. (PBOT)

For eight months, Commissioner Eudaly held meetings every other week to craft a resolution that would limit landlords' ability to screen tenants based on their criminal history.

Then in June, eight months after Eudaly launched her initiative, Wheeler submitted an ordinance duplicating her efforts. The mayor's action made him look like an ambitious student trying to claim credit for a team project. It baffled the groups doing the work.

"They had been sitting at the meetings," says one staffer at a community organization. "I'm not sure if they were trying to lay claim to it, or trying to throw shade on Eudaly's office. It came out of left field."

Wheeler's office backed off, and Eudaly's office is still pursuing the reforms.

Margot Black, an organizer for Portland Tenants United, was one of Wheeler's early supporters and helped write his platform on tenants' rights. Now she says she's disillusioned.

"He has failed to lead on anything or manifest any vision for this city besides a playground for the wealthy," says Black. "He revealed himself as the ultimate caricature of the 'liberal' Portlander whose progressiveness is only skin deep."

A similar dynamic occurred this spring, when Wheeler introduced a plan to require seismic upgrades for all unreinforced masonry buildings. It would have given private owners of unstable buildings a 20-year window to make them safe in case of a large earthquake.

For months, emails show, other commissioners raised questions about the cost to building owners. Wheeler didn't listen.

"[The mayor's team] seemed intent on hard-selling the policy to the council and community," wrote Marshall Runkel, chief of staff to Eudaly, in a May 1 email. Runkel wanted to know how building owners—including churches and schools—would pay for the upgrades, and if the city would help foot the bill. "The fact that the team couldn't or wouldn't answer my relatively straightforward questions is the source of my disappointment."

Two days before Wheeler's ordinance came to the council, a group of black ministers learned of the requirements that would affect their churches.

They say they summoned Wheeler for a meeting the next night at the Lloyd Center offices of the NAACP. It didn't go well.

"I would describe the mayor's attitude as 'I didn't create this mess and I'll try to navigate through it, but I don't know how to do it, other than shutting it down,'" says E.D. Mondaine, president of the NAACP of Portland. "I think, if given the chance, he'd be a wonderful second-term mayor because of all he's had to learn from his many mistakes in this term."

Wheeler settled on a compromise: a yearlong effort to look at ways to fund upgrades and passing an ordinance requiring building owners to post signs saying their structures are unsafe. But even that weak gesture is getting him into trouble. Building owners say they'll sue because the requirement is "not narrowly tailored to any substantial government interest."

The mayor's office declined to comment on any of those instances of a project Wheeler has failed to bring to fruition.

Wheeler's troubles came to a head in November, in a meltdown triggered by protesters.

Right-wing protesters on the Portland waterfront on Aug. 4, 2018. (Sam Gehrke) Right-wing protesters on the Portland waterfront on Aug. 4, 2018. (Sam Gehrke)

For months, extremist groups regularly brawled in Portland streets at the behest of Joey Gibson, an unemployed Washington real estate broker who leads a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer. The group's clashes with masked antifascists have frightened the city, frustrated downtown business owners and seemed to baffle the mayor—who tried repeatedly to bar Gibson's group from gathering.

The mayor did nothing to create these protests, but he seems ill-equipped to address them.

Wheeler has found protesters intensely frustrating. Face-to-face interactions with the public can also get under Wheeler's skin. His least favorite part of his job? "Hecklers," he says.

His first months on the City Council were marred by escalating and disruptive protests at City Hall. In response, the council beefed up security and passed an ordinance making it easier to eject protesters from the building.

Wheeler acknowledges hecklers' tactics alarm him.

At a recent community meeting for a homeless shelter, he showed up with Multnomah County Chairwoman Deborah Kafoury to a room of a couple hundred people.

"I was literally counting the steps, wondering whether the chair and I could actually make it to the exit," Wheeler tells WW. (Kafoury declined to comment.)

Wheeler's fears may play into his unwillingness to push for the police reforms he promised as a candidate. Riot cops have deployed "flash-bang" grenades and other crowd-control devices on leftist protesters when the cops felt events got out of hand.

