

The Oregonian

Ted Wheeler announces City Council's bureau assignments

*By Jessica Floum
January 3, 2017*

Mayor Ted Wheeler Tuesday announced which city bureaus commissioners will manage until he takes back the offices in April to propose a city budget.

The mayor will keep the Portland Police Bureau and the Portland Housing Bureau. He will also take the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Office of Equity and Human Rights, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the Portland Development Commission and the budget and management offices.

Newcomer Chloe Eudaly will run the Office of Neighborhood Services, previously managed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who last month said she would be "very upset" if she lost the bureau.

Fritz led the office for more than five of the last eight years, but a November audit found a host of problems including unequal funding across neighborhood associations, unfinished plans and poor leadership. Fritz generally agreed with the audit's findings, but argued the office is making progress.

"I believe I have the right to fix the things the audit found," Fritz told The Oregonian/OregonLive in a December interview. "I will be quite miffed if someone else has the honor of saying we got this done."

Eudaly will also run the Bureau of Development Services, a likely focus in the Wheeler administration due to its role in housing development and reported issues with morale due to understaffing.

Fritz will keep the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau. She will also manage the Bureau of Emergency Communications, another office burdened by chronic understaffing and forced overtime. A December audit also found the bureau's automated screening system caused at least 18,482 calls to slip through the system last year without an answer, data retention or a return call.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman will manage the Portland Bureau of Transportation, which hired a manager convicted of a felony tied to corruption and misdirection of funds. He will also run Portland Fire & Rescue and the office that manages disability and retirement for fire and police.

Commissioner Nick Fish will keep the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Portland Water Bureau.

Portland's new 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax is operational

*By Andrew Theen
January 1, 2017*

Portland's voter-approved 10-cents-a-gallon gas tax is finally operational and customers may see a slight increase in prices at the pump as a result.

The four-year tax is projected to bring in a total of \$64 million in revenue for the city. It's the highest gas tax in the state.

Now-former Commissioner Steve Novick held a press conference last week to tout the tax and the list of projects it helps fund.

Last May, Portlanders narrowly approved the four-year gas tax following a meandering and contentious debate led by former Mayor Charlie Hales and Novick. Novick and Hales crusaded for more revenue for paving and safety projects and originally pushed for a street fee to be paid by residents and businesses. Ultimately, the City Council under Novick's request recommended a 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax.

Why the seven-month delay?

In part because a contractor the state uses to report gasoline tax sales needed to add Portland to its online system.

Portland still forged ahead with planning for its safety and paving projects.

Some 56 percent of the gas tax revenue will be spent on paving or repair projects, with the remainder going to safety work, particularly near schools.

Ted Wheeler has big plans but must make fixes

By Jessica Floum

January 1, 2017

Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler doesn't believe in promoting 100-day plans. He's got too many big issues to tackle.

He plans to create more affordable housing and get homeless people off the streets, and he wants to do it quickly.

He says he intends to help create 25,000 jobs that pay at least \$25 per hour by 2025 so people born in the Portland area can keep up with the increasingly wealthy group of new Portlanders.

He aims to promote police accountability and restore public trust in law enforcement, especially among African-Americans.

But interviews with city commissioners, county leaders, and other insiders-- even former Mayor Charlie Hales -- make clear that the job of Portland mayor has a way of complicating big plans.

Before he can wrangle the city's most challenging issues, Wheeler has to find his place on the Portland City Council. He brings executive, financial and political experience after tenures with the state and county. He helped get the county's budget on track as the Multnomah County chairman and helped develop Oregon's first retirement savings program as Oregon's treasurer. Wheeler has a degree from Stanford, an MBA from Columbia and a degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Before his political life, he worked as a financial analyst and directed an investment firm.

Former colleagues at the county praised his attention to detail and ability to build support around his initiatives, but they questioned whether he'll be as effective a leader in a role with limited control and a lot of politicking.

The mayor's authority is weak in Portland's unusual form of government. He'll have to build good will, form coalitions and make sure the other commissioners play nice together.

His first tests are assigning the bureaus and putting together a budget--two powers granted exclusively to the mayor.

He will propose a budget in April, after bureau directors request budgets, the council deliberates in public work sessions, and the public weighs in.

Wheeler said he plans to assign the bureaus temporarily to commissioners on Tuesday but will take them back in April to plan the budget--a move he hopes will force collaboration, but that carries the risk of straining council relationships and workflow in the bureaus.

This strategy puzzles Hales, who says three months is not enough time to assess a commissioner's ability to lead a bureau.

Aside from those powers, in the Portland system, the mayor is just another commissioner with one vote and bureaus to manage. The added expectations that come with the job have evolved in recent years from running city services to larger goals.

Now, Hales says, people are looking to their local governments to create sanctuary cities and address global issues like climate change.

"The mayor has to play chess on a bunch of different boards," Hales said in an interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive.

Wheeler says he's up to the challenge. Former county commissioners note that he brought together a divided board as Multnomah County chairman. He watched Hales struggle to build alliances within City Hall and pledges to get more face time with city commissioners.

The only thing Wheeler is nervous about is that he's not nervous, he said.

