

## **The Oregonian**

# **Multnomah Commissioner Loretta Smith to Run for Dan Saltzman's Seat on Portland City Council**

*By Jessica Floum  
September 13, 2017*

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith plans to run for Portland City Council next year.

She declared her intent to run for the May 2018 primary Tuesday after longtime city Commissioner Dan Saltzman announced that he will not seek re-election.

"The opportunity to continue to fight for the most vulnerable on the Portland City Council would be an honor and a privilege," Smith said in a statement, reported first by Willamette Week Tuesday.

Smith told The Oregonian/OregonLive Wednesday that she has "been effective doing that at the county level by helping to create jobs and supporting policies that keep seniors in their homes."

Smith also touted educating seniors about scams and the dangers of opioid abuse during her time as a Multnomah County Commissioner.

She has served on the commission for a tumultuous seven years, churning through staff and drawing allegations of misconduct. Seven chiefs of staff left after brief stints in her office.

The county commissioner has also had problems with money. A 2015 Willamette Week story reported that she spent more than \$81,000 of taxpayer money on travel and more than \$52,000 on nonprofit fundraisers.

An investigation by labor and employment law firm Fisher & Phillips found that she likely bullied staffers. She told one employee she "better not be pregnant," swore at staffers and made references to Muslims being terrorists, the investigation found. Smith's former policy advisor MeeSeon Kwon complained that Smith bullied her about her appearance and weight.

The investigation also found Smith likely violated a county rule that forbids her staffers from using county time and resources to work on her campaign.

Travis Graves, the county's chief human resources officer, emailed Smith and County Chair Deborah Kafoury after the investigation recommending Smith review rules related to creating a workplace free of illegal bias, prejudice, discrimination, harassment or retaliatory conduct.

Smith maintains that the claims were not substantiated. She highlighted that the investigator noted it was hard to confirm many allegations because they happened in one-on-one conversations.

"This is what politics looks like today," Smith said. "There are a lot of false accusations. ... I did no wrong-doing so I'm moving on from that. It's closed, and I look forward to representing the City of Portland and being on the city council."

Seven African American leaders in Portland signed a letter declaring their "unwavering support" for Smith. They chided county chair Deborah Kafoury for a lack of due process when it came to investigating Smith and asserted that racial biases motivated the inquiry.

"Our community has fought long and hard for African Americans—elected or not—to receive equal treatment under the law and we are outraged that did not occur under your leadership," they wrote.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City Loans for ADUs Considered to Help Stem Gentrification**

*By Steve Law  
September 14, 2017*

**In a new element of city's 'Right of Return' strategy, plan aims to keep North, Northeast residents, especially African-Americans, in the community**

The city of Portland might help long-term North and Northeast Portland homeowners build "granny flats" or accessory dwelling units, to help lower-income people — particularly African-Americans, stay in their homes.

Details are still being hashed out, but the city has discussed loans to homeowners to finance conversion of their basements into separate dwelling units. Homeowners could rent those accessory dwelling units to earn more income, or move into the ADUs and rent out the rest of their homes, says Kurt Creager, Portland Housing Bureau director.

The idea is one component of the city's grand strategy to stem gentrification in inner North and Northeast Portland and right some of the wrongs committed over several decades, when thousands of low-income people, particularly African-Americans, were displaced by a series of improvement projects.

The Albina area of inner North and Northeast Portland, the historic heart of Portland's African-American community, was in the path of least resistance — and cheapest land to condemn — when it came time to site and build Interstate 5 and Memorial Coliseum and expand Emanuel Hospital, though that expansion was later canceled. Property values in the area later skyrocketed, resulting in more displacement and gentrification, after creation of the city's Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area built around the new Interstate MAX line.

Now, as part of the city's N/NE Neighborhood Housing Strategy, it's embarking on the nation's most aggressive "right of return" policy, to lure back some of those displaced people or their descendants. Some money will be used to help those people buy homes or rent subsidized apartments in North and Northeast Portland.

The ADU pilot program is the flip side of that, an effort to prevent more displacements.

#### **Building family wealth**

Studies show that home equity is the largest chunk of many families' financial assets, and vital to their ability to pass on wealth to their children.

"In looking at the household wealth accumulated by different ethnic groups, the difference between African-American households and Anglo households is largely the value of the single-family home," Creager says. It's hoped that having a rentable unit will keep more lower-income people in their homes as their neighborhoods are gentrified.

"Eventually, their household value will be increased and their resiliency, if you will, will be expanded," Creager says.

### **Doling out loans may be tricky**

Eligible homeowners must have resided in the boundaries of the urban renewal area since at least 2001, he says. It's not clear what other eligibility criteria are being considered, though other parts of the city's "Right of Return" project give people "points" if they or their families were displaced by past projects. The city can't legally dedicate funds just to African-Americans, despite the disproportionate impact of past policies.

