

The Oregonian

13 times Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler threw shade at President Trump on Twitter

By Jessica Floum
October 9, 2017

It's no secret that Portland's politics lean left, so it should come as no surprise that Mayor Ted Wheeler has publicly disagreed with President Trump on many issues. Since the two politicians started their new positions in January, the Rose City's mayor has taken to Twitter to directly -- and sometimes more subtly -- rebuke the president's actions.

1. When Trump lashed out at a Puerto Rican mayor after a hurricane killed her people

Hard to imagine, but we could be on our own after a disaster. Good thing we are planning at the local and regional level.

<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/914087234869047296> ...

President Trump on Saturday attacked San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz for "poor leadership" in a Tweet from a New Jersey golf club. She had criticized his him for his positive portrayal of the slow federal response to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria thrashed the island and killed more than 15 people. Wheeler was not amused.

2. When Attorney General Jeff Sessions visited Portland

I am not meeting with AG Sessions today, but I did send along this letter.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/wheeler/article/655883> ...

When Attorney General Jeff Sessions came to town, Wheeler wrote him a welcome letter calling the attorney general's attention to how well Portland's culture and economy is doing and telling him to take his administration's immigration policies and threats to withhold funds from sanctuary cities back to D.C.

"I strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to coerce local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws," Wheeler wrote. "I strongly oppose the Trump administration's threats to punish those cities that do not, and I strongly oppose the Trump administrations' attempts to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program."

3. When a federal judge ruled that Sessions couldn't keep grant money from Portland

This is great news. We are on the right side of the law. The city, state, and federal court are aligned on this.

https://apnews.com/ed57b001f47c4c39b070d00652ba65d3?utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=AP ...

If Portland is "on the right side of the law," is Wheeler saying the Trump administration is not? Yes, yes he is.

4. When Trump ordered an end to DACA

I stand in solidarity with DREAMers today. We will continue to fight for immigrant families and youth. Thank you @CausaOregon. #DefendDACA

Trump last month ordered an end to the Obama-era immigration policy that protects undocumented immigrants brought to the United States at a young age from deportation. The

policy, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, shielded some of the 800,000 young adults brought to the U.S. as kids from deportation and gave them the right to work. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced on September 5 Trump's orders to end the policy and insistence that Congress pass an alternative to the rule.

Wheeler's respond: "#DefendDACA." Need we say more?

5. When Trump told police to not worry about hurting people when they arrest them

Our police officers are expected to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Read more here. <https://t.co/W7QRrnpqCb>

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) July 29, 2017

Trump told police officers in a July speech not to worry about injuring people when arresting them.

"When you see these towns and when you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon, you just see them thrown in, rough, I said, please don't be too nice," Trump told them. "Like when you guys put somebody in the car and you're protecting their head, you know, the way you put their hand over, like, don't hit their head and they've just killed somebody. Don't hit their head. I said, you can take the hand away, okay?"

Wheeler Tweeted that Portland police would not take the president's advice.

6. When Trump said he would ban transgender Americans from the military

There are thousands of transgender Americans serving in the military. You have earned our thanks and respect.

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) July 26, 2017

Also in July, Trump Tweeted that the United States military could not afford the "medical costs and disruption" of transgender troops. He said the military would no longer allow them. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said otherwise. He announced transgender troops would continue to serve.

Wheeler offered his support to transgender troops after Trump's comments. "You have earned our thanks and respect," he Tweeted.

7. When the Trump admin pledged to end net neutrality

I am proud to be 1 of 50 mayors nationwide calling on the FCC to protect free and open internet. #netneutrality <https://t.co/qHRW9xPLAC>

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) July 12, 2017

Wheeler joined 50 mayors across the country calling for net neutrality, which allows for a free and open internet. This followed Trump announcing his support for the Federal Communications' plans to overturn the rule, which would enable internet providers like Comcast and AT&T to provide faster internet to some websites and slower service to others.

8. When Trump dropped out of the Paris Climate Accord

Dropping out of the Paris Accord is bad for our planet and our economy. After bad decision by @realDonaldTrump cities must lead the way.

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) June 2, 2017

9. And back when Trump threatened to drop out

President Trump is mistakenly considering withdrawing from the Paris climate change accord.

Portland will stay the course regardless.

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) May 4, 2017

10. When promoting Portland's plans to protect the planet

Without federal leadership on climate protection, Portland must step up
<https://t.co/jKhkR2zbg3>

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) June 1, 2017

In May, Wheeler wrote a guest column for The Oregonian/OregonLive throwing shade at the Trump administration for its dismantling of environmental protection rules before explaining his plans for how local governments like Portland can help save the planet. Titled without federal leadership on climate protection, Portland must step up, Wheeler's column details the city's plans to turn 'poop into power' and to increase renewable energy consumption and pledges to get Portland and Multnomah County homes using 100 percent clean energy by 2050.

11. When Attorney General Jeff Sessions pledged to withhold funding from sanctuary cities

vMy statement on AG's comments and recent ICE actions in Portland.
<https://t.co/0fP7otPw8v>

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) March 27, 2017

Sessions in March threatened to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities like Portland who said they would not enforce federal immigration laws. A day earlier, federal immigration officials arrested a Southeast Portland Immigrant. Wheeler condemned Sessions' threat and the raid. He took to Twitter to share some thoughts.