He's set himself a high bar, he said, and knows everyone expects him to achieve.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," Wheeler said. "It's grittier. It's dirtier. It's harder. It's also what gets me out of bed in the morning."

Wheeler's priorities

Wheeler campaigned on addressing some of Portland's most difficult challenges. His biggest promise: providing beds for Portland's approximately 1,900 homeless people by the end of 2018. Wheeler made this pledge on the campaign trail last December.

His priorities haven't changed since, he told The Oregonian/OregonLive.

Affordable housing, homelessness and police accountability are at the top of a "long punch list of issues and items" he plans to address.

The public, he said, will hold him accountable for his first major promise.

"If I cannot address the issue of visible homelessness and abject poverty on the streets of this community, I will not get re-elected in four years," Wheeler said.

Wheeler says he first plans to speed up the permitting process for those trying to build affordable housing by getting different bureaus to work together. He also suggested a few ways to keep people from returning to the streets.

A housing plan detailed on his campaign website envisions a program that connects homeless people with jobs in the city so they can build work experience and earn money.

The proposal also encourages support of the most vulnerable of Portland's homeless--women, children and those susceptible to sex trafficking. It proposes limiting sweeps of homeless camp to those with dangerous criminal activity.

He plans to stabilize the living situations of families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless by creating a "Tenants' Bill of Rights" and an Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs under the Housing Bureau to mediate disputes.

Perhaps Wheeler's most bold housing proposal involves advocating to the state.

He favors a "just cause eviction" process, which could prohibit landlords from evicting people without cause and require them to pay moving fees in some cases.

Ending no cause evictions conflicts with state law, which allows landlords to end month-to-month leases without reason as long as the landlord provides sufficient notice, according to an October analysis by the Oregon Legislative Counsel. Wheeler says he plans to start designing a policy and to advocate to the state Legislature for a just cause eviction process.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz said she is interested in exploring Wheeler's housing proposals, but she doesn't want the City Council to overstep legally.

"I'm not interested in doing things that will get an injunction the very next day," she said.

Whether Wheeler will get the Legislature on board remains to be seen.

Wheeler has had his share of wins and losses in Salem. He tried to restructure the oversight of state investments as Oregon's treasurer but failed to convince the Legislature.

Wheeler found success last June, when lawmakers approved the Oregon Retirement Savings program he developed with the help of labor groups, the AARP and even insurance companies that opposed the measure.

Government relations will be key for Wheeler's ability to make progress on housing.

The city and county last year built the A Home for Everyone coalition to collectively address homeless issues. The effort housed 695 veterans in 2015 and another 599 since January 2016.

This year, Portland and Multnomah County both joined a coordinating board to close gaps in caring for homeless people. Before that, the county provided services for families and children and the city took care of single individuals, which left homeless individuals in east Multnomah County lacking care.

"Not only are we going to have to keep up those efforts," Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury said. "But we're going to have to grow them."

This will be a challenge as the city and county face budget choices. But Kafoury is optimistic. Wheeler was chairman when she started on the board of commissioners in 2008. She said she watched him cut more than 10 percent of the county's budget without getting "blood in the streets."

The hardest part of building affordable housing is the resources it requires, said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversees the Housing Bureau.

Portland voters this year passed a \$258.4 million affordable housing bond, which means whoever Wheeler picks to head up housing will have to figure out the best way to spend it.

The next step for Wheeler, Saltzman says, is engaging the private sector in affordable housing initiatives--either through requirements or incentives.

Managing public safety

No matter what Wheeler's plans are for housing, he'll likely spend most of his first 100 days acting as police commissioner.

Just this year, the City Council sparked protests by signing a police contract to address understaffing. Mayor Hales also put Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea on leave after O'Dea shot his friend on a camping trip, sparking a criminal investigation by the state police and the Oregon Department of Justice. O'Dea retired in June.

The bureau continues to reform its policies, training and oversight in accordance with a Department of Justice settlement. The city settled after a 2012 investigation found that Portland police engage in a pattern of excessive force against people with mental illness.

"The most important thing facing us all is the DOJ settlement and making sure our police are guardians of peace and not warriors," Fritz said.

The Portland Police Bureau ends up taking half of the mayor's time on average, Hales said. It's also the bureau for which he lost the most sleep. Hales said he went out to any officer-involved shooting no matter the time of night.

Still, taking the police bureau is "mandatory," Hales said.

"People look to the mayor in terms of life and death" he said. "If there is a concern about public safety, that falls to the mayor."

Wheeler plans to prioritize police accountability, he said. He'll start by conducting a national search for a police chief. The move, he says, is not a condemnation of Chief Mike Marshman.

Wheeler plans to make sure the police contract is put to good use. The contract raised officers' pay amid staffing shortages. Wheeler expects more recruitment and more retention, and he'll hold the bureau to that, he said. The contract also ended a controversial policy of allowing police 48 hours before they were interviewed after being involved in a shooting.

Wheeler wants to move to a community policing model to get "more boots on the ground."

He also plans to reconstitute the Community Oversight Advisory Board but not without scrutiny.

