

## The Portland Tribune

# Contractors to City: Lead Dust Regulations Aren't Necessary

*By Daniel Forbes  
September 25, 2017*

**City committee asks Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's staff to 'identify what's broken and needs to be fixed.'**

Appearing before builders, contractors and others at a Portland Bureau of Development Services committee meeting last Thursday, Marshall Runkel struck a conciliatory pose. But the builders weren't buying a proposal from his boss, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, to revamp housing demolitions in Portland with an eye toward limiting the spread of dangerous lead dust.

Referring to the "sweeping" regulation, Rob Humphrey, vice chairman of the Development Review Advisory Committee, pressed Runkel: "I'd like to see a statement in the proposal of what's broken. Identify what's broken and needs to be fixed."

Eudaly's proposal, first reported by the Tribune last week, would require contractors to remove lead-containing "window frames, doors, door frames and siding" prior to demolition. Exceptions would be made for homes built after 1960 and those testing negative for lead.

Humphrey, who works as a permit facilitator helping builders run the BDS applications maze, said such requirements aren't needed. "We already have certified companies doing this," he told Runkel. "We make sure we know about any hazardous material, and that no one gets hurt."

That became a refrain from the DRAC members representing building interests. Michael Harrison, a lobbyist for Oregon Health & Science University who's been involved in several OHSU construction projects, said that in "90 percent of cases builders hire certified contractors who are doing the right thing."

That claim, echoed by two other DRAC members, was not backed up by any documentation. A Portland Tribune review of more than 100 demolition permit application packages found some two dozen certifications filled out incompletely or incorrectly, making it impossible to know if the contractor found lead paint on the building.

In addition, another permit facilitator, Kevin Partain of Urban Visions, usually stated on the demolition applications he filed that a survey of asbestos and lead paint would take place in the future. But there is no documentation that such work was done. BDS reports that Partain handled 67 of the bureau's 354 total demolition projects in 2016, or just shy of one in five. In 2015, Partain facilitated one in six permits.

DRAC member Justin Wood of Fish Construction NW Inc. did not attend the meeting but sent a statement saying contractors already practice what Eudaly is calling for. (Partain has facilitated three demolition applications for Fish.) "If lead or asbestos is found in the home, then we hire licensed contractors who specialize in hand remediation and removal of these items," Wood wrote. "The homes are not demolished until the hazardous materials are removed."

Wood's boss, Jeff Fish, in an interview with the Portland Tribune, said there's no need to remove siding or frames that have been painted with lead-based paint.

"There's no reason to suppress the dust," Fish said. "There's no lead dust in the air ... You can spend all kinds of money doing stupid stuff."

In an email, Wood said he was traveling away from his office and couldn't provide specific properties that had received "hand remediation" prior to demolition.

He wrote, "If lead or asbestos is found in a home and they are at levels that are required to be remediated or removed, then yes they are."

But while the state regulates asbestos removal currently, there are no laws on lead levels prior to demolition.

Eudaly's proposal now goes to a DRAC Demolition Subcommittee where BDS staffer Nancy Thorington will help revise the language. Runkel said he's prepared for a "deep dive with the Demolition Subcommittee over many meetings to get the details right." Then, at some point, he'll start talking with his counterparts on other commissioners' staffs.

In a phone interview after Thursday's meeting, Demolition Subcommittee member Robert McCullough said it will be important to track the details of the legislation. "The builders aren't going to take out an ad saying that lead is good," he said. "They'll go to work on the fine print."

One looming detail is the question of enforcement — and specifically the fines for any violation of new regulations. The proposal refers only to a fine "X times the cost of the permit." (Total permitting costs for a typical unit in Portland are around \$25,000, according to BDS spokesman Dave Austin.)

After the meeting, Runkel said fines were "up for debate."

BDS Interim Director Rebecca Esau, interviewed after the meeting, said she thought \$10,000 for noncompliance could serve as a "floor." The "ceiling," she said, "has to be something that hurts." Otherwise, violating the regulation becomes "just another cost of doing business."

