

## The Oregonian

# Mayor anticipates four-month national search for Portland police chief

*By Maxine Bernstein*

*April 2, 2017*

After scrapping plans to hire a private firm to run Portland's national search for a police chief, the mayor is pressing ahead with an anticipated four-month, city-run process that will include some community input and an expected offer to a finalist by the end of July.

Mayor Ted Wheeler described the perfect candidate: Someone who has remarkable leadership skills to effectively manage the nearly 1,000-member force and develop strong ties with the community, holds significant law enforcement experience and shares his vision of restoring community-based policing where officers don't drive through neighborhoods but have time to get out of their cars to get to know the residents and business people they serve.

"The city of Portland had a community policing model and over a period of many years, we gutted it, and that's made the job harder for police," Wheeler said. "We've got a tremendous amount of work ahead of us in restoring the community's trust."

A chief also must be committed to increasing diversity within the force, from recruitment of new officers through to promotions, and have knowledge of Portland and what's important to the people of the city, the mayor said.

"The community supports community policing," Wheeler said. "They want more direct engagement with police. They want a more genuine relationship with their police bureau."

The search comes amid great turmoil within the Police Bureau. Chief Mike Marshman, appointed by former Mayor Charlie Hales at the end of June upon the retirement of Larry O'Dea after O'Dea shot his friend in the back during a camping trip, was recently placed on paid leave while he and his executive assistant, Lt. Mike Leasure, are under investigation. The inquiry stems from a discrepancy on a police training log. Two captains and a sergeant are also on leave facing internal investigations tied to an unrelated matter.

The bureau is struggling with a staffing shortage, its controversial handling of large-scale protests, a recent officer-involved fatal shooting of a black teenager and the adoption of a myriad of policy, training and accountability reforms mandated under a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. Before Chris Davis was named acting police chief, he had only worked as an assistant chief since January, and previously was promoted from captain to a commander of Central Precinct in June.

About two months ago, the city put out a request for proposals for a company to help conduct a national search for chief, and only one firm responded. Wheeler said he believes several were "scared off" by the city's desire to allow community input from the get-go, including in the drafting of a job description. One firm submitted a proposal, but the mayor recently decided not to go with that firm and have the city's Bureau of Human Resources conduct the search instead.

"It was not a very strong proposal," Wheeler said, declining to identify the one firm that sought the contract.

The mayor's office already has met with three selected community panels to seek local input on crafting a job description for police chief, such as what characteristics, skills and qualities the applicant should hold, and how the selection process should proceed. He declined to identify who was invited to sit on the panels, but said a "broad swath of the community" was represented.

More community outreach will be done, and the mayor said he would like a job description to be posted sometime in May. Under a tentative schedule, screening of applicants would occur in June. Some community representatives would be seated on interview panels of the finalists. A candidate would be selected by the end of July. The mayor doesn't plan to have finalists meet the public in a town hall-type gathering, he said.

Joseph Wahl, of the city's Office of Equity and Human Rights, will be the point person for the search, according to Michael Cox, the mayor's spokesman.

City officials plan to draft a formal plan and a proposed budget by the end of the week for the search.

An early estimate of the cost of holding a national search is about \$50,000.

The city has only brought in two police chiefs from outside who did not rise through the bureau's ranks. The last one was Mark Kroeker, hired in December 1999 after he retired as a deputy chief for the Los Angeles Police Department. He resigned under pressure by then-Mayor Vera Katz in 2003.

The only other chief appointed from outside Portland's ranks was Bruce R. Baker, whom then-Mayor Neil Goldschmidt plucked in 1974 from Berkeley, Calif. The marriage of Baker and the bureau was not a happy one. Baker once recommended to city officials that he be the last or "one of the last" chiefs to be chosen from outside the bureau.

When Hales named Marshman as chief in late June, Mayor-elect Wheeler said it was his plan to hold a national search and welcomed Marshman to apply for the post. Marshman earlier this year told The Oregonian/OregonLive that he hadn't talked directly with Wheeler about what type of chief Wheeler was looking for, and hadn't decided yet whether to put his name in the running.

"I've not made any particular assumptions at this point about where candidates would come from," Wheeler said Friday.

He said he also has not made any decisions on Marshman's future, noting that the Independent Police Review Division is conducting the investigation and he has not seen the outcome of it yet. He said it was the city's independent oversight division, under the control of the city auditor, that alerted him to the investigation.

The mayor said he placed Marshman on paid leave as the investigation continued, "in order to be consistent" with bureau practices. Two captains were placed on paid leave weeks earlier stemming from an unrelated matter.

Some close observers of the Police Bureau have questioned whether the mayor's recent move placing Marshman on paid leave provided the mayor with political cover to move forward with

the national search for a chief. But Wheeler's spokesman Cox called that suggestion "absolutely without merit," and Wheeler said he always planned to follow through on his campaign pledge to conduct a national search.

Wheeler is critical of the city's prior handling of the police bureau.

"Policing is a core function of city government," he said. "It has not gotten the attention it's due."