"It has not gone well," Wheeler said.

Bringing the council together

Wheeler said the City Council requires healing. He intends to repair what he sees as a lack of respect, trust and collegiality in City Hall.

"It is the mayor's job to be the glue that holds everybody together," he said. "That starts with respect of the other people in the building."

The best way to show and get respect is to set clear priorities and build relationships, Fish said.

He said he is optimistic that Wheeler will lead successfully so long as he harnesses the talent already at City Hall

"We don't need a savior in this city," Fish said. "We need a competent, effective, collaborative leader."

Wheeler said he's "keenly aware" of the fact that he can't get anything done without at least two other votes.

The mayor's lack of authority is a big reason why the last three mayors have only held a single term, said Joe Baessler, political director for Oregon's branch of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"Everyone in the city expects you to fix their pot holes and Middle Eastern conflict," Baessler said. "There's a ton of expectations but very little ability to implement those expectations."

Wheeler will have the added challenge of leading a historically progressive city under a Trump Administration that includes a chief strategist supported by a white nationalist movement and an environmental director who is suing the Environmental Protection Agency.

"People are scared," said former county commissioner Serena Cruz, who now heads the Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation.

President-elect Donald Trump's win has people looking to their local governments for reassurance, Hales said. This, he says, puts more pressure on cities to take on social justice, climate change and the economy.

It also could mean less federal funding, a problem for the Housing Bureau, which plans to help pay for affordable housing developments using federal grants.

"It's going to be up to us to look after our people," Fritz said.

Wheeler also faces a \$4 million budget crunch next year, which means he will likely have to make some hard choices.

Still, Wheeler says he sees a bright future for Portland. Its growing economy is "on a tear", he says, and voters know he loves the city. It's not the ten point plans or the 100-day strategy that got him elected, Wheeler said. Portlanders are looking for leadership and courage.

"They're looking for somebody with fortitude and staying power who's going to be willing to continue to lead no matter how tough things might seem," Wheeler said.

Beyond 'Sanctuary,' Portland needs unified leadership (Opinion)

*By Guest Columnist Sarah Iannarone
January 3, 2017*

This is a watershed moment in the fight for equality in America. The election of a right-wing government lead by a divisive, authoritarian president portends catastrophe for decades of hard-fought gains in civil and human rights. Anticipation of what lies ahead breeds despair and paralyzing terror throughout our communities; still, we come together to comfort each other, fight back and prepare.

Even before the election, Portland was having a tough year. Rapid growth strained our infrastructure and social fabric. Frank dialogues about "equity" exposed the painful disconnect between what we claim to value as a city and what we're willing to do to achieve it.

Critics have assigned Portland's current woes to Mayor Charlie Hales, citing a lack of vision, focus, and decisiveness. Yet, in our "weak mayor" commission form of government, it's unfair for an individual to shoulder responsibility for problems they lack the authority to unilaterally address. Could he have done better? Of course. But so could have the rest of Portland's City Council over the last four years. In the absence of strong leadership, they failed to demonstrate the professional capacity for collaborative problem-solving and frequently defaulted to petty infighting while the city's more pressing issues went unresolved.

Now, Portland's incoming Mayor Ted Wheeler must answer a mandate for change while tackling a daunting to-do list: housing affordability and homelessness; racial justice and police reform; street maintenance and safety; toxic air quality and a billion dollar superfund cleanup. Fast forward into January 2017, and he'll add to that list actively protecting the rights of women, immigrants, the LBGTO community, communities of color and the natural environment.

It's definitely more than one mayor can handle. It's probably more than a five-member city council can handle. It might even be more than 650,000 Portlanders working side-by-side can handle. But we have no choice: we must put Portland's world-renowned civic capacity to the test and ensure our city is equitable, inclusive, and safe for all regardless of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social class, disability, or nationality.

And we must do it fast.

Portland City Council must unify around a concise, progressive agenda comprised of clear actions that can be measured and graded, that strategically lever next opportunities, that build social cohesion and community power, and that can result in short term change on several fronts simultaneously:

- **Establish a sanctuary city:** Portland should immediately implement legal protections for both undocumented immigrants and Muslims and prepare for federal reaction, both on deportation and registry.
- **Secure housing and prevent displacement:** Fair, secure housing is essential for strong communities. Council must aggressively enact tenants' rights policy, reduce roadblocks to new housing production, seek new funding streams for affordable housing and rent assistance, establish "right to return" policies and end the criminalization of unhoused people.
- **Reform police for racial justice:** Council should support the incoming police commissioner, as they undertake a transparent national search for a new police chief led by communities of color, reform police review and community oversight processes, and recruit and cultivate an actively anti-racist community police force.
- **Envision safer streets:** Council members must make infrastructure investments to protect Portland's least advantaged and most vulnerable, especially in East Portland. They also should negotiate with the state for local control of Oregon highways that run through the city.
- **Invest in resilient communities:** Portland is not adequately prepared for natural, economic or political disaster. Council members must rein in discrimination and dysfunction in Portland's civic culture by reforming the Office of Neighborhood Involvement; redirecting resources from exclusive neighborhood organizing (not-in-my-backyard mentalities) to inclusive, equitable community building; and funding community-centric disaster preparedness and emergency response activities.

