

The Oregonian

Charlie Hales will meet Pope Francis at climate change, human trafficking summit

By Andrew Theen

June 16, 2015

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is one of 16 mayors from around the world invited to meet with Pope Francis next month as part of a global summit to discuss climate change and human trafficking.

The July 21 event at the Vatican is sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Science, according to a press release.

On Thursday, Pope Francis will release a letter to all bishops within the Roman Catholic Church outlining the global effects of climate change. According to a draft document of the encyclical, leaked to an Italian newspaper this week, the pontiff is expected to call for a global assembly of leaders to find solutions to global pollution, because failure could have "grave consequences for all of us."

Hales is one of several mayors expected to travel to Italy who are active with C40, a global network of cities that are tackling climate change issues. Hales and Josh Alpert, the mayor's director of strategic initiatives, traveled to South Africa in early 2014 for C40's fifth biennial global summit of mayors.

Alpert received an email from Vatican authorities this year asking about Hales' availability.

The response was a no-brainer. "Who says no when the Vatican calls?" said Dana Haynes, Hales' spokesman.

Mayors from Rome, New York City, Seoul, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Istanbul and Melbourne will most likely participate in the sustainability and climate change discussion, according to a statement.

Hales is "thrilled" to attend the event, and will be joined by his wife, Nancy, and Office of Governmental Relations Director Martha Pellegrino.

Pellegrino is fluent in Italian, Haynes said.

Haynes said the mayor is attending the trip as a representative of the region, not just Portland, and he is planning to meet with local leaders to "coordinate a message" in the coming weeks.

"We don't know what our messaging is yet, but it isn't going to come out of this suite of offices, it's going to come out of the Northwest," Haynes said.

The human trafficking aspect of the trip is pertinent to Portland, Haynes said, because prostitution is "one of the primary forces" behind gang violence here.

"We have a lot of reasons to care about those two topics," Haynes said.

Hales is still finalizing the itinerary but plans to attend the summit and take some personal vacation time as well. Haynes said this is Hales' first trip to Rome.

Portland will pay for the mayor's trip. Those costs weren't immediately available.

Gail Shibley, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales' chief of staff, leaving City Hall for state job

By Andrew Theen

June 16, 2015

Gail Shibley, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales' chief of staff, is returning to state government for a high-ranking position with the Oregon Youth Authority.

Shibley was hired as the assistant director for business services with the state agency overseeing youth correctional facilities and probation services, spokesman CJ Drake confirmed Tuesday.

The 57-year-old former Democratic state representative is expected to start her new job in mid-July. Before joining Hales' office, Shibley worked for the Oregon Health Authority for nearly a decade.

Shibley had a regular meeting with other City Hall chief of staffs Tuesday and did not share the news.

"The offer to join OYA was simply too terrific an opportunity for me to pass up," Shibley said in a statement. "As I can join an enlightened public safety agency focused on helping our young people lead productive, crime-free lives."

Shibley's departure marks the third consecutive example of a top policy adviser leaving City Hall near the midpoint of a mayor's term.

Hales credited Shibley in a statement for "an exemplary job" leading his office. "She never sought the spotlight, wanting the work to speak for itself and her staff to get the credit," Hales said.

Josh Alpert, Hales' director of strategic initiatives, is viewed as a potential successor. In the previous two mayors' succession plans, deputy chiefs of staff inherited the top position. Tera Pierce is Hales' deputy chief of staff.

Alpert and Haynes are the two most senior members of Hales' staff still around.

Hales is up for re-election in 2016 and so far faces no challenger.

There had been some chatter among political insiders that Shibley was considered to be a potential candidate for the City Council in 2016, but Commissioner Amanda Fritz announced her intention to seek re-election.

Shibley ran for the City Council in 1996 but lost to Jim Francesconi. She has spent the nearly two decades since then working for both the federal and state governments.

Shibley came into City Hall as one of the most experienced chiefs of staff in recent memory, and recently listed Portland's victory as the host city for the 2016 World Indoor Track and Field Championships as a key accomplishment.

Hales credited Shibley with leading the mayor's police reform efforts, U.S. Department of Justice negotiations, budget preparation and efforts to help Google Fiber open service in Portland.

Shibley also faced a state civil rights complaint last year from a former Hales staffer.

She will replace Jan Dean, a state official who is retiring from the OYA. According to a job description posted in April, Shibley will participate "in overall agency strategic planning, goal setting, policy determining, and program management of the organization."

