

The Oregonian

White House recognizes Portland-area push to curb veteran homelessness

*By Jessica Floum
December 10, 2016*

Work by Portland and Multnomah County to ease homelessness among veterans since 2015 has earned federal recognition, Mayor Charlie Hales and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury announced Saturday morning.

An effort by the regional A Home for Everyone coalition found permanent housing for 695 veterans in 2015 and another 599 since January 2016.

Over the last year, the coalition has also added 562 beds in low-barrier shelters, including Do Good Multnomah's 25-bed veterans-only shelter. In July, the coalition opened an apartment building with 50 studios dedicated to housing homeless veterans.

As of Nov. 28, 30 veterans were listed without shelter on the region's official tracking list, with 87 percent in the process of getting a case manager and finding an apartment.

That progress earned the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' certification that A Home for Everyone met the White House Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness.

The challenge asks communities to get to "functional zero," meaning homeless veterans are housed within 90 days of identification, that no veterans are searching for housing in a 90-day period and that the number of veterans entering housing exceeds the number becoming homeless.

"This would not have been possible without our strong government, nonprofit, faith and private sector partners' complete dedication to this work," Mayor Charlie Hales said in a statement.

"With continued commitment, I know our community can reach our goal to provide permanent, affordable housing to every Portlander who needs it."

Led by the Portland, Multnomah County, the Portland VA Medical Center and several nonprofits, the initiative established a system to identify homeless veterans, provide them with support services and connect them to permanent housing.

The organization hired 16 employees with the help of a \$6 million federal grant and a \$1.3 million local grant. The staff includes case managers, screeners, an attorney, benefits and entitlement specialists and employment specialists.

CEO tax will not achieve its purposes and sends the wrong signal: Editorial Agenda 2016

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board
December 10, 2016*

From the start, City Commissioner Steve Novick brought a zoomy sensibility to government. His engaging quick wit ran beneath newly imagined solutions to urban challenges, notably Portland's decrepit streets. Yet he also found himself, apparently unwittingly, in the middle of a

proposal to overhaul Memorial Coliseum. Several iterations of a street fee blew up on him as unfair and rife with unintended consequence. And the coliseum discussion was complicated by the blurry role of developers in pitching the idea to him. Least controversial yet most successful was Novick's revamp of the use of handicapped parking spaces -- a social, as well as profitable, achievement for the city.

Now he's outdone himself. With just a few weeks left in his embattled term, Novick last Wednesday persuaded the City Council to join him in passing a measure that will bring a new tax upon more than 500 Portland corporations whose chief executive officers earn 100 times more than the median amount of salary paid to the company's workers. Full stop: That's a punishment tax on fat cats, and it is expected to net more than \$2 million annually starting in 2018, Jessica Floum of The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. It's cause for a hipster celebration.

In a prep sheet for his fellow commissioners, Novick makes clear his social purposes: "The explosion of chief executive officer pay is a major contributor to growing inequality." He then connects dots of the sort that, if rationally connected, would close the argument for anyone with a heart: "Rising inequality nationally is a major factor in Portland's housing crisis, because huge disparity in income allows high income people moving to Portland to drive housing costs out of reach of middle class Portlanders."

First inference? It's those darned outsiders ruining the party: again. (Where are those "Visit but don't stay" bumper stickers, by the way?) The \$2 million-plus generated by the tax, meanwhile, would be used to help combat homelessness - a circumstance that is painful at a humanitarian level, destabilizing at the civic level and visited upon increasingly by folks who, for want of money, lose their homes. Who could oppose taking measures to fight homelessness?

Novick's proposition is the first of its kind, apparently, and already making headlines in England. But it's useless as a tool for redistributing wealth, as attempts to put capitalism on a leash are best made by federal regulation. And it's useless as a tool for making Portland housing more affordable, which depends upon myriad factors that include historic and present zoning choices and the buildable land supply. The distance between homelessness and long-term affordable housing, meanwhile, is sometimes very small and sometimes very large.

CEO remuneration at select corporations is powerfully symbolic. Drubbings such as that meted out recently by Sen. Elizabeth Warren to former Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf mobilize millions via YouTube, for the better: Bad practices call out for a congressional spanking to ensure the public's interest is served. But Novick's CEO measure has nothing to do with bad practices and everything to do with ideology. It's a spanking of its own kind, however, delivered out of nowhere and likely to be met with enmity from that segment of the community sustaining public services and which progressive ideologues perennially enjoy scapegoating: businesses.