There is much work to be done to ensure Portland is a safe and inclusive city. By marrying the need for urgent response with the long-standing goals of improving livability and remediating social inequities, we will ensure Portland's capacity for sustainable growth despite ongoing disruption.

Sarah Iannarone is an urban planning program manager at Portland State University.

Editorial Agenda 2017: Only the things that matter most (Editorial)

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board
January 1, 2017*

For years, Oregon leaders have talked about the growing divide in our state between east and west, rural and urban, newcomer and native.

Never was it more on display than when a crew of outsiders hijacked the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. While their tactics were scorned by most Oregonians, their complaints lodged against state and federal governments rang true with many living in our state's struggling rural counties.

In 2016, the separation grew more distinct and palpable as Oregonians watched that familiar polarization playing out across the country during the presidential campaign.

Some Oregonians are fearful and distrustful of what the Trump administration may bring. Others are excited at the potential that their voices and concerns might finally be heard and addressed. Now Oregon leaders face the challenge in the coming year to address both -- all while focusing on immediate challenges posed by budget shortfalls, homelessness, limited public records access, rural economic development and the high school graduation rate.

The Oregonian/OregonLive Editorial Board's agenda helps us track developments in these key public policy realms, always with an eye to helping Portland and Oregon achieve the right outcomes.

Boost student success

It seems that fixing education, particularly the K-12 system, is trotted out every year as a top priority for state and local leaders. Yet Oregon's high school graduation rate remains among the worst in the country, chronic absenteeism persists and districts are about to use more of their limited dollars to cover pension contributions rather than classroom needs.

If Oregon leaders are sincere about their desire to better prepare students for life after high school, this year must be different. They must actually lead.

First and foremost, that means addressing Oregon's budget woes. But it also means implementing plans for reversing absenteeism, examining what helps some Oregon schools thrive, replicating those strategies and holding schools and teachers accountable for improvement.

Locally, Portland Public Schools faces even more challenges. The school board must hire a skilled superintendent who understands how to run a complex organization and isn't afraid to demand competence from the staff. The district must carry out a school boundary and reconfiguration plan to ensure students are getting a quality education no matter their neighborhood. And it must put together a disciplined bond that addresses the most pressing health and safety needs of its buildings while continuing its plan to rebuild aging high schools. This will require significant community input, both in shaping the scope of the bond and in gaining support for its passage.

Get Oregon's financial house in order

The gaping \$1.7 billion deficit facing Oregon for the 2017-2019 biennium may seem like an impending catastrophe.

The governor, legislators and Oregonians as a whole should instead view it as an opportunity.

The long list of cuts that the governor has already proposed should be motivation to take action. The state, with the right leadership, can reshape our tax structure and remove some of the volatility inherent in a system highly dependent on personal income taxes. Businesses have already signaled their willingness to pay higher taxes to provide a more stable funding stream to such critical needs as education.

But elected officials must show courage and change the trajectory for public employee pension obligations. While they can't undo the financially irresponsible promises made in the past, they have an opportunity to adopt legally viable changes for the future that will blunt the burden and ensure that more taxpayer dollars are going to education, health care, transportation and other services that Oregonians value.

How Oregon leaders choose to respond to the projected deficit in the legislative session can set the stage for stability, or doom the state to another cycle of severe cuts that hurt the most vulnerable among us. We will be watching the governor and legislative leadership to see which path they take.

Help our homeless

Every night in metropolitan Portland, an estimated 1,800 people sleep outdoors for lack of a home. In rain. In cold. And in just about any place: woods near the freeway entrance, doorways to downtown businesses, median strips, sidewalks, ad-hoc encampments, in bushes lining greenways separating residential neighborhoods.

The homelessness problem challenges the city to its core: in finding new shelter space, in creating affordable apartments for those moving out of shelters, in helping people who are about to lose their homes stay in their homes. And it tests civic tolerance. When homeless folks become a familiar part of the landscape, a weary public can turn understandably but tragically indifferent.

We'll step over nobody. If Portland is to live up to its ideals of shared prosperity, if businesses are to flourish, if tourism is to proceed without distraction, if the joint efforts of the city and Multnomah County are to bear fruit, then the homeless must retain dignity just as the city must build upon solutions that work to eliminate homelessness.

The editorial board will scour developments on both counts. And it will do so holding to account those responsible for mapping the way out of a genuine civic crisis.

Honor our diverse values

Oregon began as a destination for those seeking opportunity and an escape from judgment and religious restrictions they had found farther east. Let us not forget our roots.

At this time, perhaps more than any other in recent history, it is necessary for Oregonians to respect their neighbors and honor their varying personal, political and religious beliefs. We cannot afford at this precarious moment to rely on assumptions and filter outside messages until they match only those of our own.

Finding compromise, however, doesn't mean ignoring persecution and discrimination of others. The recent uptick in reported acts of harassment of minorities is a reminder to all of us that we need to make clear that hatred and intimidation have no place here.

