

The Oregonian

Right 2 Dream Too: A timeline

By Molly Harbarger

April 6, 2017

Right 2 Dream Too is facing what appears to be a hard deadline for eviction. As Portland city officials work with residents at the rest stop for homeless people, the April 7 drop-dead date is one of many twists and turns in more than five years of hand-wringing and political wrangling.

Here's a look back at a timeline of Right 2 Dream Too:

October 2011: Leo Rhodes and Ibrahim Mubarak, both homeless activists living on the street, read a Portland Tribune article about Michael Wright, a man with a long criminal history whose adult bookstore closed after a fight with a city. Wright wanted to tweak Portland officials and mentioned he was going to use the land to help homeless people. Rhodes and Mubarak reach out to Wright.

City Commissioner Randy Leonard, in charge of the Portland Bureau of Development Services, starts fining Wright \$1,346 a month for illegal camping at the site. Wright passes the costs on to organizers.

December 2012: Right 2 Dream Too organizers sue the city, saying the city is essentially trying to fine the camp out of existence.

June 2013: City Commissioner Amanda Fritz is assigned the Bureau of Development Services under Mayor Charlie Hales and she immediately settles the lawsuit with an agreement that waives the \$20,957 in fines and works with the homeless community to find a new home. The project would become her passion, even after she switches bureaus.

September 2013: Fritz's first suggests the city-owned parking "Lot 7" under the Broadway Bridge in the Pearl District. She thinks she has Hales' support, but he switches his vote when developer Homer Williams objects to the location being near his hotel. He offers about \$1 million as a counter-offer, with almost \$200,000 going to buy the parking lot and the rest is used as seed money to relocate Right 2 Dream Too.

December 2013: Hales suggests moving Right 2 Dream Too for 15 months to a warehouse at Northwest Fourth Avenue and Hoyt Street. The lease would cost \$150,000 plus possible repairs to make it habitable.

January 2014: The warehouse idea dies because of the price tag grows to \$335,000.

June 2014: The Portland Development Commission offers to buy the site where Right 2 Dream Too sits from landlord Wright if the camp moves by late 2016 to early 2017.

April 2015: Fritz says the city is finalizing a deal with the Oregon Department of Transportation to buy a 9,073-square-foot parcel near the Tilikum Crossing in the Central Eastside Industrial District.

February 2016: Portland City Council approves the Right 2 Dream Too move to the Central Eastside despite some councilors' reservations about zoning issues.

March 2016: A group of business leaders in the Central Eastside Industrial District files a challenge with the state Land Use Board of Appeals, saying that the land meant for Right 2 Dream Too isn't zoned for such a use.

August 2016: The Land Use Board of Appeals says Portland misapplied its zoning rules, barring Right 2 Dream Too's move to the Central Eastside.

February 2017: Bob Naito and the other members of the Grove Hotel Partners group file a lawsuit to force landlord Wright to evict Right 2 Dream Too.

February 2017: Fritz finds an unused city-owned Southwest Naito site where she wants to temporarily place Right 2 Dream Too. She said she was in the beginning stages of rolling out the idea, which would include winning potential neighbors' support by taking them to Right 2 Dream Too so they could talk to the residents and see how it worked.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports on the proposal and backlash floods Mayor Ted Wheeler's office. He initially backed the idea, but pulls his support.

Pepsi scare disturbs otherwise tame Portland City Council meeting

By Jessica Floum

April 5, 2017

All was quiet at the Portland City Council meeting until a protester rapidly approached the dais with one hand in his jacket pocket, and then stretched that hand toward Mayor Ted Wheeler to hand him a can of Pepsi.

"Not a good move!" Wheeler told the protester, his face turning red as two Portland police officers sprung from their seats in the back of the room. He warned the protester making such a gesture is dangerous. Approaching the dais with a hand hidden in a pocket could have led to a dangerous clash with police in other cities, Wheeler said.

The protester's Pepsi gift came the same day Pepsi withdrew an advertisement that critics said trivialized the Black Lives Matter movement. The ad involves handing a policeman a Pepsi.