"What we've seen in the first two years is the police continue to be heavily militarized and heavy-handed in their approach to protests," says David Rogers, executive director of the ACLU of Oregon. "Which is expensive, dangerous and threatens our democracy."

In October, Wheeler decided he needed to separate the warring street protesters.

"I approached that with a sense of passion and urgency, as did the [police] chief," Wheeler tells WW, "and we were very, very concerned about what we were hearing about the Proud Boys coming back to Portland."

Wheeler pushed forward without first building support among his colleagues and interested community groups. His top-down approach didn't work.

"We've tried really hard to work with him," says Zakir Khan, board chairman of the Muslim civil rights nonprofit Council on American-Islamic Relations Oregon. "Why do all that if we are going to feel like we're just being strung along? Why go into public service if you're not trying to serve the public?"

Rogers says he hopes the mayor engages in some self-reflection. "We hope that moving forward," Rogers says, "he moves away from a cavalier approach and the politics of division."

The result: The City Council voted down his proposal 3-2.

Eudaly says Wheeler must listen more.

"As much as I want to support the mayor and see him succeed, I need to know that every piece of legislation we advance is the best we can do and that we're prioritizing the most urgent issues," she says. "That's hard to achieve without meaningful engagement on issues and policy solutions."

The mayor concedes he bungled the protest rules.

"I didn't bring my colleagues along," he says. "My entire team will be working doubly hard to make sure we never surprise our colleagues, particularly on big stuff, even if there is a sense of urgency."

A day later, Wheeler faced more heckling.

At the Oregon Health Forum on Nov. 15, Wheeler faced a confrontation with someone yelling at him from the crowd who objected to how police clean up homeless camps.

Wheeler responded saucily.

"What is the law?" the mayor asked.

"I don't know," the heckler answered.

"I do and I am about to tell everyone in this room," Wheeler shot back.

At another interruption, he asked the heckler, "Do you want to give the speech?"

The fight apparently left him out of sorts. After a question-and-answer session in which he was challenged to do more about cleaning up tents, Wheeler was overheard mumbling that he couldn't wait for his term in office to end.

Wheeler, who didn't endorse in the commissioner race between Jo Ann Hardesty and Loretta Smith, may now find himself a mayor riding in the back seat of his own City Council. Hardesty won endorsements from the other two women on the council, and on some issues at least, the three are likely to vote as a bloc.

On election night, Hardesty expressed her eagerness to work with her fellow commissioners and "Mayor What's His Name." (She later apologized for the gaffe.)

"On day one," she said, "we get to show what real governance looks like. We get to show what happens when you listen to the people who you're governing."

Eudaly rejects the idea that the majority-women council will be in consensus. "Anyone who's been paying attention will know Commissioner Fritz and I don't always agree," says Eudaly. "That is not going to magically change with the introduction of a third woman. I believe the three of us share some common values and priorities around community engagement, equity, police reform, people over profit, and breaking down barriers to participation in our electoral system."

Hardesty pledged to withdraw Portland from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, a multiagency law enforcement partnership run by the FBI. Wheeler supports Portland's participation in the JTTF. But the mayor has signaled that Hardesty has the votes to end the partnership—and has already met with the FBI about the logistics of withdrawing.

The contract with the police union is up for renegotiation. It seems unlikely Wheeler will be able to find support for salary increases, unless he can point to substantive reforms at the Police Bureau.

The mayor downplays the challenges of Hardesty's arrival.

"On some issues around public safety, we will probably have disagreements, but that's just part of the way it works here," says Wheeler. "It's crazy to assume we are going to agree on everything all the time. So I will probably, in some cases, find myself in a minority position and other cases not."

Wheeler is not giving up on the idea of his campaign promises coming to fruition—and continuing to lead Portland. In fact, he claims he'll run for another term.

His message to Portland: You're going to have Ted Wheeler to kick around some more.

