

The Oregonian

Portland offers grants to combat city's rising hate crimes

By Jessica Floum

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In an effort to combat hate crimes, the city of Portland plans to pay community groups to track incidents, support victims and train people to resist or disrupt hateful activity.

The grant calls on community groups, collectively eligible for \$350,000 in city grants, to act as a point of contact for those who have experienced hate crimes, to train individuals or groups how to resist hate crime, or to gather, analyze and publicize data about such crimes.

Neighborhood office Commissioner Chloe Eudaly will oversee the grant process, which is administered through the office's Portland United Against Hate coalition.

"Since the election, many Portlanders have asked me what they can do to help push back against bias and hate," Eudaly said in a statement. "We are initiating this grant process to get the resources that the City Council unanimously supported deployed as quickly as possible to address the urgent need for action."

Randy Blazak, a college professor who chairs the Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes, said the city's initiative is the first of its kind he's heard of.

On Monday, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement opened the grant application process, giving groups of deadline of August 15 to apply.

The city's move comes weeks after a man spewed hateful language at two teenage girls on a MAX train, then slashed the throats of three men who stood to defend them.

The grant program aims to support solutions originating from community groups close to and affected by the crimes, said Eudaly's chief of staff Marshall Runkel.

"What we're trying to do is put the shoe on the community's foot in stepping up and describing in detail to us what they believe appropriate responses are," Runkel said.

Increasing awareness of how to report hate crimes and making immigrant populations feel safe doing so is particularly important in today's political climate, said Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino.

The U.S. Department of Justice last week released a report that found United States residents experienced an average of 250,000 hate crimes per year between 2004 and 2015, but more than 50 percent of hate crimes were not reported to police from 2011 to 2015.

Groups seeking one of the new Portland grants can propose how they will become a trusted source to receive initial reports of hate crimes or launch a training program to increase individuals' and groups' awareness of hate acts and ability to resist them.

The city is calling on applicants to demonstrate how they will increase outreach to victims and make it easier to report hate crimes.

The application says the plans should "broaden awareness and understanding for how to resist and be resilient for the long-term struggle." It also calls for education on "how to be an ally and disrupt prejudice and hate activity."

Alternatively, applicants can propose a system for tracking and analyzing hate acts to inform policy decisions, to broaden community awareness and to stunt the rise in hate acts.

Ten percent of the grant funding, or \$35,000, is earmarked for groups that intend to assist with data analysis.

All applicants must demonstrate broad community impact and show that public funding for their initiative could inspire other sources of funding from the philanthropic and private community, Runkel said.

"We're really hoping the city can be the first money in," Runkel said.

Eudaly's office has actively reached out to Muslim groups and the LGBTQ community in order to maximize input from frequently targeted groups, Runkel said.

Her office expects the application process will be competitive, Runkel said. They plan to evaluate each application on the ability to deliver measurable results.

"The city needs to proactively engage in this and not just throw money at the problem," Runkel said.

This is especially important at a time when people are skeptical of city governments, said Blazak, the sociology professor. There is a perception that they throw "some money on a problem and then nothing changes," he said.

"This is the danger on the city level," Blazak said. "You want to do good and you hand out money and it just disappears."

Blazak recommends the city conduct a community-wide assessment to understand populations that could use the most support and systems that need improving.

"Once you give the grant, you survey to see if both the awareness of the issue changes and the availability of resources changes," Blazak said. A sociologist and criminologist, Blazak helps decide how to spend the National Institute of Justice Research grants.

Blazak said the city should focus on supporting the victims of hate crimes since they experience a similar level of psychological distress and trauma as victims of sexual assault.

That's because hate crimes tend to be more violent than the average crime because they are message geared, Blazak said.

"It's a reminder that in 2017, you're still not safe because of your religion or race or national origin," Blazak said.

While felt most immediately and deeply by the immediate victim, trauma from a hate crime ripples throughout a community, Blazak said.

Fear increases in the community targeted in the attack—Muslims and people of color in the case of Portland's fatal MAX train stabbing. Anxiety then increases in other populations that have or could be victimized such as the LGBTQ community or Jewish community, he said.