Protesters took to poetry, orchestrated silences and other new protest tactics at the meeting, which apart from the Pepsi moment, ran interruption-free most of the morning.

Activist Mimi German, a fixture at previous raucous council sessions, read poems about homelessness and racism during time allotted for testimony on a sewer line repair. Protester Teresa Raiford, another prominent presence in demonstrations protesting the fatal police shooting of black teen Quance Hayes, used her three minutes of sewer testimony time to lead a moment of silence honoring Hayes. Raiford signed up to testify on at least three agenda items that she declined to speak on once her name was called.

"Just keep saying my name," Raiford told the city clerk, smiling.

The more peaceful protest measures were a change of pace from the last few months of council meetings that German and Raiford consistently interrupted and halted with yells, jeers and protests.

The newfound calm in Portland City Council meetings came a week after Mayor Ted Wheeler [started enforcing city meeting procedures](#). Last week he warned disruptive individuals that they would be asked to leave. Security guards handed out paper expulsion notes and escorted those who continued to agitate out of the council chambers.

Wheeler [struggled for months](#) to quell protesters who repeatedly disrupted meetings.

Raiford received a verbal warning from the mayor on Wednesday after interrupting city business with snarky remarks. She quieted down and remained in the meeting.

While the meeting ran smoothly, Port of Portland police officers arrested frequent protester James Krane just outside of the room in the Portland Building where the council met.

Krane, 30, was booked into the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office at 11:22 a.m., according to the office's booking website. The website did not list any charges.

German said she heard police officers mention probable cause.

A security official who works for the security company the city pays to keep order said he witnessed the arrest. Police arrested Krane on a warrant and photographed him, said John Chandler, project manager for security company G4S Government Solutions.

"He seemed to know what was going on," Chandler said.

Krane was cited in November for disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, but the district attorney declined to prosecute and dismissed the ticket.

Portland Police Bureau spokesman Sgt. Pete Simpson said Krane was arrested in connection with a Port of Portland Police Department investigation into an assault that occurred at Portland International Airport.

The City Council will meet again at 2 p.m. to discuss the city's investing policy.

The Portland Tribune

City Council stops investing in corporations

By Jim Redden

April 6, 2017

The City Council voted Wednesday to stop investing city funds in corporate securities, including stocks and bonds issued by private companies. The decision could reduce the return of city investments by \$3.5 million a year.

The decision was made while the council was considering a new socially responsible investment policy that would have given weight to third-party ratings commitment of corporations to such issues as the environment, social justice and governance. Various activists and advocacy organization have pressed the council for years to not invest city funds in certain corporations.

The council suspended all new corporate investments last year to develop the new policy, which was introduced by Mayor Ted Wheeler two weeks ago. During the discussion, Commissioner Dan Saltzman moved the city stop investing in corporate securities in a

permanent basis. The amendment passed on a 3 to 2 vote, with commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Nick Fish also supporting it.

When he cast his vote, Fish said he did not want to have to continue choosing between corporations.

Wheeler and Commissioner Amanda Fritz voted against the amendment, with Fritz saying she felt it was important Portland publicly shame corporations that do not meet socially responsible investment standards.

The revised policy then passed unanimously, with Wheeler and Fritz also voting yes on the final version.

To read an earlier Portland Tribune story on the issue, go to tinyurl.com/l7d74yq.

As deadline looms, no clear PERS plan has emerged

By Claire Withycombe and Capital Bureau

April 6, 2017

SALEM — With a legislative deadline less than two weeks away, it's not yet clear what legislators may propose this session to reduce the costs of the state's public pension system.

The chair of the senate committee vetting proposals that would affect the Public Employees Retirement System said Wednesday that there is no specific policy proposal edging out others.

"Right now, I would say that all of them are up for discussion at this point," Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Portland, said. "That's the climate that we're in, we're still talking about all of the different proposals."

Committees vetting policy, such as the Senate Workforce Committee, have to schedule work sessions on bills by Friday. April 18 is the last day bills can move out of committee in the chamber where they are proposed.