12. When he wrote a column in Fortune on how to stand up to Trump

Thank you for highlighting my op-ed in @FortuneMagazine affirming Portland's stance as a welcoming city for everyone. <https://t.co/ucu3xSEIHi>

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) February 2, 2017

13. When he joined advocates at PDX to protest Trump's travel ban

At PDX "No hate, no fear. Everyone is welcome here." pic.twitter.com/vieN7EfwZ5

— Ted Wheeler (@tedwheeler) January 29, 2017

Portland's housed and unhoused neighbors try to live with each other

*By Molly Harbarger
October 8, 2017*

Erik Benson wants to sell his dream home. After nearly 20 years on the double lot, he and his wife are thinking about unloading the Southeast Portland house they customized for their retirement -- high ceilings, hardwood floors, a hot tub in their bedroom.

They didn't anticipate that within yards of their front door, dozens of people would make their homes in tents and other make-shift encampments along a state-created pedestrian and bicycle

path that runs along Interstate 205. The pathside community has become a hot spot for drug use, Benson says, and litter piles dot the way to Johnson Creek, where a rusted shopping cart and algae-covered jugs mar the scene. Some campers inflict racist graffiti and homophobic slurs on a diverse range of neighbors.

Homelessness is not new to Lents. But the throng of people camped there has increased steadily over the last few years, residents say, and exploded after the Springwater Corridor was swept a year ago.

It is the most dramatic example of numerous places around Portland where, as never before, homeowners and people without housing live cheek-to-cheek. The number of homeless people in Oregon's biggest city exceeded 4,000 people this year, official tallies show. And unlike in past years, more than a third of those men, women and children don't bed down on downtown streets or inside shelters but in residential neighborhoods.

Although the city and Multnomah County are devoting unprecedented levels of money and staffing to lessening the effects on homeless and housed people alike, the two groups' coexistence remains uneasy in most neighborhoods where it occurs. Currently, it ranges from a reluctant truce in North Portland's Overlook to a crackdown-induced retreat of homeless from Laurelhurst to a caldron of complaints and mistrust in Lents.

Calls to the city's hotline for complaints about homeless people or campsites were highest in the latter two neighborhoods this spring and summer. But they dot every part of the city except portions of Hillsdale and the Southwest Hills on the city's west side and Irvington, Grant Park and Eastmoreland on the east.

Citywide, calls exceeded 1,600 a month for the first time in the spring, then hit a fever pitch of 2,200 a month or higher in June, July and August, records obtained by The Oregonian/OregonLive show.

Advocates say that renters and homeowners have a right to feel safe. But, they say, they also should tolerate homeless people living near them who keep their space tidy, use restrooms and respect quiet hours.

City officials want to win back residents who they say have lost compassion during years of seeing more needle caps in their playgrounds. So Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has steered more city money to what he calls "livability" issues -- keeping needles out of parks, towing decrepit RVs out of neighborhoods and more stringently enforcing environmental and public safety laws. Most neighborhoods are seeing results.

Joint efforts by the city and county have helped conditions for housed and unhoused Portlanders alike. Officials doubled available beds in year-round shelters, and added more that open in winter to allow a record number of homeless Portlanders to sleep inside. The Joint Office of Homeless Services reported record-setting numbers of people lived for a time in subsidized housing meant to help occupants become secure enough to pay rent on their own.

Despite those efforts, more people than ever in Portland are forced to live outside. Officials acknowledge the official estimate of 1,600 at any given time understates the problem.

A growing number of vocal residents in hard-hit Eastside neighborhoods are calling for more long-term solutions, such as organized camps and stricter enforcement, to ease the repercussions of living side-by-side.

For now, the Bensons have turned to their own solutions. They have three guns hidden in the front room and both Erik and Kristy, his wife, carry handguns at all times. The real protection, he

says, is two large cans of bear spray stashed behind a black-and-white photo of their son within reach of the front door. Benson said he bought those on the advice of a police officer who suggested that an intruder is more likely to back down from the spray, knowing you might use it, than a gun whose trigger you would hesitate to pull.

His wife faced that very choice months ago, when a man aggressively approached her car as she pulled out of their fenced and gated backyard. When she went into the house to make sure her son was OK, the man followed her in. She held him at gunpoint while her son called the police. The man was arrested and later released.

But the incident left them shaken. "I've never stared down the barrel at somebody," Benson said.

People who live along the paved trail near I-205 say their lives are made hard by the fact that housed neighbors treat them all as troublemakers or criminals just because a fraction of them are. People whose only transgression is not being able to afford the city's escalated rents not only endure the struggles of living and sleeping outside but also being reported to police or yelled at by those with homes nearby.

Gabi lost her housing two years ago when she escaped a domestic violence situation, she said. She didn't want her name used because fears from that abuse still linger. She said she stays along the multi-use path in Lents because it's one of the few places she isn't roused from her camping spot, as happens to people in city-owned parks that are patrolled every week. Still, she woke a Friday in September to being robbed again while she slept. She lost blankets and her phone, among other smaller items.

She says business owners and residents assume everyone uses drugs, but she doesn't. Yet she understands why her friends and fellow campers do. Some drugs keep you awake so you are always on guard.

