

The Oregonian

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler calls for bureaus to cut budgets

*By Jessica Floum
November 21, 2017*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler asked bureaus funded by the general pool of taxpayer money to propose 5 percent cuts in their budgets next year in anticipation of a deficit.

The mayor also released a list of his spending priorities, which he asked commissioners to consider when making their budget requests for next year.

Those priorities include increasing housing supply and reducing homelessness, maintaining the city's roads and other infrastructure, increasing public safety and police accountability, increasing the city's preparedness for an earthquake and keeping pace with new technologies like autonomous vehicles.

"Addressing our housing and homelessness crises, along with providing adequate resources to public safety and critical infrastructure, will require hard choices," Wheeler wrote in a report sent to commissioners.

The directive to propose cuts applies to almost all of the city's 27 bureaus, including public safety bureaus such as the Police Bureau, the Bureau of Emergency Communications and the Fire Bureau. It does not apply to bureaus that generate most of their revenue from fees such as the Water Bureau, the Bureau of Environmental Services and the office responsible for issuing building permits.

The Portland Tribune

Eudaly Social Media Use Under Scrutiny

*By Shasta Kearns Moore
November 20, 2017*

At issue: Do city Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's online posts discussing her job count as public records?

Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly is under scrutiny for the use of her social media accounts.

News outlets including the Tribune reported on several inflammatory statements by Eudaly leaked to Twitter last week, but bigger questions are being raised about whether her use of social media skirts Oregon Public Records Law.

Eudaly's Chief of Staff Marshall Runkel firmly believes that the commissioner's personal social media accounts "are not a public record. That's just a false accusation."

Oregon Public Records Law defines a public record as one that "...includes any writing that contains information relating to the conduct of the public's business ..."

This can extend to modern technology. The city of Portland has previously released text messages relating to the conduct of public business. A 2016 handbook from the Secretary of State's office says that social media speech is a public record if it is used to conduct public business and if the content is unique — not posted anywhere else.

State Archivist Mary Beth Herkert weighed in, in a Nov. 17 piece in *The Oregonian*, saying that if Eudaly was discussing her work on Facebook, "By definition, you're putting it out for the public to know."

Runkel says it would be a stretch to consider Eudaly's opinions about journalists, citizens testifying at public hearings and a post about a city job opening as government actions.

"Her opinion about what a story in the newspaper would say would not constitute an official government action," Runkel said, though he added: "I think this area of law is not very well-defined."

Courts are beginning to wade in on what the First Amendment protects under the widespread use of social media.

In a June 19 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court said the First Amendment fundamentally protects access to a forum in which everyone can speak and listen on an ongoing basis.

"Today, one of the most important places to exchange views is cyberspace, particularly social media..." reads the decision in *Packingham vs. North Carolina*.

Eudaly has also been criticized for missing parts of council meetings that are explicitly set aside for the exchange of views.

Mimi German, a frequent testifier critical of the police and Eudaly, said that in the last couple months Eudaly has been absent during her testimony.

"I noticed. It became habitual," German writes in an email to the *Tribune*. "It was a sign that she was protesting my right to petition my government by walking out on me. I don't believe she has that right."

Eudaly was absent for last Wednesday's City Council meeting, which, coupled with Mayor Ted Wheeler's absence, meant the council did not have enough people to vote on certain items.

Runkel said that that morning Eudaly "had other business and she was not feeling well."

German also shared a thread from Eudaly's Facebook page in which the commissioner complained about German's testimony and friends chime in with comments such as "lawyer up and sue the b----."

"I feel bullied," German said. "I've been having nightmares about her coming at me or sending people to my house."

In public testimony, German often makes her own inflammatory statements, including wearing a hood she made to resemble those used by Immigration Customs and Enforcement and accusing Eudaly of supporting rape culture.

The court may soon have to make a determination on whether it believes the threads are public record. German made a public records request Nov. 13 for any threads discussing her from any of Eudaly's Facebook pages.

The *Tribune* also made a request Nov. 17 for the list of people Eudaly has blocked from interacting on her Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Elected officials enjoy a unique appeals process in Oregon. While agencies' decisions to deny records requests can be appealed to the district attorney or attorney general, the only recourse a records requester has to a denial from an elected official is the court.

"They are welcome to file suit," Runkel said.

New homeless Shelter Opens at Mead Building Downtown

*By Lyndsey Hewitt
November 20, 2017*

Shelter, at 421 S.W. Fifth Ave., has space for 75 men with priority to veterans, people over 55 and with disabilities.

Multnomah County has opened a new seasonal shelter for homeless men at downtown's Mead Building, 421 S.W. Fifth Ave., in the basement.

It will be operated by Transition Projects Inc., the county's largest homeless shelter provider, and have space to sleep up to 75 men, with priority to veterans, people over 55 years old and those with disabilities.

