

The Portland Tribune

Portland would not be hurt much by Trump's 'sanctuary cities' budget cuts

*By Jim Redden
January 25, 2017*

President Trump is scheduled to sign an order cutting federal funds to so-called sanctuary cities on Wednesday. How much could that cost Portland, which has formally said it will not cooperate with federal authorities in cases where immigration status is the only issue?

The short answer is, not much.

According to figures from the city's Office of Management and Finance, only 1.3 percent of Portland's current budget came from federal or state sources. The office included state sources because some of that funding could have come from the federal government.

Despite the low percent of federal and state funds in the city's budget, some programs would be hurt more than others. A review of specific grants shows much of the funding goes to the housing, police, transportation and emergency management bureaus.

The office says the city's Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget was \$3.7 billion. During that year, the city received just \$48,923,517.28 in federal and state grants. And the figure was a little higher than usual because it includes more than \$9 million in FEMA funds due to the declared "state of emergency" storm in 2015.

The city's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

You can see the full FY 2015-2016 budget at www.portlandoregon.gov/cbo/article/537361.

Council to consider making landlords pay moving costs

*By April Baer, OPB
January 25, 2017*

Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly and Mayor Ted Wheeler have proposed an ordinance that would require landlords to pay to relocate tenants when they face a no-cause eviction.

Both were elected with promises of relief for tenants squeezed in the housing crisis.

Eudaly said the ordinance sets relocation fees of \$2,900-\$4,500, based on the size of the rental unit. She acknowledged, while the ordinance might have a cooling effect on evictions if passed, she sees it as a cost-sharing measure.

"I want to remind everyone we are all paying for this housing crisis," Eudaly said. "It's extraordinarily expensive for the city, county and state to keep dealing with this ever-increasing tide of people losing housing or at risk of losing their housing."

Eudaly said the city is asking landlords to share some of the burden, and notes the ordinance does not prohibit rent increases or ban no-cause evictions outright.

John DiLorenzo, an attorney who has lobbied the Oregon Legislature on behalf of property owners, likened the proposal to a de facto penalty for rent increases, and thus vulnerable to a court challenge.

He added the purpose of no-cause evictions is to protect landlords and the community from bad actors.

"If all landlords had available were for-cause eviction proceedings," DiLorenzo wrote via email, "the tenants who complained [about bad neighbors] would have to testify against neighbors. They would be very hesitant to do that."

Eudaly said the ordinance was written with an eye to resisting a possible challenge.

Within the broader context of the city's conversation about tenant relief, Eudaly said the ordinance is an alternative to a rent freeze.

"I don't think a rent freeze is possible," Eudaly said, "and we certainly wouldn't be pursuing that in addition to this relocation ordinance."

Council is scheduled to vote on the proposal Feb. 2.

Oregon Public Broadcasting is a news partner of the Portland Tribune. To see their story, visit <http://tinyurl.com/z3p6tu8>.

Wheeler defends police response to protests, invites complaints to be filed

*By Jim Redden
January 23, 2017*

Mayor Ted Wheeler says he believes police responded appropriately to anti-Trump protesters in downtown Portland on Friday and Saturday, and invited anyone with a complaint to contact the city's Independent Police Review division.

Police used tear gas and crowd dispersal devices during a Friday night protest at which five people were arrested. But police reported no such confrontations during the much larger Womens March on Portland on Saturday. Although some criticized the Friday night response, in a Monday statement, Wheeler disagreed.

"Early indications are that their use on Friday night was appropriate. I will of course review post-action reports to make sure that was the case," Wheeler said, referring those with complaints to www.portlandoregon.gov/ipr.

Wheeler's statement came hours after Jacob Bureros of the Direct Action Alliance sent an open letter to the mayor's office, demanding the Marshman be fired because of Friday night's confrontations.

Bureros posted his demand on Facebook and sent a copy to reporters.

