

March 11, 2021 Session Two OMF Follow-up

Question 1:

Is it time to consider breaking HUCIRP into smaller contracts as opposed to one big contract? Perhaps looking to additional companies who can do this work. (Commissioner Hardesty)

Response:

Rapid Response Bio Clean provides a very specific service that requires careful compliance with ORS 203.079 (required elements of local government policies on camping by homeless) pertaining to written notice, property collection and storage requirements. Unlike most other/smaller organizations, they are certified to handle, transport, and dispose of anything we might encounter in the field including untreated sewage and medical waste. We have learned through experience that having more than one organization performing the property collection and storage aspect of our work creates a lack of consistency and blurs the lines of accountability (e.g. one company collects the property, and another manages the storage of it) and also increases legal exposure of both the City of Portland and the vendors working on our behalf.

Instead, it is our goal to reduce the need for full campsite removals by building our capacity to offer other impact reduction strategies like the work Central City Concern's Clean Start Program does. During COVID, we have developed a trusting working relationship with Trash for Peace and Groundscore PDX who have offered to assist with trash removal through peer-led, low-barrier employment opportunities for people living outside. We are currently working to expand their capacity, look for other groups with similar low-barrier employment models, but many are not interested in posting and removing camps, or collecting personal property for storage-nor would it be safe for them to do so.

Question 2:

What is the City's protocol for concealed handgun permits? Are these verified with the Portland Police Bureau, unsure if this protocol occurred in an incident in my office? (Commissioner Hardesty)

Response:

The *City Hall Emergency Response Plan* includes the following protocol for visitors arriving at City Hall with a concealed firearm:

"All visitors with firearms or other weapons will not be allowed entry by security. However, if a visitor presents a concealed handgun license, the visitor will not be allowed entry until their license is validated by the Portland Police Bureau or Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. Once the license has been validated, armed security will notify the appropriate suite and confirm they have approved City Building Security Services to escort the visitor to their destination in City Hall. Armed City Building Security Services will stand by until the visitor has completed their business and exits the building."

In the instance that occurred last year, the visitor was part of a PSU field trip and was unwilling to wait for the concealed handgun license verification so opted to securely store the firearm elsewhere and return to the building.

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Question 3:

From Chat- With respect to enhanced security offerings- are these security issues/ actions part of this budget? (Community Budget Advisor Andrea Paluso)

Response:

Enhanced security options were not included in OMF's Requested Budget. OMF intends to present security options for Council to consider during the budget process – these will include a range of alternatives that in some cases require no additional funding (separate entrances for public and employees) to the installation of additional security measures (metal detectors) as well as increased staff to support the Security Program.

Question 4:

Are there some non-core or less mission critical items at OMF that could be discontinued? What could go away? (Commissioner Hardesty)

Response:

The Office of Management and Finance has assigned some of our highest-level positions to lead large, complex initiatives prioritized by City Council. As a result, our capacity is limited to keep pace with our own list of core planning and continuous improvement work, e.g. long-range facilities planning and enterprise risk management. In the absence of a City of Portland Project Management Office we have attempted to fill this need on Council's behalf, but it is a non-core OMF service. In short, the City needs to make a decision to fully commit to a Project Management Office for citywide initiatives as OMF cannot continue to play an underfunded hybrid role by doing both our own necessary internal service work and attempt to serve Council and all bureaus in a broader role.

Services provided by the Bureau of Human Resources support the City's most valuable asset – our workforce – so all bureaus can deliver mission-critical services to the community. The past year has been an all-out sprint to perform core BHR administrative work and the massive amount of new work required to manage a workforce in the midst of a global pandemic and national reckoning with systemic and institutional racism.

We will be challenged to fulfill core responsibilities with the current funding model and economic outlook, calling for 5 percent cuts. Bureau hiring requests will be delayed (rolling back progress we have made on "time to fill" positions over the past three years,) outreach strategies will be limited, grievances and investigations will be delayed, and training will be insufficient to hold employees, managers, and supervisors accountable to the City's values, policies, practices and programs. The important support work of Human Resources Business Partners will diminish – a critical resource in ensuring consistent, Citywide processes and practices. Finally, as a result, the City's litigation risk for discipline, discrimination and arbitration cases will rise.

To be clear, new work will not be possible within this depleted framework. We believe employee services will continue to deteriorate in any decentralized model that is forced back within the bureaus – who themselves are struggling to meet growing needs with shrinking resources.