Typically, members of the community as a whole start to question who they can trust, Blazak said. And, he said, the place where the incident occurred can get stigmatized.

"Portland, Oregon now is a city that is associated with hate-filled violence," Blazak said.

If spent wisely, the grant money the city is offering through Portlanders United Against Hate is an opportunity to restore trust within the Portland community and to show the world how to respond to hate crimes, Blazak said.

"We're not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but Portlanders are good people who want to stand up," Runkel said. "I hope if we're successful with this that we provide people with clear pathways for how to stand up for each other in a way that's safe that makes our whole community safer and better."

The Portland Tribune

Homeless offer their wish list for shelters

By Lyndsey Hewitt

July 6, 2017

Nonprofit planning homeless shelters in Portland using survey to gives users' input on design, rules, amenities

Oregon Harbor of Hope, a private-sector initiative to address Portland's homeless crisis, is a small step closer to realizing its vision of building five or six 24-hour homeless shelters they're calling "safe harbors." The nonprofit conducted an independent survey of homeless people, and has a preferred site for its first shelter, though it isn't disclosing the location.

The survey of 103 homeless people was completed to "inform architects and facilities management people of the kinds of things in terms of amenities or features that are important to homeless people, looked at from what kind of place do you want a shelter to be," says Don Mazziotti, executive director of Oregon Harbor of Hope. The group includes about 60 or 70 people, he says. Mazziotti previously served as executive director of the Portland Development Commission, now called Prosper Portland.

Mayor Ted Wheeler has been supportive of the private-sector effort, which isn't using any public funding. At the head of the group is prominent Portland developer Homer Williams, of Williams & Dame, known most recently for its work developing the South Waterfront, which it touts as the largest economic development project in the city's history.

The nonprofit's efforts have been inspired by a campus-style facility in San Antonio, Texas, called Haven for Hope.

Williams initially sought to acquire a city warehouse in Northwest Portland on a site called Terminal 1, for a large multiservice center for homeless people modeled after Haven for Hope. After the city rejected that use for Terminal 1, he moved on to the safe harbors concept.

Opsis Architecture of Northwest Portland is working with the group to design a prototype of the first safe harbor shelter, with 20,000 square feet of space.

Before building the shelters, organizers wanted to understand what homeless people desire in a shelter space.

The survey results came shortly after the Point-in-Time Count results were released, the annual count of homeless people on the streets and shelters. The count recorded a 10 percent rise in the city's homeless population, although more people were in shelters instead of living outside.

"I'm not at all surprised by the 10 percent increase of homelessness," Mazziotti says.

Their survey, designed by Ibrahim Mubarak, founder of Right 2 Dream Too, and Michelle Kennedy, a consultant and volunteer for Harbor of Hope, was conducted at five places: Union

Gospel Mission, Sisters of the Road Cafe, the Salvation Army Women's Safe Shelter, Right 2 Dream Too, and Clackamas Service Center.

Homeless people gave feedback on design and amenities, as well as rules and operating procedures for the ideal shelter.

Among some of the results, a majority of respondents said they desired a building versus a tent camp or tiny house; access to hygiene and food; easy access to downtown; and a collaborative relationship with Portland police.

Although they've landed their preferred first site, Mazziotti says there's still much to be done.

"We have identified a site. However, we must confer with the mayor and City Council about it. We're not at that point yet," he says.

"So we're making slow progress; we'll put it that way," Mazziotti says. "We just want the private sector to continue to be involved and assume responsibility for the challenge."

What homeless people want

Survey findings

Oregon Harbor of Hope's independent survey of homeless people found they prefer:

- A clean, safe, secure space where they are protected from violence and threat of physical harm, can rest, and have their basic needs met — shelter from the elements, food and personal care.
- The best location is either downtown or close to downtown with easy access to transit and services.
- A strong code of conduct in "safe harbors" with zero tolerance for violence or abusive/disruptive behavior.
- Pets allowed in shelter spaces, with clear rules.
- Single people and couples can successfully reside within the same shelter, as long as sleeping spaces are kept separate.
- Camping in or around shelter spaces, but only with strict rules about where and how camping can occur.
- Shelters need a strong, cooperative, collaborative relationship with the Portland Police Bureau.