McCullough said the fine "has to be at least \$25,000 — it can't be less."

Historically, BDS staff have not done field investigations to ensure compliance with removal of hazardous materials at demolition sites. There's no mention of site inspections in Eudaly's proposal, and Runkel has previously spoken of relying on neighbors with cameras to serve as the city's enforcement.

Esau said she's awaiting her marching orders from the city but thinks devoting the time of one-and-a-half staff members to field enforcement is "reasonable" to police the 330 demolitions per year that Portland has averaged since 2014.

McCullough said it's not surprising that contractors and builders oppose new regulations that will add time and cost to their projects. But he senses a different mood at the Bureau of Developmental Services, which not only has a new interim director but also a new commissioner overseeing operations.

"My money's on Eudaly," he said. "She hasn't been captured by BDS. That's a lot different than before."

## Willamette Week

# Multnomah County Prosecutors Take a Hard Line Against Protesters Arrested in the Portland Streets

*By Katie Shepherd  
September 26, 2017*

**The mayor wanted a crackdown after May Day. Thanks to charging decisions, he's getting one.**

Prosecutors and defense lawyers are increasingly at odds about a question that will persist in Portland as long as Donald Trump is president: how to resolve the arrests of local protesters.

On Sept. 25, prosecutors made a splash in the most prominent case to emerge from downtown protests and vandalism on May Day. Damion Zachary Feller, 23, was sentenced to five years in prison for throwing lit flares into a police car and a Target store lobby during the May 1 melee.

But most protesters get arrested for far more benign behavior—and yet the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has ratcheted up the consequences for them.

The crackdown stems in part from the May 1 protests, which got out of hand.

Police in military gear declared the May Day march a riot. Officers abruptly demanded that the crowd go home. Masked demonstrators instead ran wild, getting airtime on CNN and Fox News by setting bonfires on the light-rail tracks, smashing store windows and trashing a police vehicle.

In the aftermath, Mayor Ted Wheeler, channeling the frustration of downtown business owners and many commuters, asked local prosecutors to get tough with protesters.

"There are people who are habitually engaged in vandalism or violence in our community," Wheeler told KATU-TV on May 3. "They shouldn't just walk scot free. They will be prosecuted."

But before prosecutors could do that, Multnomah County's chief criminal judge changed the rules of engagement.

In June, Judge Edward Jones acquitted three defendants who had been arrested at protests and charged with the same traffic violation: failing to obey a police officer. Jones ruled in those cases that a person who was passively resisting could not be charged with the infraction the DA's office had levied.

His reasoning came from an Oregon Supreme Court case, *State v. McNally*, which established in April that no one may be charged with a misdemeanor for "interfering with a peace officer" while passively resisting an officer's orders.

Jones tells WW he acquitted the three protesters because he felt prosecutors were using a lighter charge "so they would not have to give people jury trials and to avoid defending the passive resistance clause."

Jones' ruling reduced the options available to the Multnomah County DA. So prosecutors ended their previous practice of charging protesters with a traffic violation, which let them off with a warning and eight hours of community service.

Instead, the DA's office began charging most people arrested during a protest with second-degree disorderly conduct—a class B misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

The effect has been exactly what Wheeler wanted: a legal crackdown. Protesters who don't think they did anything wrong are accepting a plea deal to reduce the misdemeanor charge to a violation, fearing that losing a criminal case could land them in jail and threaten their jobs.

The harsher approach has divided observers of Portland street activism. In a city that claims to be united against the Trump presidency, critics say the mayor and prosecutors are taking a law-and-order stance against activism.

"The prosecutors know they will lose at the traffic violation trial, so the prosecution uses the threat of criminal charges to coerce a plea deal," the Portland chapter of the National Lawyers Guild says in a statement. "After valiant efforts to challenge power constructs in the streets, protesters are effectively prohibited from doing so in the courts."