The City Council should, soon into 2017, rethink Novick's measure and grasp its feeble force in blunting income inequality while hearing the ugly signal it sends: Business is welcome in Portland as long as it doesn't look too prosperous.

It would be wrong to call the CEO measure Novick's folly. It very much comports with the man himself: thoughtful, driven by deeply held ideals. But it would be equally wrong to argue the stratospheric paychecks of CEO's of a cohort of corporations that employ Oregonians and support public services underlie the city's pressing problems. Portland's elected leaders should know by now the many collusive causes of homelessness and expensive housing.

The Portland Tribune

Marijuana couriers, affordable housing, campaign financing, more this week at the City Council

By Jim Redden

December 11, 2016

In the last-minute rush to complete its ambitious agenda before Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick leave office at the end of the year, the City Council has scheduled three days of hearings with a number of significant measures this coming week, not just the usual two.

Items include measures to allow marijuana delivery couriers, create an Inclusionary Housing policy, approve a public campaign finance program, and buy a 263-unit apartment complex with Affordable Housing bond proceeds for \$47 million.

The extra day was added to hear the Inclusionary Housing proposal originally scheduled for last Thursday, before the hearing was cancelled because of the snow and ice storm. It will be heard on Tuesday, a day usually reserved for work session that are council briefings without public testimony.

The proposal submitted by Housing Commissioner Dan Saltzman includes two measures that would require multi-family developers to set aside a number of less-expensive units in their developments. He says the proposal includes incentives to offset the lost revenue of the less-expensive units.

Some developers oppose the measure, however, saying the requirement would make it too hard to finance their projects, resulting in fewer multi-family being built in Portland in the future. The hearing begins at 9 a.m. and is scheduled for three hours but could last longer.

The next set of hearings is set for Wednesday, which is normally the first day of the council two-day weekly schedule. Major items include a requirement proposal by Hales that people selling their single-family homes have an energy audit conducted to be shared with potential buyers.

Also on the agenda is Commissioner Amanda Fritz's proposed public campaign finance program, officially called the Open and Accountable Elections Process. It is expected to pass, with Fritz, Hales and Novick indicated support when it was first heard last week.

In addition, the council will discuss buying an existing apartment complex in Northwest Portland with some of the money from the \$258 million affordable housing bond approved by Portland voters at the November general election. The 263-unit Ellington apartments is on the market and Saltzman is asking the council to buy it for \$47 million. Up to \$3 million would be spent on repairs and deferred maintenance.

Currently, 44 of the units are reserved as affordable housing. If the sale goes through, all of them would be, with 80 reserved for households earning 30 percent or less of the median family income, and 139 reserved for families earning 60 percent or less of it.

Also on Wednesday, the council will consider a measure submitted by Fritz to allow retail couriers to deliver marijuana to customers. City policies currently prohibit such delivery services. The measure makes other changes in the city's recreational and medical marijuana

regulations, too. Fritz oversees the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which regulates such businesses.

The council will also consider the ordinances and legal findings to adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan intended to guide growth in Portland for the next 20 years. Among other things, it directs how the 123,000 additional households expected by 2035 will be distributed throughout the city. Detailed plans for various components will be considered by the council next year.

Then on Thursday, the council will consider a measure submitted by Novick to ease the requirement that new multi-family developments provide on-site parking and expand parking permit programs on city streets to accommodate existing residents. Novick oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

The council will also consider a resolution from Novick to extend the Corporate Securities No-Buy List to Dec. 31, 2017. The city is not allowed to invest in the securities on the list. It includes Wal-Mart and fossil fuel companies. The resolution proposes to add Credit Suisse and Nestle Holdings to the list.

A measure submitted by Hales to ban new and expanded fossil fuel storage facilities in the city postponed from last Thursday has not yet been rescheduled.

You can read the agendas for all three days at www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/26997.

White House: Portland has ended veteran homelessness

*By Trevor Ault, KOIN 6 News
December 11, 2016*

Mayor Charlie Hales and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury announced Saturday that efforts to end homelessness among veterans in Portland have been successful.