One proposed restriction for the pilot program is barring use of the ADUs as short-term rentals, such as for Airbnb. There already are plenty of short-term rentals in North/Northeast and most hosts aren't getting required city permits, Creager says. Some blocks have so many short-term rentals they are starting to feel like transient communities, he says.

The city also wants to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Creager evaluated some 2,700 properties being used as short-term rentals in the city. "I estimated that 1,000 had previously been affordable on the month-to-month market," he says.

Airbnb disputes that number, especially after it removed more than 500 listings by hosts who were using multiple properties as short-term rentals.

"Even if it's 500, it's 500 too many units that have been lost," Creager says.

### **Easier said than done**

"The concept makes a lot of sense, and the theory behind why they're trying to do the program makes a lot of sense," says Kol Peterson, a Portland ADU consultant and organizer of the annual ADU tour that took place last weekend.

Peterson, who discussed the pilot project with city officials, says the early notion was to restrict the loans to basement conversions, on the theory that those are the cheapest way to add ADUs.

But basements often have cracked foundations that are costly to fix, he says, and some conversions might require the homeowner to move furnaces and other home features out of the basement. Such conversions can cost up to \$50,000 or even \$100,000 or more, he says.

Peterson urged the city to also allow conversions of garages to ADUs, because those also can be among the cheapest ways to add apartment units to single-family lots.

Though the ADU pilot sounds rather narrow, it could turn out to be very ambitious and complicated, like the rest of the city's emerging Right to Return policies.

"No program like this has been done anywhere around the country, as far as I know," Peterson says.

"The challenge is going to be finding the right candidates."

# Mayor: City Budget Can't Keep Up Big Spending on Homeless

*By Jim Redden  
September 14, 2017*

## **Wheeler questions whether Portland can keep paying more for homeless services when other city commitments keep increasing, too**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler says the city cannot continue to spend a record amount of general fund dollars helping the homeless.

"This is not sustainable over the long term," Wheeler said last Tuesday, during a City Council work session on the Joint Office on Homeless Services, a Portland-Multnomah County agency that funds, coordinates and evaluates homeless programs.

The session was attended by most council members, plus Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, and city, county and joint office employees, including director Mark Jolin.

Requested by Commissioner Nick Fish to update the council on the office's progress since it was created in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the session quickly turned into a discussion about whether the city can match its current \$26.5 million commitment in next year's budget.

Wheeler signaled he might not recommend that much in the proposed 2018-2019 budget, which he will soon start drafting. A little more than 35 percent of this year's amount — \$9.4 million — is one-time money that won't be available then.

"I don't think the current level is sacrosanct," Wheeler said.

Before the session ended, the council agreed to hold a joint work session with the commission this fall to "really drill down and determine what we're buying," as Fish put it.

## **More served, more homeless**

The council's tone was surprising, given that Jolin was delivering mostly good news. Although the city's commitment to homeless services increased from \$25.3 million during the office's first year, so had the number of people who were served. According to Jolin's presentation, during the fiscal year before the office was created, 6,644 people either stayed in their homes, moved from homelessness into housing, or were served in emergency shelters. After the office was created, that number increased to 8,532.

Altogether, the office oversaw the spending of \$48.1 million last year, including \$17.5 million in county funds and \$5.3 million in state and federal funds. Most of the money was distributed through A Home for Everyone, an initiative of the city, county, Gresham and Home Forward (formerly the Housing Authority of Portland) created in 2013. Home Forward has a total budget of more than \$144 million. Altogether, Jolin said 29,000 people received some form of assistance from all of the programs in the last fiscal year.

The budget for the Joint Office of Homeless Service was increased to \$58.2 million in the current fiscal year, including \$20.6 million from the county, \$6.4 million in state and federal funds, and \$4.7 million from a new real estate title tax. Although Jolin promised even more people will be served as a result of the additional spending, Wheeler remained adamant that the city's commitment is too high.

City Budget Director Andrew Scott followed Jolin and presented a list of future needs and liabilities, ranging from increased pay for city employees included in current contracts to helping shore up the aging levees holding the Columbia River back throughout North and Northeast Portland. Scott noted the council had already increased its commitment to homeless services 165 percent over the past five years.

Although the general fund has been growing in recent years, Scott said agencies that depend on it would need to be cut next year if the current spending on the joint office is maintained, including the Portland Police Bureau, Portland Fire & Rescue and Portland Parks & Recreation.

Fish also noted a political issue facing the council. Although more people received services last year, the number of homeless in the city and county also increased, according to the most recent Point in Time count, the federally required tally of homeless people. The number of visible homeless people seems to have increased even more since Portland first relaxed its camping ban under former Mayor Charlie Hales.

"You need to help us sell your success," Fish told Jolin, who explained the affordable housing crisis was greater than expected and is currently creating more homeless people than can be adequately served.

### **Bond funds come with strings**

The tone of the discussion was also ironic because the council is preparing to approve a policy framework for spending the most city money ever on affordable housing, the \$258.4 million bond approved by Portland voters last November. The council is scheduled to approve the framework on Oct. 11.