Deputy District Attorney Haley Rayburn, who has handled most of the protester cases in Multnomah County Circuit Court, says bringing tougher charges isn't something the DA's office wants to do—but she says Jones' ruling gives them no choice.

"The court made a ruling that forced us to bring criminal charges," Rayburn says.

"The court wanted us to proceed with these as crimes so that people would have the opportunity to have a jury trial."

Except, of course, protesters are reluctant to take the risk of losing such a trial.

One of the first protesters to plead guilty under the pressure of a misdemeanor charge this summer was David Carlson.

Carlson, 31, was arrested for standing in the street and leading chants through his bullhorn at a Feb. 20 protest after an officer ordered him to move. In late June, the Multnomah County prosecutor warned if he didn't plead guilty to a violation, the DA would charge him with a criminal misdemeanor instead. That alternative was too risky for Carlson.

Carlson says the DA's approach in effect criminalizes free speech. "No one actually gets their day in court because the system is set up against you," he says. "You just have to deal with it and take the consequence. You're considered guilty until proven innocent."

## **A Bike Advocacy Group Will Create A “Human Protected Bike Lane” Along Naito Parkway This Thursday**

*By Shannon Gormley  
September 26, 2017*

**“Naito is pretty important for anyone who wants to get anywhere downtown.”**

This Sunday, the city will take down Better Naito, the temporary protected bike lane installed along Naito Parkway during the summer months. But three days before the lane is removed, a bike advocacy group is organizing a "human protected bike lane" in support of Better Naito.

Run by the Portland Bureau of Transportation, Better Naito is put in place to accommodate increased foot traffic along the waterfront during the summer. It's scheduled to be re-installed next spring, but Bike Loud PDX hopes to make the lane permanent.

"There's not a lot of safe streets that have bike lanes downtown," says organizer Emily Guise. "Naito is pretty important for anyone who wants to get anywhere downtown."

Bike Portland first reported in the demonstration which is scheduled for this Thursday. Now in its third year, Better Naito stayed in place longer than ever before. During its first year, it was only in place for three weeks. When it's taken down this Sunday, it will have been in place for five months.

But last spring, the bike lane became a contentious subject when the Portland Business Alliance launched a campaign against Better Naito that was staked on anecdotal complaints. It started with a public letter by Sandra McDonough, the CEO of the business lobbying group, addressed to Dan Saltzman. In the letter, McDonough wrote: "Already this year, employers are hearing complaints from employees about Better Naito. Though PBOT has indicated additional travel time of less than two minutes, it is inconsistent with what we hear from road users."

A few weeks later, PBA member Jim Mark published an op-ed in The Tribune in which he wrote: "As more people and jobs are added to the city, congestion will increase unless there are shifts to other modes of travel."

But in a counterintuitive twist, the article continued: "That's why the return of the 'Better Naito' project, which has closed one northbound auto lane of Naito Boulevard for a bicycle and pedestrian path, is so puzzling."

A month later, PBA instigated an email campaign, urging Portlanders to contact City Council with their disapproval of the project with a prewritten email with the subject line "Bicycling is great, BUT" that read:

"I understand that it is increasingly necessary for people to shift from single occupancy vehicles, but as the city continues to add more people and jobs it needs to accommodate all modes. Bicycling is a great alternative that will work for some. However, it is a less realistic option for many people who can't get around that way. It's time to look at a solution for everyone."

But the campaign backfired thanks to hero Twitter users who rewrote the form to send messages to City Council in support of Better Naito. According to a tweet by Saltzman, the campaign "generated 10-1 emails in support" of Better Naito and PBOT.

Bike Loud hosted a bike ride when Better Naito was taken down last year, but Guise says that this year the group wants to take it up a notch. "

We want to show people who are maybe skeptical of Better Naito that it is a valuable project that many people use regularly," she says. "It hasn't affected traffic that much downtown and it helps people walk and bike who are paying customers for businesses downtown."