Michelle Obama had challenged cities to reach the point where more veterans were being housed than were becoming homeless and for no homeless veteran to stay that way for 90 days. The federal government provided financial assistance to meet that goal of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

At a Saturday press conference, Hales and Kafoury said that the partnership between the city, county and non-profit organizations that support the homeless received a letter from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness confirming that Portland successfully went 90 days without a homeless veteran, effectively ending veteran homelessness.

Outreach groups Transition Projects, A Home for Everyone and others worked with the city to personally reach out to hundreds of homeless veterans.

Portland is the first West Coast city to receive the official designation of meeting a federal goal to end veteran homelessness. But that doesn't mean there are no homeless veterans in Portland, but now with the help of federal funding, proper avenues have been established to get help to those who need it.

The regional coalition A Home For Everyone said it placed 695 veterans in permanent housing in 2015 and an additional 599 veterans received housing this year.

"If someone is a veteran and needs to get into housing there's a path for them to do that," said Michael Buonocore, the executive director of Home Forward, formerly known as the Housing Authority of Portland.

Kafoury said the partnerships in Multnomah County have been able to house more than 1,000 veterans in Portland thanks to funding from the federal government.

"This is what it looks like when a community comes together to get things done. We can change lives," Kafoury said. "I want to thank everyone who came to the table with resources, hard work and determination to make this happen. And I want to ask you to keep it up, because our work is far from over."

But Bill Street, a veteran who has been homeless in Portland for about 3 years, says there's no way the homeless problem has improved for vets. Street reached out to KOIN 6 News to draw attention to homeless vets still living in shelters and the struggles they face in Portland.

Street says he and several other homeless vets staying in a shelter were irate when they saw the mayor's announcement Saturday. He says staying in a shelter doesn't count as being housed and getting help is still a challenge.

"You talk to one place like the CRC through the VA, they give you one statement. You talk to one of the other organizations, they give you another statement. Talk to somebody else they give you another statement," Street said. "And it's just constantly running in circles."

Navy veteran Brian Jackson sees things differently. Jackson has battled disability since he served and two years ago, he was homeless. He spoke at the press conference as an example of the many veterans who have received help from the city.

Jackson reached out to the VA and was connected with multiple veteran service offices.

"I didn't have a place to go, ya know I was kinda lost," he said. "Now I have a place, it's stable, and there's a big difference."

Hales said these programs are working because they treat homeless veterans as individual people, not as one large problem.

"They went to each and every one of those men and women personally and said 'we know you're a vet, we want to get you off the street and into housing, let's do this.' And it worked," Hales said.

The mayor has been in the forefront of trying to find solutions to the housing and homeless issue in the city. The press conference was held at Bud Clark Commons, which offers 130 studio homes to people who have been homeless.

Achieving the White House's Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness means that:

No chronically homeless veterans or veterans are in the process of being housed in 90 days

For Veterans refusing to be housed, plan for continual outreach and a resource will be available when choose to be housed

On average, homeless Veterans are housed within 90 days of being identified

The number of veterans being housed is greater than the number becoming homeless each month. And the number of Veterans entering in transitional housing is less than the number becoming homeless each month.

Homeless veteran resources:

Veterans Administration Resource Center - 503-808-1256

211info - dial 211

Transition Projects hotline - 855-425-5544

Multnomah County Veterans Services - 503-988-8387

Multnomah County aging, disability and veteran helpline - 503-988-3646

Veteran crisis line - 800-273-8255

National homeless veteran call center - 877-424-3838

Portland closer to requiring Home Energy Scores, energy audits, for home listings

By Steve Law

December 8, 2016

Starting in 2018, those who sell homes in Portland likely will have to commission a home energy audit to determine a Home Energy Score, providing those to prospective home buyers.

A Home Energy Score, akin to a miles-per-gallon sticker on cars for sale, will alert buyers what to expect in home energy bills, and it's hoped, spur improvements that cut down on energy use and carbon emissions.

On Wednesday, the Portland City Council approved two amendments to the policy, setting the stage for granting final approval on Dec. 14.

"If we're going to be serious about avoiding the catastrophic effects of climate change, we have to move more things faster," said Mayor Charlie Hales, who championed the policy and made it part of his "bucket list" before he leaves office at year end. "A thousand things add up, and this is one of them," Hales said.

The main amendment adopted by the council eliminated a requirement that the results be posted on the city's Portland Maps website. Critics had complained posting the results on the Internet would be obtrusive, and the results might be stale if homeowners subsequently made improvements to their house.