Money for homeless and affordable housing services comes from different sources, each with its own conditions. General fund dollars, largely derived from property taxes and business license fees, can be spent however the council sees fit.

Historically, the largest source of affordable housing dollars have come from urban renewal districts, and must be spent on construction in the district where the money was raised. Currently, 45 percent of all urban renewal funds from tax-increment financing — property taxes siphoned off for urban renewal — must be spent on affordable housing within the districts. Traditionally, the city has partnered with nonprofit organizations and private businesses on such projects and paid only a share of their total costs.

The bond funding comes with new restrictions. Because of a provision in the Oregon Constitution, the city cannot partner with private parties on the projects. The city must own and operate the projects when they are finished.

This gives the city more discretion over the location, size and style of the projects.

### **Spending recommendations**

A 22-member Stakeholders Advisory Group met from April to mid-August to draft a policy framework to guide the spending. It recommends building or maintaining 1,300 units, as promised during the bond measure campaign. The group recommends the money should be spent outside of urban renewal districts and areas of high poverty, and should all be affordable to households earning 60 percent or less of the area median income (\$3,735 monthly for a family of four). Almost half — 600 units — should be affordable for households earning 30 percent or less of the median income (\$1,867 monthly for a family of four).

The group also made many recommendations about future tenants of the units. They should be the most vulnerable Portlanders, including the homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless,

those who have been discriminated against, and people needing mental health and other services to retain their housing.

"The group wrestled with a lot of competing priorities that are all important and reflected in the plan," says Jennifer Chang, one of the Portland Housing Bureau's liaisons to the group.

The draft framework is scheduled to be presented to numerous community organizations throughout the month. The bureau also is conducting mail and online surveys. The group will meet again at the end of the month to finalize the framework before submitting it to the council.

You can learn more and take the survey at [www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/74574](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/74574).

## **Metro Mulls Taxes for Affordable Housing**

*By Jim Redden*

*September 14, 2017*

### **Council President Tom Hughes says regional government has a role to play in providing lower priced homes for regional residents**

The Metro Council may ask voters to create a regional funding source to preserve and build more affordable housing, especially outside of Portland.

Ideas under consideration include a regional construction excise tax, a property tax measure, or some authority to dedicate property tax increases caused by new developments to such projects.

Such sources would need to be approved by voters in Metro's jurisdiction, the urbanized areas of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. Construction tax and development-related proposals also would have to be authorized by the Oregon Legislature.

The elected Metro councilors talked about the need for such a funding source at a work session last Thursday. No decision is expected until next year at the earliest, following discussion with the 24 city councils and three county commissions in Metro's jurisdiction.

During the session, Metro President Tom Hughes said the regional government should respond to the affordable housing crisis because the urban growth boundary it administers creates "upward pressure" on home prices. The UGB, as it is commonly called, limits where new development can occur.

"We want to save farm and forest land, but at the same time not price people out of the region because it is such a desirable place to live," Hughes said.

The discussion is part of the Regional Equitable Housing initiative launched by Metro in 2015 and spearheaded by Councilor Sam Chase. It grew out of the realization that the lack of affordable housing is a regional crisis, even though most of the attention has been focused on Portland.

According to an Aug. 28 memo to the council from Metro Planning and Development Director Elissa Gertler, a construction excise tax could raise \$10.8 million a year and a general obligation bond could raise \$500 million or more. The development-related proposal — similar to the urban renewal program in Portland and other cities — was raised by Hughes at the session and not included in the memo.

All three proposals would fall short of meeting the need. Gertler's memo says it would cost approximately \$5 billion to provide the 36,000 units needed by households currently earning at

or below 30 percent of the area median income (\$1,867 monthly for a family of four) in the region. It would cost about \$500 million more to provide the 11,100 units needed by those making 30 to 50 percent of median income.

The federal government considers households "rent burdened" if they pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent.

According to the memo, although more than half of all severely cost-burdened households live outside Portland, only one-third of the region's 41,353 regulated affordable housing units are outside the city.

And that is not likely to change without additional funding.

Only 6 percent of the current \$149 million a year available for new affordable housing projects is for areas outside Portland.

"Tackling the region's shortage of affordable housing will require new dedicated revenue tools, coordinated investment strategies, and a mix of short- and long-term approaches," Gertler's memo says.

Metro staff met last month with planning, community development, and housing authority directors from across the region to get their perspectives on the need for a regional approach to the affordable housing crisis. Gertler says there was widespread recognition of the crisis and the need for regional solutions that include both the preservation and construction of more affordable housing.

"Participants expressed general support for Metro to convene a conversation about opportunities," she wrote in her memo.