Bureros wrote that "the Portland Police Department and the city of Portland, knowingly and intentionally set out to incite violence on the streets of Portland. They created confrontation where there was none and then attacked citizens with chemical weapons, concussion grenades and rubber bullets."

Bureros warned that if Marshman was fired by Tuesday "nothing moves on Wednesday."

As of Monday afternoon, IPR reported receiving 12 commendations and 10 complaints about the police actions on January 20 and 21.

Abuse of power?

In his statement, Wheeler noted that organizers of Saturday's protest obtained out a permit and worked with police, unlike the groups that organized the J20 inauguration day protests. During a Jan. 18 City Hall press conference, Wheeler and Marshman said they would not allow protesters to block streets or bridges.

"The police chief and I clearly communicated our expectations prior to demonstrations. When possible the city contacted and coordinated with event organizers to prevent what's happened in the past: acts of violence, vandalism, and disruption that lasted into the early morning hours. Generally speaking, the higher the degree of coordination between the city and event organizers, the smoother the event," Wheeler said Monday.

In a Jan 21 email, J20 protest organizer Gregory McKelvey said "peacefully assembling protestors were attacked and denied their First Amendment rights by our city's police department. This is a disgusting abuse of power. When police hurt innocent people, the police are to blame not the victims for 'being there.' There was no incident to inspire this, (although the cops claim so). Even if there was, they chose to overreact and deny an entire protest their First Amendment rights."

In a Facebook post, Matthew McGaugh and his fiancée Amanda Cameron wrote that they were downtown Friday night when they were struck by rubber bullets. McGaugh was arrested, but later released. (Their account could not be immediately confirmed.)

Willamette Week

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly Releases Plan to Make Portland Landlords Pay Moving Costs for Renters They Evict for "No Cause"

*By Rachel Monahan
January 24, 2017*

Under the first major policy proposal of the new City Council, Portland landlords would be required to pay for the moving costs of any tenants they evict for "no cause."

The draft emergency ordinance also requires landlords to pay moving costs if they raise the rent by 10 percent or more within a 12-month period, and renters opt to move out.

Landlords would have to pay renters between \$2,900 and \$4,500, depending on the number of bedrooms.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who campaigned on promises to better protect Portland renters, has drafted the ordinance—and has the support of Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"I'm really excited to be getting to do something meaningful [to protect tenants] from becoming more cost burdened, being displaced and becoming homeless," Eudaly tells WW this morning after speaking to a breakfast of state legislators who will weigh tenant protections as part of the upcoming session.

"It's also meant as leverage for them," Eudaly continues. "It's meant to send a strong message to everyone we are all being impacted by this housing crisis."

The median Portland renter makes just \$30,000 a year. In all, 52 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent.

Eudaly expects to be able to get the three other votes required to pass an emergency ordinance, which will appear before City Council on Feb. 2. The provisions would sunset in October at the end of the housing emergency, if it's not renewed.

Meanwhile, Wheeler is proposing an resolution to make it easier for developers to get permits for affordable and workforce housing. He's asking city bureaus to come back with a plan in four weeks' time.

"Combined I believe they provide a set of comprehensive set of tools to help protect the interests of people who are currently tenants in the city of Portland who are most at risk of being priced out," says Wheeler.

On the campaign trail, Wheeler said he favored greater protections for tenants affected by "no cause" evictions, citing Seattle ordinance that heavily restricts evictions for no reason.

According to legal opinions from the state legislative counsel issued last year, current state law does not allow cities to limit or outlaw "no cause" evictions but does allow them to charge landlords moving costs.

State law also prohibits cities from enacting any form of rent control.

Seattle's ordinance restricting no cause evictions requires the city to pay half of moving costs and only applies to low-income tenants, who are given a flat amount of \$3,490.

Eudaly's proposal has the support of the Portland Tenants Union, which has pushed the city to adopt a rent freeze.

"While [PTU] will continue to fight for an end to no-cause evictions and rent stabilization, this ordinance will be a tremendous and much needed relief and benefit to tenants in the meantime," says Margot Black.