Instead, the results must be available when a house is for sale, to prospective buyers. However, the ordinance will require the full energy reports be placed on real estate listing services that allow them.

The Home Energy Score will thus have a shorter shelf life and presumably, less impact.

But "this is a long-term transformational game," said Andria Jacob, the clean energy program manager for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. "Over time, people will start to understand what that score means."

The council also exempted low-income sellers from the ordinance. However, the city already has a foundation interested in covering the roughly \$200 cost of a Home Energy Score for low-income sellers, Jacob said.

The policy comes up for final approval next Wednesday, though councilors indicated their minds are made up.

"Obviously, this is something the council supports," Hales said as the body wrapped up work on the amendments.

The council rejected a request by homebuilders to exempt new homes from the requirement.

At the initial hearing on the Home Energy Score, builder Justin Wood testified that most new homes would score at least a nine on the 10-point scale because of strict energy-code requirements in Oregon, rendering the process meaningless.

But city staff went back and checked how new homes would have scored, and found half scored lower than eight out of 10, said Michael Armstrong, deputy director of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

The Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors, which testified against posting the Home Energy Scores on Portland Maps, appreciated the decision to scrap that idea, said Jane Leo, government affairs director.

However, the trade group, which has spearheaded a campaign against the Home Energy Score, still opposes the idea.

About 35 percent of Portland's housing stock was built before 1940, and those homes will find it hard to compete with newer, energy-efficient homes on the basis of Home Energy Scores, Leo said. Home buyers might walk away from such homes, or lenders might decline granting loans needed by the would-be buyers, she said. "A low score can result in a loan being denied and the transaction falling apart."

About 600 letters opposed to the Home Energy Score were sent to the city by Realtors. The trade group set up a website, nocostlymandates.com, and a digital media campaign directing people to that website. In addition, the Realtors recently mailed more than 30,000 tear-off postcards to Portland households with registered voters, Leo said.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz requested that the ordinance be passed without an emergency clause, which could give opponents time to gather signatures for a referendum to overturn it. It's not clear yet what the Realtors might do if the council passes the measure next week, Leo said.

The city and state have already made considerable efforts to foster home weatherization, insulation and other improvements to shave energy use. Customers of PGE, Pacific Power and NW Natural pay a tax on their energy bills that is directed to Energy Trust of Oregon, which offers subsidies to help individuals and businesses save energy and promote renewable sources.

The city created what it now called Enhabit, (formerly Clean Energy Works), a nonprofit that enables homeowners to pay the costs of energy-efficiency improvements on their utility bills.

Despite such efforts, experts say relatively few people are taking advantage. The main culprit, Jacob said, is the historically low price of natural gas, which has been driven down through relatively new "fracking" extraction techniques. That has made it harder for Energy Trust and others to justify some home energy improvements, because they don't cost out as well as before.

Other cities like Austin and Berkeley have pioneered the use of Home Energy Scores when homes are sold. However, Portland's system will be the first in the country to require the scores and report as soon as a home is listed for sale, Jacob said.

It was not lost on city commissioners that they were taking action against climate change on the same day President-elect Donald Trump announced his nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a prominent climate-change denier closely aligned with the fossil fuel industry.

Hales recently returned from a meeting of the C40 Climate Leadership Group in Mexico City, which began as an effort among 40 large world cities to tackle climate change.

It's somewhat comforting, Commissioner Steve Novick said, to know that cities can directly address about 40 percent of the carbon emissions problem, despite a lack of interest by the incoming U.S. administration.

Hales noted that the C40 effort now numbers 90 big cities, including Portland, with a total population of 600 million people.

"Cities are making a difference," he said. "There are thousands of actions that have to be taken."

Council passes CEO surcharge, leans towards public campaign financing [sic]

*By Amelia Templeton, OPB
December 8, 2016*

The Portland City Council voted Wednesday to raise the business tax on companies that pay their CEOs more than 100 times what their average worker makes.

The council also signaled approval for a new public campaign finance program next week.

Commissioner Steve Novick sponsored the CEO surcharge and Commissioner Amanda Fritz is sponsoring the campaign finance measure. Both of them announced they would support each other's proposal on Tuesday, meaning they only needed one more vote from the remaining three members of the council for them to pass.

Novick believes the surcharge is the first tax in the United States directly targeting income inequality.