## **Portland Keeps a List of Items It Sweeps From Homeless Camps. Here's What the City Threw in Storage**

*By Rachel Monahan  
September 27, 2017*

**It's not clear the city has consistently lived up to its obligation to catalogue and store personal possessions**

Every time it sweeps a homeless camp, the city of Portland must catalog and store for 30 days the personal possessions it finds during the cleanup.

It's not clear the city has consistently lived up to that obligation. WW reported this summer about a homeless man who discovered his belongings had been trashed by the city contractor who swept out his camp ("Tossed Aside," WW, July 26, 2017).

WW then obtained via a public records request the catalog of camp items stored by the city during the past three years.

The list shows that in the month after WW wrote about the improper disposal of belongings, the city appeared to be more diligent about logging and storing such property, although a city spokeswoman denies it. "The storage procedure has not changed," says Office of Management & Finance spokeswoman Jen Clodius.

After the story was published, Portland listed items stored from 21 camp sweeps—up from just eight sweeps in the previous month.

The list also gives a glimpse of the homes Portlanders created amid tents, sleeping bags and trash bags filled with clothes.

Pokémon cards

May 25, 2017

Sullivan's Gulch, Northeast Portland

Yellow skateboard

June 6, 2016

Gateway Green bike park along I-205

White Playboy bunny purse

Feb. 16, 2017

Southeast 9th Avenue and Ash Street

Black piano

March 1, 2017

North Kerby Avenue

Circular saw

July 26, 2017

Springwater Corridor

Skuut wooden kid's bike

March 1, 2017

North Kerby Avenue

Orange bag with dress shirts and other clothes inside

March 1, 2017

North Kerby Avenue

Hewlett-Packard computer

July 28, 2017

Taken from an impounded Winnebago RV

Binder full of Magic the Gathering cards

March 23, 2016

Northeast 7th Avenue and Flanders Street

The Lost City of Z book

May 25, 2017

Sullivan's Gulch, Northeast Portland

Ceramic bowl

June 20, 2016

Southeast 43rd Avenue and Powell Boulevard

Pioneer sound receiver

March 1, 2017

North Kerby Avenue

## **Murmurs: Portland City Hall Comes to Aid of Dreamers**

*By WW Staff*

*September 27, 2017*

**In other news: Portland Meadows' high-stakes showdown with the Lottery goes another round.**

### **Portland City Hall Comes to Aid of Dreamers**

The Portland City Council is preparing to spend up to \$50,000 to help undocumented immigrants who arrived in this country as children stay in the U.S. The money would help immigrants seeking to renew their reprieves from deportation granted under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program before the Oct. 5 deadline the Trump administration created when it announced plans this month to phase out the program. The resolution, proposed by City Commissioner Nick Fish, is expected to pass next week. "You can feel so helpless," says DACA recipient Mariana Garcia Medina, 22, a staffer in Fish's office who helped prepare the resolution. "It's nice to know there's something we can do within our limited power." Garcia Medina, who grew up in Tigard after arriving in the U.S. at age 3, is currently awaiting a response to her own application to renew her DACA status.

### **Nightclub Owners Sue City Over Sprinklers**

Landlords of 14 Portland nightclubs, including Dante's, the Dixie Tavern and Silverado, filed a lawsuit Sept. 25 against the city of Portland, alleging it overstepped its authority in imposing a 2013 ordinance mandating sprinkler systems, and then compounded the damages by applying the ordinance inequitably ("Hot in Here," WW, July 6, 2016). The lawsuit, filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court on behalf of the three club owners, their companies and other nightclubs, claims the city's actions were "uneven, unfair, unpredictable, arbitrary and capricious," and seeks \$750,000 in damages. The City Attorney's Office declined to comment.