Planned to close in April, it operates daily from 7 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. and people have to make a reservation in order to stay, by calling ahead at 503-280-4700 or in person at Bud Clark Commons, 650 N.W. Irving St.

The county's Department of Community of Justice will use the site for its Breakfast Club program after the shelter closes in the mornings.

The city and county will also soon offer space for 35 people through March at the Salvation Army Female Emergency Shelter, 30 S.W. 2nd Ave.

The Columbia Shelter at the former Shleifer Furniture building was scheduled to close this fall but will continue to operate until the spring. The building was offered up by Beam Development and Urban Development + Partners before they begin redevelopment. That site has space for 100 people. Officials said to prepare for winter, heaters and mobile restrooms with showers were added.

"Right now, on any given day, we have more shelter options in our community than ever before," said Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury in a news release. "But we know we have to do even more when winter comes. Having these winter spaces ready, before severe weather hits, helps us keep our promise of never having to refuse someone in need when it does."

The county has added 650 year-round beds since 2015, in an effort to add more shelter to reduce the numbers of people sleeping on the streets.

The most recent Point-in-Time count of homeless people showed 4,177 people who met the official definition of homeless, with 1,668 people unsheltered or directly on the street. "It's our commitment to provide alternatives to sleeping on our streets, in our parks and under our bridges," Mayor Ted Wheeler said. "The 5th Avenue Shelter will provide a warm, dry place this winter for those who would otherwise be outside."

The city, county, city of Gresham and Home Forward initiative, called A Home for Everyone, reports that last year, 8,532 people accessed at least one night of emergency shelter, which is more than double the number of people who accessed shelter three years ago.

Willamette Week

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Says City Faces \$5 to \$25 Million in New Budget Costs

By Rachel Monahan

November 20, 2017

In the midst of a boom, the mayor is asking bureaus to cut 5 percent. PERS, labor costs and a expanding response to homelessness are top items that have increased in the city budget.

Mayor Ted Wheeler is asking city bureaus to propose 5-percent cuts even as the Portland economy continues to boom.

Increased labor, pension and inflation costs, among others, will mean the city needs to spend between \$5 to \$20 million more in next year's budget, he wrote in a budget guidance memo to the bureaus on Friday.

"We are now well into the ninth year of economic expansion, and the majority of Portland's economic indicators are at an all-time high," Wheeler wrote. "Despite this great abundance, the City's budget continues to operate at a deficit as costs continue to grow faster than revenues."

The exercise has become a regular ritual at City Hall. This is the third year in a row that bureaus have been asked for cuts.

The two prior years, budgets were stable, but before that the city also cut for multiple years.

In his letter, Wheeler also laid out his priorities for areas where increased budget allocations might be considered:

- Increasing housing options and reducing homelessness;
- Maintaining the City's critical infrastructure;
- Enhancing livability;
- Increasing public safety and police accountability; and
- Continuing to pursue innovation and strengthening our resiliency posture.

Sue Stahl, Portland Advocate for People With Disabilities, Died Last Week

By Aaron Mesh

November 20, 2017

Stahl served on the Portland Commission on Disability starting in 2010, and rose to run the commission.

Sue Stahl, a tireless advocate for people with disabilities who ran for Portland City Council last year, died on Nov. 14. She was 42 years old.

Stahl's family reported her death on social media. "Sue was a smart, beautiful, articulate and determined advocate for the disabled community in Portland," wrote her mother, Mary Stack. "Sue, you were also a hero to us and we will miss you forever. You fought the good fight."

Stahl served on the Portland Commission on Disability starting in 2010, and rose to run the commission. Stahl, who used a wheelchair, was among the loudest voices calling for City Hall to comply more quickly with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 2014, she led a push to remove obstacles from city properties, including dozens of city parks and the Portland Building, that blocked access to people with disabilities.

Stahl's run for City Council was fueled by her frustration serving on a city task force writing the rules for ride-hailing services like Uber. She was alarmed by the lack of access Uber offered people with disabilities, and ran for City Commissioner Steve Novick's seat with the backing of cab drivers.

She finished fifth behind Novick and the eventual winner, City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, in a 10-candidate field, receiving 6.6 percent of the vote.

"Portland is growing at a very fast pace and leaving a lot of people behind," Stahl told WW last year as she prepared her run for office. "There's a lot of opportunity...to step up and do the right thing. And this is what I'm going to do."

After the race, Stahl led the charge for BikeTown, Portland's bike-sharing program, to add rental bikes modified for people with disabilities. That program launched in July.

"She fought and fought and fought," says Stahl's father, Bob Stack. "Portland is now the first city in the in the nation to initiate the adult disabled bike."

Here's an interview she did with OPB during her City Hall campaign.

A memorial service will be held at 10 am Wednesday, Nov. 22, at Prestige Senior Living Beaverton Hills, 4525 SW 99th Ave. in Beaverton.