Her memo also discussed several challenges to preserving and building more affordable housing, both inside and outside of the city. Portland leaders have much more experience with affordable housing than those in most of the rest of the region, and even persuaded voters to approve a first-ever \$258.4 million affordable housing bond last November. But land and development costs are more expensive in Portland. Less costly locations are not likely to be as close to jobs and transit, increasing travel costs and congestion. And, regardless of where they are built, the most affordable units require the largest subsidies, meaning fewer of them can be built for the same amount of public money.

At the end of the session, the council authorized Metro staff to discuss the proposals with the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from local governments in Metro's jurisdiction, on Sept. 13. The council also agreed that each councilor should begin discussing the proposals with local elected officials in their districts to help create consensus for moving forward, especially since legislative approval will likely be necessary at some point.

You can read the memo at [tinyurl.com/yd3sy9ur](http://tinyurl.com/yd3sy9ur).

## Willamette Week

# Portland Mayor Backs Police After They Pepper Sprayed Crowd and Fired a Rubber-Ball Grenade at Antifa Protesters

*By Katie Shepard  
September 13, 2017*

**"We were clear about our expectations prior to Sunday and followed through on them," Ted Wheeler says.**

Portland police and partner law enforcement agencies fired pepper spray, pepper balls and a rubber ball grenade at masked antifascist protesters shortly after officers declared the demonstration an unlawful assembly Sunday in downtown Portland.

The extensive use of force follows months of police taking a different tack, allowing far-right activists and antifascist protesters to engage in small skirmishes on the streets without intervening.

Mayor Ted Wheeler and the Portland Police Bureau vowed a zero-tolerance policy on violence in anticipation of Sunday's demonstrations. Today, the mayor said police followed through on his expectations.

"We were clear about our expectations prior to Sunday and followed through on them," Wheeler says in a statement. "Our goal was to protect everyone's right to assemble while also protecting everyone's lives."

Activists and other observers have widely criticized the police on social media for tossing a rubber grenade into a crowd that mostly consisted of nonviolent protesters and journalists.

The violent clash between antifascist protesters and officers began around 1:15 p.m. and lasted for just under an hour. Police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley says the bureau will review each use of force and evaluate whether the tactics were used properly.

The Portland Police Bureau has been strongly criticized by civil-liberties watchdogs for its crackdowns on leftist protesters this year. In February, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon called violent arrests of protesters "shameful." In June, the ACLU repeated its criticisms—and said the mass detainment of protesters and reporters was likely illegal.

As a group of mostly-masked antifascist protesters marched toward downtown, police tried to maintain a line between the hundreds of far-left activists and just over a dozen members of far-right group Patriot Prayer. But as the groups neared the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Salmon Street, the police line broke and at least one antifa protester landed a kick to a Patriot Prayer member, then ran away.

At the same time, some people in the crowd threw small rocks and water bottles at the far-right group. At the intersection, police arrested two protesters, wrestling them to the ground over their discarded bicycles. Portland police formed a circle around the officers making the arrests.

Protesters and journalists stood around the officers, watching and filming the arrests. At least one water bottle was thrown at the officers, and police say one officer was hit in the head with an unidentified projectile. A blue smoke bomb was set off near the police.

Burley says the officers asked the crowd to move back for two minutes and when the group refused to move, an officer threw a "rubber ball distraction device" into the crowd. The device is essentially a rubber grenade that spews rubber balls in all directions as it explodes with a loud boom and a flash of bright light.

Video footage of the incident shows a single protester throwing a stick at officers. One of the cops then tossed the rubber grenade into a crowd of people filming the police from several yards away. Although the grenade was likely thrown in response to the stick being launched at police, video shows the device landed next to someone who had not thrown anything at officers.

Journalists tweeted that the grenade landed within feet of where they were standing.

"It is our intent that whatever device is used is used to get the bad actors away from the police," Burley says. "I think one of the tactics that is used [by bad actors] is to intermingle with peaceful protesters and observers."

At the same intersection, while police were making arrests, a masked man dressed in black approached the police and appears to try to interfere with the arrest. An officer responded by pepper spraying him. The officer then appears to continue to pepper spray at least two people who did not approach the police line, including a photographer who was taking photos of the officer pepper spraying the protester.

Another video shot at the intersection shows an officer shove a legal observer with the National Lawyers Guild who was wearing a green cap that the group uses to identify themselves from protesters.

"One video does not paint a complete picture of what is occurring," Burley says. "These events are quickly evolving."

Burley says he cannot comment specifically on what threats officers were responding to when using force Sunday because their reports have not yet been reviewed.

Oregon State Police also fired pepper balls into the crowd after officers reported seeing projectiles thrown toward police, Burley says. The balls emit plumes of an irritant similar to pepper spray.

Portland police allege that some people in the demonstration threw "chemical irritants" at police, and that these irritants also affected other protesters nearby. Police accused protesters of similar tactics at a June 4 protest that was declared a riot in emails between Homeland Security officials and Portland Police.

Although the demonstration that started at the waterfront was declared an unlawful assembly, Burley says police did not extend the declaration to a rally and march organized by Portland Stands United Against Hate that took place nearby in Schunk Plaza.