As of Wednesday evening, some proposals that have taken center stage in the public process in the first two months of the legislative session — such as capping the salary amount used in calculating benefits to \$100,000, or calculating an employee's final average salary over five rather than three years — were not scheduled for a work session, according to the state's legislative information system.

Workforce Committee Vice Chair Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, said Monday that those two ideas — contained in bills he has sponsored — seemed to have momentum. But he also said that other proposals are still "on the table."

The pension system is a perennial political flashpoint because future obligations are at least \$22 billion more than the system could pay for today.

Although that bill is not immediately due, advocates of reform say that legislative inaction would increase financial pressure on local governments and school districts.

Many legislators are also wary of making changes to the pension system for fear of a legal challenge.

In 2015, two years after the Legislature passed certain reforms to PERS, the Oregon Supreme Court reversed most of them, ruling that benefits already accrued by public employees cannot be changed.

In addition to the legal parameters, Taylor said Wednesday, because a number of factors are in play every proposal needs to be carefully vetted for secondary effects

"The interplay between the proposals makes a big difference," Taylor said.

Meanwhile, legislators are also wrestling with balancing the state's budget in the face of an approximately \$1.6 billion gap between what the state is expected to realize in revenue and what budget writers say is necessary to pay for the existing level of services.

Many Democrats, such as Taylor, and Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, D-Portland, say that while public employee benefits do cost the state money, they are not the only "drivers" of the budget.

The Portland Mercury

The Secret Naughty List

By Dirk VanderHart

April 5, 2017

WELLS FARGO wanted to talk.

It was August 2016, and as Portland inched closer to acting on recommendations that the city cease investing millions in the bank, Wells Fargo executives hoped to stop the process.

The bank's Oregon region president, Tracy Curtis, penned a letter [[PDF](#)] to the city's [Socially Responsible Investments Committee](#) (SRIC), which was close to formally suggesting Portland add Wells Fargo to its "do-not-buy" list. Another bank employee—a senior vice president based in San Francisco—followed up by email and phone, offering to meet in person.

For advocates of the SRIC, the response was telling. Though corporate divestment campaigns are frequently written off as merely symbolic, SRIC members say Wells Fargo's concern showed it was keen on avoiding the stigma of being listed as a bad actor by a major American city.

Nearly nine months later, the bank might get its wish. Portland's on the verge of ensuring Wells Fargo and others won't have to worry about such public shaming.

In an interesting about-face, the Portland City Council will consider scotching the SRIC, created in late 2014 to help ensure Portland was investing ethically.

Instead, Mayor Ted Wheeler is proposing moving the city's do-not-buy list behind closed doors. Wheeler and Treasurer Jennifer Cooperman want to move away from the SRIC's public hearings, and instead employ a secretive ratings system that ensures Portlanders have little idea which companies have been blacklisted.

For people who support the SRIC process, the proposal defeats the purpose.

"It's not about the financial impact," says Hyung Nam, a Portland high school teacher and SRIC member. "It's about the public image that these corporations care about so much."

Portland is required by state law to adopt an investment policy each year, but the pronounced changes being pushed this time reflect a central conflict in how that policy should be carried out.

On one hand, officials like Wheeler—the former Oregon state treasurer—and Cooperman think of investments largely in terms of reaping maximum returns, feeling that's a responsible use of public money.

Asked about divestment policies late [last year](#), a spokesperson for Wheeler said they are "not typically center-of-target."

On the other hand, some groups believe the city should be making a statement with the roughly \$1.5 billion it invests, and refuse to do business with companies that behave shabbily.

Doing so publicly can at times make officials uncomfortable. Last year, in its first major report, the SRIC recommended the city put nine additional companies on its do-not-buy list, which already included Walmart and fossil fuel companies.

Wells Fargo was singled out partly for its role helping finance private prison companies. Caterpillar, the most contentious recommendation, was listed partly because its bulldozers are used to raze homes in the West Bank. Amazon was also included in the report, as were Nestlé and a number of banks.