MOUNTED PATROL PUT OUT TO PASTURE

By Jim Redden

July 6, 2017

After four decades of service, the Portland Police Bureau is eliminating its popular horse mounted patrol unit.

After four decades of full-time service, the Mounted Patrol Unit of the Portland Police Bureau ended operations last Friday. Because the City Council cut its budget, police will no longer patrol city streets or participate in civic events on horseback.

"Everybody wants to know what's going to happen to the horses," Sgt. Marty Shell said while riding his horse, Major, on Friday.

According to Shell, all eight horses will be well taken care of. Once the council declares the horses and all equipment surplus property, five will go back to their original owners. The oldest horse, Olin, is expected to become a therapy horse for a nonprofit organization that works with disabled children and adults. Ranches are being lined up for the other two.

In a statement released Friday, Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman thanked the unit, saying it debuted in the Fourth of July parade in 1875 and was active on and off until emerging in its current form in the late 1970s.

"Those who have served in the Mounted Patrol all share a unique place in the bureau's history. I feel privileged to be a part of that group and will always remember my time there," Marshman said.

Although Shell will make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible, he thinks the council made a mistake by disbanding the unit to save money.

"I think it's a very short-sighted decision. Patrolling is all about community engagement, and the horses have thousands of positive contacts with the public every year."

Shell also is sad that the four nonsworn employees with the unit are losing their jobs.

"The trainer has been with us since 1998. The stable hands have been here since 2004 and 2005. We couldn't have operated without them. That's a lot of experience we're losing," Shell says.

The council's decision came as a complete surprise, he says. The unit had been moved out of its former home at Centennial Mills two years ago and has been living at The Hunt Club in Lake Oswego since then. But the bureau had agreed to relocate the horses to property already owned by the city along U.S. Highway 30 in North Portland. Friends of the Mounted Patrol, the nonprofit organization that supports the unit, already had raised enough money for new facilities there. But then the council cut the unit's funding out of the budget that took effect July 1.

After a short, planned vacation, Shell will return to work as a patrol officer. But after five years working with his same four-legged partner, it just won't be the same.

Council mulls pluses, minuses of water treatment options

By Jim Redden

July 6, 2017

Public hearing planned this coming Tuesday on UV vs. filtration plant, which costs more but does more

The Portland City Council is between a rock and a hard place when it comes to treating a potentially deadly parasite in the Bull Run Watershed. They can either spend \$105 million to prevent a problem that has not yet surfaced — or up to \$500 million to also prevent additional problems that don't yet exist.

The public has a chance to weigh in this coming Tuesday at the first public hearing on what to do about the cryptosporidium that was repeatedly found there earlier this year.

A reservoir in the watershed is the primary source of water for Portland and many suburban communities. Although drinking Bull Run water never has been proven to make anyone sick, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now requiring the city to treat the drinking water for the cryptosporidium parasite.

As Portland Water Bureau officials explained to the City Council at a work session last Tuesday, one option is spending \$105 million on an ultraviolet treatment plant that only kills the parasite. Another option is spending between \$300 million and \$500 million on a filtration plant that also would solve a number of potential future problems.

Or the city could commit to spending over \$600 million and do both.

All options likely will raise water rates. Although estimates are not yet available, council members were clearly uncomfortable with any increase last week, because the Water Bureau already is committed to completing a number of other costly projects. Those include replacing the open reservoir in Washington Park with an underground storage tank and building a large earthquake-proof water pipe across the Willamette River to guarantee service to westside customers after a natural or manmade disaster.

The council must make its decision by Aug. 11, just a little over a month from now.

Forcing the city's hand

Last week's work session was scheduled after the Oregon Health Authority announced it will revoke the city's variance from EPA rules requiring treatment for crypto — as the parasite is commonly called — on Sept. 22. Portland owns and operates the only large municipal water system in the country that does not currently treat for it.

The city received a variance from the health authority in 2012 because Bull Run water historically has been so clean. But the variance required the bureau to test for crypto and report its findings. No traces of crypto were found until this year, when 14 samples tested positive between January and March, exceeding the allowable level in the variance. The variance revocation was announced on May 19.