"It won't ease the pain and stress of packing and moving, transitioning kids to new schools, and commuting longer distances, but at least it will help these renters lessen the financial tailspin involved in coming up with thousands of dollars for security deposits, application fees, double rent, and all the other costs of moving."

Update, 12:15 pm:

John DiLorenzo, a landlord lobbyist and attorney, says the ordinance would be illegal given the state's prohibition on rent control, noting there is a "strong likelihood" he will sue the city if the emergency ordinance passes.

"This proposed ordinance requires landlords to pay penalties (styled as relocation expenses) in the approximate amount of 3 months rent for the typical rental unit if the landlord terminates the tenancy or issues a rent increase in excess of 10% per year," he writes in an email.

"Requiring the payment of relocation expenses for rent increases is no different than imposing penalties for rent increases. Either way, the city is attempting to engage in rent control. Rent control is prohibited by state statute. We believe that this ordinance would likely not survive a court challenge. It is also unclear as to whether the proposal is intended to impact leases which terminate on their own accord."

Mayor Ted Wheeler Stands By Police Use of Stun Grenades and Pepper Gas Against Portland Protesters

By Rachel Monahan

January 24, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler defended the Portland Police Bureau's use of non-lethal force on Friday night against anti-Trump protests, issuing a statement Monday that "early indications" suggested the police actions were "appropriate."

The Portland Police Bureau shut down the protests, with chemical irritants, pepper spray and stun grenades, preventing protesters from crossing bridges or blocking streets—a significant change from past mayors who have allowed protesters more room to march.

"No one likes to see the use of crowd control devices," Wheeler says in a statement. "I certainly don't. When these devices are used, I want to be sure that they are used under the proper circumstances. Early indications are that their use on Friday night was appropriate. I will of course review post-action reports to make sure that was the case."

The emailed statement issued by Wheeler's office also included a note offering witnesses a chance to provide their complaints or commendations for officers.

"If you were present at any of these events and wish to file a complaint or a commendation relating to sworn officers of the Portland Police Bureau, please contact the city's Independent Police Review Division."

Organizers of Friday night's protests sharply criticized the police's decision to use nonlethal force against protesters.

In a statement from an organizer sent to the press on Monday, some protesters threatened to shut down the streets of Portland by Wednesday if Wheeler didn't fire Police Chief Mike Marshman.

"On January 20, 2017, the Portland Police Department and the City of Portland, knowingly and intentionally set out to incite violence on the streets of Portland," Jacob Bureros of Direct Action Alliance said in a statement.

"They created confrontation where there was none and then attacked citizens with chemical weapons, concussion grenades and rubber bullets. On that night, the police systematically blocked EVERY path that the peaceful crowd attempted to take. They attacked us first on the Burnside Bridge then they deliberately corralled us into Pioneer courthouse square where they gassed us—men, women, children, everyone—they hit us with concussion grenades, rubber bullets and batons."

Full statement from Wheeler below:

Statement from Mayor Ted Wheeler on Weekend Demonstrations:

“Over the weekend, tens of thousands of people – perhaps more than 100,000 – exercised their right to assembly and expression in our city. My top priority is always to protect the safety of everyone involved. Additionally, I want to try to limit acts of vandalism and disruptions to transit. By these measures the weekend was highly successful. In the end, no one entered the freeways, and acts of vandalism and transit disruption were minimized. There were five arrests and no serious injuries were reported.

“The Police Chief and I clearly communicated our expectations prior to demonstrations. When possible the City contacted and coordinated with event organizers to prevent what’s happened in the past: acts of violence, vandalism, and disruption that lasted into the early morning hours. Generally speaking, the higher the degree of coordination between the city and event organizers, the smoother the event.