Take the work done by local governments to legalize gay marriage and the state's education department's recommendation last year that Oregon schools recognize transgender students

by the gender and name they identify and allowing them to use the corresponding bathrooms. While school leaders must balance those guidelines with concerns from those who are uneasy about the changes, the message should remain clear that schools must be places where students feel safe no matter their beliefs or orientation.

Make Portland a city that works

The Portland City Council has in recent years shown more aspiration than practicality. A forever ban on large fossil fuel facilities speaks to the region's long-held environmental ethic and signals that ideology can drive the agenda. The failure, however, to adequately fix street potholes or to repair the relationship between police and citizens speaks to the council's inability to fashion solutions that stick.

But both aspiration and practicality, if struck in the right balance, are the things that can distinguish Portland amid growth and mounting regulatory and economic pressures. Early this year, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decree the cleanup of Portland Harbor, and, separately, the city must accept or dispute its assigned liability for its share of the cleanup. Ideology and practicality could collide if the protection of fish runs turns out to be woefully expensive.

Meanwhile, the council has a new member in Chloe Eudaly, who champions rent control. Navigating the city's landlords and developers will test the council's ability to take a stand that reveals both a philosophy and an affordable path forward.

The editorial board will unflinchingly unpack the council's approach to urban challenges both real and predicted. Throughout, it will hold accountable both elected and appointed leaders whose job it is to ensure Portland is a city that not only aspires but works.

Expand access to public records

We began this year in the shadow of a public records crisis. A governor had resigned after months of refusing to produce records that would shine more light on his fiancée's involvement in his administration. Then, the Oregonian/OregonLive faced a lengthy and costly legal battle to access Sylvia Hayes' emails related to her government work.

While work has been done over the past year to address issues of access to public documents, we must remain vigilant surveying what's actually been accomplished and to be sure laws are followed by all, from the governor's office down to the the smallest municipalities and school districts.

It's not a good sign, as we found earlier this year, when an agency as important as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was charging exorbitant rates to release public records and in some cases, stored its documents with a private company that charged the agency for records retrieval. Same goes for police officials who use private databases to store public information, then argue they can't discuss how the data is organized to make records requests more efficient.

The only way to instill trust in government is to keep it wide open to scrutiny, both in how meetings of elected officials are held and in how the records of its work are kept.

The Portland Tribune

Wheeler keeps police, shuffles some other bureaus

*By Jim Redden
January 3, 2017*

New Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced bureau assignments to the members of the City Council on Tuesday.

Wheeler has said he will assume control of all bureaus on April when the council begins work on the next budget that takes effect on July 1. He will reassign them in May when the budget is approved, and could change some of the assignments if he is not satisfied with the progress that had been made meeting his goals for them.

"My goal in assigning bureaus is to rely on the experience and interests of each commissioner to achieve real results on behalf of Portlanders," said Wheeler. "Portland government can be siloed. That prevents teamwork. I want to get commissioners and bureaus to work together like never before."

The biggest changes included assigning himself the Portland Housing Bureau from Commissioner Dan Saltzman, transferring the Portland Bureau of Transportation from former Commissioner Steve Novick to Saltzman, and transferring the Office of Neighborhood Involvement from Commissioner Amanda Fritz to new Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

Assigning bureaus is one of the few powers the mayor has under Portland's "weak mayor" form of government.

Wheeler had previously suggested to the Portland Tribune editorial board that he would assignment himself the housing bureau to help fulfill campaign promises to reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing. The City Auditor's Office recently released an audit that found numerous management problems in the neighborhood involvement office, which has been overseen by Fritz for several years.

Wheeler also kept the Portland Police Bureau, which has traditionally been overseen by the mayor. He has made improving the relationship between the police and the community another top priority.

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureaus

- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Housing Bureau
- Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Office of Equity and Human Rights
- Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
- City Budget Office
- City Attorney
- Government Relations
- Office of Management & Finance

- Portland Development Commission

Liaison Responsibilities

- Travel Portland
- Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG)
- Home Forward
- A Home for Everyone (with Commissioner Eudaly)
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
- Portland Community Media

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

Bureaus

- Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- Bureau of Development Services

Liaison Responsibilities

- A Home for Everyone (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Commissioner Nick Fish
- Bureau of Environmental Services
- Portland Water Bureau

Liaison Responsibilities

- Regional Arts & Culture Council
- Rose Festival Foundation
- Portland Utility Review Board

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Bureaus

- Portland Parks & Recreation
- Bureau of Emergency Communications

Liaison Responsibilities

- League of Cities (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
- Portland Parks Foundation
- Urban Forestry Commission

Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Bureaus

- Portland Fire & Rescue
- Portland Bureau of Transportation

- Fire & Police Disability & Retirement

Liaison Responsibilities

- Portland Children's Levy
- Multnomah Youth Commission
- Portland Streetcar, Inc.
- Portland Mall Management, Inc.
- Portland Aerial Tram Board
- Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)

Hales says goodbye, posts accomplishments

*By KOIN 6 News
January 1, 2017*

Charlie Hales bid farewell to City Hall on Friday with a tribute to Portland, the people that live here and the diverse, open-mindedness of its citizens. The former mayor was succeeded by Ted Wheeler at midnight on Jan. 1.