### **Portland Meadows Still Playing Poker With State**

The battle over the legality of commercial poker in Portland continues. The Oregon Lottery and Portland Meadows remain at loggerheads over the racetrack's desire to host poker and remain a lottery retailer. In July, the lottery canceled the contract that allows Portland Meadows to have 10 video poker terminals, more than any other location in the state. The cancellation came after Oregon State Police investigations found Meadows' poker games appeared to violate state and local gambling laws ("Burning Down the House, WW, March 22, 2017). Meadows now has until Oct. 30 to agree to follow all laws, appeal that cancellation in court or give up its lottery contract, which in 2016 generated \$1.83 million in revenue for the state and nearly \$350,000 in commissions for Meadows.

### **Condo Owners Stage HOA Coup**

Condo owners in the Cedar Mill neighborhood have won a reprieve from the new fees that many feared would drive them from their homes ("Trouble in the Village," WW, Sept. 20, 2017). On Sept. 21, at the annual meeting of the Westlake Village Condominium Homeowners Association, the group calling itself Save Westlake Village took over all five positions on the HOA board. They intend to rescind the fees the previous board imposed to pay for a \$6.4 million renovation project for the 200-unit complex.

## **The Number of Families Seeking Shelter in East Portland Spikes as Portland's Housing Crunch Continues**

*By Rachel Monahan  
September 27, 2017*

**"Right now, the situation is bleak."**

The Human Solutions Family Shelter on outer Southeast Stark Street was built to house 133 people a night. But the number of families seeking help initially edged upward after the shelter opened in a converted vegan strip club in February 2016.

In the past four months, the number of people seeking shelter has more than doubled. On one night—Sept. 7—440 people sought help.

The family shelter has succeeded in turning no one away by finding people places to sleep in area churches and motels. But rising demand is one indication that Portland's housing crunch is far from over.

"The market-rate housing that most families called home...continues to see rising rents, low vacancies and increased competition," says Human Solutions executive director Andy Miller. "Right now, the situation is bleak."

## **Mayor Ted Wheeler Doubles Down on His Promise to Create Shelter Beds**

*By Rachel Monahan  
September 27, 2017*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler made a dramatic pledge on the campaign trail nearly two years ago: He promised to ensure that "every person living on Portland's streets has a safe place to sleep" by the end of 2018.



In Wheeler's first city budget, the city's investment in the city-county homelessness services agency increased slightly to \$26.5 million. This year, Wheeler has alarmed advocates by saying the city couldn't keep forking over that much money.

WW asked Wheeler for an interview about the seeming contradiction. He bristled: "You're going to write an article that says I suck."

But he doubled down on his pledge to find safe places for homeless people, throwing his support behind not just increased shelter beds but, for the first time, an effort to add 2,000 more units of "supportive housing"—affordable units with extra supports for people facing addictions or mental health problems.

**You pledged to make sure that "every person living on Portland's streets has a safe place to sleep" by the end of 2018. Will you keep that promise?**

Yes, I think we can. Half of it was aspirational and half of it was specific numbers. At the time I made that pledge, it was Dec. 22 of 2015. It's hard to believe it was almost two years ago, but it was. At the time, I was asked how many beds is that exactly? I stated that it was probably between 1,000 and 1,500 additional beds. At the time, we had fewer than 800. I figured we'd need at least 1,800.

**Does that mean you want more than 4,000 shelter beds in Portland, given the latest homeless count?**

Listen, I'm not Superman. [But] I'm not going to back off of [the campaign pledge] at all. If there's one thing I've come to clearly understand, this isn't just about housing. We have, as a nation, a widespread addiction problem. If we're serious about addressing this homelessness issue, it's going to require more resources going towards permanent supportive housing and towards mental health and addiction services. In order to meet that need with the resources we have, there's going to be pressure between dollars that go to shelter versus dollars that go to prevention and housing.

**How do you achieve that?**

My belief is we need long-term sustainable funding that addresses not only the shelter piece but longer-term problems around addiction services and mental health services. And that will require a new source of dedicated revenues to be able to be successful.