“The vast majority of participants in demonstrations were there for one reason – to peacefully demonstrate. Unfortunately, in any gathering of this size there is always the potential that some will have different goals – to incite conflict and confrontation. No one likes to see the use of crowd control devices. I certainly don’t. When these devices are used, I want to be sure that they are used under the proper circumstances. Early indications are that their use on Friday night was appropriate. I will of course review post-action reports to make sure that was the case.”

An additional note: If you were present at any of these events and wish to file a complaint or a commendation relating to sworn officers of the Portland Police Bureau, please contact the city’s Independent Police Review Division.

The Portland Mercury

Police Blasted and Tear Gassed an Inauguration Day Protest

*By Doug Brown
January 25, 2017*

THE PROTESTER was standing motionless on SW Yamhill and Broadway last Friday when he was bombarded with “pepper ball” shots from gas mask-clad riot police lined up about 20 yards away.

Seconds earlier, police had tossed flash-bang grenades a few feet from him. Moments later, they would release tear gas on the nonviolent crowd of protesters and journalists.

“This one, my sheets got bloodied because of it,” the protester, a white thirtysomething who didn’t want to be named, told the Mercury three days later, lifting up his pant leg to reveal a deep gash on his right shin in a circle of black and blue, a few inches from another large bruise. He raised his other pant leg: “This one’s kind of messy, too. You can see where it hit but the spread is much more significant.”

The protester, who reached out to the Mercury after seeing footage of himself being shot, is one of an untold number injured in what activists say was an unnecessary show of force on January 20, the day Donald Trump took office.

That evening, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), perhaps fearful of a potential repeat of post-election vandalism in the Pearl District, cracked down hard after protesters took to the streets for a large, unpermitted march. The bureau even brought in reinforcements from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police, the Salem Police Department, and the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who monitored the protest from the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management outpost in Southeast Portland, and got updates from PPB sources, has since stood by the use of force. He said Monday that "early indications" of the cops' use of tear gas, pepper spray, flash-bang grenades, and less-lethal rounds on the protesters "was appropriate."

Many of those who were present disagree.

In all, the protester the Mercury spoke to was hit more than a dozen times by police rounds—three times below the knee, four times on his thighs, two around his crotch, and a handful of times on his torso and right arm.

But it's what he describes as a shot to the face that concerns him most. The protester was wearing a helmet and a gas mask, which deadened the impact, but says, "I'm worried the force they used against me very well could have killed somebody else."

Earlier in the night, hundreds gathered in Pioneer Courthouse Square for speeches, then began a march. Police blocked the planned route, forcefully shepherding the crowd through the downtown streets and back to the square after a number of brief standoffs (including use of pepper spray) with protesters on SW Naito and again on SW Taylor.

Still, the march was largely peaceful until around 8 pm, when a few dozen protesters tried to leave the square to march down SW Yamhill. Squads of riot cops marched them back, shot "pepper balls" and other rounds, and set off explosive "stingball grenades" full of rubber pellets. Then the tear gas came.

On Twitter, police explained the force by saying protesters were throwing objects and "unknown liquid" at officers and that they used "incendiary devices against police and buildings." Just five people were arrested that night for disorderly conduct, including one man who'd been lying down in the street, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Another, Matthew McGaugh, was arrested after standing with his back to police, with his hands in the air in peace signs, while he and his fiancée were pelted with less-lethal rounds. McGaugh said on Facebook police broke his ribs as they were taking him in and then released him at the station as they learned the arrest was filmed. He says he was downtown to celebrate his anniversary with his fiancée, and wasn't part of the protest group.

Dawn Bankson, a tourist from Washington in town to celebrate her son's birthday, was shoved to the ground by police in the chaos. She was staying at the nearby Hotel Monaco and when "the police started coming, I asked them, 'What's going on?'" she told the Mercury that night. "Instead of answering me, they took their gun, or whatever it was, and they pushed me down on the ground. I landed on my lip, I lost my glasses—I don't even know where my glasses are. I got up and they pushed me down again... They wouldn't give me their names, they told me to get out of here."