"The position has primary responsibility for all business services functions of the department," the description reads.

Her new salary is \$10,306 a month, \$312 more a month than she gets now.

Portland parks director gets big salary once deemed 'unrealistic'

By Brad Schmidt

June 17, 2015

Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who highlighted her penny-pinching ways during the 2012 campaign season, recently awarded the city's parks director a \$15,455 raise.

Fritz's decision boosted the annual salary of Mike Abbaté from \$161,574 to \$177,029 – a 9.6 percent increase, more than double a typical merit hike.

Abbaté's big raise came more quickly than originally outlined by Fritz and in some ways is a reward for the bureau's political success.

Abbaté became director of Portland Parks & Recreation in October 2011 and began reporting to Fritz in June 2013, after Mayor Charlie Hales shifted bureau assignments.

Abbaté – who oversees the equivalent of about 458 full-time employees – regularly complained that he felt underpaid compared to other bureau directors with similar responsibilities.

The City Council sets minimum and maximum salaries based on a 17-tier system that accounts for the duties of a given job. The parks director is among those in the second-highest grade, with minimum pay of \$123,531 and maximum of \$177,029.

In Abbaté's April 2014 review, Fritz noted that Abbaté requested a \$27,000 salary increase and "his repeated requests to move to a higher pay grade does not appear to reflect a political sensitivity" in the bureau.

Expecting such a big raise, Fritz wrote, was "unrealistic." Fritz noted that she planned to award Abbaté annual 4.1 percent merit increases, if he met goals, and he could anticipate an annual salary of about \$170,500 beginning with his October 2015 anniversary.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Abbaté's assertive request, and Fritz's hardline stance, in a story last week about infrequent annual reviews for bureau directors.

But Fritz was eventually swayed by Abbaté's performance.

In an April 20 review, completed after The Oregonian's initial request for performance evaluations, Fritz decided to give Abbaté a far bigger pay hike.

Fritz noted "ongoing and impressive growth" in Abbaté's leadership. She highlighted Abbaté's political acumen, promotion of equity and embracing community involvement.

Fritz also praised Abbaté for smart hiring decisions and listed voters' 2014 approval of a \$68 million parks bond as a big achievement.

"His leadership of Bureau work connected with the Replacement Parks Bond was exemplary, keeping all staff careful of legal boundaries between referral and passage of the measure while simultaneously pulling together detailed project lists," Fritz wrote.

Fritz determined that Abbaté was "performing at an executive level above his current salary" and awarded him the maximum allowed, \$177,029, retroactive to his 2014 anniversary.

Fritz on Tuesday said Abbaté is universally respected and is considered a leader among top administrators citywide. In hindsight, Fritz said she believe she and Abbaté were each right in 2014 -- he deserved a big raise, but it wasn't the right time.

This year, she said, it was the right time.

"We had a significant surplus this year and he does phenomenal work," Fritz said. "When people do good work they need to be rewarded."

On July 1, Abbaté and other non-unionized city employees will receive a 2.1 inflation adjustment, boosting his pay to \$180,752.

Even after the raise and inflation adjustment, however, Abbaté will earn less than his counterpart at the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.

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In other Portland Parks & Recreation news, city officials are concerned about overspending before the 2015 fiscal year ends June 30.

Parks officials say they may fall about \$650,000 short of revenue projections. The City Budget Office has recommended allocating \$1 million from Portland's general fund contingency to cover the Parks Bureau through the end of the fiscal year.

The City Council will consider the \$1 million budget adjustment Wednesday.

A parks spokesman said the shortfall is threefold: officials didn't sell \$400,000 in land, as expected; they're on pace to collect \$300,000 less from newly changed program registrations; and officials delayed a tennis bubble project anticipated to create \$100,000 in revenue.

Fritz said comparing the city's \$49 million general fund surplus -- which she used in part to justify Abbaté's raise -- and the Parks Bureau's revenue shortfall is "apples and oranges."

Portland police seek to replace Taser stun guns with newer models for \$1.8 million

*By Maxine Bernstein
June 16, 2015*

The Portland Police Bureau wants to equip its patrol officers and sergeants with a newer model of the Taser stun gun at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

The bureau, whose officers came under federal scrutiny in 2012 for a pattern of unwarranted use of stun guns, has used a Taser model X26 since 2005, but the company discontinued making them at the end of last year.

Police Bureau managers will ask the City Council on Wednesday to amend the bureau's contract with Taser International Inc., which now restricts purchases from exceeding \$250,000 a year through April 30, 2018. The bureau wants to extend the contract for two years.

