

The Portland Tribune

Panel moving forward with demolition regulations

By Daniel Forbes

October 18, 2017

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly is pushing for a vote on new rules by the end of the year

A Monday meeting to discuss efforts to limit dangerous dust from Portland demolition sites offered plenty of congeniality but lots of unanswered questions.

The Bureau of Development Services Demolition Subcommittee is seeking more definitive language for City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's proposal to reduce public exposure to lead paint by revamping housing demolition regulations.

The Oct. 11 meeting brought together builders and government experts with decades of experience and broad agreement that something needs to be done, including the designation of a "dust control manager" at each demolition site. But key questions remained unresolved, including:

- Whether all lead-based paint, including interior walls, should be manually removed prior to demolishing what's left.
- Or, whether removal of exterior siding and trim is sufficient.
- What training is needed for dust-control managers.
- What constitutes an appropriate lead test.
- Which neighbors need to be notified of an impending demolition.

Then there's the issue of enforcement. The proposed language drafted by BDS code and policy analyst Nancy Thorington calls for a "pre-demolition site assessment" to check out the Dust Control Plan, a day-of-demolition inspection, plus a post-demolition inspection.

Justin Wood, co-owner of Fish Construction NW, said that making a building permit contingent on adherence to demolition rules would go a long way towards effective enforcement.

Thorington plans to reconvene the subcommittee in a few weeks and then present the revised proposal to the full Development Review Advisory Committee.

Despite the uncertainties, Eudaly's chief of staff Marshall Runkel is still pushing for a City Council vote before the end of the year.

Willamette Week

As City Officials Tow RVs Off the Portland Streets, People Priced Out of Apartments Wonder Where to Go Now

By Thacher Schmid

October 18, 2017

The residents of these mobile homes may not be who you expect.

The Strip is gone...

The "Strip," a stretch of North Lombard Street in St. Johns where approximately 20 homeless people lived in a dozen RVs, is gone. In July, WW explored the location, a favorite dumping ground for abandoning RVs and a makeshift community for people living on the streets.

Only a converted school bus is still there—its disabled owner has invoked the Americans With Disabilities Act to fend off the city. It's a strategy that disabled homeless people living in RVs in other cities are using.

Portland Bureau of Transportation spokesman Dylan Rivera says one or two of the RVs from the Strip moved, and the rest were towed to a police impound lot. PBOT and police are working with the sole remaining occupant, Rivera says, to find "other suitable locations."

...but there's a new "hot spot" in Lents.

While the city's new Community Caretaking tow program has gotten many of the most dilapidated RVs off city streets, Lents neighborhood activist Jennifer Young says new RV "hot spots" keep popping up—like the one on a hillside near Interstate 205.

Debbie Saylor and her partner Steve's Winnebago was one of five parked there Sunday, but the retirees and their RV don't fit "zombie" stereotypes. In May, three months after the city passed a rule mandating landlords pay moving costs in some evictions, Saylor and Steve received \$3,000 from their landlord after a "no-cause" eviction from their two-bedroom apartment along Southeast 82nd Avenue. (Steve declined to give a last name.)

After looking for housing and finding only "scammers" and move-in costs around \$4,000, they bought a 1988 Superchief and moved their belongings into two storage units. The pair share a monthly income of \$1,500 that will jump to over \$3,000 after Steve's pension begins. They plan to head to the coast and seek a trailer park that takes older RVs.

Portlanders Caught Selling a “Hazardous” RV Could Face a \$500 Fine or Six Months in Jail

By Thacher Schmid
October 18, 2017

RVs on the Portland streets, by the numbers.

650

The Portland Bureau of Transportation's "rough estimate" of the total number of RVs on Portland streets with people living in them, based on calls to a city hotline, reports from police, and PBOT parking enforcement.

156

Number of RVs towed by the city since Jan. 1. Roughly 100 of these were towed since May under the city's new tow program for occupied, hazardous RVs.

\$1,500

The estimated cost to dismantle an RV legally. Calls to four local junk yards and auto salvages Oct. 16 found no one willing to take an old, nonworking RV—even for money. "I'm not interested—no sir," said Oregon & A to Z Auto Wrecking.

\$300

What John Maher charged.

\$500 or six months in jail

The potential penalty for selling a "hazardous" RV under a new Portland policy passed by the City Council on Oct. 4.

Oct. 29

The date of the city's RV Disposal Turn-In Day, at which it will take residents' old campers off their hands, free of charge, at Portland International Raceway.