Water Bureau Director Michael Stuhr made his preference clear at last week's work session.

"If I was made of money, I would build a filtration plant and I wouldn't think twice about it. It does so many things," he said.

But that option could cost between \$300 million and \$500 million.

As Stuhr explained it, a filtration plant will remove all contaminants from the water, not just crypto. That includes anything else the EPA might ban in the future. It also includes ashes from wildfires and mud deposited in the reservoir by earthquakes and large landslides in the watershed.

Stuhr characterized both possibilities as low-probability, high-risk "Black Swan" events that water professionals should plan for. Although much more rain falls in the watershed than in Portland, it could become drier and more prone to fire in the summer because of climate change.

Of the 76 surface-water suppliers in the United States that provide more than 100 million gallons per day, 71 use filtration plants to meet EPA requirements, including the Clackamas River Water utility district and the Willamette River Treatment Plant serving Wilsonville. All but the one in Tacoma, Washington, were built before the crypto rule was adopted. Only five providers operate UV plants.

On the other hand, not only does a filtration plant cost more to build than a UV plant, it also costs more to operate every year. While a UV plant would cost \$2.5 million year, a filtration plant could cost \$4 million to \$5.5 million, in large part because of the energy required to push water through sand or a membrane.

And a filtration plant would take longer to build. The bureau has done a lot of preliminary work on a UV plant. It could be completed in five years. A filtration plant would have to be planned from scratch and could take 10 years or more to complete.

"Obviously there is a cost-benefit trade-off here," said Mayor Ted Wheeler, who asked for a more detailed analysis of the potential risks of either decision.

Option to build both

Wheeler and Commissioner Amanda Fritz also asked whether a UV plant could be built now and a filtration plant be built later. Stuhr said yes, noting that aging components of the UV plant would have to be replaced at great expense in about 25 years. The council could instead build it and set money aside every year for construction of a filtration plant that would be ready to come on line then, he noted.

Most of Portland's suburban customers prefer the city build a filtration plant, says Mark Knudson, CEO of the Tualatin Valley Water District. Knudson says the additional benefits — including allowing more water to be drawn from the Bull Run Reservoir every summer — outweigh the higher cost and longer construction time.

"This is a unique opportunity to move forward on a comprehensive solution to the region's water needs that includes filtration," says Knudson, who was at the work session but not invited to testify.

Crypto is transmitted through animal feces. It can cause cryptosporidiosis, a respiratory and gastrointestinal illness, which killed 104 people and sickened thousands of others in 1993 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That outbreak prompted the EPA to adopt its treatment rule.

Only a few strains of crypto are dangerous to people, mostly those in human and cattle feces. None has been found in the watershed, which is closed to people and farm animals. But the EPA rules do not distinguish between the different strains, Stuhr said.

The council has scheduled a hearing on Aug. 2 to take public testimony and make a decision.

Before that, the public can testify on the options before the Portland Utility Board, a citizen advisory group to both the water and sewer bureaus. It will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on July 11 in Room C of the Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.

The PUB will meet again the next week to make a recommendation to the council.

Willamette Week

City Hall Funds Tutoring Program to Connect Graying Boomers with At-Risk Kids

The city's elderly population is projected to jump to 17 percent.

*By Jessica Pollard
July 6, 2017*

Portland's reputation as a laid-back escape for post-grad Californians persists, despite evidence to the contrary.

Meanwhile, the city is growing older. The population over 65 is expected to make up 17 percent of the Portland metro area by 2030, up from 11 percent in 2010, according to the AARP.

And City Hall, which officially declared Portland the first “Age-Friendly” city in 2014, is taking its first concrete steps toward living up to that declaration.

As part of the budget passed last month, City Council will invest \$200,000 a year, for two years, into a program called Metropolitan Family Services Experience PDX.

The program aims to connect older adults, aged 50-plus, as tutors with elementary-aged students at “academic risk.” The program is based off of the similarly named MFS Experience Corps, supported by the AARP.

And it comes with ambitious aims, including getting 80 third-graders to grade-level reading levels, providing 5,000 hours of service and reaching out to over 700 children.

Mentors will be stationed at four “low-resourced” elementary schools: Alder, Mill Park, Sacramento and Woodlawn.