"I'm not going to make an announcement today, because my wife and my daughter have a right to be engaged in the decision when I make it, and I'll make it during 2019," Wheeler tells WW. "But people should absolutely expect I will not only run for re-election, but I will run an aggressive campaign, and I will put a very aggressive, forward-looking agenda on the table."

### **Ted Wheeler's History Led Him to Expect Better Things**

The job of Portland mayor was a fallback for Ted Wheeler—like a safety college for a straight-A student. And that might explain his disillusionment with how tough a job it is.

Twelve years ago, Wheeler breezed into office at the age of 43 to a relatively high-level position for a first-time elected official: Multnomah County chair.

He's a sixth-generation Oregonian, the son of a wealthy timber family for whom the town of Wheeler, Ore., is named. After graduating from Stanford, he earned an MBA from Columbia

University and a master's in public policy from Harvard. He wrote a book about good government, but worked for two decades in the private sector. He's not a career politician who came of age on compromises and negotiations; instead, as a millionaire, he's never had to worry about holding down a job.

"Few mayors have been as well-prepared as Ted Wheeler at knowing how to run municipal governments," says the real estate magnate and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer.

In 2010, then-Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed him state treasurer, after the death of Treasurer Ben Westlund. Some observers believed that made Wheeler heir apparent to Gov. John Kitzhaber, who was then running for election to a nonconsecutive third term.

When Kitzhaber abruptly resigned in 2015, then-Secretary of State Kate Brown became governor instead, dashing Wheeler's hopes.

He set his sights on the next best available position: Portland mayor.

In his first two elected jobs, Wheeler earned high marks for his brains and technical expertise, but low marks for collaboration. That was a red flag: Portland is a city of civically engaged people who want a say in how their city is run. And in Portland's weak mayor system, he would be just one of five votes on the City Council, not the undisputed boss as he was at Multnomah County and the state treasury.

As treasurer, Wheeler would at times develop an ambitious idea, then drop it.

He proposed a 2014 ballot measure to make college more affordable. Called the Oregon Opportunity Initiative, it would have required the state to borrow money to create college scholarships. Wheeler failed to raise adequate campaign contributions and it failed badly at the ballot box.

"I don't consider it a failure in that it opened up a conversation," Wheeler told WW in 2016. "It was a big idea, and sometimes it takes more than one shot to get a big idea through."

Some had their doubts, including Portland State University administrator Sarah Iannarone, who ran against Wheeler in 2016.

"I wanted to force a dialogue about whether Ted Wheeler possessed the vision, the temperament, and the essential knowledge to govern us effectively at a critical juncture in our history," Iannarone says. "I predicted he didn't, and, well, the rest is history."

## **Here's What Portland's Unarmed Cops Are Allowed to Do—and What They Aren't**

*By Katie Shepherd  
December 5, 2018*

### **No driving patrol cars!**

This week, the Portland City Council will take a final vote whether to hire police officers who don't carry guns.

If approved, the newly created public safety support specialists, or PS3s, would be unarmed officers who help Portland police respond to low-risk calls. Dozens of other U.S. cities, including San Diego and Jacksonville, Fla., have such officers.

Mayor Ted Wheeler eliminated the mounted patrol to fund 12 community service officers who would provide support to sworn officers and respond to some calls that do not require an armed officer.

The mayor's office and the police union have quarreled over the details of the new positions for almost two years ("Horsin' Around," WW, Nov. 21, 2018). If the City Council votes to approve the negotiated contract between the city and the Portland Police Association, the Police Bureau will begin background checks on prospective PS3s in January.

Critics of the plan, including Commissioner-Elect Jo Ann Hardesty, complain the police union has watered down the original intent of the community service officers. Hardesty says the unarmed officers should not be part of the police union.

One point of confusion and debate? How much autonomy the unarmed officers will have. Wheeler says the officers will do more than just staff front desks.

"We anticipate PS3s having a lot of work to do, especially as we will only hire 12 at the outset," says Sophia June, a spokeswoman for the mayor. "We will be looking forward to expanding the number in future budget cycles when this proves successful."