In the statement, Hales said he and his wife, Nancy, will take "a long-deferred adventure over the next 18 months," but will return to Portland "as private citizens and will start the next chapter of our work lives." They are planning to a trip to 20 countries on their sailboat.

The 60-year-old, one-term mayor said he and the other members of the City Council accomplished many big things over his four-year term. They include: climate leadership, prohibiting fossil fuel infrastructure, smart growth planning, affordable housing, tackling homelessness.

"Portland continues to be a national and international leader. What we do and how we do it has and will continue to inspire other cities across the country and across the globe. At a time when cities are the innovators and pacesetters for public policy, that leadership has a positive impact far beyond our city limits" Hales said. "Portland is a city where real progress, and real democracy, are not only possible, but are part of who we are."

Hales also put up a website — CharlieHales.com — with a graphic display of his accomplishments. Additional ones include passing a new police contract, hosting the World Indoor Track & Field Championships, and reform the city's urban renewal program.

"Again thank you, it's been an honor to serve this great city as your Mayor — because of all of you, I know our future is bright and the city is in good hands," Hales said.

A ceremonial inauguration is scheduled for Wheeler at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at Jason Lee Elementary School, 2222 N.E. 92nd Ave. The public is invited but space is limited. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP by email to info@TedWheeler.com.

Wheeler takes oath of office in private

By Jim Redden

December 30, 2016

Although he will not officially become mayor until midnight on Jan. 1, Ted Wheeler was sworn in Friday morning by Portland Auditor Mary Hull Caballero in a private ceremony.

Wheeler, who is completing his last term as State Treasurer, was accompanied by his wife, Katrina, and their daughter.

A ceremonial inauguration is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at Jason Lee Elementary School, 2222 N.E. 92nd Ave. The public is invited but space is limited. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP by email to info@TedWheeler.com.

Wheeler plans to temporarily assign city bureaus to himself and the other members of the City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 3. He has promised to take the Portland Police Bureau from Mayor Charlie Hales, who leaves the council at the end of the year. Significant reassignments will include the Portland Bureau of Transportation and the Office of Emergency Communication, both of which are overseen by Commissioner Steve Novick, who is also leaving at the end of the year.

Wheeler has said he will then assume control of all bureaus in April when the council begins work on adopting next year's budget, and reassign them in May when it is approved. Commissioners who have not made what Wheeler considers adequate progress on aligning their bureaus with his goals may not get them back, he told the Portland Tribune editorial board.

Wheeler previously announced the staff of his incoming administration. In alphabetical order, they are:

Jennifer Arguinzoni, Director of Strategic Partnerships: Arguinzoni served at Wheeler's Finance Director during the campaign, and focused on project management for the transition as Transition Manager. Arguinzoni has more than a decade of state and federal legislative experience in Georgia and Washington DC.

Barbara Buono, Senior Advisor: Buono is an attorney who has two decades of public service as an elected leader at both the municipal and state levels. While serving in the State Senate of New Jersey, Barbara was Senate Majority Leader and Chairperson of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. As a local Councilwoman, Barbara was appointed police commissioner where she instituted the Borough of Metuchen's first Community Policing program and expanded recruitment efforts to better reflect the diversity of the community.

Kyle Chisek, Director of Bureau Engagement: Chisek has worked in City government since 2006 when he began in former Mayor Tom Potter's office, after previously working in the private sector. Since that time, Chisek has worked both in capital project management in the Policy, Planning, and Projects group as well as Program Development in the Development, Permitting, and Transit group. Chisek was also the project manager for the City of Portland's Smart City Challenge grant application to the US Department of Transportation.

Michael Cox, Director of Communications and Constituent Services: will join the transition team as Communications Director. He was previously Wheeler's Campaign Manager and his Communications Director at Oregon State Treasury. He has more than a decade of experience in campaigns and government in Oregon and California.

Kristin Dennis, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Operations: Dennis most recently served as Wheeler's Chief of Staff in Oregon State Treasury, where she previously served as Policy Director. Earlier, she was an aide to Oregon State Senator Richard Devlin. She served on the Lake Oswego City Council from 2007 to 2010 and worked for a plastics recycling company in Portland. Dennis holds a law degree from the University of San Diego Law School.

Alma Flores, Director of Policy: Flores has been a public servant for over 15 years in community and economic development policy, program and project development, most recently as the city of Milwaukie's Community and Economic Development Director. Flores holds her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her Master's from MIT's Urban Studies program with a focus on housing, community, and economic development. Alma is married and has two kids with her high-school sweetheart.

Nicole A. Grant, Senior Policy Advisor: Grant joins the Wheeler Administration as a Senior Policy Advisor after having served as the Senior Policy Analyst and Portland Police Bureau (PPB) Liaison for the Hales Administration. As Senior Policy Analyst, Nicole has primarily worked on public safety policy issues, particularly those falling under the DOJ settlement agreement. Nicole moved to Portland in May 2015 after practicing law in Baltimore, MD. Nicole is a Maryland native, and a graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School.