"I'm not saying drug problems are OK, but how many times will it take you to lose everything but the clothes on your back before you snap?" Gabi said as she piled her scattered clothes into a shopping cart.

She says she wants help getting services, but she's been approached by outreach workers only a few times. She missed a recent opportunity to sign up for a low-income apartment, and plans to ride MAX downtown in a few weeks to get on a waitlist.

She said most people who rent or own along the bike path don't give her trouble.

But some campers say they are harassed for things they didn't do. Many point to the trash bags they fill with old pizza boxes and other garbage as evidence they take care of their space.

They also say they have nowhere else to go.

A TRANSPORTATION, NOT HOUSING, AGENCY

The bike path is on Oregon Department of Transportation property for the most part, though some areas intersect with TriMet or city jurisdiction. The state agency is required to give campers more notice – 10 to 19 days, rather than the six day required by rules governing city property -- that workers will be coming through to tell them to move and dispose of whatever they leave behind. State workers nor city crews have the authority to force campers to leave unless they are on private property, but can strongly encourage it.

Lents residents say that from the time they file a complaint, it takes about six weeks before crews arrive, which leaves a lot of time for campers to become entrenched. When the cleaning is over, many move right back, frustrated neighbors say.

Don Hamilton, spokesman for ODOT, said agency officials know that the big encampments impact neighbors.

“It means fear, it can mean increased crime, it can mean health problems,” Hamilton said.

“We’re also aware of the human consequences of this. This is a problem that tells us about some serious social issues that need to be addressed.”

The transportation agency is not a homeless services organization, he said, but is trying to balance all sides of the debate and keep people on dangerous highway right-of-ways safe.

CRACKING DOWN, HUMANITARIAN-STYLE

Lents residents are not the only people lighting up complaint lines over the presence of homeless people nearby.

Portland police and parks workers now clear Laurelhurst Park every Monday of all trash and possessions that people without permanent homes have left there. Cops scan the park in the upper-middle-class Southeast Portland neighborhood, talking to the people who use it and trying to troubleshoot conflicts between the homeless people who sleep or hang out in or around the park and other park users. “No camping” signs now hang from trees over the sidewalk around three-quarters of the park.

It’s one of many places in the city, Mayor Ted Wheeler said, that enforcement increased. In an interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive, he listed several steps his administration has taken that Portlanders might not see: towed away 299 derelict RVs parked on neighborhood streets since November under a new program, hired additional staff for the One Point of Contact homeless complaint system, added six walking beats for Portland Police officers, hired more park rangers to patrol downtown, the South Waterfront, Eastside parks and the Springwater Corridor.

“There’s nowhere trash is acceptable. There’s nowhere needles are acceptable. There’s nowhere graffiti on public right of ways are acceptable,” Wheeler said.

He says his predecessor, Charlie Hales, was lax on enforcing laws related to homelessness, which led to the problems residents say they are now seeing.

But his administration isn’t just focused on cracking down on infractions, he said. He also wants to make sure people living on the street are reached by social workers and service agencies better than ever.

“It’s not a clear line, and we’re always mindful of the fact -- and the community constantly reminds us -- that we need to focus on illegal activity and have compassion for those who are caught up in this humanitarian crisis,” Wheeler said.

Laurelhurst homeowner TJ Browning walks her neighborhood park nearly every day with her dog and takes note of where people are sleeping. She keeps a tally of how many needles and people sleeping in the bushes she sees.

On a late August morning, Browning noted she hadn’t seen so many elderly people, women with strollers and joggers in the park for awhile.

Just six weeks earlier, exasperated neighbors demanded action at a meeting with city officials. The improvement since then has been dramatic, Browning said.

She is still on watch, though. “I’m starting to feel like a vigilante,” she said, mocking herself for scanning the ground for needles.

The park’s seasonal maintenance worker said he had picked up four that morning. He was in the midst of ushering an apparently homeless man out of the park with a couple trash bags of possessions.

Browning points to that as proof the problem persists. But the scene is a stark contrast to the line of tents that used to barricade one end of the park.

Browning’s husband, Scott Pratt, is the president of the neighborhood association. He ended up the voice behind the group’s June resolution asking Wheeler to step up enforcement of rules against littering, drug use and public urination around all Portland schools and parks.

The idea, Browning said, was not to move homeless people from Laurelhurst to other neighborhoods but to create safe spaces around places children congregate citywide. She hopes that if no one is allowed in those public spaces, the city and county will move faster on a plan to put a roof over everyone’s heads.

“Why are there people without houses? They deserve to be safe, too,” Browning said. “If we don’t push on City Hall, I don’t see it being addressed.”

In a letter back to the association in July, the mayor formally declined to adopt its proposed ordinance, citing existing Portland laws that deal with camping. But in an September interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive, Wheeler said police were in fact targeting those areas for extra patrols.

“We are focusing on high-impact areas, that’s parks, that’s public right of ways, the vicinity of schools,” Wheeler said.

FORUMS FOR THE FRUSTRATED

Elsewhere, people who feel the city and county are ignoring their problems are also trying to leverage their neighborhood associations to deal with the same issues. These bodies don’t set policy but serve as forums for the frustrated.