Here's a look at what the PS3s could do under the proposal:

**PS3s will:**

- Write non-emergency reports that do not involve potential evidence, suspects or crime scenes.
- Wait for tow trucks at non-injury traffic accidents.
- Follow up on property crimes as long as there is no suspect involved.
- Process evidence.
- Call for backup.

With a sworn officer, PS3s may:

- Attend neighborhood and community meetings.
- Help search for missing persons.
- Help direct traffic at street closures.

**PS3s may not:**

- Respond to calls for service to active crime scenes.
- Perform welfare checks where a weapon or drugs are involved.
- Answer nuisance calls involving drugs or possible crimes.
- Drive a patrol car or walk a beat.

# Former Wheeler Staffer Says “Mayor’s Office Failing in the Eyes of Portlanders”

*By Rachel Monahan*

*December 4, 2018*

**Former staffer Nathan Howard offers a nuanced explanation of why the mayor's office has a perception problem.**

Former mayoral staffer Nathan Howard was among those whom WW solicited for a perspective on Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's first two years in office, as part of an appraisal appearing in tomorrow's edition.

Howard, who was part of the Wheeler campaign staff and then transitioned into a job in the mayor's office, sent on along a nuanced analysis of why Wheeler's office isn't succeeding as it hoped.

Like many of those sympathetic to the mayor, Howard argues that giving the mayor more power and control over government would be of help.

"There's two main causes that've led to the Mayor's office failing in the eyes of Portlanders," Howard says. "Mainly, we have an outdated and broken form of government that consistently sets up our city's leaders for failure. We must change the way our City elects its leaders and functions if we want a better Portland."

But Howard also argues that Wheeler, the candidate, promised things that Wheeler, the mayor, isn't delivering.

"Secondly, this administration ran on strong, progressive convictions around increasing housing opportunity, strengthening tenant protections, helping our houseless neighbors, swiftly ending our use of fossil fuels and moving to 100% renewable energy, reforming the police bureau, to name a few," says Howard. "We were elected on those convictions. That's what Portlanders expected then they overwhelmingly elected us in a very crowded 15-way primary back in early 2016. And then the administration abandoned many of its convictions."

Howard offered several examples including the plan to toughen inspections of housing-code violations or direct funds to build affordable housing from new tax revenues from homes built after demolitions.

Howard was fired after he improperly used a city car and then didn't tell his bosses when confronted about it, as the *The Oregonian* reported at the time.

But Howard says that he wasn't given a second chance because he was pushing the mayor to the left while his bosses in the office were not.

"I believe that's largely why my minor screw-up earlier this year was exploited and I was cannoned out of the Mayor's office," Howard says. "The commitment to real, bold, progressive ideas and solutions has been watered down to the point that most Portlanders are now wondering; what's the Mayor's office doing? Where's the leadership?"

The mayor's office denies that politics was a factor in Howard's firing.

"Politics had nothing to do with this decision," says now-chief of staff Michael Cox. "The mayor's staff is diverse in terms of both political ideology, professional training and lived experience."

# The Portland Office of the FBI Very Much Wants City Council to Stay in the Joint Terrorism Task Force

*By Nigel Jaquiss  
December 4, 2018*

**Federal law enforcement officials hold unusual press briefing to make the case that locals will be safer with the JTTF than without it.**

City commissioner-elect Jo Ann Hardesty won't take office until January but her criticism of law-enforcement is already making waves.

The special agent in charge of the Portland FBI office, Renn Cannon, and a team of federal officials this morning held an unusual briefing at FBI headquarters to make the case that Portlanders are safer with the city as a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force than if the City Council votes to leave the organization.

Cannon repeatedly used the metaphor of a safety net, saying that the combined resources of multiple law enforcement agencies working together provide a much higher probability of preventing terrorist acts than if agencies—specifically the Portland Police Bureau—decide to go it alone.

The trigger for Cannon's plea to preserve the JTTF: Hardesty's vow to vote against continuing the city's continued presence in the JTTF, which brings together officials from a dozen local and federal law enforcement agencies.

