

## The Oregonian

### Portland community prepares Kenton village for homeless women to move in

*By Molly Harbarger*

*June 7, 2017*

On Saturday, 14 women will move into Portland's newest approach to the city's growing homelessness crisis. They will live in extra-tiny houses and share communal living duties as they work to find more permanent housing.

But on Thursday, the village still resembled a parking lot in most respects. A few dozen volunteers sweated in the morning sun to create green spaces and garden beds, build stairs and berms to make the Kenton village feel homey and connected to the North Portland neighborhood.

The village is one-year pilot project to demonstrate how tiny homes might be used to replace large shelters for some people who have trauma or resistance to living in close quarters with other homeless people. After a fast-tracked approval process that included support from a large majority of neighborhood residents the village is a version of a strategy tried in other communities, but a first in Portland.

Each woman will have her own sleeping and living quarters -- about 8-by-12 feet -- and will share kitchen and bathroom space.

Those communal facilities were just delivered that morning. The kitchen is a bright yellow shipping container with a large cafeteria-style window cut out and three walls of cabinets and counters installed. A trellis will be attached to the top to provide shade and privacy for the outdoor eating area that will be installed later.

The bathroom is perpendicular, a sky-blue container with a row of sinks and mirrors, two showers and porta-potties inside. Another portable toilet will be located behind the horseshoe of homes for easy night access.

The village was largely designed by Portland State University's Center for Public Interest Design, a branch of architecture that tries to apply design principles to social problems.

Monica Nunes, a student with a background in public health, shoveled dirt from a wheelbarrow onto the gravel lot to create a berm that will eventually be grassy and dotted with chairs or benches. There will be two berms on the site, serving the dual purpose of separating the women's living space from the eyes of people walking by on the street and also to encourage the residents to hang out together or enjoy a little nature in the midst of the city-owned former lot.

Nunes helped design one of the sleeping pods and the village. She, like many students on the project, consulted with the residents of Hazelnut Grove, another tiny house village for homeless people in the Overlook neighborhood, also in North Portland. Hazelnut isn't city-sanctioned and residents built their homes either themselves or with community volunteer help.

"Really, this model has come from the community of people who are houseless and have started innovating," Nunes said.

Todd Ferry, a research faculty member at the Center for Public Interest Design, said that input was essential. His students also worked closely with the Village Building Coalition, a group of advocates and homeless people who support efforts like Hazelnut Grove, the older Right 2 Dream Too rest stop and Dignity Village, the 17-year-old tent city-turned-permanent encampment.

They helped forge the basis for the Kenton village, which fuses elements from each. While the women who stay in Kenton will be responsible for their living space and set the rules for their community, they also will work with case workers and an on-site manager from Catholic Charities.

"How can we bring the community and spirit of Hazelnut Grove with what people will expect when the city becomes involved?" said Ben Mauro, Portland's housing resource development officer. "There's that oversight aspect that helps bridge the transition into permanent housing."

Neighbors were deeply involved in the project -- former Mayor Charlie Hales pitched the idea at the end of last year and new Mayor Ted Wheeler picked up the baton, lobbying for approval at a contentious meeting where residents voted.

Kenton residents and business owners have been involved in working out details for the village before and after the vote. Some even helped pick out the women who will live there.

Preference was given to women who lived in the neighborhood before losing their homes. Officials at the site said they aren't announcing the names of the women or making them available for interviews until they are settled in, to allow them time to adjust without a public spotlight.

Some residents also rolled up their sleeves Thursday. Tamara Bryan squeezed in a few hours before work that morning. She lives just outside Kenton boundaries, so she couldn't vote on the project, but has supported it and wants it to be successful.

"I like that the neighborhood can be involved so the women can be part of the neighborhood and not just be another project that's off on the fringes that people can't see," Bryan said.

## **911 issues must be addressed to keep citizens feeling safe: Editorial agenda 2017**

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board*

*June 7, 2017*

In the weeks since two Portland men were killed on a MAX train and another was severely injured after standing up in the face of racism and hate, many in the community have asked themselves, "What would I have done?"

Most of us would like to believe we could do something to protect or defend someone in such a time of need. Yet for many, the very best they could muster in a dangerous and extremely stressful situation is to call for help.

However, the City of Portland's Ombudsman reported Wednesday that 911 calls made from cell phones aren't being answered as quickly as the Bureau of Emergency Communications has reported. More frustrating, the report states that bureau leaders have known for at least two years that data was dead wrong.

Disturbing as that is, Wednesday's report comes on the heels of another by the ombudsman last December. That report uncovered how the bureau regularly loses thousands of 911 calls from cell phones. Further, the system fails to capture phone numbers of those hang-ups or disconnected calls to check back whether help was still needed -- as city policy requires.

