

The Oregonian

Police chiefs association submitted plan to conduct Portland's national police chief search

By Maxine Bernstein

April 24, 2017

The International Association of Chiefs of Police was the only group to submit a proposal in response to Portland's appeal for outside help to conduct a national search for a permanent police chief, according to a public records request.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, rejected the association's proposal, finding it was lacking, particularly in addressing diversity, according to his spokesman and city records.

Instead, as previously reported, the mayor decided the city would conduct its own search, with a job description completed next month.

"The Mayor determined that when it comes to running a process that's authentically Portland – particularly when it comes to issues of diversity – the City is better equipped to engage the community effectively," Cox wrote.

The association, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1893 to promote high standards of performance and conduct within the police profession, has more than 27,000 law enforcement executive members from around the world.

It proposed leading the search for \$42,000 plus travel expenses, with a four-person executive search project team led by Andrey Pankov, according to the documents obtained by The Oregonian/OregonLive. Pankov has worked with the association since July and led similar chief searches for the cities of Memphis, Leesburg, Virginia, and Alexandria, Virginia. At the association, he's responsible for designing and administering promotional tests.

"We are motivated by our commitment to improving law enforcement leadership across the country," the association's proposal said. "Assisting law enforcement agencies in the placement of this leadership helps us to attain that goal."

The association proposed doing an on-site job analysis to identify responsibilities required for the next chief that would satisfy not only the mayor but also "the many constituencies both inside and outside of the police agency."

The association suggested conducting an online community survey and holding community town hall meetings and smaller sit-down sessions with targeted community stakeholders before the search began to assess where the public wanted the Police Bureau to head and how a chief could fulfill that vision.

The mayor's office sent the association additional questions, asking it to expand on its diversity initiatives, community service commitments and whether it would utilize any subcontractors.

"While they were better on the supplemental responses given, the fact that they were left out of the original response gave the Mayor pause," Cox said.

Police Chief Mike Marshman, who recently returned from three weeks of paid leave while under investigation for allegations that his executive assistant signed him in for attending a training

class that he missed, said he intends to apply for the permanent job. He said the mayor, as recently as Friday, encouraged him to do so.

"I don't want to abandon ship when things are starting to move forward. I feel obligated to do so," Marshman said. "I think morale is on the uptick. We're looking to hire another 15 to 18 officers next month. I feel obligated to continue to work to connect with people who work here and with the community. Those two things are what keeps me going on."

The city expects to post a job description sometime in May and has estimated its four-month search will cost \$19,900.

Under a tentative schedule, screening of applicants would occur in June. Some community representatives would sit in on interview panels for 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.

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: Wheeler takes bureaus Thursday

*By Jim Redden
April 25, 2017*

The City Council held its second and final Community Budget Forum last Tuesday evening at the Mt. Scott Community Center. Mayor Ted Wheeler is now planning to release his proposed budget for the next fiscal year on May 1. A few days before that, on April 27, Wheeler will assign all city bureaus to himself until the budget is approved by the council, when he will reassign them back to the commissioners.

Wheeler has not said yet which bureaus will receive recommended spending increases or decreases. He is known to be concerned that the previous council approved more than \$10 million in last-minute spending increases without identifying additional revenue. The increases included money to hire more Portland police officers.

Budget hearings are set for May 11 and 17 at City Hall. The council is scheduled to adopt the budget June 8. It takes effect July 1.

Natural gas project approved

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved a request from Commissioner Nick Fish to commit \$12 million in sewer ratepayer funds to convert waste methane from the city's sewage treatment process into renewable natural gas.

Fish oversees the Bureau of Environmental Services, which runs the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, where the methane is generated.

The proposal calls for the fuel to be sold in Portland and elsewhere to replace diesel fuel in trucks. It will reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 21,000 tons a year, more than any other single city project to date. Sales of the gas will generate upward of \$3 million a year, allowing the project to be paid back in about three years.

Self-driving car initiative launched

Portland leaders embraced self-driving cars and trucks as an important part of the future transportation system last Monday.

At a morning news conference, Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Dan Saltzman announced a Smart Autonomous Vehicle Initiative with the hope of having them tested on city streets in 2017.

The news conference was held following a panel discussion on the future of autonomous vehicles at the Portland Business Alliance's monthly breakfast forum. Wheeler announced the initiative at the beginning of the forum, and he and Saltzman signed the directive afterward. The policies would need to be approved by the City Council before any actual testing on Portland streets can occur.

The Portland Mercury

Chloe Eudaly Wants to Look into A City-Owned Bank

By Dirk VanderHart

April 26, 2017

COMMISSIONER CHLOE EUDALY'S first order of business when taking office was to push the [strongest renter protections](#) the city's ever seen. Her next quest might be to sever the city's cozy relationship with big banks.