The money for the new Tasers will come from existing bureau funds, according to city documents.

The bureau late last year revised its written policy governing the use of stun guns after the U.S. Department of Justice concluded that Portland police engage in excessive and unjustified use of Tasers against people with mental illness. The department found a pattern of officers firing multiple cycles of Taser shocks unnecessarily and failing to wait between cycles to allow a suspect to follow commands.

Tasers are designed to temporarily incapacitate or restrain a person when lethal force isn't appropriate. They can cause pain and result in immobilization, disorientation or loss of balance. They also can cause serious injuries and even death if the loss of muscle control causes a sudden fall, the federal report said.

The Taser can fire barbs attached to wires that transmit electricity to a suspect. Each press of the trigger activates the stun gun for one cycle, which typically lasts five seconds. If a second cycle is needed, the officer can pull the trigger again to send an additional wave of electricity through the probes attached to a suspect.

The Taser also can be used in a stun mode, where the gun is pressed directly against someone's skin to shock them

The bureau is testing two newer Taser models, the X2 or X26P.

The model Portland police officers now use is an analog device and the newer ones are fully digital. The microchips in the X26 record the time, date and duration of each use of the stun gun, but the newer models capture more information, including the electrical current of each pulse and how well it performs, said Steve Tuttle, spokesman for Taser International.

The X2 holds two sets of cartridges and would allow officers to fire stun gun probes on two successive times, Tuttle said. "Without having to reload, there's a built-in backup shot," he said.

The X2 costs about \$1,090 a gun, compared to the \$950 X26P model.

If the Police Bureau went with the new X26P Taser model, the bureau could continue to use the cartridges it now has because they are interchangeable with this model, Tuttle said.

In December 2014, Portland police adopted a new directive governing officer use of stun guns.

Under the current policy, officers may use the Taser to respond to active aggression, prevent suicide when reasonable, avoid a higher level use of force and prevent a suspect from fleeing if the person presents an immediate threat to himself, the public or officers, or the person's escape presents a significant danger to the public.

Officers also must consider other options if their Taser use isn't effective after two cycles fired on the same person.

The bureau tightened its Taser policy, but not as much as federal investigators had sought. They had urged the bureau to restrict the number of stun gun cycles an officer may fire at a single person.

Training Capt. Bryan Parman is expected to discuss the bureau's request at the City Council meeting.

Dan Handelman, of the watchdog group Portland Copwatch, said there should be more discussion "if the city wants to spend \$1.8 million of taxpayers' money on a weapon that's highly controversial."

The Portland Tribune

Hales to meet with Pope during Vatican City conference

By Pamplin Media Group

June 16, 2015

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is one of 16 mayors from throughout the world invited to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican in July.

Hales will be in Vatican City to discuss climate change and human trafficking as part of a global conference called by Pope Francis.

Portland's leadership on climate change and its fight against gangs and human trafficking earned it a spot at the conference.

"These are crises facing every city in the world," Hales said Tuesday, June 16, when the conference was announced. "Cities have to work together, and this is an opportunity to do just that. It's an honor for the mayors to address the Pope."

The July 21 conference, "Modern Slavery and Climate Change — The Commitment of the Cities," is sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Science at Vatican City. Participants could include mayors of Berlin, Minneapolis, Oslo, Norway, Seattle, and Boulder. Mayors taking part in the sustainability discussion are expected from Rome, New York City, Seoul, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Istanbul and Melbourne.

In the next few weeks, Hales meet with Oregon leaders to discuss climate change and human trafficking, to coordinate a message for the Vatican visit.

Willamette Week

Mayor Charlie Hales' Chief of Staff is Leaving City Hall Gail Shibley will join the Oregon Youth Authority.

By Nigel Jaquiss and Aaron Mesh

June 16, 2015

Gail Shibley, chief of staff to Mayor Charlie Hales, is leaving her post.

Shibley, whom Hales hired after winning election in 2012, is the former director of the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Environmental Public Health, and before that, a state legislator.

She is returning to state service, taking a job as assistant director for business services at the Oregon Youth Authority, which incarcerates juvenile offenders. She is set to start in mid-July, an OYA spokeswoman says.

Hales' spokesman did not immediately return WW's request for comment.

WW reported in Murmurs last week that Shibley seemed to be out at City Hall, despite denials from Hales' office.

Shibley helped Hales weather a series of crises—including an attempted takeover of the city's water and sewer utilities in the May 2014 election.