Maurice Henderson, Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Initiatives: Henderson most recently served as the Assistant Director of the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), was named Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Initiatives. At PBOT, Henderson was recognized for his excellent leadership within the bureau and for his innovative and effective approach working with city leadership and community leaders on the Smart Cities effort. Before arriving in Portland in 2015, Henderson served in a variety of top roles in the administrations of three mayors of Washington, DC, and was a top press aide to then-Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, currently the Democratic nominee for Vice President.

Nathan Howard, Senior Policy Advisor: Prior to serving as Ted's Deputy Campaign manager for Mayor, Howard was the Interim Executive Director at The Bus Project, a nonprofit focused on youth empowerment. He's also served as the Oregon Senate Finance Director and was Chief of Staff to Senator Mark Hass. He is a native Oregonian, born and raised in East Portland, and attended the University of Oregon where he received his BA in City Planning, Public Policy, and Management.

Angel James, Special Assistant to the Mayor and Scheduler: James most recently served as the Transition Scheduler to Mayor-elect Wheeler. Previously, James served as Executive Assistant to the Assistant Director for the Portland Bureau of Transportation. James has more than a decade of experience providing support to high-level officials in Portland.

Berk Nelson, Senior Advisor: Nelson attended the University of California, Davis School of Law where he received his J.D. in 2005. Nelson received his undergraduate degree from the Colorado College where he received his B.A. in Sociology in 2000. He comes to us from Perkins Coie where he did contract work in the commercial litigation department and was previously with Molina Healthcare, Inc. where he served as in-house counsel.

Michelle Plambeck, Deputy Communications Director: Plambeck most recently served as an aide to Multnomah County Commissioner Judy Shiprack, where she advised the Commissioner on issues relating to early learning, food policy, public safety and land use. After studying History at the University of Oregon, Plambeck worked for non-profits and then as a legislative assistant for Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek.

Andrea Valderrama, Senior Policy Advisor: Valderrama most recently served as Portland City Hall's first Policy and Outreach Advisor dedicated to East Portland and coalition engagement under Commissioner Novick, where she advised on transportation, housing, public safety, budget, worker friendly, and government affairs policy, and developed regional strategies on displacement mitigation in economic development and transportation projects. Valderrama is the first and only person of color serving on the David Douglas School Board, and was recently named one of Portland's Top 10 Social Change Makers by Prichard Communications. She earned her BA from the University of Oregon and is pursuing an Executive Masters of Public Administration at Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government.

Mustafa Washington, Constituent Services Manager: Washington has a Master's of Science in Management and Organizational Leadership from Warner Pacific College, and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Warner Pacific College. Prior to joining Mayor Wheelers staff, he was a staff member for Mayor Hales as the Constituent Service Specialist and later promoted to Executive Assistant. Among his proudest accomplishments: Washington is the first person in his immediate family to complete a Master's degree program.

Wheeler also announced that he would retain staff leadership in the Office of Youth Violence Prevention with Antoinette Edwards, Director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention and Tom Peavey, Policy Manager for the Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

"The challenges we face as a city are significant. So are the opportunities," said Wheeler.

"We've been able to assemble a talented team with the knowledge and experience we'll need to hit the ground running."

Willamette Week

Mayor Ted Wheeler Hands a Troubled Portland Office to Rookie Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

*By Rachel Monahan
January 1, 2017*

This morning, Mayor Ted Wheeler announced bureau assignments in Portland City Hall—and made a notable leadership change.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz will no longer oversee the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, as she has for the last eighteen months (and in a previous stint in charge from 2009 to 2013). Instead, the beleaguered office will go to first-time Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

That's significant because Wheeler called the Office of Neighborhood Involvement the bureau the most in need of reform (tied with the police bureau) in an interview with WW last month.

He and three of his four fellow commissioners favor rolling back the city's marijuana program, which ONI oversees. The bureau has also come under fire for allegedly targeting black-owned nightclubs with code crackdowns.

And even after an audit released in November showed significant management problems at ONI, Fritz told WW that she wanted the assignment again. She came to council after years of working as an activist in the city's neighborhood associations.

Eudaly, the newest member of City Council and a political novice, was handed substantial assignments: the Bureau of Development Services in addition to ONI.

The bureau assignments are the key power the mayor holds over the four city commissioners in Portland's weak-mayor form of government.

Wheeler, as expected, took the Police Bureau and the Housing Bureau. He campaigned on police reforms and increasing affordable housing.

Fritz will take on the Bureau of Emergency Communication in addition to keeping Parks.

Commissioner Nick Fish, the lone member of City Council to endorse Wheeler, kept his leadership of the utility bureaus—Water and Environmental Services—after asking to continue running them.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman, the senior member of City Council, did not publicly make the case for any particular assignment. He kept Portland Fire & Rescue, losing Development Services and the Housing Bureau. He gains the Bureau of Transportation, which didn't have a natural home after the city's transit champion, Commissioner Steve Novick, lost his reelection bid to Eudaly.

Here's the full announcement:

Mayor Ted Wheeler Announces Bureau Assignments

*Approach relies on experience of commissioners to solve challenges together
PORTLAND, OR – Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler today announced bureau assignments.*

Under Portland's commission form of government, the mayor has the responsibility of assigning bureaus to commissioners to manage.