At an October debate at the City Club of Portland, Hardesty said that her first move upon replacing City Commissioner Dan Saltzman in the new year would be to press for the city to end its participation in the group.

"We cannot pretend to be a sanctuary city while we have people being targeted by our federal government," Oregon Public Broadcasting quoted Hardesty as saying. As WW has previously reported, it appears Hardesty will probably have a majority of City Council favoring withdrawal.

Today, Cannon spoke to the concerns of Hardesty and other critics, such as the ACLU of Oregon, that the JTTF might use its resources to target people who are in the country illegally. He said that the memorandum of understanding that governs the PPB's participation in the JTTF "walls off" Portland officers from involvement in any immigration actions.

Cannon said his agency is generally not concerned with immigration issues, and only uses immigration laws as a tool when no other options are available.

"I want to make it clear, the role of FBI is not to enforce immigration laws," Cannon said.

Although the FBI handed out a summary of previous JTTF cases and copies of the "Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide" that governs JTTF operations in a nod toward transparency, the briefing was short on specifics about staffing or current operations.

Cannon and his colleagues declined to describe how many JTTF agents are working on domestic terrorism cases and how many are working on international cases. He did say that in previous years, the local JTTF typically evaluated about 200 threats annually but this year, the number will be close to 300. He attributed the increase in part to awareness around mass shootings, such as the one at a high school in Parkland, Fla., earlier this year that left 17 students dead.

George Chamberlin, Cannon's top deputy, noted that only a "small fraction" of the threats the JTTF evaluates are deemed credible.

Cannon also addressed a recent report in The Guardian written by Portland-based reporter Jason Wilson headlined "FBI Now Classifies Proud Boys as Extremist Group."

Cannon confirmed that a Washington-based FBI agent briefed the Clark County Sheriff's staff. But Cannon said although a Clark County report cited in the Guardian story attributed the "extremist" label to the FBI, the federal agency doesn't "classify" any domestic groups of any ideology as "extremists" or put any other such labels on them. Nor, Cannon said, does the FBI investigate people simply because they are associated with a particular group.

"We did not intend and we do not designate groups as 'extremists' or 'not extremist,'" Cannon said. "We were talking about specific individuals who have committed acts of violence."

Portland has exited the JTTF before, leaving under former Mayor Tom Potter in 2005, rejoining on a part-time basis in 2011 and rejoining full-time in 2015. If the council were to vote to leave again next year, Portland would become the only major city in American besides San Francisco not to belong to the JTTF.

As the clock ticks toward a likely city council hearing on the JTTF, Cannon said he and his team have been meeting quarterly with Mayor Ted Wheeler; regularly meeting with other city commissioners; and, at Wheeler's urging, meeting with as many community groups as possible to explain the value of the JTTF.

Cannon said he will do whatever he can to convince Portlanders and city commissioners not to leave the JTTF. One person he hasn't been able to talk to yet: Hardesty, who is out of the country until Dec. 8.

"We are reaching out to Commissioner-elect Hardesty now," Cannon said. "But she's got a busy schedule."

#### **Update, 6:30 pm: Hardesty was unmoved.**

"As an advocate, I've heard over and over again the fear of community members, especially recent immigrants and refugees, who feel targeted by federal agents," she said in a statement.

"Now, as a commissioner it is my duty to use this information and act. I am moving forward with my commitment to remove Portland from the Joint Terrorism Task Force in order to ensure all Portlanders, especially those marginalized and targeted by law enforcement, are protected. At the end of the day we must listen to those most impacted by policy. Time and time again our leadership has been called to protect our fellow community members and remove ourselves from this agreement. Their request is unwavering, and now is the time to listen and act."

## **Here's Where to Locate Warming Shelters in Portland as Winter Temperatures Drop Below Freezing**

*By Elise Herron  
December 4, 2018*

### **A new 75-bed shelter opened today in Northwest Portland.**

Portland's overnight temperatures are beginning to drop below freezing.