Shibley was also the subject of a state civil rights complaint last year.

Today's news comes nearly two weeks after rumors began circulating that Shibley would leave.

Last week, mayoral spokesman Dana Haynes flatly denied Shibley was going anywhere.

"She's not leaving," Haynes told WW on June 9.

Josh Alpert, a top Hales staffer, is said to be Shibley's probable replacement.

The Portland Mercury

Mayor Charlie Hales' Chief of Staff Is Headed Back Into the State's Employ

By Dirk VanderHart

June 16, 2015

Now that the rigors of deadline for this week's paper are past, we can report what you may have already heard: Mayor Charlie Hales' chief of staff, Gail Shibley, is moving on. The mayor's office formally announced her upcoming departure this afternoon, after Willamette Week reported she'd accepted a job at the Oregon Youth Authority.

"Gail has done an exemplary job leading my office," Hales said in a statement. "She never sought the spotlight, wanting the work to speak for itself and her staff to get the credit."

That's true. While a city hall fixture, Shibley has kept a relatively low public profile in the last two and a half years. The one big exception came when a former Hales staffer filed a civil rights complaint against her, claiming she'd mocked him for being HIV-positive.

She also grabbed attention in more typical ways too. In 2013, she trekked to Monaco to help Portland bag the World Indoor Track and Field Championships coming to the city next year. The mayor's office statement credits her for helping hammer out a settlement with the US Department of Justice over police abuses, and helming the budget process.

Shibley was the first staffer Hales announced in late 2012, shortly after winning what had been a hard-fought mayoral election. The choice was seen as risky, given Shibley's history of being the boss herself (she's a former state representative). Hales told the Oregonian that was purposeful, saying he'd need a strong "emissary and alternate" to help him wade through the sticky issues like a \$20-million-plus budget shortfall.

It wasn't a random hire, either. Shibley had had city hall ambitions in the past, having lost a 1996 city commissioner's race to Jim Francesconi. In the run-up to being tapped by Hales, though, she worked for a decade at the Oregon Health Authority. Now she returns to the state once again, though she'll be in the business of incarcerating juveniles rather than public health policy.

"The offer to join OYA was simply too terrific an opportunity for me to pass up," Shibley said in a statement, "as I can join an enlightened public safety agency focused on helping our young people lead productive, crime-free lives."

Speculation on a replacement has been leaning heavily toward Josh Alpert, Hales' director of strategic initiatives, who ping-pongs around city hall every day, working nearly any issue the mayor's interested in. Alpert's reputation in the building is stout enough that the Mercury named him the most underrated city hall staffer last year.

The Oregonian points out that it's more common for a deputy chief of staff to be tapped when the chief moves on. That'd be Tera Pierce, whom Hales hired last summer.

Here's the full press release:

PORTLAND, OR – Portland Mayor Charlie Hales' Chief of Staff is returning to state government. After two and a half years building and leading the mayor's office, Gail Shibley announced today that she is leaving City Hall to become Assistant Director for Business Services at the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA).

A former City program manager and state legislator, Shibley had been a public health administrator for the Oregon Health Authority for almost ten years when then Mayor-elect Hales named her Chief of Staff in December 2012.

"It has been a professional privilege and personal honor to serve as the Mayor's Chief of Staff," Shibley said. "I am proud of the work we have done together, and know I leave at a good time for our office team, City operations and the people of Portland. The offer to join OYA was simply too terrific an opportunity for me to pass up, as I can join an enlightened public safety agency focused on helping our young people lead productive, crime-free lives."

During her tenure at City Hall, Shibley was personally engaged in several top-level police reform efforts, including police union negotiations and the U.S. Department of Justice's settlement agreement with the City. Shibley also led the mayor's budget process, championed its nascent performance management system, spearheaded the effort to secure the 2016 World Indoor Track & Field Championships and was the Mayor's lead in discussions with Google to provide synchronous broadband residential fiber service.

"Gail has done an exemplary job leading my office. She never sought the spotlight, wanting the work to speak for itself and her staff to get the credit," Mayor Hales stated. "The team and systems she's assembled are top-notch and, as a result, the city is well-positioned to achieve even more and better results in the years ahead. I have enormous respect for Gail and great appreciation that she left State service to help our city these past years. I look forward to working with her in her new role."

Shibley's successor as Chief of Staff has not been named. Her final date at City Hall will be mid-July.

