

The Portland Tribune

Candidate proposes Youth Bureau for at-risk youth

By Jim Redden

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Fred Stewart, a Portland realtor running against Commissioner Steve Novick, has proposed creating a Youth Bureau to provide after-school services and programs for young people between the ages of 8 and 18.

Stewart announced his proposal in a press release Monday. He says the city had such a bureau 40 years ago, and that reestablishing it would help at-risk youth.

"When we look at making our City safer and more equitable, we must consider the opportunities we provide for our youth," Stewart said in the release. "For 40 years, wealth and privilege have played too strong a role in determining the extracurricular pursuits of Portland's children and teenagers. This is not just unfair, but deleterious. Kids with nothing to do are at a higher risk for dropping out of high school, pregnancy, drug use, and gang membership. As they suffer from these predicaments, society suffers as it struggles to help get them back on their feet."

Stewart did not propose a budget figure in the release but said the new bureau should be run in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.

"Some people might claim that Portland has better things to spend taxpayer dollars on than football, camping trips, crafts supplies, and costumes. Yet the cost of not engaging our youth is even higher. Day camp is cheaper than jail, and coaches are cheaper than cops," Stewart said.

Novick was not immediately available for comment.

Architect Stuart Emmons, another major candidate in the race, says he supports youth programs but questioned with a separate bureau is necessary.

"On this issue, I am absolutely supportive of Youth Programs. From my work in communities in Rockwood, Lents, and Northeast Portland, it became clear to me that our at-risk youth needed positive, enriching activities after school, on weekends, and during the summer," Emmons said.

"Before we add another program, we should carefully coordinate programs already in place at the County, and with schools, non-profits and communities of faith. Connect the dots to maximize the effectiveness. I am a major booster of drastically raising graduation rates for all our kids, and youth programs are very much a part of that. There are two Portlands right now, and I intend to be a bridge builder to help those being left behind, and helping keep kids from dropping out and going into gangs and in other negative directions. I want to give hope to our kids for a promising future."

Six other candidates have filed against Novick so far. They include Michael W. Durrow, Joseph Puckett, Shannon Estabrook, James Bernard Lee, Suzanne Stahl, and Chloe Eudaly. The filing deadline is March 8.

The race will be decided at the May 17 Primary Election if any candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote. Otherwise, the top two candidates will face off at the November 8 General Election.

Bailey promises to restore Mounted Horse Patrol officers

By Jim Redden

February 2, 2016

Multnomah County Commissioner promised to restore budget cuts to the Portland Police Bureau's Mounted Horse Patrol and relocate it to the Old Town/Chinatown area if elected mayor on Monday.

“Portland’s Mounted Patrol is an important law enforcement and public safety tool that fits the historic nature of the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood, where much of their patrol is focused,” Bailey said in a press release. “They provide more than public relations. They also help reduce officer calls in the area by working directly with people to help them access services.”

The City Council cut two positions from the patrol in 2013. Bailey said he would restore them at a cost of approximately \$210,000 per year. Restoring the two officers would bring the patrol back up to six officers with the eight horses.

The unit had been located in Centennial Mills but moved to a farm south of Portland when demolition was scheduled for the historic but aging structure. In the press release, Bailey said he would work with businesses and supporters to help permanently locate the horses back in the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood.

“Police horses have been walking Portland’s streets for over 100 years,” said Bailey. “I want to help build on the community support and to find partnerships that will give them a forever home.”

The other major candidate in the race, State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Wheeler has previously said the city needs to hire more police officers but has not proposed a specific number.