**What will next year's budget look like?**

I'm not willing to commit to any number. I've learned a thing or two. People freaked out when they saw that I said that our current contributions weren't sustainable over the long term. I've never said I would pull back in this next budget. In the near term, I believe we will be able to make, maybe not dollar for dollar, but in the neighborhood of what we're currently investing.

# **Some Portland Sewer Workers Want a Better Contract. They've Turned to the Northwest's Top Union Busters for Help.**

*By Anna Williams  
September 27, 2017*

## **The push has frightened and angered the rank and file in Laborers Local 483.**

Dennis Duffey has been a proud union member for much of the past three decades.

The 54-year-old Portland Bureau of Environmental Services employee has organized the workers at a print shop, sat at bargaining tables across from management, and worked as a shop steward in Bakersfield, Calif.

In 2007, he took a job with the city as a wastewater operator, adding chemicals to water and maintaining machinery at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Portland. That makes him one of 1,100 local government employees represented by Laborers Local 483.

But Duffey wants out. He says Local 483 treats sewer workers like second-class citizens in the union—failing to show up for their grievance hearings, negotiating a contract that leaves wastewater workers making far less money than their counterparts in other cities, and pressuring them to vote for that contract.

"If I'm not getting represented, then I have a problem with paying dues," Duffey says. "I call it extortion."

So Duffey and at least five other disgruntled Portland wastewater workers turned to an unlikely ally: the Freedom Foundation, a right-wing, union-busting think tank based in Olympia, Wash., that's increasingly active in Oregon.

On Aug. 29, the foundation filed a public records request with the city's human resources department, asking for the names of 607 public employees who are covered by the same city contract as treatment plant workers. (Local 483 also represents workers at the regional planning agency Metro.)

The nonprofit requested the records after Duffey asked it for help. The foundation says it wants to assist Duffey and his fellow sewer workers in collecting enough signatures from members of Local 483—about 200—so workers may vote whether to stop paying dues.

In 2016, the Freedom Foundation made a large-scale records request for the names of Oregon home health workers within Service Employees International Union Local 503, the state's largest public employee union. Foundation activists landed at the front doors of more than 10,000 workers, urging them to stop paying dues.

The prospect of a similarly invasive campaign in Portland has frightened and angered the rank and file in one of the city's largest public employee unions—who fear a few disgruntled workers have summoned a powerful right-wing force that could jeopardize hard-won gains.

Duffey says since he hooked up with the Freedom Foundation, he has received almost 30 union-printed postcards in his home mailbox, with members calling him a "douche," a "piece of shit" and a "scab." Another says: "Shame on you for supporting the Koch brothers. I hope you lose your union job."

Local 483 leaders say Duffey's gambit is a dire threat to the union, which depends on dues to fund its operations. Wesley Buchholz, former interim president of Laborers 483, calls the foundation's outreach "economic violence."

Buchholz decries the vulgar postcards, but he isn't surprised people are angry. "It's visceral and terrible and mean," he says, "but I'd like to think the balance of those 30 cards are people having a fight-or-flight reaction to their union coming under attack."

The Freedom Foundation is open about its desire to destroy unions.

CEO Tom McCabe told supporters in a 2015 fundraising letter "we won't be satisfied with anything short of total victory against the government union thugs." McCabe also wrote that his think tank "has a proven plan for bankrupting and defeating government unions through education, litigation, legislation and community activation."

Ben Straka, a policy analyst at the foundation, says activists use "various" means to find their targets' email and home addresses. Straka would not elaborate.

Foundation representatives have already shown up at city workplaces in the past month, and Duffey expects door-to-door visits to begin soon.

The new Local 483 contract with the city of Portland gives wastewater operators with 10 years' experience, like Duffey, a 9 percent raise. But this summer, Duffey and other wastewater operators surveyed treatment plant contracts in Pacific Northwest cities comparable to Portland. In some cases, Duffey and his colleagues make 20 percent less than their peers, and this year's contract with the city of Portland won't close the gap.