Police redirected those marchers, who had a permit, in an attempt to keep them safe and separate from the other demonstration, Burley says.

## **The Portland Mercury**

# **Old Town Neighbors Are Fighting a New Homeless Shelter by Citing a Decades-Old Agreement**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
September 13, 2017*

The accusations flew on Wednesday, September 6, as an array of city and county officials sat before residents and business owners in Old Town Chinatown, making the case for a new homeless shelter in a neighborhood that's long been the city's social services center.

"This is criminal!" a man shouted from the crowd at one point during the informational meeting.

"Are we friendliest to tourists or are we friendliest to the homeless?" asked another. "That's a big difference."

In other words, the meeting resembled those that have occurred in every corner of the city where a shelter is contemplated—with a key difference. Again and again, the incensed Old Town business owners brought up a "no net gain" agreement sketched out in the late '80s that they said ensured social services would not meaningfully increase in the neighborhood.

"Is no net gain a deal or not?" someone shouted. "Just answer the damn question!" another urged.

Today there are four year-round homeless shelters in Old Town, comprising some 328 beds (and more in the winter). The county's Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS)—always diligent in scrambling to find new options—is proposing one more: a shelter at the corner of Northwest 3rd and Glisan that could offer as many as 200 beds.

That's potentially a 61 percent increase in shelter beds in the neighborhood—something many in Old Town believe flouts the old agreement. Last week, those claims were brushed aside.

"It's not a binding agreement," said Christian Gaston, policy and research director for County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

Berk Nelson, who handles homelessness issues for Mayor Ted Wheeler, agreed. "We're not in 1980 anymore," he said. "We're talking about development to address the needs that are in Old Town Chinatown."

Those answers were misleading at best.

While you'd be hard-pressed to argue Portland couldn't use more shelter space, the "no net gain" agreement reached 30 years ago isn't the dusty relic officials suggested. It has tendrils that reach into the present day.

Repeatedly over the years, officials have sketched growth plans with an eye toward limiting expansion of services in Old Town. Just last week, Portland City Council began discussing the massive Central City 2035 plan, which includes language that says Portland should "limit the significant expansion of these services and... not locate additional major social services in the district." The council approved similar language in 2015.

But while Old Town stakeholders the Mercury spoke with understand pieces of that history, neither Wheeler nor Kafoury's staff appears to have grasped the extent of the city's effort to honor the old deal prior to last week's meeting.

“They were there to educate us about homelessness and the need for this shelter,” says Gloria Lee, executive director of the Giving Tree, an Old Town nonprofit. “Clearly they had not done their homework.”

Now that’s changing. Wheeler spokesperson Michael Cox says his office is currently digging into the city’s commitments in Old Town, including the policy not to “locate additional major social services” currently before council.

“That particular wording is something that we’re looking at right now,” Cox tells the Mercury. “We’re doing the same thing you are, which is to look through the history of those agreements.”

The so-called “no net gain” policy began in 1987, as a groundbreaking truce between businesses and social service providers in what was at the time called North Downtown.

The tensions that existed then were very much the ones that persist today—businesspeople were pushing for revitalization, while social services feared development would push out needy Portlanders.

The result was the “Clark-Shiels agreement,” a deal sketched out between Donald Clark, then the executive director of Central City Concern, and Roger Shiels, who represented business interests and property owners in the neighborhood.

The six-page pact [PDF] set out a conciliatory tone, in which developers would commit to retaining 252 shelter beds within the neighborhood, along with the 1,030 single-room occupancy (SRO) units at the time. In return, social service providers couldn’t expand operations.

“This program will be a part of a regional program whereby all districts and neighborhoods within the Central City and the city in general will accomodate [sic] housing and social services for resident low- and zero-income persons,” the agreement read.

It might have been little more than a handshake agreement had city council not gotten involved.

In May 1987, the council formally commended the agreement via a resolution. And when the body approved a growth plan for the central city the following year, it explicitly limited the number of shelter beds and SRO units within the district, as set forth in the agreement—including a limit of 252 shelter beds.

In 1993, the city switched things up. As part of a set of zoning amendments aimed at ensuring Portland wasn’t running afoul of the federal Fair Housing Act, officials adopted a policy that sought to “maximize housing choice” while discouraging “the concentration of low- or no-income households.” Under the policy [see page 55 of this document], the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood was one of 18 districts citywide where new low-income housing and shelter projects were ineligible to be funded with city cash.

In 1999, the “no net gain” agreement was once again cited in a development plan for Old Town.

To be clear, the concept has been overridden over the years. It was a minor hurdle for officials as the city worked to develop Bud Clark Commons, opened in 2011, and didn’t stop the establishment of the self-run homeless camp Right 2 Dream Too, which was founded under protest of city homelessness policies.