At countless meetings across the city, residents try to draw a line between criminals and people down on their luck. It’s a politically and emotionally fraught subject, made more so as people living in tents and camps have started to show up to neighborhood meetings, too.

Montavilla erupted in debate this summer after new board members helped pass a resolution asking the city to stop sweeping homeless people from the neighborhood. Those residents sided with homeless people and their advocates who say the practice causes people without an address to lose belongings and identification, which in turn makes it harder to receive services and prompts some to steal replacement items.

Many Montavilla residents resisted, saying sweeps are the only relief they have from finding urine and feces in their yards or being insulted and harassed.

Ben Tertin, a board member, pastor and seven-year resident of Montavilla, voted against the resolution, though he said repeatedly he wants people who have had a rough time to get help. But he recalled an incident the day before when he said two people used drugs, had sex and fell asleep within a few feet of the church’s playground.

“What we have to do as a Christian mission, the heart for homeless in the core. It’s very big,” Tertin said. “But not to the point of saying leave your used condoms and needles at our children’s playground.”

“People are talking more in the neighborhood about homelessness than they ever have since I have lived here,” Tertin said. “You have this scenario where that’s not something that’s happening before, but it’s happening now. And it’s happening more places than 90th Avenue.”

ARE ORGANIZED CAMPS THE KEY?

In the Overlook neighborhood, Chris Trejbal, president of the neighborhood association, toured Overlook Park at 8:30 a.m. Holding his coffee cup, he walked the perimeter, where a chainlink fence separates the freshly mowed grass from a forested cliff. He just finished explaining that many people climb the fence and camp on the cliff to avoid being hassled when he spotted the tell-tale orange cap of a syringe and a few empty cans of beer.

The park is directly above Hazelnut Grove, an intentionally created village of semi-permanent tiny houses envisioned as a model way to humanely house homeless people inside Portland neighborhoods. Supporters and Hazelnut Grove members say their community should draw support, not disdain, from those who rent or own homes nearby.

The community, home to more than 20 long-term residents who built and inhabit 19 tiny homes, is bounded by a chainlink fence and nestled in a triangle where North Interstate and Greeley avenues intersect. Residents dug French drains in the dirt and are working on an ever-evolving kitchen and bathroom space.

It’s the kind of self-governed place some residents of Laurelhurst and Lents say they want: small in scale and well-organized instead of a sprawl of tents and tarps in a public right-of-way or park.

Versions of the model are clustered in North Portland. Wheeler struck a deal to move Right 2 Dream Too, a “rest stop” model where people can sleep for up to 12 hours at a time, to a city-owned parking lot between the Willamette River and the Moda Center. Dignity Village, similar to Hazelnut Grove and connected with nonprofit JOIN, is approaching 20 years at its Northeast Portland location near the airport. The city initiated a pilot project in Kenton, where 14 women live in 8-by-12-foot structures meant for sleeping and storing belongings.

Across the country, homeless “villages” with tiny houses are seen as an short-term alternative for people who don’t want to be packed into shelters with other people and haven’t found permanent housing. They provide an address and and some measure of security.

But Overlook residents are ambivalent about the semi-housed residents. While the temporary tiny homes are removed from most other houses, they are down a steep slope that has a high risk of wildfire. The village also attracts hangers-on, who pitch tents nearby and don’t necessarily abide by the rules Hazelnut Grove members must follow.

The neighborhood association has called for city officials to remove it for about two years. Trejbal recounted a long saga of mediation with Hazelnut Grove and city officials to try to craft a good neighborhood agreement. The latest twist came a few weeks ago when Overlook representatives walked away from the table, saying Hazelnut Grove was conspiring with the city behind their back.

Grove members, for their part, say they try to be model neighbors. They volunteer in the community, exist on donations and anything they earn themselves and will give a tour to nearly anyone who walks up to the gate.

Some neighbors and advocates say that a Kenton Women’s Village or Hazelnut Grove should go in every community to provide shelter and spread the burden of taking in the unhoused between wealthy and poorer communities.

he small scale of homeless enclaves makes them tolerable to neighborhood associations -- but also makes them an unlikely way to fundamentally solve the crisis affecting much of Portland's East Side. It would take more than 20 Hazelnut Groves, with fewer than two dozen residents, to house the estimated 200 people camped along the I-205 bike path alone. The people who live in them must abide by strict rules, which would turn off many people dealing with substance abuse.

Others want more drug rehabilitation and mental illness services dispersed throughout hard-hit neighborhoods, rather than concentrated in Old Town and downtown. While many advocates would cheer that development, the cost of multiple facilities would be high for nonprofits that rely on donations, grants and taxpayer money

TRY TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Most often, people who straddle both worlds say the best solution in the short run is better communication.

Hazelnut Grove members' attempt to integrate into the community is a key technique in volatile conditions, Jim Hlava says. Hlava is vice president of housing at Cascadia Behavioral Health, a nonprofit that does outreach to unhoused people with mental illness and operates hundreds of units of housing for those clients.

He has invested hours in the Eliot neighborhood, which straddles North and Northeast Portland, and elsewhere to smooth tensions with residents resistant to having housing for people with mental illness, many of whom would otherwise be homeless, next door.