That means access to warming shelters is life-saving for homeless residents. Multnomah County reports that it will fund 300 seasonal winter beds this year, in addition to the 1,300 publicly funded beds that operate year round.

Here's where residents in need can find winter warming shelters as temperatures plummet.

Today, as The Oregonian previously reported, Portland developer and owner of Project ^, Tom Cody, opened a shelter in an old recording studio space at 1150 NW 17th Ave.

The Project ^ shelter will be open 6 pm to 6 am daily, and will accept six families each day until it is full.

Last week, an unused portion of the County's Walnut Park Complex in Northeast Portland also opened overnight accommodations for up to 80 people. The shelter reserves priority beds for people over 55, veterans, and those with disabilities.

Walnut Park Shelter, at 5329 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., will be open every day from 5 pm to 7:30 am and will stay open until April.

For veterans in need of shelter, Do Good Multnomah, at 5830 NE Alameda St., is adding 40 beds to its 40-bed shelter. 30 of those seasonal beds will be set aside for non-veterans.

Portsmouth Union Church, at 4775 N. Lombard, usually only operates as a severe weather shelter. But this year, with financial backing from the Joint Office of Homeless Services, the church added 50 beds to host people throughout the winter.

Reservations for all seasonal shelters can be obtained at the Bud Clark Commons, 650 NW Irving, or by calling 211 or 503-280-4700.

In instances of severe winter weather—when temperatures fall below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, or when forecasts predict at least an inch of snow or freezing rain—additional warming shelters will open for anyone in need.

Portlanders with extra winter gear to donate and those who want to volunteer at shelters during severe weather events can find information at [211info.org](http://211info.org).

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Portland Considers Reinvesting in Major Corporations—a Year After Swearing Them Off**

*By Blair Stenvick  
December 4, 2018*

Apple, Google, Johnson & Johnson, and nine other corporate behemoths might soon be able to count the city of Portland among their investors.

The Portland City Council will vote Thursday on an updated city investment policy, one that rewinds a commitment the council made last year to divest in major corporations.

The council voted last year to cease private corporate investment, months after a council-created committee on socially responsible investment recommended the city add nine corporations it saw as unethical to its “do not buy” list. That committee was disbanded in 2016.

Rather than single out companies not to invest in, the council took the extra step to end investment in all corporate securities. The Portland Tribune reported at the time that this move could cost the city \$3 to \$5 million in annual investment revenue.

If the council passes the new investment policy Thursday, most private companies will still be off-limits, investment-wise—except for 12 corporations on the approved list. In addition to the companies mentioned above, that list also includes Nike, Colgate-Palmolive, Coca-Cola, pharmaceutical giants Eli Lilly and Merck, healthcare and consumer goods conglomerate 3M, Microsoft, Proctor & Gamble, and Toyota.

The city will still continue to put some of its money in public investments, such as bonds issued by the federal government.

The state of Oregon has its own requirements for public investment in corporations, which would have allowed Portland to invest in about 35 different companies. The city has imposed stricter investment requirements than the state, filtering out corporations that deal in fossil fuels, firearms, and financial services.

According to the Portland Office of Management and Finance, this new investment strategy could reap an additional \$900,000 to \$1.5 million for the city each year.

The city council will discuss and vote on the new policy at 2 pm Thursday.

## **City Council to Approve a New Team of Unarmed Officers**

*By Alex Zielinski  
December 4, 2018*

It's been nearly two years since Mayor Ted Wheeler tucked \$1,159,293 into his annual budget to fund a first-of-its-kind position within the Portland Police Bureau.

The proposed "community services officer" role was essentially created to take the burden of responding to low-level crimes off sworn police officers. These new PPB employees would be non-sworn, meaning they wouldn't carry a gun, and would follow up on property crime, traffic accidents, and any other petty non-violent crimes.

As we noted in May, those 2017 budget dollars were never used, and instead carried over to 2018's budget package. The new promise from the mayor's office: the 14 new community service officer spots would be filled by January 2019.