"This explosion of inequality that we've seen in the past 50 years is not something that has to happen. It's something that's been allowed to happen," he said during Wednesday's hearing on the proposal.

The new surtax will apply to about 550 publicly traded companies that do business in Portland and pay the city's business income tax, according to the city Revenue Division.

Companies will only have to pay it if their CEO makes more than 100 times more than their median worker pay.

Companies with CEOs who earn more than 100 times what their median worker makes would pay an additional 10 percent tax, while those with a CEO-worker pay ratio of 250 or more would pay an additional 25 percent.

Novick, who did not win re-election in November and will step down in January, has said he was inspired by French economist Thomas Piketty and his 2015 book "Capitol in the 21st Century", as well as by a similar tax proposal introduced in the California state Legislature.

"Part of the idea here is to simply send a signal about social acceptability, that it is not socially acceptable to have these huge gaps," Novick said.

The Portland Business Alliance opposed the measure, and questioned whether it is a fair and effective strategy to address income inequality.

Mayor Charlie Hales joined Novick and Fritz in favor of the business surtax. Commissioner Nick Fish was absent for the vote.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman voted against the measure and said the city shouldn't raise the business tax unless it has an urgent need for the revenue.

Under Mayor Tom Potter, the Portland City Council imposed a business income surtax as an emergency measure to raise money for the Portland Public Schools District. That tax expired in 2008.

"I really believe that the headroom under the business income tax should be preserved for a true unforeseen situation, which given Oregon's revenue situation, given local governments revenue situations, are never too far around the corner," Saltzman said.

The city's Revenue Division estimates the surtax would generate about \$2.5 million of new revenue each year, starting in fiscal year 2017-2018. Novick and the council have said the funding would likely go the Joint Office of Homeless Services, which serves Portland and Multnomah County.

The new surtax on pay inequality hinges on information companies will soon have to disclose to the federal Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 2015, the SEC adopted a rule requiring companies to disclose the ratio of their CEO pay to employees pay. Congress mandated the pay ratio disclosure as part of the Dodd-Frank Act.

The SEC will require companies to disclose their pay ratio starting in 2017, and Portland is scheduled to begin collecting the tax in response to those disclosures.

But the election of Donald Trump and the Republican Party's wins in Congress could complicate Portland's effort to impose the tax. Trump has said he wants to "dismantle" the Dodd-Frank regulations.

"It has been floated by people currently setting the agenda," Novick acknowledged. "I think that this would be a particularly difficult part of the law to repeal."

Later in the day, Fritz cleared the way for a vote on publicly-financed campaigns for Portland City Council seats. In response to criticism from the Portland City Auditor and others, she agreed to significantly delay the proposed roll-out of the new system, funding it in the 2017-2018 city budget with the first matching funds awarded in 2019 for the 2020 elections.

Saltzman introduced an amendment asking the council to refer the campaign funding proposal to voters in May instead of adopting it by council vote.

"We're better when we rely on our voters to affect major changes that cost them at their pocketbooks," Saltzman said. "I think we build trust and credibility with our public when we do it that way."

But Fritz, Hales and Novick defeated that amendment, setting the council up for a 3-2 vote next week approving the publicly-financed campaign system.

"Obviously, I've been working on this, as part of the system, for 11 years," Fritz said, tears catching in her throat. "This is going to open things up, and that's what we need."

The business tax was just one of several significant pieces of left-leaning legislation the council is pushing through before Novick and Hales leave office at the end of the month.

The council is also preparing to pass an inclusionary zoning proposal next week, and a ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure.

Council approves direction for controversial infill and density plan

By Jim Redden

December 8, 2016

Saying that Portland is experiencing "growing pains," the City Council completed its work on a controversial proposal to limit home sizes and increase residential density that will be taken up again next year by a council with two new members .

On Wednesday the council unanimously approved a series of amendments to the Residential Infill Project Concept Plan that was developed by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability with the help of a citizen Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Council members said the future of the city depends on how well the plan is drafted and implemented in 2017.

"The number one issue facing the city is growing pains," said Commissioner Nick Fish, citing such problems as increasing home prices and congestion. "We're a smallish city that's going through a lot of growth and that means we need to manage it."

Among other things, the plan presented to the council recommended limiting the size of new homes to 2,500 square feet and rezoning two-thirds of the city's existing single-family neighborhoods to allow relatively small multi-family developments.