But City Council waffled, with even then-Commissioner Steve Novick, who'd pushed the creation of the SRIC, voicing concern about the scope of the committee's recommendations.

Instead of voting on adding specific companies to the do-not-buy list, commissioners instead placated the audience by [electing not to purchase bonds](#) from any corporation until this year, after the city had adopted its latest investment policy.

Activist groups claimed victory, but the proposal that's surfaced under Wheeler has inspired disdain.

"The mayor's investment policy backslides from a system that city council did not give a chance to work, and replaces it with an undemocratic, secretive process," says Jamie Trinkle of the group Enlace, which has pushed heavily for divestment from private prison companies. "This is not in line with the city's values and its unanimous support of becoming a sanctuary city, of supporting fossil fuel divestment, of asserting support for Standing Rock."

Wheeler's proposal is to use a system from New York-based firm MSCI that rates corporations on their "environmental, social, and governance-related business practices" (ESG for short). Portland spends \$37,500 a year to subscribe to the ratings service, and agrees to keep the data secret.

"The contract obligates the City to not disclose MSCI's detailed ESG methodology or individual company ESG-ratings," reads a memo Cooperman wrote in February.

Under the proposal, the City of Portland would only be allowed to invest in companies that meet MSCI's middle-of-the-road "BBB" rating or higher. According to Cooperman, using that baseline would allow Portland a pool of roughly 24 companies it could invest in. (Walmart and fossil fuel companies would still be explicitly off limits.)

What are those companies? The city won't say. Even when the Mercury asked for a list divorced completely from companies' ratings, the city refused, saying that MSCI "confirmed they would consider the requested information proprietary as the ratings are their intellectual property."

Activists aren't just worried about this secrecy. They've suggested the policy could flout state law by giving undue influence over investments to a private firm. And they're worried that the ratings system doesn't consider issues properly, being more concerned with how corporate actions might affect a company's bottom line than society at large.

Nam points to a 2015 rating from MSCI on Wells Fargo [[PDF](#)]¹—which is supposed to be secret, but which he says he found posted publicly on the company's site. It lists 14 factors MSCI could theoretically take into account for the rating. But as Nam points out, the document gives no weight to three you'd think would be biggies: "carbon emissions," "labor management," and "business and ethics fraud."

The result? Wells Fargo earned a "B" rating in 2015, too low to be considered under the plan the city is considering.

Then again, the rating might have changed since then. There's no way to know.

Portland's All Done Investing in Corporations—And That Will Cost Us

By Dirk VanderHart

April 5, 2017

Commissioner Dan Saltzman is tired of talking about which corporations the City of Portland should or shouldn't invest in.

"There are a lot of issues I'm not getting work done on today," Saltzman said this afternoon, near the end of a lengthy hearing on a controversial new city investment policy. "I don't really want to have to do this once or twice a year and have the same discussion over 21 companies."

If not all of Saltzman's colleagues shared specifically that sentiment, two of them agreed with what he was driving at. In a 3-2 vote that is among the more divided of this group of elected officials, the council voted to make it the city's official policy not to invest in corporations going forward.

In doing so, the council sideswiped [a proposed strategy](#) that would have moved the city's investment decisions behind closed doors—a prospect that made many commissioners and an overwhelming number of vocal audience members uncomfortable.

Rather than wallow in acrimony, council decided to be done with corporate investments altogether. The vote means a number of things:

- That the City of Portland's in no danger of putting money into companies like Nestlé, Wells Fargo, Walmart, Caterpillar, and sundry others that a group of citizen advisers have dubbed the "worst of the worst" in terms of corporate actors.

Not long ago, the city created a "do-not-buy" list where it slapped companies it wanted nothing to do with (Walmart, Chevron, and Exxon all had homes there). But when a council-

appointed [Socially Responsible Investments Committee](#) (SRIC) pressed council late last year to put nine more companies on the list, commissioners balked, worrying about the message that would have sent.

Instead, the council made a temporary decision not to invest in corporations, which it formally enshrined today—partly because Saltzman was sick of talking about it.