Mayoral Staffer Andrea Valderrama Officially Announces Run for City Council

*By Rachel Monahan
October 17, 2017*

Andrea Valderrama, a staffer with Mayor Ted Wheeler, has officially announced she's entering the race for the City Council seat being vacated by Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

WW previously reported Valderarrama was eyeing a run.

Valderrama, who opted not to a run against state Senator Rod Monroe, works for the mayor as a senior policy adviser and previously worked for former City Commissioner Steve Novick.

Novick and Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-East Portland) have endorsed her, according to her website.

She will enter a race already crowded with candidates. County Commissioner Loretta Smith has said she intends to run, but won't officially announce until January. Jo Ann Hardesty, head of the Portland NAACP and a former legislator, and Felicia Williams, a neighborhood association president, have officially entered the race. Stuart Emmons, an architect and former candidate for City Council, is officially eyeing a run.

Two endorsements no one is expected to receive: City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who has previously said he plans to stay neutral, and now Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"The mayor does not plan to endorse in this race," says spokesman Michael Cox.

The Portland Mercury

Mayoral Adviser Andrea Valderrama Is Running for Dan Saltzman's Council Seat

*By Dirk VanderHart
October 17, 2017*

The race for Dan Saltzman's soon-vacant city council seat has a new entrant.

Andrea Valderrama—once a staffer for former Commissioner Steve Novick who currently works in Mayor Ted Wheeler's office—announced today she'll be running for Saltzman's Position Three seat next May. She joins local NAACP president and former legislator Jo Ann Hardesty

and Downtown Neighborhood Association President Felicia Williams, who have already unveiled their candidacies.

Valderrama's platform, unveiled in the video below, includes "pushing for excellent education, for quality health care, and for protection from discrimination and ICE raids."

Valderrama, who also serves on the David Douglas School Board, was first hired to City Hall in 2013, when Novick tapped her as his liaison to East Portland. As we wrote at the time, he'd met Valderrama while she worked at the Voz Workers' Rights Education Project.

After Novick lost a re-election bid last year, Valderrama signed on as a policy adviser for Wheeler, where she's been tackling housing issues, among other things. That history gives her more experience in the daily routines of City Hall than other candidates, though she's never run a high-profile campaign.

As a first-generation American with a background in assisting undocumented workers, it seems clear Valderrama will push worker and immigrant protections as part of her platform, along with her experience as a child with "housing and economic stability."

"I know that panic when I see police, or ICE, or a rent increase from my landlord," Valderrama says in her first campaign video. "The stress of poverty, working two or three jobs and still just barely making ends meet. "

It's unclear from Valderrama's website how specifically she'd work to protect from ICE raids in a city that's staunchly against them. She didn't immediately respond to a request to talk about her candidacy.

Among endorsements listed on Valderrama's site are state Rep. Diego Hernandez, and a number of current and former city staffers, including Novick and members of his former staff.

The Portland Business Journal

Public Paychecks: Meet the city of Portland's 25 highest-paid employees

*By Brandon Sawyer
October 18, 2017*

It requires a mountain of green to maintain the City of Roses.

In fiscal year 2016-17, the city of Portland budgeted \$727.3 million for personnel services, a 3.4 percent increase from fiscal year 2015-16, though the city budget overall increased much more, 10.4 percent to \$4.3 billion.

Click on the images above to see the top 25 highest-paid city of Portland employees in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

And in the 2014-15 fiscal year, the most recent employee-level data the Business Journal was able to access, Portland paid 1,186 employees six-figure incomes. By now, this club is probably even bigger.

Many of those pulling in salaries north of \$100K are in the Fire & Rescue Department where compensation averaged \$99,135 among its 734 employees, the highest of all city agencies. The City Attorney's office and Police Department were the next highest paid, averaging \$93,027 and \$87,534 per employee, respectively.

With 3,350 employees, the Parks Department was the most populous but also the poorest, averaging just \$11,789 per employee, due to its large contingent of seasonal part-timers. Neighborhood Involvement was next-poorest agency with its staff of 69 bringing in an average of \$41,525.

Portland Police had the highest total payroll of \$105.3 million, followed by the Fire Department (\$73.7 million), Transportation (\$48.7 million), Environmental Services (\$42.8 million) and the Water Bureau (\$40.3 million).

This is the first in a four-part series on highest-paid public employees. Look for stories on highest-paid college and university employees, hospital employees and state employees later this week.