Some of Duffey's co-workers say they don't want to "bust" Local 483 but to pressure the union into releasing wastewater treatment plant employees so they can join a different union.

"I'm in the laborers union, and I should be in the millwrights union," says one treatment plant employee who requested anonymity because he fears retaliation. "No one likes the Freedom Foundation or what's behind it. [But] nobody's going to break the union up. That's not the goal here."

Buchholz and Local 483 business manager Farrell Richartz both say getting more workers to participate in union activities is the way to deal with internal disagreements, rather than involving an "extremist" organization like the Freedom Foundation.

"Can we get better?" Richartz said, "Yes. We're constantly asking for participation."

Because Laborers 483 represents workers with dozens of different job descriptions, "bargaining is necessarily complex," Buchholz explains.

Richartz adds that the foundation has taken advantage of a few members' grievances to "create division" between members.

Meanwhile, Portland city officials are weighing whether to release employee names to the foundation. (Local 483 has tried to block the request.)

Duffey says whatever the outcome, he doesn't regret bringing in the Freedom Foundation. "I believe unions are in decline," he says, "because of unions like 483."

## **The Portland Business Journal**

### **Top Trade Rep Wants Oregon to use Hong Kong as a Showcase**

*By Andy Giegerich  
September 27, 2017*

Of the \$35 billion in trade that Hong Kong does with the United States each year, \$250 million stems from Oregon.

Which, said Clement Leung, makes the state a crucial partner for a city — technically, a territory — that's a world financial giant.

What's more, Leung, Hong Kong's Washington, D.C.-based Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs, believes Oregon's influence within Southeast Asia will only grow.

"It's a good relationship," said Leung, who visited Portland as part of a West Coast jaunt. "And, we'd like to do more to encourage these trade flows and collaborate."

Leung was in the area to meet with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, among others. He spoke to business leaders about Hong Kong's commitment to innovation and technology.

During an interview at the Portland Business Journal office, he detailed how he hopes to promote Hong Kong's economic and trade ties to Oregon and beyond.

Ultimately, Leung aims to encourage U.S. companies to use Hong Kong as a base to promote goods, as well as export them, within Asia.

"A lot of companies are using Hong Kong as a showroom where visitors can come to touch, feel and buy the latest trendy products," Leung said. "There are 57 million visitors who come to Hong Kong each year, so a brand in Hong Kong can spread its message to people."

Which is increasingly important in Asia, where, by 2030, around 6 billion people will be considered part of the middle class.

"Oregon companies like Columbia (Sportswear Co.) (NYSE: COLM) and Nike (Inc.) (NYSE: NKE) have strong presences in Hong Kong, and we're encouraging other companies to look at what they're doing to get consumers to buy American products," Leung said.

About half of Oregon's exports to Hong Kong, as well as to Asia, are electronics-related. However, some 25 percent pertain to agriculture, partially the result of state efforts to tout its fresh and sustainably produced foods.

"We're seeing a lot of products like cherries coming into Hong Kong, and then being exported elsewhere," he said. While many such foods are expected by the city's visitors at receptions and higher-end restaurants, Hong Kong also exports the Oregon-grown goods throughout Asia.

Leung also noted that Hong Kong hosts the world's busiest air cargo airport — it's building its third runway — and that the city is becoming a financial technology hub.

Leung said the city's mission has adjusted somewhat since the U.S. November 2016 elections. Since then, the Trump administration has sought to limit trade on a number of fronts.

Leung's office has shifted its focus to Southeast China, setting up, for instance, a new office in Jakarta.

“We’re still committed to growing trade,” he said.

## OPB

# 4 Things To Know About The Fight Over Portland's Humboldt Building

*By Rob Manning  
September 26, 2017*

The potential move of a charter school program from a North Portland school building has some parents in the Portland Public Schools system worried about inequality.