"My goal in assigning bureaus is to rely on the experience and interests of each commissioner to achieve real results on behalf of Portlanders," said Wheeler. "Portland government can be siloed. That prevents teamwork. I want to get commissioners and bureaus to work together like never before."

Bureau assignments are as follows. The executive order is attached.

MAYOR TED WHEELER

Portland Police Bureau

Portland Housing Bureau

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Office of Equity and Human Rights

Portland Bureau of Emergency Management

City Budget Office

City Attorney

Government Relations

Office of Management & Finance

Portland Development Commission

Liaison Responsibilities

Travel Portland

Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG)

Home Forward

A Home for Everyone (with Commissioner Eudaly)

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

Portland Community Media

COMMISSIONER EUDALY

Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Bureau of Development Services

Liaison Responsibilities

A Home for Everyone (with Mayor Wheeler)

COMMISSIONER FISH

Bureau of Environmental Services

Portland Water Bureau

Liaison Responsibilities

Regional Arts & Culture Council

Rose Festival Foundation

Portland Utility Review Board

COMMISSIONER FRITZ

Portland Parks & Recreation

Bureau of Emergency Communications

Liaison Responsibilities

League of Cities (with Mayor Wheeler)

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Portland Parks Foundation

Urban Forestry Commission

COMMISSIONER SALTZMAN

Portland Fire & Rescue

Portland Bureau of Transportation

Fire & Police Disability & Retirement

Liaison Responsibilities

Portland Children's Levy

Multnomah Youth Commission

Portland Streetcar, Inc.

Portland Mall Management, Inc.

Portland Aerial Tram Board

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)

Steve Novick Tells OPB He's Mulling A Run for Multnomah County District Attorney

By Beth Slovic

December 30, 2016

Portland Commissioner Steve Novick, who lost a re-election bid last month to outsider candidate Chloe Eudaly, says he's mulling a possible return to politics—as Multnomah County's district attorney.

That gold nugget emerged Thursday in a story OPB published about what it called Novick's quick rise and quicker fall in Portland politics.

It came at the end of the story, in what journalists call the kicker. And it's hard to imagine a better way to sum up Novick's humor and hubris—the twin motors that drive his left-leaning ambition.

As OPB's Anna Griffin tells the story, Novick isn't immediately ready to return to elected office, but he's intrigued by the possibility of reforming the DA's office.

She quotes him saying, "Some progressives around the country are beginning to realize that in our criminal justice system, the DA holds all the cards. And if we need to do real criminal justice reform, we need to have people running for DA."

Novick, who took to the stage at Candidates Gone Wild in October to recite entire passages from *The Princess Bride*, also once quoted *Casablanca* in correspondence with a fellow commissioner.

So it comes as no surprise that he pumped some television trivia into his trial balloon. "Also frankly," he told OPB, "I kind of like the idea of being the crusty old DA in the original *Law & Order*, saying, 'Make the deal!'"

Novick attended Harvard Law School, but his Oregon license to practice law is currently inactive.

He told WW today he's not planning a run now but that he hasn't ruled it out for 2024. "It's just something that has crossed my mind," he writes in a text message. "If we're serious about ending mass incarceration, we need people running for DA with that goal in mind."

The Portland Mercury

New Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's Unveiled Her Staff Appointments

By Dirk VanderHart

January 3, 2017

It's move-in day at City Hall, when staffers of incoming elected officials are beginning to prep the workplaces they'll inhabit for at least some of the next four years.

And we know a little bit more about who's unpacking boxes this morning, thanks to incoming Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's new website, which shows she's hired folks that helped her win office, along with people with roots in Portland's arts and culture scene.

Where new Mayor Ted Wheeler sent out a press release announcing staffers last week, Eudaly's hires have been a bit more low-key.

Willamette Week reported in December that Dave Austin, a former Multnomah County spokesperson and Oregonian reporter, would be joining Eudaly as a deputy chief of staff and spokesperson. Her campaign manager, Marshall Runkel, has been long tapped as chief of staff, and there had been reports that campaign staffers Travis McGee and Jamey Duhamel would also get positions in Eudaly's office.

But there are also some new names: For instance, Pollyanne Birge, who's served as executive director of the Independent Publishing Resource Center that Eudaly co-founded, and who worked as an arts-focused staffer under Sam Adams (both when he was commissioner and mayor). Eudaly's also hired campaign supporter Paul Arensmeyer and Kip Silverman, founder of

an organization called Move Food that seeks to deliver donated excess food to people who need it.

Eudaly's total staff size: Seven people—in line with other commissioners' offices.

Aside from revealing staff, Eudaly's also offering a look into her priorities. In a "This Week's Top Agenda Items" section, the commissioner's highlighted an ordinance that help the city acquire the Ellington Apartments in Northeast Portland for use as affordable housing, and a \$100,000 grant to the Cascade Aids Project.

It's possible the bent of Eudaly's interests might shift somewhat in coming weeks. Later this morning, Wheeler is slated to announce which bureau's she'll be running for the next few months.