Even so, the spirit of the agreement continues to feature in city plans. As part of charting growth in the central city, council in 2015 adopted a West Quadrant Plan that said social services wouldn’t be meaningfully expanded in Old Town.

With the latest outcry from some in the neighborhood, the city and county are figuring out how to square that lengthy history with a project officials believe is vital.

The new shelter might be a long-term resource, they say, where other recent emergency shelters have had expiration dates. (For instance, a 200-bed shelter in East Portland is slated to go offline at some point in the near future.)

More than that, city and county officials say Portland's in crisis. They point to a recent count that suggests homelessness in the county increased by 10 percent in the last two years, and to the housing state of emergency declared by Portland City Council in 2015.

And while the county is still trying to reach a deal to lease the vacant warehouse it has in mind, officials say the new shelter would have benefits for Old Town.

"There's no doubt in my mind the shelter advances your desires to have a more safe, livable community," JOHS Director Marc Jolin said at last week's meeting. "So much has changed. When we look today at what the need is... this is a good option."

What comes next is uncertain. JOHS spokesperson Denis Theriault declined to comment on the city's commitments in Old Town, noting that it wasn't a county decision. Officials at the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Prosper Portland (formerly the Portland Development Commission) deferred questions elsewhere.

Ultimately the call on how to proceed will be up to Wheeler's office, which is weighing its options.

"We're thinking about it," says Cox. "We just have to do more work."

## **Hall Monitor: Saltz's Last Waltz**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
September 13, 2017*

### **Facing a Stiff Challenge, Portland's Longest Commissioner Is Hanging Up His Spurs**

COMMISSIONER DAN SALTZMAN is not known as the most dynamic or unpredictable member of the Portland City Council, but on Tuesday, September 13, he had one hell of a surprise in store.

In a reversal that shocked City Hall staffers and appeared to amuse a political rival, Saltzman sent out a news release just before 2 pm announcing he was hanging it up. As of December 2018, after a quarter century in politics, Portland City Hall's longest-serving current elected official is apparently re-joining private life.

"Over the last few weeks I have reflected on that record of nearly 25 years of public service as a commissioner at Multnomah County and at the City of Portland," the statement read. "As satisfying as it might be to look back at accomplishments, what really counts is what comes next. That reflection has led me to the conclusion that I can have the greatest impact on the issues that truly motivate me outside of City Hall."

I was as shocked as anyone—until I realized just how much I shouldn't be.

Yes, Saltzman has been raising money with obscene ease from a cast of supporters he's amassed over those 25 years. He'd been collecting checks as recently as September 6, state records show, and had amassed \$65,850 in cash this year alone.

With that money, Saltzman had once again employed the services of veteran campaign consultant and long-time ally Mark Wiener. He'd been accepting contributions of free office

space for the campaign. The Saltzman machine, which hasn't once lost a race for city office, was chugging along.

Then Jo Ann Hardesty lobbed a wrench.

In early August Hardesty paid a visit to Saltzman, telling him she was gunning for his job and asking him not to put up a fight.

Saltzman rebuffed her, but even as the commissioner's office hyperbolically guaranteed he was committed to the race, aides privately worried that Hardesty—a local NAACP president, former state lawmaker, and Saltzman's outspoken opposite in many ways—might sap a lot of energy.

Saltzman took the entire week ahead of Labor Day off, with his staff insisting he not be disturbed. He was reflecting on his future at the city, and evidently not finding much reason for there to be a future at the city.

"I expected that in January," Hardesty deadpanned when I broke the news to her of Saltzman's announcement. "I didn't expect that now."

Her race for office might now become more difficult, she suggested—an 18-year incumbent is the "perfect opponent."

In the weeks and months to come, the race to replace Saltzman is likely to become a feeding frenzy of candidates. County Commissioner Loretta Smith has already said she'll run, and with Saltzman out of the picture, seasoned state legislators and past also-rans might also come running.

It should yield a compelling debate about the future of our city.

But as much as this newspaper has been at odds with his sleepy style (the Mercury didn't endorse his last run) it should also include a nod to Saltzman's service as an effective bureau manager and dedicated policy maker.

## **The Portland Business Journal**

### **Willamette River Boosters Want to Turn Duckworth Dock into a Recreational Nexus**

*September 13, 2017*

A Portland group that advocates using the Willamette River to its utmost potential has unveiled a way to make the Kevin Duckworth Memorial Dock more user-friendly.

The Human Access Project revealed a rendering of how the dock, along the Esplanade on the Willamette's east banks, "could be reconfigured with minimal investment." The group rolled out its proposals with the blessings of Mayor Ted Wheeler and commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Dan Saltzman.

The proposals include a swimming lane, as well as a bevy of other options that provide access to the Willamette.

Essentially, the revamped Duckworth Dock — named after the late Trail Blazer Kevin Duckworth — would become a non-motorized facility that allows swimming, fishing and a staging areas for paddleboarders, kayakers and canoeists, among others. The city is working with the Oregon State Marine Board to allow the dock to help such Willamette users.