"Whatever impact we have, we answer calls, we call back, we'll show up to meetings, we'll problem-solve," Hlava said. "We'll negotiate to try to figure out how to be a good neighbor."

Stigma against homeless people can make it hard to stay safe for people like Edward Krotz and Julie Salmon, who goes by Phoenix on the street. They worry where they will go if they can't stay in public places.

The couple of five years said they try to move every day or two to avoid upsetting neighbors or getting involved in drama with other campers. On a sunny 80-degree September afternoon, they rested in the grass a few yards from the Bensons' house in Lents. They had been in that spot the night before and would likely not be far from it that night, either, because Salmon was nursing a left ankle swollen to twice its normal size and bruised almost to the point of being unusable. She said it was hit with a baseball bat in another camp.

In August, she was arrested on allegations of damaging hospital furniture in a hospital emergency room. She has not been convicted.

"We need to go somewhere," Krotz said. "They call the parks public, so let them be. You don't need to put a house there, but there are ones better than this, so let us go there."

Krotz says he has an apartment with roommates after about three years on and off the street but is staying with his girlfriend under a tarp to keep her safe.

They sleep far enough away from the row of five or so tents nearby so they aren't kept awake by people using drugs or fights. But they don't want to be so far away from fellow campers that they are vulnerable to predators.

"For everyone else who takes care of their stuff, it makes it look bad for us," Salmon said. "Some people just want to sleep."

Armed man arrested at protest pitting conservatives, anti-fascists in Portland

*By Lynne Terry
October 8, 2017*

UPDATED AT 8:45 P.M.

Federal officers arrested a man for being armed at a federal park in downtown Portland on Sunday at the tail end of a rally called by a conservative free-speech group.

The arrest followed a small rally at the park, called by the conservative Patriot Prayer group. About 50 showed up along with about 50 anti-fascists. The two groups yelled at each other as dozens of police officers and media looked on. After the shouting match, the prayer group marched downtown and then circled back to the park.

That's when federal officers confronted the man, identified as Jay Byron Bishop, 38.

Bishop appeared in a June video interview with independent journalist Mike Bivins defending Jeremy Christian, the man accused of fatally stabbing two men and wounding a third on a MAX train in May. A reporter for The Oregonian/OregonLive witnessed Bishop's arrest on Sunday and confirmed he was the man in the video.

Bishop told Bivins at the time that the three victims, who approached Christian as he allegedly directed racial and anti-Muslim slurs at two teenage girls, "deserve everything that they got" for confronting a man expressing his opinions.

Portland police, who declined to comment on the case, tweeted a photo of the arms displayed on the carrier of Bishop's scooter. They showed a broken down Ruger firearm, large knife and a magazine. Federal protective services arrested the man for being armed in a federal park, the Tweet said.

A spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security confirmed that Bishop was arrested at the park. He's being held on suspicion of being a felon in possession of a firearm, a felony, and on a misdemeanor conceal carry charge, according to his arrest listing in Multnomah County jail.

Court records show that in 2010, Bishop was convicted on a felony charge of the unlawful use of a weapon against another person.

The Portland Tribune

Council considers advisory group regulations

*By Jim Redden
October 8, 2017*

Unresolved issues include term limits and reactions to potential conflicts of interest by members

The City Council moved closer to approving Portland's first standard procedures for citizen advisory groups on Wednesday, including a requirement that members publicly declare potential conflicts of interest.

"We make better decisions when we partner with the community, and the city needs to do a better job providing the volunteers who serve on boards and commissions the tools they need to be successful," said Commissioner Nick Fish, who cosponsored the resolution with the procedures with commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Amanda Fritz.

There was broad agreement on most of the proposed procedures, including having a uniform application form for potential members to complete to be considered for appointment.

The final vote was postponed until Nov. 1 to discuss two issues further, however.

One is whether the terms the members serve should be limited to a certain duration.

The other is, when a member potentially stands to benefit from a group decision, whether that member should also be prohibited from voting on the issue or even participating in the discussion.

Public testimony split on the questions. Most witnesses favored term limits and a prohibition on voting on issues where conflicts occur. But the Oregon League of Women Voters of Portland opposed both terms limits and the voting prohibition, noting that such decisions are only advisory.

The council agreed to delete a proposal to discourage members from talking to the press about the work of their groups, however. Commissioner Nick Fish said it was not the intention of the council to issue gag orders.

The issue of the lack of standard procedures surfaced during the city's deliberation over updating the Central City Plan that governs growth in downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. A Stakeholder Advisory Group was appointed to help the staff of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability draft recommendations on the West Quadrant area within the larger boundary in 2014.

After the Planning and Sustainability Commission and the City Council adopted the West Quadrant Plan, a complaint was filed with the City Ombudsman's Office charging some group members owned properties in the area that would benefit from increased height recommendations, but did not declare their potential conflicts of interest, as required by state law. The ombudsman ruled all such members are in fact public officials under state law and should have disclosed their potential conflicts, although the city had not required that before.

In addition to the disclosure requirement, the proposed procedures before the council include a standard application form for all potential committee members to complete before being appointed and a standard set of bylaws for all committees. They were drafted with input from various parties, including the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which is currently responsible for recruiting members for many advisory committees.