Earlier this month, Eudaly began casually mentioning what would be a mammoth undertaking: She wants to study how Portland might create its own municipal bank, an unprecedented move advocates say would allow Portland to keep much more of its cash local and help fund vital city priorities.

Cities around the country, including Seattle and San Francisco, have mulled over public banks for years. But to date, none have taken the plunge—a fact that speaks to the complexities and uncertainties around such an experiment. Portland doesn't appear to have ever seriously looked into it.

Here's a rundown of what public banking could mean for Portland, and what's standing in the way.

Where's this coming from?

Portlanders have increasingly railed against the city doing business with big financial institutions. Not only did banks' risky lending practices led to the Great Recession nearly a decade ago, but there's more awareness that outfits like Wells Fargo, where the city parks some of its money, have investments in controversial projects like the Dakota Access Pipeline.

It was in reference to those investments that Eudaly broached the issue of a public bank at a council hearing earlier this month.

“None of the banking institutions that can provide the level of service we need have clean investments,” she said. “I'd venture to suggest that all of them are invested in the Dakota Access

Pipeline. It's a reason we're looking at putting together a resolution to convene a study on the possibility of a municipal bank."

The commissioner's being spurred on by the efforts a group called the [Portland Public Banking Alliance](#), which formed last year and has been lobbying on this issue since she was a candidate. Eudaly's chief of staff, Marshall Runkel, has actively been pursuing the matter, he tells the Mercury, and has asked the City Attorney's Office to look into it.

How would it work?

Public banks can theoretically take different forms, but they share some broad strokes.

The gist is that the city would create an institution that could leverage public money in ways that meet its objectives. Not only could that help small businesses and affordable housing projects secure funding that other institutions aren't offering, it could help keep Portland's money local.

A 2016 overview of public banking from the left-leaning Roosevelt Institute [[PDF](#)] notes that cities are increasingly reliant on borrowing money from the municipal bond market. Portland routinely uses bonds for big projects, and Mayor Ted Wheeler is proposing to bond hundreds of millions more to fix the city's crumbling infrastructure.

That money comes at a cost—the interest rate—which the city pays out to investors. This, the Roosevelt Institute study contends, “creates a significant drain on local tax revenues, which must be paid out to the institutional fund managers and wealthy households that are the primary owners of municipal debt.”

According to numbers from the city's Office of Management and Finance, Portland has spent nearly \$3.2 billion to pay off borrowing since 2005. Nearly half of that money went to interest.

Advocates suggest a public bank would be able to buy up some piece of those bonds, thereby keeping money spent on interest available for lending to local causes.

The bank would almost certainly be operated by a board of directors selected by city officials, but independent of them. Also: Citizens wouldn't be able to put their own money in a public bank. Instead, the city's bank would work with community banks, helping them issue loans.

Has anyone done this?

Yep. North Dakota's [had its own state bank](#) since 1919, and it's doing fine.

According to its most recent annual report [[PDF](#)], 2015 marked the Bank of North Dakota's 12th consecutive year of record profits. It made \$130 million, and increased its total assets to \$7.4 billion.

With heightened public awareness about unethical banking practices, more and more jurisdictions have considered forming their own public bank. So far, no one's followed North Dakota's example—though Santa Fe is said to be close.

"When you actually get past the feasibility study... it's very hard to organize the political momentum and the impetus to make it happen," says Karl Beitel, author of the Roosevelt Institute paper and an expert who's worked with San Francisco and Seattle on exploring public banking. "There's a tremendous amount of entrenched opposition. This is a major innovation."

So what's the downside?

Critics [have argued](#) that public banks can lead to conflicts of interest for city officials, and that governments aren't equipped to operate a lending institution of this scale. Advocates counter that these banks would be managed by experienced and qualified financial professionals, but with the public interest in mind rather than a goal of securing maximum profits.

For Portland, though, a central sticking point could be the Oregon Constitution. The City Attorney's Office is in the midst of studying whether the city is pre-empted by [Article XI](#), which prohibits "state banks." The question is whether a court would rule that this provision would also apply to banks owned by a city.

Runkel, Eudaly's chief of staff, says the city attorney's initial stance is that Portland is pre-empted. City Treasurer Jennifer Cooperman, meanwhile, tells the Mercury she's heard a public bank would be illegal.

But such opinions have been known to change. San Francisco's city attorney had a similar snap judgment some years back, when officials there began looking into the notion of a public bank. When John Avalos, a former San Francisco elected official, pushed for a more thorough review, Beitel notes the city attorney's office concluded in 2013 that a public bank would be allowed.

Even if the city attorney's office ultimately comes to the same conclusion, don't expect the People's Bank of Portland to show up any time soon. As Eudaly noted earlier this month: "That is a very long-term process. It's not coming in the next year."

The Portland Observer

City Matters

By Zachary Senn

April 25, 2017

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler pushed his agenda on the critical issues of housing affordability and police reforms during a visit to the offices of the Portland Observer, Oregon's longest serving minority publication Friday.