He said he believes the city, through budget cuts, allowed the bureau to move away from a mission of community-based policing, and operate grossly understaffed. As of February, the bureau had 62 vacancies, compared to 43 at the same time last year. Fifty sworn officers also are now eligible to retire, with another 44 eligible by the end of 2017.

"As the new mayor," Wheeler said, "it's kind of surprising to me where we let it get to this point."

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Council to consider SW Corridor affordable housing grant**

*By Jim Redden*

*April 2, 2017*

Metro has approved a \$100,000 grant request from Portland to set targets for affordable housing preservation and production as part of the project within a half-mile buffer around Southwest Barbur Boulevard between the city and Tigard. Metro has also approved a similar \$50,000 grant request from Tigard.

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Although the future of the new MAX line proposed linking Portland, and Tualatin is uncertain, the City Council will discuss planning for affordable housing along a portion of the possible route on Wednesday.

The Southwest Corridor Project currently being planned by Metro proposes the new light rail line and redevelopment opportunities between the three cities. Voters may have to approve a regional transportation funding measure to help pay for the line. And President Donald Trump has proposed eliminating the federal transit program that has helped fund almost all of the region's MAX lines, although Congress will have the final say.

Despite the questions, Metro, the elected regional government, has approved a \$100,000 grant request from Portland to set targets for affordable housing preservation and production as part of the project within a half-mile buffer around Southwest Barbur Boulevard between the city and Tigard. Metro has also approved a similar \$50,000 grant request from Tigard.

Even if the proposed MAX line is never built, the planning funded by the grants could help save and create affordable housing between the two cities.

The council will consider a resolution authorizing Mayor Ted Wheeler to executive an Intergovernmental Agreement between Portland and Metro at its April 5 meeting. The grant

would be matched by \$20,000 in salaries and other expenses of the city employees who would work on the project.

"The cities of Portland and Tigard will partner on the project's public involvement. The cities will create a shared community partners' oversight committee and coordinate engagement with residents, businesses, property owners, and key stakeholders. Additional effort will be taken to reach low-income households, and communities of color. The involvement will be designed to help increase community capacity to meaningfully and effectively engage with the project," reads an impact statement that accompanies the resolution.

Metro created the Equitable Housing Planning and Development grant program last year as part of an Equitable Housing Initiative by Council Sam Chase. The initiative is intended to encourage all jurisdictions in the region to develop more affordable housing to meet the needs of a variety of vulnerable populations. The term "equitable housing" is defined as "diverse, quality, physically accessible, affordable housing choices with access to opportunities, services and amenities."

Portland, Tigard, Beaverton, Milwaukie, Oregon City and Washington County submitted applications for the \$500,000 in grant funds Metro made available for the first round of the program. All were approved. Portland originally sought an additional \$100,000 grant to help plan a large homeless social service center at Terminal 1, but it was withdrawn after the project fell through.

To read the resolution, go to [tinyurl.com/lj645rt](http://tinyurl.com/lj645rt).

For a previous Portland Tribune story on the grant program, go to [tinyurl.com/mmq8gju](http://tinyurl.com/mmq8gju).

## **City warns of sewer leak in rural Northwest Portland**

*By Jim Redden*

*April 2, 2017*

A sewer spill in Northwest Portland was expected to reach Cedar Mill Creek on Saturday.

Bureau of Environmental Services maintenance crews responded to a report of sewage flowing from a manhole on Northwest Thompson Road and Northwest Devuto Lane on the after noon of April 1. They estimated that about 9,000 gallons of sewage was flowing from the manhole over the street into a storm drain that feeds into the creek.

The area is a residential street west of Forest Park.

Most sewage was contained in a ditch and the street, but some was expected to reach the creek. The leak was not a combined sewage overflow involving both a sanitary and storm sewer.

Crews attempted to stop the flow, which was intermittent. They also posted warning signs in the areas accessible to the public.

As a precaution, the public is advised to follow the warning signs and avoid contact with the creek in that area for at least 48 hours because of the possibility of increased bacteria in the water.

BES treats an average of 70 million gallons of wastewater each day. Over one-third of Portland's more than 2,500 miles of sewer pipes are over 80 years old. Pipes that fail or become blocked with grease, tree roots, and debris can cause sewage overflows.

## **City Council Town Hall scheduled in Lents for Tuesday evening**

*By Jim Redden*

*March 31, 2017*

The event is being organized by the Lents Neighborhood Association Livability Committee to focus on concerns in the Southeast Portland neighborhood.

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The City Council will participate in a town hall on livability issues in Lents from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4.

The events is being organized by the Lents Neighborhood Association Livability Committee. It is intended to focus on concerns in Lents ranging from inequity in taxes to the impact of the housing crisis on the community.

The town hall will be moderated and the committee is asking that people pre-submit questions, concerns and proposed solutions for the council to [Livabilitycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Livabilitycommittee@gmail.com).

"This will be an opportunity to ask questions and problem solve with your city Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler," the committee says. "This is an important opportunity for our community to come together and be heard."

The town hall will be held at the Lents Seventh Day Adventist Church, 8835 SE Woodstock Blvd.