Both recommendations are supported and opposed by many Portlanders, who testified before the council at three previous hearings and submitted over 500 letters and emails. Among other things, the council agreed that the 2,500 square foot restriction deserves additional study and that maps showing the potential effect of rezoning both a smaller and a larger portion of existing single-family neighborhoods should be prepared.

"There are sharp disagreements in our community about how we move forward," said Fish.

The council also approved a series of amendments intended to both require and offer incentives to developers to preserve trees, build affordable housing, and build housing that is accessible to everyone, regardless of age and physical condition. The amendments approved on Dec. 7 also require whether such transportation infrastructure as streets and transit lines are sufficient to support density increases before they are approved.

The council then directed the staff to draft the plan into code language to be reviewed by the Planning and Sustainability Commission that advises BPS before being submitted to the next

council, which will hold a fresh round of hearings on it before a final vote. A work session where public testimony is not taken will be held on the draft language next spring.

The next council will include new Mayor Ted Wheeler and new Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. They will replace Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick on Jan. 1.

"We have to deal with growth and change," said Hales. "It's very important that we plan for the city we want."

"The future of this city depends on whether this concept is implemented," said Novick.

For an earlier Portland Tribune story on the issue, go to portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/335134-214555-council-to-consider-rezoning-for-higher-density-housing

Travel Portland's gigantic cuckoo clock disassembled

*By Lyndsey Hewitt
December 8, 2016*

Even the most brilliant marketing campaigns end somewhere.

For the 7,000-pound cuckoo clock that made national headlines two years ago as part of a Travel Portland winter tourism campaign, it seems its end is in pieces around the city.

The 24-foot-tall handcrafted clock that was dubbed the tallest freestanding cuckoo clock in the United States was disassembled and is being regifted in chunks after the beastly clock couldn't find a home in its original form.

It was designed and assembled in Portland by Nicolas Gros and J. Chester Armstrong. Carved out of an Oregon maple tree over the course of 643 "carving hours," it also used 2,000 pounds of steel and featured iconic Portland imagery such as a woman riding a bike, the Portlandia statue, Sasquatch, roses and a man riding a keg of beer.

Instead of a traditional bird emerging from the clock, it exhibited real-life Portland-themed acts pop out on the hour, such as bike riders in thongs and music acts to encourage out-of-towners in Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., to visit.

After serving its purpose as a marketing tool, it found a home at Portland International Airport. But the area where it was located at the airport, beyond the security checkpoint for concourses A, B and C, was redeveloped, so it had to move. Apparently, no other part of the airport could house it.

"There wasn't another place they could house the clock because of the size and weight of it," says Megan Conway, vice president of communications and public relations with Travel Portland.

Though Travel Portland looked at different options to keep it together and maintain it, the clock's mass continued to make it a difficult feat.

The next-best solution, says Conway, and perhaps in an appropriately Portland fashion, was to repurpose it.

The top portion of the clock, which features a replica of the city's neon White Stag Portland, Oregon, sign and instead says "Portland Is Happening Now" — the name of the campaign — will now call the first-floor atrium in City Hall home.

In addition, the Portlandia statue portion of the clock found a home at Travel Portland's offices, while Base Camp Brewing Company is taking the guy riding the keg. It is still being discussed where two other portions of the clock, the Sasquatch and woman riding a bike, might find a home.

Though Conway says tourism promoters might have liked to see the clock remain in its original form, "now it actually sort of has multiple lives engaging people in different spaces."

The campaign, which Forbes noted in a piece on "Genius Ideas in Travel Marketing," was created by Travel Portland in partnership with the local Wieden+Kennedy advertising agency. It resulted in \$2.9 million in ad value, 115 million impressions online, 67 media placements and a hotel demand increase of 4.5 percent between November and March of 2014, according to Travel Portland.

The city welcomed its portion of the clock in a ceremony on Tuesday, where Mayor Charlie Hales, Nicolas Gros, Travel Portland and others made appearances.

Conway says Travel Portland is working on another winter campaign for the Seattle market, which is "serving up content along the lines of the Portland Is Happening Now campaign."

Willamette Week

Portland Becomes First City to Tax Companies for Outsized CEO Pay

*By Rachel Monahan
December 8, 2016*

Portland today became the first city to impose a surcharge on companies that pay their CEOs 100 times what their median employees make.