But other parents understand the move in light of Portland’s need to better fit the district’s growing student body into a limited number of school buildings.

Here are a few things to know about how the district is weighing a potential move of the Kairos PDX charter school to make room for Access Academy.

Kairos PDX mostly serves African-American students.

Kairos PDX opened as a charter school in August 2014, after receiving unanimous approval from the Portland school board the year before. The charter school has its own board of directors, but relies on a contract — or “charter” — to be supported by the local school board. The state of Oregon can also approve charter schools, though Kairos is a PPS charter.

The focus of Kairos is to improve educational outcomes for students of color, in light of PPS’ enormous racial achievement gaps.

Kairos opened with just kindergarten and first grade, but has added grades since then. In the 2017-18 school year, it is serving up to third grade.

Kairos moved into the Humboldt School building in August 2016. Humboldt is a PPS building that closed as a neighborhood elementary at the end of the 2011-12 school year.

Kairos’ student population was 54 percent African-American last school year, and the building itself is located in one of Portland’s historic black neighborhoods.

When Kairos moved into Humboldt, it was the first time that PPS allowed a charter school to use a district building. PPS has seven other charter school programs, and they’re largely responsible for finding their own space.

At the time Kairos moved in, there was already some discussion the move might be temporary, as school building and feeder pattern configurations were in flux. A year ago, the possibility of Access Academy — a school with mostly white students — moving in was on the table.

Access Academy, Portland’s alternative program for Talented And Gifted students, spent the last few school years at the Rose City Park school building.

Access Academy, Portland’s alternative program for Talented And Gifted students, spent the last few school years at the Rose City Park school building.

Access Academy is a longstanding alternative program — meaning it is run by the school district to serve a specific set of students who are not otherwise being well-served by traditional programs.

In the case of Access, it serves students who score in the 99th percentile on a test of “academic, cognitive ability.” In addition, students have to demonstrate they are not being fully served at their local school; the phrase the district uses is “demonstrated need for an alternative program.”

Unlike charter schools, school districts are responsible for providing a location for alternative programs.

Access has been located at the Rose City Park school building in Northeast Portland since 2013, where it shares space with two grade levels from the Beverly Cleary K-8 School campus.

But there are two problems: Access is growing and its supporters would prefer their own site. Additionally, PPS intends to return to Rose City Park to what it once was: a neighborhood elementary school. That leaves Access searching for a new home.

Access supporters are not actively lobbying to move into the Humboldt Building currently occupied by Kairos. But, they have asked for a site that is more centrally located than Rose City Park on Northeast 57th Avenue. Humboldt is closer to the middle of Portland.

Both schools are subject to larger forces.

Portland Public Schools is in the middle of redrawing school boundaries for thousands of students in North and Northeast Portland — far more than attend Kairos PDX and Access Academy. The main drivers of that process are two-fold: Some schools have too few students in the middle grades to serve efficiently and some schools are overcrowded.

The Beverly Cleary School is one of those overcrowded schools, and has the additional complication of having its students across three school campuses.

The district’s preferred approach is to shrink Beverly Cleary boundaries and turn one of the campuses, Rose City Park, into a separate elementary school. But doing that forces out the other tenant in that building: the Access Academy.

Because Access is an alternative program with growing enrollment, the district needs to find a new home for the program. PPS does not have an abundance of options, and at this point, its preference is the Humboldt building.

Political winds blow against the move.

Both Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Speaker of the Oregon House Tina Kotek, D-North Portland, have spoken out against evicting Kairos PDX and moving in Access Academy.

Both have framed the proposal as an equity issue, given that Access is mainly white and Kairos is majority black.

However, Access parents argue that summary overlooks the district’s different obligations to charter and alternative schools, as well as the complicated districtwide dynamics of balancing school enrollments, shifting boundaries and the limited number of school buildings.