



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

Statement from Commissioner Nick Fish regarding appointment of Margaret Van Vliet to lead OHCS

This is an incredible opportunity for Margaret. She's the perfect choice to lead the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. Although this is a big loss for Portland, I know she will do great things at OHCS.

Margaret and I worked closely together to create and transform the Portland Housing Bureau over the past two years.

She led the successful merger of the former Bureau of Housing and Community Development with the housing functions of the Portland Development Commission to create the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), allowing us to make progress on addressing homelessness and expanding the supply of affordable housing in Portland.

The Bureau completed a Strategic Plan and Equity Agenda, and has increased opportunities for people of color in contracting, access to housing, allocation of resources, workforce development and hiring.

She shepherded two high profile city projects to significant milestones: the completion of Bud Clark Commons and the ground breaking of Veterans' housing at Block 49.

Margaret developed strong working relationships with elected officials, colleagues and key stakeholders throughout the region and improved the bureau's business practices by increasing the transparency of its decision-making.

I'm very sorry to see her go, but look forward to a continued collaborative partnership with her in this new role.

She exceeded the high expectations I had when I hired her to lead the Portland Housing Bureau and I'm sure she will continue her record of high performance and inspired leadership at OHCS.