Now, after months of union negotiations, that new position is finally headed to council for a final stamp of approval. City commissioners will vote on an amendment to the city's collective bargaining agreement with the Portland Police Association (PPA), PPB's union, that defines the new role on Wednesday.

The position has since been renamed "Public Safety Support Specialist" (PS3 for short).

The amendment explains that while PS3s will not carry a firearm, they will be armed with pepper spray and will receive PPB's use of force training. A note in the section detailing the PS3s' 200 hours of PPB training explains that an "additional possible topic" of training could be "Taser Orientation," suggesting that PS3s could eventually carry tasers. The starting hourly pay for a PS3 will be \$23.95.

In September, the Mercury sat down with PPB Assistant Chief Chris Davis, who was tasked with creating this brand-new position, to get a better idea of what need this new role will fill. From the beginning, Davis made it clear: PS3s are not a replacement for sworn officers, which Portland could still use more of.

"[Sworn] officers are up to their eyeballs in work that no one else can do," Davis said. "I think the PS3 program has great potential to supplement that work. But I have to manage expectations with this program. What it's not going to do is reduce the number of sworn officers that we have."

The 14 PS3s will be divvied up between PPB's three precincts, and will work closely with district-specific cops.

There are many low-level crimes that sworn officers don't need to be tied up in, Davis said. For instance: "If your car was broken into and something taken out of it but nobody saw who did it, we can have a PS3 go take that report."

PS3s could also collect and process surveillance video footage from a crime scene, collect found property that's been reported stolen, or respond to car crashes where no one was injured and no crime was committed. Often, Davis said, sworn officers are called out to direct traffic around the scene of a car crash or help drivers exchange insurance—work that keeps them from following more serious crimes.

According to the city budget office, the number of 911 calls that require police dispatch have increased 22 percent in the past five years. An increasing majority of those calls, however, are labeled "low and medium priority"—calls that could perhaps be easily handled by PS3 staff.

But PPB's steadily growing workload, reflected in the 911 call data, may make it difficult to calculate the impact these new staffers will have on PPB.

"One of the biggest metrics will be recording how many calls [PS3s] take," Davis said. "But it's entirely possible that we'll come back after a year and find out that we've used PS3s, a lot, but that the load on officers hasn't gone down... because the overall number of calls is going up and up and up."

## **The Portland Observer**

### **Stadium Envisioned**

*December 4, 2018*

#### **Riverfront site gets backing from Port of Portland**

Portland Diamond Project, the organization behind an effort to bring Major League Baseball to Portland, announced Thursday it has signed an agreement in principle with the Port of Portland to develop the Port's 45-acre Terminal 2 property in northwest Portland for a new stadium.

"We believe this has the potential to be a transformative landmark project for this city," said Craig Cheek, Portland Diamond Project founder and president. "Building an iconic, state-of-the-art ballpark along the Willamette River will catalyze economic development and capture great views of both the urban scale of the city and regional character of the Pacific Northwest."

This letter of intent with the Port kicks off a collaborative process with the City of Portland, and local communities, to create a Major League Baseball ballpark and community destination in hopes of luring a major league baseball franchise to the city.

Cheek said the park would champion using locally sourced food and beverages, environmentally sustainable construction materials and provide opportunities for small businesses to create "an atmosphere that celebrates diversity and inclusion and is welcoming to all Portlanders."

Terminal 2, which for decades handled commodities such as steel rail, bulk ores, and other oversized international cargo, offers approximately 45 acres of riverfront property with more than 2,000 linear feet of waterfront. The site is located on Northwest Front Avenue, just north of the Pearl District and rapidly evolving Slabtown.

The Portland Diamond Project steered away from pursuing another centrally located property, the administration building owned by Portland Public Schools north of the Rose Quarter. That clears the way for another group that has been eyeing the north Portland site for affordable housing, called Albina Vision Trust.

Cheek added Terminal 2 is now the group's "preferred location" for the stadium after spending a year analyzing multiple sites.