- It also means that Portland won't be taking a proactive stand against companies that do some objectionable things. Advocates for explicitly calling out certain corporations argue that those companies take a PR hit when a large city calls them out as toxic that's greater than any risk to their bottom line (see: [Seattle pulling the plug on Wells Fargo](#)).

As SRIC member Hyung Nam told the Mercury recently: "It's not about the financial impact. It's about the public image that these corporations care about so much."

Simply not investing in any corporate bonds—which was the city's standard operating procedure less than a decade ago—doesn't send that same message.

- Portland is also going to lose out on some cash, though exactly how much isn't clear. City Treasurer Jennifer Cooperman said at the hearing that not investing in corporate securities could mean \$3.5 million less in city coffers this fiscal year, and perhaps a larger hit next year.

But that number is based on corporate bond returns versus lower performing US Treasury Bonds, Cooperman acknowledged to the Mercury after the hearing. That's a standard way of analyzing investment choices, Cooperman says, but the treasurer also acknowledged in a February memo that it is a "worst case." She wrote that other investments, like US Agency Bonds, are more lucrative, meaning the loss she spoke of at today's hearing isn't set in stone.

Still, the city can probably expect to take some financial hit, which was a big reason why Mayor Ted Wheeler forcefully opposed eliminating corporate investments.

"I really don't like the idea of completely getting out of corporate," said Wheeler, the former state treasurer, who rattled off a list of things that the lost money could pay for. "I just think they hit us too hard."

Rather than divestment, which Wheeler called a "blunt instrument," he used a lengthy speech to advocate that people (and the city) make more ethical purchasing choices, and suggested that there are people who will advocate divesting from any company.

"Do you use a Visa or Mastercard? Because if you do according to some you're feeding the beast," Wheeler said.

The mayor pretty clearly wanted to move ahead with the proposal he'd brought forward. It would have scrapped all public discussion about which companies the city should invest in, and instead used a secretive ratings system that evaluates companies on their environmental, social, and governmental practices. The city would have been legally prohibited from sharing those ratings or its rationales with citizens.

Not a single person in the audience testified in favor. They called on the city to be a leader in social justice, suggesting companies' complicity in projects like the Dakota Access Pipe Line or funding private prisons needed to be highlighted.

The most forceful testimony came from Katrina Scotto di Carlo, a founder of [Supportland](#) and member of the SRIC. She was angry that council had refused to accept a [report her committee submitted last September](#).

"I went through emotional battering on that committee," Scotto di Carlo said, speaking of the research she did into companies' bad practices. "I had to read about crap that I hope no one else in this room has to read about."

She used the [indentured servitude of fishermen in Southeast Asia](#) as an example, and said her group had truly picked the worst nine companies it could find.

"We only put nine on the list—that's incredible," she said. "Unbelievable that you guys didn't adopt the report."

Council split assunder pretty quickly when it came time to decide.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly most clearly agreed with the activists on hand. She'd even tried to introduce amendments that would have explicitly put Nestle, Caterpillar, and the Bank of New York Mellon onto the do-not-buy list, and left leeway to add more.

When Wheeler recently called for Portland to be a sanctuary city, Eudaly told him, "you said that Portland would be a beacon of hope and set the standard for the country. I would argue that we have another opportunity here to set another standard."

Supporting the secretive investments system were Wheeler and Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who also was concerned about lost cash.

Saltzman and Commissioner Nick Fish came down on the side of doing away with corporate investments entirely (though Fish made clear he was cool going the secret route)—a compromise Eudaly found she could live with.

So there you have it! We're done with corporate investments—at least until next year, when the city is bound by state law to pass an investment policy again.

A City Council Attendee Just Rushed Mayor Ted Wheeler With A Pepsi

By Dirk VanderHart

April 5, 2017

This was probably unavoidable. It was also super uncomfortable.

Toward the end of this morning's City Council meeting, as the body was taking up an ordinance that would allow Portland Parks and Recreation to more easily tow boats left on city docks, a man rushed Ted Wheeler and handed him a Pepsi.