The proposed resolution can be read at

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/article/657299

The new requirements and related information can be read at:

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/article/657301

Wheeler: Portland not 'Tent City USA'

*By Jim Redden
October 6, 2017*

Mayor holds press conference ahead of KGW-TV special on homelessness that includes a poll critical of City Hall

Reacting to a KGW-TV poll that shows most Portlanders are dissatisfied to the city's response to homelessness, Mayor Ted Wheeler held a press conference Friday afternoon to assure residents that he and the rest of the City Council are fully aware of the problem and doing everything they can to alleviate it.

The poll was posted on KGW-TV website after Wheeler scheduled the press conference. It was originally scheduled to be revealed in an upcoming special titled "Tent City USA."

During the press conference, Wheeler said he thought the title was unfair because many major American cities have homeless problems, some far worse than the situation in Portland.

But Wheeler also said he understood the frustrations reflected in the poll, saying his office receives angry phone calls about it every day and that he can't go anywhere without someone bringing it up.

"While the homeless situation in Portland is unacceptable, it is not unique. The data doesn't bear that out," Wheeler said.

Wheeler also said the council has significantly increased funding for homeless services and affordable housing in recent years.

"Those investments are paying off. We have placed more people into housing every year, from 2,967 in 2014 to a record of 4,603 last year. We're on pace to beat that number again this year," Wheeler said.

You can read KGW-TV's current story with the poll results at tinyurl.com/y74dtm6u.

Dueling protesters face off again in Portland

*KOIN 6 News
October 8, 2017*

Liberal activists respond to call by conservative Patriot Prayer for a rally near City Hall, with police showing up in force

Another rally and counter-rally organized by and against Joey Gibson's Patriot Prayer group took place Sunday afternoon in Portland, and police provided a heavy and noticeable presence.

On Saturday, Gibson, the leader of the right-wing group based in Vancouver, announced on their Facebook page the rally would begin 2 p.m. at Terry Schunk Plaza, which is federal land in the middle of the city.

Things heated up around 2:50 p.m., when Patriot Prayer supporters began marching along the sidewalks through downtown Portland. Opposition members — some dressed in black sweatshirts, black mask, black hoods and gloves — walked among them and occasionally tried to disrupt the march. At one point, one counter-protester physically blocked Gibson from passing, but Gibson was able to get away without a real altercation.

Gibson and his group walked around the Transit Mall for at least another half-hour, followed by hecklers. Each side appeared to be recording the other with cameras and cell phones. Pushing matches broke out when they returned to the square around 3:20 p.m. Counter-protesters rang cowbells to drown out the speeches of their opponents.

Police separated a man from the crowd and searched a backpack he was carrying before leading him away around 3:45 p.m. A take-down arrest five minutes later appeared to yield a weapon.

Police seemed noticeably more relaxed than at previous protests, wearing normal uniforms and carrying helmets instead of being equipped in full riot gear. Those units stayed largely in reserve.

The confrontation appeared to break up around 4 p.m. when Gibson's group left the square.

Events began shortly before 2 p.m. when protesters began arriving in the city core. Chapman Square was fenced off and officers with the Department of Homeland Security were checking the bags of people who were entering Schunk Plaza, which is owned by the federal government just east of City Hall.

It didn't take long for the competing factions to begin trading barbs and insults at each other, though the crowds — on both sides — were decidedly smaller as the event began.

Gibson said the smaller crowd was by design. "I didn't want to bring hundreds of people to Portland because I couldn't control it."

The people who did show up "don't want to be violent," he said. "They believe in love and just want to talk to people."

Before the Patriot Prayer group began marching, Gibson told KOIN 6 News his efforts have nothing to do with what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white nationalist leader Richard Spencer held a brief protest Saturday, with his supporters carrying torches and chanting, "You will not replace us."

He called on "all freedom-loving patriots in the area" to show up for "a couple speeches here and there" and "a couple marches" to "challenge the city, challenge the locals, challenge Antifa, challenge everyone."

In the 10-minute monologue, Gibson said "the goal is not to go into Portland to make it more dark. ... I just want Portland to be tolerant again."

Gibson said Patriot Prayer plans to "challenge the lies" and "nothing is going to stop us."

Following his last rally that moved from Portland to Vancouver which ended in multiple arrests, Gibson told KOIN 6 News he was done with rallies in Portland.

Apparently not.

In his Saturday announcement, Gibson said, "If you do want to join us, don't be there to fight."

He said "Portland is ran by lies and darkness and hatred" and the "goal is to leave a little bit of light in Portland."

An opposition group, Portland Stands United Against hate, placed a call to action on their Facebook page. It said:

"Our intelligence has informed us that they may be marching with torches, like what we saw in Charlottesville. White supremacists, far-right militia members, and self-identifying fascists will be present, hiding behind the guises of 'Christians' and 'patriots'. Don't be fooled by the name: Patriot Prayer has a history of violence and hatred in our community. Members of the alt-right

street gang 'the Proud Boys' fill their ranks and PP has a friendly working arrangement with white supremacist group Identity Evropa."

Willamette Week

Federal Judge Rules Nightclub Owner's Racial Discrimination Lawsuit Against Portland Regulators Can Proceed

By Karina Brown

October 7, 2017

Donna Thames sued in August 2016, claiming the city targeted her as part of a policy of shutting down black clubs.