City council approved the tax by a vote of three to one Wednesday. City Commissioner Steve Novick, who lost reelection in November, proposed the tax back in August when he faced a challenge from the left.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Mayor Charlie Hales joined Novick in approving the tax. Commissioner Dan Saltzman voted against it. Commissioner Nick Fish was absent.

Novick didn't speak to the issue on Wednesday, but the introduction to the ordinance describes the concern: "The explosion of chief executive officer pay is a major contributor to growing inequality."

The tax is possible thanks to new Securities and Exchange Commission rules that require companies to disclose the ratio between CEOs' and median workers' pay beginning next year.

The city will impose an extra 25 percent surcharge on companies where CEOs make 250 times the amount paid to the median employee.

"It falls to cities to do creative, progressive policymaking," said Hales before casting his vote in favor.

Saltzman, before voting against the ordinance, said the city should be mindful that it might need to raise revenue in the event of significant shortfalls.

"I don't believe this is the right time and the right place and the right reason," said Saltzman.

The new tax is expected to raise more than \$2.5 million annually for the city.

The Portland Mercury

Watch: Steve Novick Spars With a Fox News Host Over His New Wealth Inequality Tax

By Dirk VanderHart

December 12, 2016

As we've already seen, Commissioner Steve Novick is cool with right-leaning news outlets bashing his newly passed surtax on corporations that pay their CEOs at least 100 times the salary of the average worker. So much so that Novick agreed to walk into a near-certain ambush by sitting down with Fox News on Friday.

It's clear host Neil Cavuto (or his team) had researched Portland and Oregon's financial straits in order to ensnare Novick. The commissioner wasn't having it, laying out a history of the nation's growing wealth inequality and quipping: "All I'm trying to do here is make America great again."

Check it out <https://youtu.be/uJTeJE7TyFI>

Steve Novick's Tax on Egregious CEO Pay Passed, and National Media's All Over It

By Dirk VanderHart

December 8, 2016

It's a well-worn tradition of Portland City Council (and probably any political body, large or small): Commissioners who are about to pass groundbreaking or politically fraught policy take a victory lap, of sorts, laying down flowery language about its importance, thanking aides and community supporters, etc.

Yet there was Commissioner Steve Novick yesterday, on the verge of making Portland the first city in the country to slap a tax penalty on egregious CEO pay, and declining to revel in it.

"I'm going to say only 'aye,'" Novick told his colleagues as his time to vote for the policy came shortly before 4 pm. "I'm desperate to get this passed in the next seven minutes. We will make East Coast media deadlines."

It was, apparently, a canny move. Novick's victory lap is playing out in the national press.

The commissioner has a triumphant portrait in the New York Times, anchoring a story about his CEO pay surtax. New York magazine and Fortune have since piled on.

This is exactly the type of thing Novick was hoping for.

The new surtax, aimed at the growing problem of wealth inequality, will affect companies that pay their CEOs salaries that are far out of step with employee pay. Firms that pay CEOs 100 times or more the rate of the average worker will receive a 10 percent "surtax" on the Business

License Tax they pay to do business in Portland. Companies that pay CEOs 250 times or more the average worker pay will see a 25 percent surtax.

An analysis circulated by Novick's office suggests the tax could raise between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million a year.

But it does nothing to hamper wealth inequality if other cities around the country don't follow suit, sending a message to large corporations to pay employees more (or executives less). That's why Novick was so tickled last month to see the Wall Street Journal inveigh against his measure: Even in dismissing the idea as foolhardy, the paper was spreading the idea around.

The Guardian chimed in with a story earlier this week, and with the policy's passage Wednesday, outlets around the country are doing the same thing.

Novick's proposal is enabled by new US Securities and Exchange Commission rules that, beginning next year, will require public companies to report the ratio their CEOs are paid compared to average employees. It was opposed by the Portland Business Alliance, which argued it would only hamper business activity in Portland, while failing to meaningfully solve inequality.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman, the lone "nay" in a 3-1 vote, had another reason for opposing the plan. He thinks it's a bit careless.

"I really believe the headroom under the [business license tax] should be reserved for truly unforeseen situations, which are...never too far around the corner," Saltzman said. "I don't believe this is the right time, right place, or right reason to increase business income tax." According to the Oregonian, Commissioner Nick Fish would have joined Saltzman in opposition, were he present.

But Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Amanda Fritz agreed with Novick's idea—cribbed from proposals in other parts of the country, but a first for any city.