Human Access Project began touting the Willamette as a recreation spot after the \$1.44 billion Big Pipe project helped mostly eliminate sewage from seeping into the water.

The \$1.5 million Duckworth Dock "will be a one of a kind amenity for the emerging Lloyd District and Inner Northeast Portland which is expected to get more densely populated," Wheeler said in a release. "Every quadrant of Portland needs to have a way to have access to our cities river and different ways to do it. The more we can get people to the river's edge and playing in it, the greater connection our citizens will have to our river."

The Human Access Project is a nonprofit that looks to bolster access to the Willamette, which, in turn, would create more stewards for the river.

## **The Skanner**

### **Gang Designation to Sunset**

*By Christen McCurdy  
September 13, 2017*

Advocates who pushed to end the Portland Police Bureau's 20-year-old gang designation are cautiously optimistic about last week's announcement the database would be purged by Oct. 15.

Last fall The Oregonian reviewed a modified version of the list and found that of 359 people on the list, 64 percent were Black, though African Americans make up just 7.5 percent of the city's population.

"It's one-up for the minorities, it's one-up for the people who've always been condemned in our city," said Ronisha Harris, who told The Skanner she discovered she was on the gang list just a few years ago, when she tried to plan a 40th birthday party at a Portland golf course.

Venue staff told her police had approached them to dissuade them from hosting the party, because she was a gang member.

The bureau's policy was to notify suspected gang members and affiliates of their status with mailed letters. Harris said she never received one, and when she contacted the city she was told her letter had apparently been sent to the wrong address.

Harris was arrested once on a drug charge when she was younger, but said she has a clean record otherwise. She was never part of a gang, she said, but she knew both Crips and Bloods growing up.

"I was married to a Crip for 18 years. They said I'm a Blood. Both my children's fathers were Crips," she said.

Harris' brother, Durieul, was killed in a 2013 shooting outside the since-shuttered Fontaine Bleau nightclub in Northeast Portland. Other media have said both Durieul Harris and Xavier Dorrel Bolden, who was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison this spring, were both gang members. Harris has said her brother was never part of a gang, but also appreciated that gang involvement was not discussed in the trial, since the police said the shooting related to a personal matter.

"That man was tried for the crime he committed, not because of his ties or things he had nothing to do with. That has never been brought up, which I thought he was a plus," Harris said. "They

judged him on the acts that he committed and the acts that he committed as a human being. They tried him on his merits as the man that he was.”

Harris is cautiously optimistic about the change, but worries police will find more covert tools to engage in profiling people of color.

“It’s a big win for the young men and women who are on that list. But it ain’t over,” Harris said.

At Friday’s meeting of the Community Peace Collaborative, PPB’s Acting Tactical Operations Capt. Andy Shearer and Capt. Mike Krantz acknowledged they would have to “find new tools” to investigate violent crimes.

They also said the change shouldn’t be read as an indication that gang-related criminal activity is a thing of the past in Portland.

“The idea behind removing the gang designation will ensure investigators will look at the specific criminal behavior of people who are associated with criminal organizations. Officers will continue to investigate crimes associated with criminal organizations,” said PPB spokesperson Chris Burley. He also confirmed the current list includes White supremacist gangs and that affiliation data will be scrubbed along with other gang designations.

According to police bureau spokesperson Sgt. Chris Burley, shortly before Oct. 15 those on the list will be notified that the bureau will not be documenting them as gang members.

Krantz and Shearer credited the change to a two-year behind-the-scenes push by former assistant chief Kevin Modica, who retired in July, and Black Male Achievement, a city program dedicated to improving outcomes for Black men and boys.

In 2015 the bureau put out a request for public comment on a policy directive and BMA convened a workgroup to draft recommendations.

Workgroup member Erious Johnson, the director of civil rights for the Oregon Department of Justice, wrote a white paper recommending that the gang designation be dropped. Johnson is no stranger to law enforcement profiling: last fall he sued the state DOJ after discovering he was being profiled by his own department. (The investigator who created Johnson's file sued the DOJ in March, accusing the department of inappropriate termination.)

Robbins said his office intends to be a partner to develop new tools for investigations that will be appropriately transparent.

“Our hope is that we’ll be able to continue working with PPB to ensure the policy doesn’t go below ground,” Robbins said.

Robbins and steering committee member Justice Rajee said individuals they heard from said they were more likely to be pulled over in North and Northeast Portland, even after moving away. They also said because the list is based on relationships, it discouraged continued communication between family members and friends who weren’t involved in gangs with friends and family who were. (Harris told The Skanner she was warned she would be placed on the list again if she were seen or photographed with friends or family with gang ties.)

Rajee said that actually locks gang members into the life, since friends and family are more likely to help someone leave gang life than law enforcement.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler spoke briefly at the Community Police Collaborative meeting Friday, saying the designation’s sunset was too long coming and was the right thing to do.