Portland Business Journal

Portland's potholes could bring millions to transportation contractors

*By Andy Giegerich
June 17, 2015*

A new city of Portland transportation safety policy could provide plenty of opportunities for the city's businesses.

The Vision Zero transportation safety goal will get a full hearing during today's City Council meeting. The program includes adding speed controls and other efforts that would ostensibly make Portland's streets safer.

Vision Zero programs are already set to provide potential bids for the city's contractors. Those programs include:

- Portland's transportation bureau plans to install 24 rapid flash beacons in East Portland this year.
- The city wants to install fixed photo radar safety cameras on 10 high crash corridors.
- Along those lines, the High Crash Corridor Program, in the city's new budget, received \$8 million for maintenance and safety improvements on 122nd Avenue in East Portland and \$2.8 million for safety improvements on East and West Burnside streets.
- The budget further includes \$300,000 to begin to expand Portland's Safe Routes to School programs to middle and high schools.

Hales top staffer set to leave for state job

*By Andy Giegerich
June 17, 2015*

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is looking for a new chief of staff.

Gail Shibley will leave her post to become assistant director for business services at the Oregon Youth Authority. The group works to reduce crime among the younger set.

Shibley had worked with the group for nearly a decade before Hales, in one of his first mayoral decisions, hired her in December 2012.

Her achievements include leading the full-on push to bring Google Fiber to the city, as well as the 2016 World Indoor Track & Field Championships. However, Shibley was also the subject of an Oregon civil rights complaint in 2014.

"The offer to join OYA was simply too terrific an opportunity for me to pass up, as I can join an enlightened public safety agency focused on helping our young people lead productive, crime-free lives," Shibley said in a release.

Hales said Shibley's leaving the city in better shape than it was when she arrived.

"The team and systems she's assembled are top-notch and, as a result, the city is well-positioned to achieve even more and better results in the years ahead," he said.

Her successor hasn't been named. Shibley's last day is in mid-July.

The Portland Observer

Portland Parks Go Smoke Free

By Staff

June 16, 2015

Portland Parks and Recreation's ban on smoking and tobacco use will expand July 1 to include the entire parks system. All city parks, natural areas, community centers, trails, golf courses, and recreation areas where city park rules apply will be smoke and tobacco-free.

The action was taken to promote public health and protect Portland's parks and natural areas, officials said. The city currently prohibits tobacco use at Director Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and the portion of the South Park Blocks that is located on Portland State University's campus. Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of any play structure, picnic table or designated children's play area.

"Expanding the smoking and tobacco-free policy throughout the entire PP&R system makes the rule consistent," says PP&R Director Mike Abbaté. "And Portland will join more than 500 cities and towns nationwide which already have laws mandating smoke-free parks. It furthers our mission of Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland."

Those smoking or using tobacco could be asked to leave the park where the violation takes place, for the rest of the day.

"The intent of the smoke and tobacco-free parks policy is to promote public health and protect Portland's parks and natural areas, not to criminalize those who smoke or use tobacco," says Commissioner Fritz. "We expect people to comply with the expanded policy because it's the right thing to do for our parks and for themselves, not solely because they're faced with major penalties."

GoLocal PDX

Mayor Hales Invited to Meet Pope Francis at the Vatican

By GoLocalPDX

June 16, 2015

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is one of 16 mayors across the world invited to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican this July.

Vatican officials have called these mayors together to address issues of climate change and human trafficking.

Portland has been an international leader on the topic of climate change, with recognition from the White House and C40, an international consortium of cities focusing on carbon emissions and climate change. The city adopted a climate action plan in 1993 and, as a member of C40, is committed to addressing climate change, according to the Mayor's office.

Portland also is in the midst of a severe increase in gang violence, fueled in part by an increased reliance on prostitution by local gangs.

"These are crises facing every city in the world. Cities have to work together, and this is an opportunity to do just that," said Mayor Hales. "It's an honor for the mayors to address the Pope."

“Modern Slavery and Climate Change – The Commitment of the Cities,” is being sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Science, July 21, at Vatican City. Participants likely will include mayors of Berlin, Minneapolis, Oslo, Norway, Seattle, and Boulder, Colo.

Mayors taking part in the sustainability discussion are expected from Rome, New York City, Seoul, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Istanbul and Melbourne.

The Vatican also will release an encyclical this week, focusing on global warming as a manmade phenomenon.

Hales will be meeting with leaders – on the topics of both climate change and human trafficking – throughout Oregon in the coming weeks, to coordinate a message for the Vatican visit.