Wheeler, who assumed office in January, laid out his vision to make housing more accessible to lower income and minority communities by supporting workforce training programs and higher paying jobs; the construction of affordable housing units; and fair housing practices. He also spoke of how he hopes to guide the Portland Police Bureau on new policies to fight bias in its procedures and practices and the overrepresentation of black and minority defendants in the criminal justice system.

Wheeler, who was elected in May of 2016, succeeded Charlie Hales as the mayor of Oregon's largest city. He previously served as Oregon State Treasurer and chair of the Multnomah County Commission.

Speaking to the critical lack of accessible housing in the Portland area, Wheeler said it was important for city officials to rethink how they are approaching issues of housing and affordability.

"The problem is that we're disconnecting housing from the reality of our economy," Wheeler said.

In order to make housing more accessible to disadvantaged communities, the mayor points to the city's new 2035 Comprehensive Plan to better link education and vocational programs to growing a workforce with incomes to support housing.

"The economic displacement is now being exacerbated by a lack of access to the educational and job training opportunities," Wheeler said. "It's a vicious circle at this point."

The mayor, who was a key proponent of newly elected City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's stopgap ordinance to make landlords pay tenant relocation expenses under certain circumstances, says that the city must begin thinking about how it can help to keep Portlanders economically competitive.

"If we can connect more people to the education and the job training they need so that they can latch on to those economic opportunities, they will be much more likely to be able to stay right here," Wheeler said.

The city's renter assistance policy, which was enacted in February, mandates that landlords pay the relocation expenses of their tenants in the case of a no-cause eviction or if the rent is raised by 10 percent or more. The payouts can range from \$2,900 to \$4,500, depending on the size of the housing unit.

The measure, which will only last through October is part of emergency reprieve granted to low and middle-income renters in the city. Wheeler says that his soon-to-be-released Fiscal Year 2018 budget will be reflective of longer-term solutions for abetting the housing crisis.

The mayor would like to see more regulatory wiggle room for future housing developments winning city approval, insisting that zoning rules can be loosened up to aid developers who are attempting to create more housing. By allowing more structures such as duplexes to be constructed within single residence zones, for example, the city can maximize usage on its increasingly expensive real estate, Wheeler said.

"If we're really serious about housing affordability, then we need to go down that road," Wheeler asserts.

Police Oversight Hurdles

*By Zachary Senn
April 25, 2017*

Portland community leaders are fighting to keep efforts to reform the Portland Police Department on track amidst a slew of delays, complications and opposition from the Trump Administration.

A framework for Portland police reforms was established after a federal Department of Justice investigation found that the Portland Police Bureau had used excessive force against those suffering from mental illness. As a result of the subsequent 2012 court case, "United States v. City of Portland" a settlement between the Justice Department and City Hall was reached which spelled out what law enforcement policies, procedures and oversight measures needed to be enacted or changed.

But since that time, the citizen committee formed to track progress has been slow going and was essentially dissolved in January due to constant in-fighting. A new blow came earlier this month

when Attorney General Jeff Sessions spoke out against being involved and ordered a review of all Justice Department agreements with local law enforcement offices across the country.

Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes Jr., a lifelong black civil rights activist, beginning with his community organizing work in Dallas in the 1960s, and since moving to Portland in 1997, has been instrumental in the push for police reforms. Haynes serves as the pastor of Allen Temple CME Church in northeast Portland and as the chair of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform.

Following a series of officer-involved killings, including those of James Chasse and James Jahar Perez, the AMA justice coalition successfully joined other activists including the Portland NAACP and Copwatch to call for a federal audit of the city's law enforcement department.

“Out of that audit, we had the issuing of this settlement agreement,” said Haynes, in an interview with the Portland Observer. “The investigation came back and showed that the Portland Police Bureau used excessive and unnecessary deadly force against persons that are mentally ill.”

Most major cities with DOJ settlement agreements are assigned a court-appointed monitor to ensure that reforms are properly carried out. Portland, however, opted for an experimental model of reform enforcement that created a community-based committee, the Community Oversight Advisory Board (COAB).

The COAB is a diverse coalition of community stakeholders that is charged with assessing whether or not the Portland Police Bureau is meeting the terms of their DOJ agreement. By reporting their findings and recommendations to a compliance officer and community liaison, the panel was empowered to direct how police reforms would be carried out in the city. But when the group disbanded, so did the effort to evaluate the reform efforts effectiveness.

“There were mistakes made at the beginning of the development of the board, by not having any training or orientation,” Haynes said.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as the police commissioner managing the Police Bureau, said he supports and understands the need for police reforms.

“We have a large number of senior level individuals in the Bureau on paid administrative leave or who are under investigation,” Wheeler said. “Many of the potential violations occurred in the past and the inquiries into officer misconduct are still ongoing.”