Margie Sollinger, the ombudsman, told The Oregonian/OregonLive Editorial Board on Wednesday that issue remains. She points to 20,067 abandoned calls during the 2015-16 budget year. That's a large figure, which not only represents people potentially seeking help who didn't get it, but also another significant chunk of calls unaccounted for in the data.

All city bureaus must work, and aim to improve that work, using accurate data. That's especially true for one that operates daily in the realm of life and death situations.

At odds in Wednesday's report are bureau leaders' claims they have surpassed performance goals by answering 99.6 percent of calls within 20 seconds. The ombudsman found that those calculations don't take into account a screening system in place for cell phone calls that aim to weed out unintentional "pocket dials."

The screening system requires callers to push a button or make a sound if the call is real. The full screening message is 29 seconds for cell callers, which make up 75 percent of all calls that come in.

When those call numbers are corrected, the bureau falls far short of its 90 percent goal with 67.8 percent of calls answered within 23 seconds. Compared to an industry standard with a higher bar, the bureau only picks up 29.6 percent of 911 calls within 10 seconds.

In response to the report, the bureau's Interim Director Lisa St. Helen confirmed the corrected data and acknowledged the problems. She also said she has been "working to rectify" the technological issues since November 2015.

What's particularly ridiculous is that St. Helen and bureau leaders before her have argued that the 911 call center is understaffed. Yet when bureau leadership offer up faulty and overly rosy performance reports, they undercut their arguments and strip away the urgency for more operators that are very likely needed.

Thankfully, Mayor Ted Wheeler, who took back all bureaus recently as part of the budgeting process, has responded to these alarm bells. That's unlike other commissioners in recent years who have overseen the troubled bureau and either ignored whistleblowers or dismissed their concerns outright.

Wheeler is pushing for the City's Technology Oversight Committee to review a set of upcoming technological changes that St. Helen says will address the issues with cell phone calls. That was one of Sollinger's recommended actions. Wheeler also calls for a full review of the agency to look more generally at ways to improve operationally. Again, another good call recommended by Sollinger.

But the ombudsman has one more suggestion that the city should address.

The Bureau of Emergency Communications operates unlike any other department under the city's purview, moving forward with policy and purchasing decisions without an airing before the full council and the public. That must stop. In her response to the recent ombudsman report, St. Helen agreed it would be a good move to treat the agency like other bureaus. That should happen sooner rather than later.

These calls are valuable. People are often at their most desperate when they call 911, and the city must be more vigilant to be sure the system designed to help them is working at its very best.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Mayor has questions for law enforcement about Sunday protest response**

*By Lyndsey Hewitt*

*June 7, 2017*

Confronted by protesters at Wednesday City Council session, Mayor Ted Wheeler says 'This conversation is most certainly not over'

During a City Council session on Wednesday, June 7, a number of activists showed up to ask Mayor Ted Wheeler and city commissioners about police response to large protests that took place this past Sunday downtown. He didn't say anything specific, but that he too has questions about police response.

On Sunday, June 4, left and right wing groups gathered in competing protests and rallies downtown. Enforcement feared they could clash in a major way. Though there were 14 arrests, there were no major injuries or property damage.

However, strategies used to manage the crowds have come under scrutiny, including by the American Civil Liberties Union, which has released a statement condemning much of the bureau's response that day.

In addition to controversy over Portland Police Bureau using cellphones to photograph people's identification after detaining them in an area on Southwest Fourth Avenue pending investigation into disorderly conduct, questions have risen as to why some independent, right-wing militia groups, like the Oath Keepers and III Percent United Patriots, were aiding federal officers in arresting a counter protester.

A number of journalists captured video and photography showing the men helping the federal officers pin down a counter protester. On Tuesday, Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman went on OPB's "Think Out Loud" to discuss police response and said: "It's not uncommon if an officer is struggling with somebody or trying to arrest somebody, for a member of the public to come up and either render assistance, or just ask. So that's not that uncommon."

If it's not uncommon, it's concerned the U.S. Attorney's Office enough to review the incident, first reported by the Portland Mercury on Tuesday.

The incident is something that Mayor Ted Wheeler, who oversees the Portland Police Bureau, said he doesn't condone. When confronted by protesters at the council meeting, he said he has many questions about what happened on Sunday. He observed the protests from an operation center.

"I support the U.S. Attorney's investigation of that incident and that was not a Portland Police officer. That was a protective services officer who reports to Homeland Security, and as you'll recall, they're the ones who issued the permit for Schunk Plaza," he said on Wednesday of the militiamen. "That was not a Portland Police Bureau action and I do not support it."

Wheeler called for the federal government to revoke the permit issued to right-wing group Patriot Prayer for their free speech rally at Terry Schunk Plaza, fearing violent clashes between groups. The land belongs to the federal government. However, they did not find any reason to revoke the permit and it went on as planned.

