

Willamette Week

Commissioner-Elect Chloe Eudaly Recruits Longtime County Spokesman

David Austin will be deputy chief of staff.

By Rachel Monahan
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Chloe Eudaly, the council's novice member, has successfully recruited a second senior hand to her staff.

David Austin, 51, a former *Oregonian* reporter who has worked as spokesman for Multnomah County for eight years, will serve as Eudaly's deputy chief of staff, handling both communications and policy work.

It's a surprise move for Austin, and one that shows Eudaly, a small business-owner consummate outsider, will be relying on experienced senior staff to guide her.

Marshall Runkel, also 51, who worked as an aide Commissioner Erik Sten, is Eudaly's chief of staff.

Eudaly is "a fighter," says Austin. "What she represents in a lot of ways is what Portland used to be known for: compassion, caring about those in need and trying to make a difference. She's a renter. She's a single mom. And she's a staunch advocate for people who don't have the means to help themselves. That's why I want to work for her."

Eudaly sent a lengthy text about the hiring:

When I decided to run for City Council, it was contingent upon Marshall Runkel, who I met when he worked for Commissioner Sten, not only running my campaign but coming to City Hall with me if I won. Along the way, we assembled a talented team of over a dozen volunteers with expertise in a variety of areas — tenants rights, arts & culture, tech, labor, law enforcement, environmental justice — some of whom will also come with us. I met Dave Austin on a recent visit to the Grant Magazine class where he serves as a volunteer instructor. I was already impressed with his work at The Oregonian and Multnomah County; seeing him in action with his students was the clincher. I thought it was a longshot that he'd accept our offer, but I think Dave sees what an incredible opportunity we have to make real, progressive change in Portland and what a critical time we're facing. We feel so lucky to have him on our team.

Austin starts work in Eudaly's office on Jan. 3.

The Portland Business Journal

City picks a high-profile buyer — and its \$12.5M bid — for Terminal 1 property

By Jon Bell

12/22/2016

The Portland Business Journal has learned that the city's Bureau of Environmental Services has chosen Lithia Motors as the buyer for the 14-acre Terminal 1 property on the Willamette River.

A city spokesperson confirmed that Lithia is the site's purchaser.

Two sources familiar with the selection said Thursday that the city picked Lithia Real Estate Inc.'s bid for the property from a pool of seven offers. The company is the real estate arm of the Medford-based, Fortune 500 Lithia Motors Inc.

Its best and final offer for the site was \$12.5 million, according to the sources.

In an earlier round of bids submitted in November, Lithia offered \$10 million for the property, as did several other prospective buyers. Tandem Development Corp., a Portland development firm and the highest bidder, had offered \$10.5 million.

The city asked all of the bidders to then submit their best and final offers by the end of last week.

According to its initial offer for the property, Lithia was looking to consolidate its scattered Portland operations under one roof.

"Terminal 1 has presented Lithia with the opportunity to control their operations, to plan for expansion and offerings and to finally establish ownership in a fully consolidated headquarter facility," the company wrote in its offer.

Lithia also proposed moving the Portlandia statue to the site to welcome "seafarers and the world to our beautiful city."

Lithia couldn't be reached for comment as of press time.

The Terminal 1 property made headlines earlier this year when developer Homer Williams proposed using the site for a giant campus that would provide shelter and services for the homeless. BES had been marketing the property for sale.

Despite initial support from the city, Williams' plan for Terminal 1 was later scuttled, in part due to substantial opposition from neighbors and other developers, and the property returned to the market.