“I certainly heard loudly and clearly from the community that this was their expectation. The folks in the police bureau heard that expectation and they’re going to make it work,” Wheeler said.

## OPB

# Portland Officer Use of Distraction Grenade During Protest Under Review

*By Conrad Wilson  
September 13, 2017*

Crowd control tactics of Portland’s police officers are once again under scrutiny following a rally downtown Sunday.

A video that’s gone viral appears to show a police officer at the rally throwing a crowd control grenade directly at a documentary filmmaker, possibly hitting people before the device exploded on the ground.

The following video shot by Paul Kachris-Newman contains sensitive language.

The officer was standing in Lownsdale Square near the corner of Southwest Salmon Street and Third Avenue, just across the street from the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse.

The device was actually a “rubber ball distraction device,” according to police. It’s similar to a flash-bang grenade. Both create a loud bang. But rather than a loud noise followed by a flash of light, the distraction device used Sunday exploded and projected rubber balls.

In the video — shot Sunday as anti-hate group protesters marched downtown — the male officer stands between protesters and fellow police officers who are on the ground making arrests. The officer reaches for the device on his vest and then turns his back to the crowd filming the incident. A moment later, the officer turns to face the camera and appears to throw the device underhand at the documentary filmmaker, later identified as Paul Kachris-Newman.

Another video of the same incident taken from a wider angle shows a protester next to Kachris-Newman throwing what appears to be a wooden spoon at the police officer before the officer deploys the device.

A third video catches yet another angle, this time from the side. It shows what appears to be the wooden spoon landing several feet short of the officer, who then throws the grenade.

The following video shot by Doug Brown of the Portland Mercury contains sensitive language.

Various versions of the video spread widely on social media in the days after the incident, with critics saying the device did not need to be used and that police overreacted.

The Portland Police Bureau said it’s reviewing the encounter.

While it is not clear yet what prompted the officer to use the device, the videos do show the tense environment officers and protesters were in — as well as the high level of scrutiny police decisions can come under when force is used at a largely peaceful protest.

Police say at least one officer was injured when a thrown water bottle hit him in the face during the moments captured in the videos. A second officer suffered a twisted ankle at the protest, but it is not clear if it happened in the same incident.

Kachris-Newman said he sees multiple ways the videos might be interpreted.\

“It’s kind of like a Rorschach test, you’re going to be able to read this situation in a lot of different ways,” he said.

Kachris-Newman said he felt the officer was throwing the canister at him, rather than trying to use the grenade to establish a perimeter.

A 2015 investigation by ProPublica found flash-bang grenades are used by law enforcement with little oversight and can cause serious burns and other injuries. Because of dangers to both officers and people in the area, some police departments have dramatically curbed their use.

Kachris-Newman said he was at the rally to gather footage for an upcoming documentary, not as a protester. He said it was a tense environment from almost the beginning.

“I always try and remain mindful of a safe distance,” he said. “I’m typically not the closest camera operator. And if I’m asked to move at all, I do that. So I was getting as close as I could, because I realized that the person being arrested — it looked like a particularly aggressive situation.”

The officer was surveying the perimeter, Kachris-Newman said. The officer looked at him, looked away and then turned back to Kachris-Newman.

“In a matter of less than a second [the device] ricocheted off myself onto a counter-protester and then onto the ground,” Kachris-Newman said.

Videos from different angles make it harder to tell if the device hit Kachris-Newman first or a masked person standing nearby.

Kachris-Newman was backing away quickly when the flash grenade exploded.

“It was quite loud,” he said. “I had trouble hearing for the rest of the day.”

Regardless of the officer’s reasoning, Kachris-Newman said he was frightened.

“I’ve never had anybody throw something that I was under the impression would explode or detonate toward me,” he said.

Kachris-Newman said he understands that there’s some implied risk in attending what is sure to be a tense protest, particularly when past events have resulted in isolated incidents of violence and vandalism.

He said he posted his video because he believes the officer was negligent and made a “poorly constructed move.”

“There are more appropriate ways to, I believe, regulate nonviolent observers,” Kachris-Newman said. “And if employing a flash canister was indeed necessary, I don’t know if there’s ever an appropriate time for it to be thrown towards individuals.

“I feel like that cannot be something that we let slide without a broader conversation about it.”

Portland’s Independent Police Review has opened an investigation into how Sunday’s rallies were handled. Portland Police Bureau spokesman Sgt. Christopher Burley said “officers had taken several projectiles” before the flash grenade was tossed.

“As reports are compiled and a review process proceeds, I will have a more complete understanding of what protestor actions the officers were reacting to,” Burley said in an email.

Through a spokesman, Portland Mayor and Police Bureau Commissioner Ted Wheeler supported the actions of officers.

“We were clear about our expectations prior to Sunday and followed through on them,” Wheeler said. “Our goal was to protect everyone’s right to assemble while also protecting everyone’s lives.”