By the way, these kinds of CEO pay ratios aren't at all uncommon. As we've reported, City Revenue Director Thomas Lannom testified that his office has looked at local pay ratios that are above 1,000-to-one. The Oregon AFL-CIO says Oregon CEOs are paid an average of 327 times the salary of average employees.

Daily Journal of Commerce

Portland climate action plan recognized

*By DJC Staff
December 8, 2016*

The city of Portland's 2015 Climate Action Plan was honored during the C40 Cities Awards, held recently in Mexico City.

The awards, which recognize innovative ways that cities around the world are tackling climate change, were held as part of the C40 Mayors Summit. Award winners were selected by a jury panel comprised of former mayors, climate experts and others. Awards were presented in 10 areas, including a social justice category.

The Portland Climate Action Plan took top honors in the category for climate action plans and inventories. The plan's overarching goal is to deliver an integrated set of strategies by 2020 that will allow Portland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and by 80 percent by 2050, including reducing energy use in existing buildings by 1.7 percent annually.

The Portland Business Journal

Portland earns kudos for homeless veterans programs

*By Andy Giegerich
December 12, 2016*

City and county leaders said last weekend the city "has effectively ended homelessness" among veterans.

The decree comes via a designation applied by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

"This designation reflects the federal government's confidence that the city and county have built the infrastructure and systems that will ensure that any homeless veteran will quickly get the help he or she needs to get into a permanent home," area officials said in a press release announcing the designation.

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales said the city is the first on the West Coast to receive the designation.

First Lady Michelle Obama had challenged cities to develop more veteran homelessness programs in January 2015. The city and county worked with such groups as the Portland VA Medical Center, Home Forward and nonprofits including Transition Projects, Central City Concern, JOIN and Native American Rehabilitation Association.

Nearly 700 veterans were placed into permanent housing in 2015. Another 600 have been placed so far in 2016.

"We know stable housing is a fundamental component of health and safety," said Michael Fisher, director of VA Portland Health Care System, in a release. "The work is not finished, and we as a community must remain committed to serving our veterans, as they have served us."

The program will be ongoing.

Mayor-elect Wheeler 'reviewing' CEO pay tax

*By Matthew Kish
December 9, 2016*

Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler and his staff are taking a close look at a CEO pay tax passed Wednesday by City Council.

"We are reviewing the CEO tax passed by the current council, including how it might be implemented," spokesman Michael Cox said in a statement Thursday.

Cox declined to provide details.

The tax will apply to public companies that do business in Portland when the CEO earns more than 100 times the pay of the median worker. The ratio will be disclosed in SEC filings starting in 2017.

While he's yet to take a position on the tax, in 2013, in his role as state treasurer Wheeler said he supported disclosing the ratio. Wheeler said it would help investors determine if CEO compensation was aligned with company performance.

The business community has criticized the tax, which it says unfairly picks on public companies.

Wheeler, who takes office Jan. 1., sat for a lengthy interview with the Business Journal in September.

Panel will take up the tiny house role in addressing homelessness (Renderings)

By Jon Bell

December 9, 2016

On the heels of releasing the renderings of sleeping pods designed to help house some of Portland's homeless this winter, the partners involved in the initiative are hosting a panel discussion on the role that tiny houses and small villages can play in the picture.

Called "The Future of Portland's Tiny House Village Movement" and set for tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, the panel discussion will focus in part on the pods that local architects and architecture students came up with earlier this fall.

It will also, according to a release, give attendees a chance to "learn more about the social ingredients necessary for a self governing community, the benefits of living in a small village, the legal and political impediments to establishing additional villages, and the solutions that professional creatives can offer to major social problems."

Panelists will include: Mark Lakeman, co-founder of The City Repair Project and a principal at Communitecture; Andrew Heben, program manager at Square One Villages; Vahid Brown, housing policy coordinator for Clackamas County and co-founder of the Village Coalition; Sergio Palleroni, director of Portland State University's Center for Public Interest Design; and leaders from the houseless community.

Open to the public, the panel will be moderated by David Bikman, a volunteer member of the Village Coalition.

Several prototypes of the pods will also be on display in the parking lot next to PNCA. For a look at some of the early designs from the 14 different design teams, click through the gallery of renderings above. (link here: <http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2016/12/09/panel-will-take-up-the-tiny-house-role-in.html#g1>)