The Independent Police Review—a police watchdog unit in the auditor’s office—said it received 10 complaints and 12 commendations about PPB employees over the weekend (it’s not clear how many commendations came as a result of Saturday’s permitted Women’s March).

The PPB’s response led a number of local activists to demand that Wheeler oust PPB Chief Mike Marshman by Tuesday night or face protests starting Wednesday.

Gregory McKelvey, a main organizer for the group Portland’s Resistance, is calling foul on Wheeler and the PPB. He didn’t seek a permit from the city (“an extortion fee to be able to use the First Amendment”) but tells the Mercury he met on Thursday night with Wheeler, Marshman, and some of their staff at City Hall ahead of the next day’s long-planned protest. McKelvey says Wheeler implied protesters would be given a “hands off” approach by the police and they’d be able to march over a bridge to the east side if they didn’t block any freeway, didn’t intentionally block public transit, and if there wasn’t any violence or vandalism (he made similar suggestions to reporters the day before).

But McKelvey says he got a call on Friday afternoon, just an hour before taking to the streets, from PPB Captain Mike Crebs saying the plan discussed the night before with Wheeler was off. Protesters couldn’t march to the east side, and the police would corral them back to Pioneer Courthouse Square when they took the streets.

While Wheeler called the police response on Friday night “highly successful” and “appropriate,” ACLU of Oregon Legal Director Mat dos Santos says the police’s use of “crowd control devices” on nonviolent protesters was unnecessary and potentially unconstitutional. Dos Santos and eight ACLU legal observers monitored the protest.

“We should be very careful about condoning police using less-lethal weapons,” he says. “While it may not completely turn away the most steeled protesters, a lot of the folks who would like to go there and protest events like Inauguration Day might be afraid to because of the police response they witnessed. It chills speech. This notion that they’re acting in the concern of public safety is incomplete.”

Roughly 15 hours after police tear gassed and fired less-lethal rounds at nonviolent protesters in downtown Portland, PPB officers had swapped gas masks for pink “pussy hats,” posing for pictures as tens of thousands of people gathered at the Women’s March on Portland, which had a permit from the city.

The PPB tweeted a photo of officers posing with two of the Women’s March organizers, writing: “Credit to them for planning and collaboration on a successful march.”

“They’re basking in the glory of the Women’s March,” McKelvey says of the PPB. “They want to make sure that the Women’s March remains the story and make us look like bad protesters so that whenever we protest they can say, ‘Look how you were supposed to do it.’”

One of the Women’s March organizers, Margaret Jacobson, agrees.

“There’s been such an emphasis on us having permits,” she wrote on Facebook. “They kept saying it’s for everyone’s safety, and it was odd to have to basically BUY safety for our marchers. It was odd that the night before the policemen who were ‘keeping us safe’ attacked protesters because they were protesting without a permit. It doesn’t make sense to me that we have to PAY to protest and demand liberation. It doesn’t feel like liberation, and it definitely doesn’t feel like a revolution.”

Portland Finally Hired a Liaison to Local Tribes Late Last Year

*By Dirk VanderHart
January 25, 2017*

LAST SEPTEMBER, the Portland City Council stood with Standing Rock.

As voices around the country called for a halt to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) that could carry millions of gallons of crude oil beneath the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's sole water source (and has just been given new life by Donald Trump), local officials joined the fray.

"The City of Portland stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other communities opposing the pipeline..." read a resolution [PDF] that passed unanimously on September 7.

It was a fairly routine symbolic gesture except for one thing: The DAPL item had been prepared by Patricia Davis Gibson, Portland's brand new tribal liaison.

After years of calls for a city official who could help Portland better engage local tribal governments and its Native American residents, former Mayor Charlie Hales' office took action last year—securing roughly \$108,500 in ongoing funds and convening a selection committee. In his last major hire as mayor, Hales tapped Davis Gibson—a Lewis & Clark Law grad, formal tribal judge, and member of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma—to the job. She began August 15.