The owner of shuttered Northeast Portland strip club Exotica International Club for Men can move forward with her claims that the city forced her to shut down through racist enforcement of liquor laws, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

The club, one of the few in Portland that catered to black clientele, closed in July 2015.

Owner Donna Thames says she had to shut down because the city made her close at midnight for three months as part of a "prolonged cooling-off period" after a shooting in the Exotica parking lot injured three people. Closing early was economically impossible, Thames says, because her dancers and bartenders told her they wouldn't work at a club where they would miss out on lucrative late nights.

Thames sued the city and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission in August 2016, claiming it targeted her as part of a policy of shutting down black clubs. Thames says the city didn't impose similar restrictions after shootings at clubs frequented by white customers.

"The City of Portland, working in partnership with state liquor authorities, has a long and shameful history of knowingly and intentionally targeting black clubs with all of their regulatory power in a concerted effort to drive the clubs out of business," the complaint states.

In 2016, she told her story to WW.

The city asked the court to toss out the lawsuit, arguing that Thames didn't show any evidence that city officials treated black clubs differently than white clubs and claiming that officials involved didn't even know that Thames was black.

But U.S. District Judge Marco Hernandez didn't buy it. Hernandez let the lawsuit proceed, finding that Thames provided enough evidence to take her claims to trial.

Hernandez also refused the city's request to remove several paragraphs in the lawsuit detailing racist city policies used to shut down black clubs in Portland since the 1920s. He ruled that the historical allegations wouldn't unfairly harm the city in the eyes of a jury.

The Portland Police Bureau declined comment on pending litigation. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the city's Office of Neighborhood Involvement did not respond to requests for comment.

Portland Mayor Supports Skyscraper Project Along Willamette

By Rachel Monahan

October 7, 2017

RiverPlace, which could include 500 units of affordable housing, would require height limits to be raised along the river.

The developers looking to build tall towers near the South Waterfront now have a key supporter in City Hall.

Mayor Ted Wheeler backs a request by a Portland-based developer to lift the height restrictions for towers at RiverPlace to as high as 400 feet.

"I support it, number one, because I believe that as our city continues to grow, as the population continue to grow, we are going to need increased density," Wheeler said at a press conference on Friday. "And the best place in this city to create increased density is in the urban core."

The development company NBP Capital has been showing a project concept around City Hall that includes the possibility of 500 affordable units. Those units would be built under the city's inclusionary zoning program, which requires affordable housing be built for projects of 19 units or more, and offers density bonuses and tax breaks as well.

In downtown, the riverfront is zoned for much lower buildings. The proposed Central City plan would already raise height limits, including near the Morrison and Hawthorne bridges from as little as 75 feet to as much as 325 feet. The latest plan for RiverPlace calls for height limits of 200 feet—but NBP Capital is asking to double that.

In his press conference yesterday, Wheeler took on critics of building tall towers downtown, arguing that adding more housing in the central city can take "pressure off of the neighborhoods."

"And as you know, it is a real battle to get density into the neighborhoods," Wheeler said. "We're still doing that, but I support increased density in the downtown core."

RiverPlace is by far the largest number of affordable apartments in a single project proposed under Portland's inclusionary housing program.

The firm of the world-renowned architect Kengo Kumo is listed as the second architect for the project, in the booklet passed around City Hall to show what the project could look like.

NBP Capital, found by brother-sister team of Lauren Noecker Robert and Spencer Noecker, is majority-owned by the New York-based investment firm for philanthropist Nicolas Berggruen.

It's not clear when the development might get built, but the mayor says the ambitious proposal seems like a realistic possibility, given the people involved.

"My sense is that they're motivated," says Wheeler. "When I look at who the team is behind the project, they're not the kind of people who waste a lot of time."

The City Will Take Your Busted Camper For Free on Oct. 29 To Reduce the Number of Zombie RVs on Portland's Streets

*By Katie Shepherd
October 6, 2017*

On Wednesday, City Council banned the sale of "hazardous" recreational vehicles, a practice that had encouraged people to sell their broken-down RVs for as little as \$1.

Portland officials have had enough with the hundreds of decrepit recreational vehicles lining the city's streets.

City Council banned the sale of "hazardous" recreational vehicles on Wednesday, a move designed to shrink the number of RVs being used as makeshift homes and havens for drug users.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation also offered to take residents' old campers off their hands for free on Oct. 29 at Portland International Raceway. The cost to dispose of an RV at a car-crushing lot could be as much as \$2,000. To dodge the fee, people had sold their derelict RVs for as little as \$1, as WW reported earlier this summer.

In the past two years, the number of RVs parked on Portland streets has increased ten-fold. City officials estimate that if the rise continues, it could cost as much as \$1.3 million to remove the abandoned or dangerous trailers from the streets this fiscal year.

"Portlanders are justifiably concerned by the growing public health and safety threat posed by abandoned or derelict RVs on our streets," Mayor Ted Wheeler said in a statement. "Portland Police have been working closely with transportation staff to address this issue and this ordinance and turn-in day will help catch unsanitary RVs before they get to our streets and become a problem for our community."