Tensions between groups had been rising, especially following the stabbing of three people by white supremacist Jeremy Christian on a MAX train on May 26.

Wheeler didn't directly address the issue of Portland Police Bureau taking photos of IDs, but reiterated that he had many questions about police response.

"For the record ... this conversation is most certainly not over. I have questions. I'm going to formulate those questions properly," Wheeler said. "If I've learned one thing in politics, it's not just asking the question, but knowing which questions to ask, and how to ask those questions, so I'm doing that."

Separately, following public testimony by Danny Robbins, Wheeler addressed an issue that some activists have been angry over, when the Portland Police Bureau partnered with TriMet to provide buses to people participating in the "March for Free Speech" along Southeast 82nd Avenue in April. Christian participated in that march. It was also organized by Patriot Prayer and most participants were supporters of President Donald Trump.

Some have viewed the act of giving people bus rides back to Montavilla Park, where the march started (it ended at a Burger King along Southeast 82nd Avenue) as police giving special privileges to that group.

However, Wheeler said the buses were just a tactic to avoid clashes.

"One can disagree with whether or not that was the right call ... as the police commissioner I don't call tactics," he said.

He said that the group marched a "considerable distance from Montavilla. The decision was to either let them walk back to their cars or get them out of the neighborhood quickly."

To avoid any confrontation, he said the decision was to get them out of the neighborhood quickly to go home.

"You can disagree with that, but that was the decision that was made," Wheeler said.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Police Chief Mike Marshman Stayed Home During Sunday's Tense Rallies**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
June 7, 2017*

When Police Chief Mike Marshman **incorrectly told OPB yesterday** that his officers hadn't demanded pictures of demonstrators' IDs in order to release them from a police "kettle" on Sunday, it raised questions about how closely the chief had been monitoring the day's events.

It turns out there's a simple reason Marshman wasn't abreast of the pictures, which the ACLU of Oregon **believes were illegal**: Unlike Mayor Ted Wheeler, Marshman didn't monitor the rallies from the Portland Police Bureau's command center. He was at home.

"Chief Marshman was not in attendance on Sunday but was monitoring the event by police radio and phone," PPB spokesperson Sgt. Pete Simpson tells the *Mercury*. "Procedurally, the Chief is not the incident commander at these events so his attendance is not critical—and he's been to many of them and is continually updated on major developments."

Even so, Marshman's absence on Sunday is noteworthy. The chief is in the process of re-applying for his job, as Wheeler carries out a promised national search. More crucially, though: Prior to Sunday, all signs pointed to mayhem.

Remember, the Sunday "Rally for Free Speech" organized by local "alt-right" vlogger Joey Gibson occurred roughly a week after two alleged killings by a vocal white supremacist. With allegations flying and a robust anti-fascist response being prepared for the event, Wheeler went so far as to call for the free speech rally to be canceled. When the federal government refused to pull permits for the event, Wheeler and other leaders convened meetings with law enforcement at the local, state, and federal level.

This was a big deal.

The heavy local and federal police presence at the demonstration—and three counter-rallies in response—has been partly praised since Sunday, because there were no large-scale clashes between the various factions.

But local activists and the ACLU have also voiced concern. Some say Portland police were more interested in cracking down on leftist demonstrators than the alt-right folks in Terry Schunk Plaza. The police wound up using pepper spray, flashbangs and less lethal projectiles on demonstrators in Chapman Square. The PPB has said that's because the antifa folks were hurling bricks and other objects.

And the ACLU yesterday issued a statement strongly critiquing a police "kettle" at SW 4th and Morrison, in which riot cops surrounded a group of marchers, and demanded they have their pictures taken with their IDs in order to be released. Such a practice, the ACLU believes is illegal.

But Marshman, when asked about it on OPB's *Think Out Loud* yesterday, had no idea that had even occurred.

"I actually have not heard that at all frankly... That's not our practice, we do not do that," he said.

Simpson said immediately afterward that Marshman hadn't been briefed on that part of the day's enforcement, which suggests that the chief didn't have a true play-by-play of events from his house.

Meanwhile, both Wheeler and his chief of staff, Maurice Henderson, were posted up at the PPB's command center for the rallies. (Wheeler faced questions by a member of the audience at this morning's city council meeting, who wondered why he wasn't on the streets.)

Under **PPB policy**, the bureau has four designated "Crowd Control Incident Commanders" who have "the authorization and responsibility for all police actions at such events." According to that policy, Central Precinct Commander Kelli Sheffer is the default crowd control incident commander, unless Assistant Chief Chris Uehara decides otherwise.

Simpson says the incident commander on Sunday was a Central Precinct captain named Larry Graham. But it's Marshman—who's taken flack for police response to repeated marches and demonstrations since the election of Donald Trump—who'll be facing public pressure.