"This position is long overdue for the City of Portland, and we could not have found a better candidate," Hales said in a press release.

Less than six months later after that release, Davis Gibson now lives in Wyoming and her position sits empty.

In a scenario that has inspired grumbling both inside City Hall and out, she was not among staffers retained in the transition from Hales to Mayor Ted Wheeler, and Wheeler didn't tap a replacement. The mayor's office is pledging to conduct a brand new hiring process in the near future, though a member of its staff participated in Davis Gibson's selection.

The hiccup has led to varying accounts of what happened to Davis Gibson's short tenure. Several people the Mercury spoke to said Wheeler's office would have had plenty of notice the new position existed and was fully funded.

"It's unfortunate that Pat Gibson was not invited back early enough," says Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "We did remind [Wheeler's team] before they were in office that this position was there, and we also said how great Pat was."

"The mayor-elect said he knew of the position—he heard from me directly on a number of occasions," says Paul Lumley, executive director of Portland's Native American Youth and Family Center, who helped write the job description for the liaison position. "Maybe during the transition it's hard to keep all the balls up in the air."

That's how Davis Gibson views the end of her stint in City Hall. She says she'd been hoping to be contacted by Wheeler's transition team about staying on. When that didn't happen by the second half of November, she gave notice she'd be resigning as of December 28. She's now director of an environmental organization in Sheridan, Wyoming.

“This isn’t my first political rodeo, and it’s not a good sign when someone’s not reaching out to you,” Davis Gibson tells the Mercury. She says Wheeler’s chief of staff, Maurice Henderson, “talked to me and said basically this just fell off the radar.”

Wheeler’s office offers another version of events. Spokesperson Michael Cox says the mayor relied on communications from Hales’ team when settling on new staffers, and that Henderson and Davis Gibson met twice. By the time they had their first meeting on November 23, though, Davis Gibson had already given notice she was leaving.

“We were brought into the hiring process at the final stage and only as a courtesy,” says Cox, who helped scrutinize Davis Gibson and other finalists on Wheeler’s behalf. “Our preference would have been to hire for the position for the first time once we took office, conducting our own outreach and setting up our own process.”

Wheeler will hire a new liaison, Cox says, and is preparing a new selection process. That news, delivered late last week, came as a relief to people like Lumley, who view the liaison position as crucial.

During her brief stint, Davis Gibson helped push through a long-dormant agreement between the city and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, lent assistance regarding the Portland Harbor Superfund site, and paid official visits to local tribes.

She also went on one pilgrimage that’s raised some eyebrows. Two days after council passed the Standing Rock resolution, Davis Gibson took a week-long trip to the North Dakota reservation in a city vehicle. She says she’d been asked by the Standing Rock Sioux to hand-deliver the council’s letter of solidarity.

According to records obtained by the Mercury, the 2,600-mile round trip cost the city \$1,590, between lodging, meals, and transportation. It also spurred a complaint to the city’s Ombudsman’s Office.

Davis Gibson says she drove because she “wasn’t flying at the time,” and that she was well received in North Dakota. “The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe really appreciated that gesture,” she says.

Whomever Wheeler taps to take the liaison role, it won’t be directly under him, as it was with Hales. Cox says the mayor intends to place the position in the city’s Office of Government Relations. (Hales’ office tried to do that, but met pushback by the office’s then-director, Martha Pellegrino.)

That would mean potentially more stability for the job, something Davis Gibson says is necessary. As she notes: “There were all sorts of things I wanted to do, but you can’t do much in four months.”

Hall Monitor: Amanda Fritz's Next Big Thing

*By Dirk VanderHart
January 25, 2017*

COMMISSIONER AMANDA FRITZ has played things notably low-key since learning earlier this month she'd lost one of her prized bureaus.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's decision January 3 to yank that assignment, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), no doubt irked Fritz, for whom the bureau was something of a passion project. Statements from her office since have tacitly acknowledged as much.