The Portland Mercury

A Man Had a Gun Stowed in His Scooter at Today's Patriot Prayer Rally. He Was Arrested. (UPDATE: He's a Jeremy Christian Supporter)

*By Doug Brown and Dirk VanderHart
October 8, 2017*

Update

Jay Bishop, the gun and knife-possessing man arrested today at the Patriot Prayer rally, was interviewed in June by freelance journalist Mike Bivins. He expressed his support for Jeremy Christian, an open white supremacist who, just days before the interview, murdered two people and severely wounded a third on a MAX train after harassing two young women of color.

"He rightfully defended himself," Bishop says about the white supremacist. "This person was illegally arrested for self defense and I'm here to tell all these socialists the truth of the matter... These three that died or were stabbed are not heroes, they're not anybody to be idolized, and they deserve everything that they got."

Bishop previously made news when he was allowed to wear that fox hat in his driver's license photo.

Original story, 4:08 p.m.

Federal police arrested one man at a sparsely attended right-wing rally today, after finding a rifle stowed in his scooter.

"Federal Protective Services have taken a suspect into custody for possession of a firearm in a Federal park," the Portland Police Bureau tweeted of the incident, which occurred while attendees of an event organized by Vancouver-based group Patriot Prayer—and their detractors—looked on.

The man's affiliation wasn't immediately clear this afternoon, though he appeared to have shown up in support of Patriot Prayer. The right-wing group has planned rallies up and down the West Coast, including several in Portland—nearly always drawing vocal opposition. More often than not, the clashes have led to violent skirmishes between Patriot Prayer supporters and anti-fascist activists.

Police keyed in on the man after conducting a search of his bag, as they'd done to everyone entering Terry Schunk Plaza this afternoon. Apparently finding something of interest on his person, police escorted the man to his nearby scooter, which contained what appeared to be a rifle broken down into two pieces, an ammunition clip, and a knife.

The arrest was the only notable incident during the roughly two hour surprise rally and march that Patriot Prayer founder Joey Gibson announced yesterday. The event drew perhaps 50 supporters, and roughly the same number of counter-demonstrators (some wielding cans of silly string).

Perhaps the most prominent attendees? Dozens of riot-gear-clad Portland police, who stood in front of Portland City Hall and kept watch over proceedings at Schunk Plaza. Sunday marked the first-such event police have had to tackle since new Police Chief Danielle Outlaw took the reins of the police bureau less than a week ago.

The Mercury asked Outlaw last week how she felt about police showing up to demonstrations already dressed in riot gear. "I won't say whether it's good or bad. I think the tone of the crowd really dictates the response," she told us.

Assuming Outlaw had input into police presence at today's event, several dozen people shouting in a park is tone enough for riot cops to show up.

The Portland Business Journal

Wheeler admits shortcomings in battling homeless crisis, touts progress

By Jon Bell

October 6, 2017

Looking to deflect an accusation that Portland has become "Tent City U.S.A." because of its policies toward the homeless, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler assembled the local media Friday to outline progress his administration has made in addressing the homeless, while admitting that there's still a long way to go.

"Is Portland worse off than other cities? Is Portland really 'Tent City U.S.A.?' " Wheeler said at a press conference. "I want to be clear: The answer is no. While the homeless situation in Portland is significant and unacceptable, it is not unique. That's what the data shows us."

Wheeler's comment in part aimed to head off criticism in advance of a forthcoming KGW-TV report called " Tent City USA" and in response to a poll that showed that more than half of Portlanders are dissatisfied with how the city is handling the issue.

The mayor's press conference also served as an opportunity for Wheeler to talk about some of the progress already made in addressing the challenges, even as the number of people sleeping on Portland's streets has risen.

Wheeler noted that the number of emergency shelter beds has doubled in recent years, and the overall supply of shelter beds has risen to just over 1,600. He said the city has increased its investment in homeless intervention by more than 165 percent in the last five years and it has committed to increase it another 76 percent in ongoing funds.

Those investments, Wheeler said, are paying off. One example: The city placed 2,967 people into secure housing in 2014; last year, the number rose to 4,889.

"That represents a 65 percent jump," Wheeler said, "and we are on pace to beat that number this year."

In addition, Wheeler said around 2,000 affordable apartments are in the pipeline, and the city's \$258 million affordable housing bond could add an additional 1,300. Wheeler also touted the fact that the homeless camp Right 2 Dream Too had been moved to a different location and that the number of homeless camping areas that have been cleaned up has been rising since the beginning of the year. Crews cleaned up just one site during the first week of Wheeler's term, but cleaned up 40 alone in the past week, he said.

Despite the steps forward, Wheeler said there is much left to be done. He said he would support new high-rise projects downtown that would offer affordable units if the buildings were allowed to be taller than current limits. He also called for more support from the local business community, hinting that they might be ideal partners for new pilot programs that would offer mobile laundry and mobile toilet services similar to those offered in other cities.

And Wheeler said that neither he nor the city alone will be able to solve the homeless issue — and all of the corollary issues that are associated with it, whether that be mental health, substance abuse or poverty. That, the mayor said, will take an all-hands approach.

"We have lots of work to do here in the city," he said. "I am not by any stretch of the imagination saying we do not have a significant problem here. We do. But we are beginning to build a success story here in the city. It won't be fully told for some time, but I believe that continuing to work together, we can achieve success."