## **OPB**

### **FBI Makes Case For Portland To Remain In Joint Terrorism Task Force**

*By Conrad Wilson and Amelia Templeton  
December 4, 2018*

At a briefing Tuesday in Portland, the FBI discussed at length the role of Oregon's Joint Terrorism Task Force, a partnership between local and federal law enforcement agencies.

Senior federal law enforcement officials are anticipating a fight with Portland City Hall as early as next month, when Commissioner-elect JoAnn Hardesty is sworn in to the City Council.

Hardesty has said her first act in office will be to push for a vote to remove Portland from the law enforcement partnership.

Seven local law enforcement agencies work as a part of the JTTF. Two Portland Police Bureau officers work out of the FBI on a part-time basis on threats of violence to the city.

On Tuesday, FBI Special Agent In Charge Renn Cannon said the city and the state as a whole are safer with Portland as part of the JTTF. He said the officers on the JTTF serve as a conduit between the FBI and their local departments.

That would change if Portland votes to pull out.

"Real time communication would be definitely slowed down," Cannon said in an interview with OPB. "It wouldn't stop completely. We don't necessarily have to have somebody on the JTTF to be able to get information to them, but it takes longer to do that. And in a fast moving threat situation, those hours or days can make a real difference."

Cannon said local agencies get access to intelligence from the federal government about threats to their community. In turn, the FBI gets access to mental health services and local knowledge and intelligence.

So far this year, the JTTF has investigated more than 270 threats in Oregon — often based on tips from community members. Cannon said most threats "wash out" and only a small fraction become investigations, and an even smaller number lead to arrests by the JTTF.

## **JTTF's Role**

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the task force was focused on international terrorism. Even now, international terrorism remains the Oregon JTTF's priority, according to Cannon. But the law enforcement partnership has also shifted, increasingly investigating threats of violence.

"Not everything we investigate becomes a terrorism investigation or is terrorism related," FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge George Chamberlin said in an interview. "If we find out that there is no terrorism nexus, (a case) may be passed to a criminal squad at that point. But the JTTF is uniquely situated to be that initial response to some of these threat issues."

Among the more unusual cases the Oregon JTTF say it has worked on: it lead the investigation into a person who was using a laser pointer to distract airline pilots at the Portland International Airport. The FBI takes the lead on school shootings and threats, as well. The JTTF was also involved in the MAX stabbing case in 2017 but handed that case off to the FBI's Civil Rights Division.

## **Immigration Arrests**

Immigration is a critical question surrounding Portland's participation on the JTTF, in part because the city has declared itself a sanctuary city for immigrants.

The FBI said arresting people for immigration violations is not a priority for the agency unless there's a criminal or national security threat. Furthermore, Cannon said the Portland police officers deputized on the JTTF do not work cases that have any immigration component.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has made it clear to the FBI that Portland Police are not to be used for any immigration type case, Cannon said. He said the mayor brings it up during each quarterly briefing between the city, FBI and the Oregon's U.S. Attorney's Office.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement describes itself as the largest federal contributor to JTTFs across the country. However, Cannon stressed it includes members of the Homeland Security Investigation team and not ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations side.

"HSI's mission is to look at crimes and threats of violence across international borders," Cannon said. "HSI has significant overlap and capabilities at the federal level that are similar to those of the FBI. They work on the Oregon JTTF ... but their primary mission is things like counterfeit goods, international human trafficking, international crimes of violence, drug trafficking."

Cannon said it's very rare for the JTTF to make an immigration related arrest in Oregon.

"If somebody asks me, can you guarantee the JTTF will never be involved in an immigration arrest, no I can't guarantee that," he told OPB. "What I can tell you is it's exceedingly rare here in Oregon. And what I can also say is I can guarantee that the Portland Police on the JTTF are not involved in immigration enforcement."

The FBI uses immigration in the context of terrorism, Cannon said.

He said immigration statutes, along with drug charges or fraud, can be used to mitigate a threat of violence in a way that doesn't interfere with an investigation.