And it makes sense. Fritz oversaw a sizeable expansion of ONI's duties and budget, including big new forays into marijuana enforcement and, in coming years, public campaign financing. She'd argued for the chance to shepherd those initiatives forward, and to smooth out acknowledged wrinkles in the bureau on the way.

Wheeler had other plans, handing ONI to new Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. And Fritz, as I say, has kept any lingering disappointment to herself. When we chatted about the decision recently, she declined comment, saying only, "That's the one right the mayor has under the charter."

Instead, Fritz is looking forward. Now in charge of the city's Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC), the commissioner is mulling whether to press forward with a multi-million-dollar project to change how citizens access government services—one that could possibly result in something of an expansion for her newest bureau.

Fritz says she's hoping to dredge up a decade-old proposal to create a 311 system—a one-stop, easy-to-remember telephonic entry point for citizens seeking information or to access services from city government.

"It's like 911 except for everything else besides emergencies," says Fritz (who's newly in control of the city's 911 system). "Most major cities have it."

The commissioner's got plenty of data that might bolster her argument. In 2014, the city council voted to spend up to \$150,250 on a study to determine how feasible 311 would be in Portland.

That report [PDF], drafted in October 2014, concluded that Portland's alone among cities of its size in its lack of a 311 system (or something like it). Instead, the city tasks individual bureaus with being the front line of customer service calls. The rationale behind 311 is that funneling all those calls into a single access point could create efficiencies, ultimately saving cash.

That's not to say the system wouldn't cost money. The 2014 report suggested implementation could include nearly \$5 million in new expenses, though those would be paid back within six years through savings.

Which might be one reason Fritz hasn't taken more issue with Wheeler's decision to yank ONI from her: If the commissioner wants traction for a new, costly project, she'll need the mayor's assent in the budget process that will soon kick into gear. (She blames former Mayor Charlie Hales' reticence to pursue 311 as the reason it's not in place already.) And in a move that will feel familiar to those who've seen Fritz win new cash for her bureaus in recent budget cycles, she's thinking of couching the proposal in the requested BOEC budget her staff will submit in coming weeks.

Because as Fritz notes: “The planning of it would need to be a collaboration between BOEC and ONI. I only have one of those at this point.”

Daily Journal of Commerce

Proposal calls for landlords to pay no-cause evictees’ moving costs

*By Chuck Slothower
January 24, 2017*

Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who took office this month after campaigning on housing issues, has laid out a plan to require Portland landlords who issue no-cause evictions to pay renters’ moving costs.

The proposed ordinance would require landlords who issue no-cause evictions, or who raise rents more than 10 percent, to pay relocation costs on a flat-fee basis that varies based on the number of bedrooms.

The City Council is scheduled to consider the proposed ordinance on Feb. 2. Eudaly is co-sponsoring the measure with Mayor Ted Wheeler.

The legislation, first reported by Willamette Week, would be an emergency ordinance, so passage would require a unanimous vote with at least four commissioners present.

Eudaly said she believes the relocation costs ordinance will pass.

“I would have liked a lower trigger point than 10 percent personally, but that’s the lowest number we could all agree on,” she said.

Rent increases have averaged about 7 percent the past two years, Eudaly said.

“It still allows landlords to raise the rent more than the current average,” she said. “It just shares the cost burden for landlords of displacing tenants during the housing crisis.”

Wheeler and Eudaly are also co-sponsoring a measure to reduce development costs for affordable housing.

Eudaly was slated to meet Tuesday night with tenants of Normandy Terrace, a Northeast Portland apartment complex where tenants are facing rent increases of more than 100 percent.

Tenants are being pushed out of their neighborhoods, Eudaly said.

“It’s a pretty dire situation,” she said. “It’s affecting education outcomes, it’s affecting marginalized communities who are being displaced and it’s affecting our local economy because people can’t afford to live here and work here anymore.”