The program will also focus on recruiting on mentors from communities of color.

The Portland Mercury

Hall Monitor: Jumping Ship

Even More Agencies Are Bailing from Portland’s Problematic, Expensive Police Records System

By Dirk VanderHart

July 5, 2017

Say what you want about Clackamas County, but its various police departments are *very* polite about throwing shade.

Even as a host of law enforcement agencies from the county bail on the **City of Portland’s new police records system**—a more than \$12 million monster that was supposed to bring local cops into the 21st century, but has instead been criticized as unwieldy—they refuse to say anything negative.

“We just felt that system **didn’t meet our needs**,” Clackamas County Undersheriff Matt Ellington told me, refusing to offer any examples of how the Regional Justice Information Network (known as RegJIN) came up short. “I’m not here to badmouth another deal,” he said.

It was the same with West Linn Police Captain Neil Hennelly. “**I’m not going to badmouth anybody**,” he said when I asked why his agency has decided to leave RegJIN.

The majority of Clackamas County agencies have made the same call, Hennelly said. Many of them wouldn’t call me back or respond to emails.

But if the officers of Clackamas County are reluctant to say why RegJIN’s been frustrating, others haven’t been.

Last year, **we reported** that law enforcement agencies in Clark County, Washington had also decided to bail from the RegJIN system, saying **the records platform was cumbersome**, requiring far too much time for officers to fill out reports. The Portland Police Association, the city’s rank-and-file police union, offered the same criticism. (Others praised the system’s ability to let agencies easily share police reports.)

Now, these latest defections look like bad news for the folks still using RegJIN.

With agencies like the Clark County Sheriff's Office and Camas Police Department departing from the system at the outset of 2017, user licenses for the dozens of departments still on board became more expensive, records show. That will almost certainly be the case again with Clackamas County agencies opting out, though city officials in charge of the RegJIN roll out didn't respond to emails inquiring about cost increases.

Meeting minutes from a RegJIN "user board" of participating agencies show departments were already grappling with **higher-than-expected costs** for the system in March of this year.

More basically, the defections show Portland's still having a hard time wrangling a system that was vastly more expensive than initially planned. In 2013, **I reported** that the city had opted to spend **twice its original budget** for records management software from the Canadian company Versaterm. City Council made that decision even though the city had had fits with the last product it purchased from the company, a 911 dispatch system.

Police officials swore at the time the records system would be different. Four years later, that's clearly not the case.

By the way, for all their unwillingness to speak ill of Portland's system, both the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and West Linn PD are happy to talk about **their pick to replace RegJIN**, a product called Mark43 that's in use in Washington, DC.

"It just fits our business model better," says Hennelly. "It's very, very easy to use."

The Portland Observer

Affordable Commercial Space

Incentives offer help to minority businesses

*By Zachary Senn
July 5, 2017*

A new Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program by the city's economic development agency addresses a dramatic increase in retail rents and a decrease in vacancy rates which have resulted in the displacement of small businesses from urban neighborhoods.

Under the program, Prosper Portland seeks to assist underrepresented businesses, preserve the vitality of small businesses, provide business development opportunities that offer needed goods and services to the community, and advance the agency's goal to build an equitable economy. "This new tenanting program offers small, diverse businesses access to affordable commercial space. It demonstrates our new approach to projects to ensure that we're generating equitable outcomes from our investments and contributing to shared prosperity throughout Portland," said Prosper Portland director Kimberly Branam.

The program is currently available at two sites in Lents Town Center in southeast Portland. It will expand to include Alberta Commons in northeast Portland and a site in downtown Portland.

The program offers qualified businesses an equitable application process, access to space, and in some cases additional incentives designed to lower the barriers to entry for emerging and small businesses, such as reduced rent, tenant improvement contributions and technical assistance.

Priority businesses are those led by owners who are diverse in terms of race, genders and other demographics typically underrepresented in the business community, and who provide needed business services to the local community.

Applications to the program are now being accepted. The reviews of applications will begin on Aug. 1, followed by a rolling, first-come first-serve review process until all spaces are filled. For more information, contact program manager Leila Aman at amanl@prosperportland.us or 503-823-3305