The man identified himself as Carlos Enrique (spelling unclear), and said he was a former journalist for the Boston Herald (the Herald says he's not, [according to OPB](#), which isn't much of a surprise). He described being new to town, and struck by the abuse that city council members face.

"I'm very surprised how there's so many people who show up to city council and just kind of like get angry at you and yell at you and stuff like that," he said. "It made me kind of wonder how could someone just endure people coming and berating you every week.... What I realized is that the language of resistance has not been properly translated to you. So this is for you."

In a tense moment, Enrique got up, approached Wheeler, reached into his black jacket, and pulled out a Pepsi. Council members appeared thoroughly freaked out—even [after the joke became apparent](#).

"Whoa whoa whoa, not a good move," said Wheeler, who eventually laughed when he realized what had happened. "Don't do that again. Not a smart move. I do appreciate it but don't do that again. For your own safety don't do that... If this were the Boston City Council that would have ended differently."

Safety and order, of course, have been a theme at City Council of late. Security guards [now check people's bags before they come into meetings](#), and last week Wheeler's office even printed out tickets people were handed to attend. Prior to the Pepsi incident, the meeting had been largely free of disruption (though not without tributes to Quance Hayes, the 17-year-old killed by Portland police in February).

There's no way you don't get what Enrique was up to at this point, but just in case, here's yesterday's infamous Pepsi ad, featuring Kendall Jenner spontaneously joining a cheesy fake protest and handing an officer a soda. Wheeler is the city's police commissioner, and has taken the brunt of citizen anger for the Portland Police Bureau's forceful response to protests lately.

OPB

Man Approaches Mayor Wheeler At City Council Meeting, Hands Him A Pepsi

*By Amelia Templeton
April 5, 2017*

A young man rushed up to Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler during a city council Wednesday, reached into his coat pocket, and handed him a can of Pepsi.

"Woah, woah, not a good move, not a smart move. Don't do that again," Wheeler said as he took the can, and shook his head, laughing uncomfortably.

The moment, an apparent criticism of the mayor's handling of protests against a police shooting and a reference to a [controversial Pepsi ad](#) starring Kendall Jenner, appeared to spook the mayor and council but deescalated quickly.

The man identified himself as a former journalist with the Boston Herald, a claim the newspaper disputes.

Over the past several months, protesters have disrupted council meetings to call attention to the plight of homeless people and to the death of a black teenager shot by Portland police.

They have at times yelled profanity and slurs, jeered at city hall employees, and camped outside Wheeler's home, allegedly slashing his tires.

The Pepsi ad, which the soda company has since pulled, featured protesters marching through the streets and Jenner handing a Pepsi to a police officer, who accepts it.

Wednesday's Portland City Council meeting was comparatively quiet to other recent meetings, until the Pepsi incident.

The man, who gave his name as Carlos Henriquez or Enriquez, had signed up to testify on a city ordinance on towing derelict boats.

"I'm a former journalist for the Boston Herald, so I've covered City Council quite extensively," he said.

"I've just recently moved here and I have to say, I'm very surprised at how there's so many people who show up to City Council and get angry at you and yell out you," the man said.

After a minute, Wheeler interrupted him, telling him his testimony needed to be related to the towing ordinance.

Instead, the man stood up and began walking toward the mayor.

"What I realized is that the language of resistance has not been properly translated to you, so this is for you," the man said, reaching into his coat and plucking out the Pepsi can, as the council watched with alarm.

Security guards stepped in, scooping up the Pepsi and escorting the protester out.

"That was terrifying," Commissioner Amanda Fritz said softly to her colleagues.

The Human Resources Department at the Boston Herald said it had no record of a journalist on staff with that name.

A man named Carlos Henriquez had once worked in the paper's marketing and research department, starting in 2003. He left the paper more than 10 years ago.

That Carlos Henriquez would be 43 years old today, according to the newspaper's personnel records, significantly older than the protester in Portland appeared to be.

Wheeler is in the process of hiring a private firm to develop a new security master plan for city buildings and properties.