

## **The Oregonian**

### **Black Lives Matter Activist Teresa Raiford says she'll Challenge Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler in 2020**

*By Shane Dixon Kavanaugh  
December 3, 2017*

One of Portland's most prominent political activists and a leader of the city's Black Lives Matter movement said she will challenge Mayor Ted Wheeler should he seek re-election.

Teresa Raiford told The Oregonian/OregonLive that a failure by Wheeler and other elected officials to address the need for police accountability and public safety prompted her interest in the city's highest office.

"Politicians are undermining the safety of our community, the most important issue in our city" she said. Wheeler, whose term extends until 2020, has yet to finish his first year in office.

Raiford emerged as an outspoken critic of City Hall after she founded the accountability group Don't Shoot Portland in 2014.

She's led numerous protests across the city on issues ranging from police violence to Portland's lack of affordable housing. Her organization focuses on a variety of social justice causes.

Raiford, 47, said that she planned to make a formal announcement within the next week, though she's already taken a few public steps to indicate her intention.

A Facebook page created by Raiford when ran as a write-in candidate for Multnomah County Sheriff in 2016 has now been rebranded as "Teresa Raiford for Mayor 2020."

She also took aim at her likely opponent in a pre-dawn tweet Sunday. "I hope you weren't thinking about running again @tedwheeler ... imma need you to get outta my seat," she sent with a photo of her revamped Facebook page at 2:17 a.m.

Wheeler's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

### **Columbia Sportswear Closes Downtown Store Saturday as Protesters Gather**

*By Allan Brettman  
December 2, 2017*

Columbia Sportswear closed its flagship downtown retail location Saturday, at the beginning of the busy holiday shopping season and an apparent reaction to a protest organized outside the store's entrance.

About 50 to 75 people gathered near the store's entrance at 911 S.W. Broadway Ave. to protest what they said was the city's stricter enforcement of its no-sit policy.

Protest leaders said the heightened enforcement was the result of a \$15,000 campaign donation that Columbia chief executive Tim Boyle made to Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler. A Facebook post promoting the event noted a recent opinion piece Boyle wrote for The Oregonian/OregonLive in which he said the company was considering closing a downtown Portland office (not the retail site) because of safety concerns.

The new office is located adjacent to the company's retail store at the corner of Southwest Broadway and Taylor, where Saturday's protest took place. A next-door Mountain Hardwear retail store also was closed. Mountain Hardwear is a Columbia Sportswear subsidiary.

The protest may return next week, said Gregory McKelvey, one of the people who spoke to the crowd.

"It shouldn't matter whether you have the money to pay off the mayor or not," McKelvey said through a megaphone.

"This mayor ran housing policies, he ran on getting back our police department," he said.

"Instead, he's done the complete opposite. It's not a solution to the housing crisis to just sweep people out of sight and out of mind.

"To say you can't sit here but you can sit somewhere else (is saying) you can sit, but you just can't sit where rich people can see you. That's disgusting."

A Columbia Sportswear spokesperson declined to comment.

Michael Cox, Wheeler's spokesman, sent an email to The Oregonian/OregonLive:

"People expect a Portland Downtown that is accessible, walkable, and livable for our residents, visitors, and workers. We're using the tools we have to help accomplish that goal.

"Part of creating a safe downtown is creating one that is safe for our homeless neighbors, who are disproportionately vulnerable to crime. The best solution providing more warm dry places. That's why we've made record investments in homeless prevention, shelter, mental health and addiction services, and housing."

McKelvey told people at the event that Portland police had chosen to not enforce the no-sit ordinance near the Columbia store on Saturday.

To that, police spokesman Sgt. Pete Simpson said officers "generally have discretion on how and when to take enforcement action."

Simpson, in an email, added that, "The Bureau prefers to gain voluntary compliance when addressing a violation of Portland City Code or Oregon Revised Statute."

That statute was revised in August. Among other things, it says only pedestrians may use sidewalks in a "high pedestrian traffic area" between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Those areas, generally, are a wide swath of downtown and the Rose Quarter.

## **Columbia Sportswear Reopens Downtown Store After Saturday Protest**

*By Shane Dixon Kavanaugh*

*By December 3, 2017*

Columbia Sportswear reopened its flagship store in downtown Portland, one day after it closed amid an organized demonstration against the company during the beginning of the busy holiday shopping season.

Customers on Sunday began to trickle into the retail chain after 11 a.m., including some who had witnessed the throng of protesters gathered outside the store's Southwest Broadway entrance on Saturday.

Activists placed Columbia Sportswear in their crosshairs after its chief executive Tim Boyle said the company was considering closing its downtown office — not the retail site — because of safety concerns stemming from the city's growing homeless crisis.

Soon after, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who counts Boyle among his top political donors, directed officials to ramp up enforcement of the city's "no-sit" policy.

The ordinance prohibits people from sitting or loitering along some commercial corridors in Portland, which critics claim target homeless women and men.

A sign that reads "This Sidewalk Is For Pedestrian Movement Only Please Keep Clear" is now posted directly in front of the Columbia Sportswear entrance.

"It's an issue that befuddles everyone," said Bill Ferron, 61, as he stepped outside the apparel store Sunday.

He and his wife, who were visiting from the Seattle area, said they were surprised to encounter the roughly 50 demonstrators seated in front of the doors the day before.

"I wouldn't fault Columbia for taking the position it has," he said. "But I also think that the protesters are doing the right thing. Everybody needs to think harder about this problem."

Paul Pappas, 51, another Columbia Sportswear patron, said Portland police need more foot patrols downtown and not just signs telling people to avoid loitering.

Pappas said he was a little frustrated that the city was so quick to respond to Boyle's outcry about public safety downtown when small businesses had for months voiced the same concerns.

"I guess when someone with a big bat says something, the city actually has to listen," Pappas said.

Portland's Resistance co-founder Gregroy McKelvey, who helped organized Saturday's protest, said that demonstrators may return to the store next week.

Columbia Sportswear did not respond to a request for comment.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Protesters Plan to Sit In the Designated “No Sit Zone” in Front of Columbia Sportswear in Downtown Portland**

*By Katie Shepherd  
December 1, 2017*

Portland's Resistance is organizing the sit-in to protest the zones, which displace homeless people who use downtown streets and public space during the day.

Portland's Resistance, one of the city's most active protest collectives, has organized a sit-in at the downtown Columbia Sportswear headquarters as a response to signs that popped up this week barring daytime sitting on some downtown streets.

The signs declare that the sidewalks are intended for "pedestrian use only" and bar daytime sitting—a clear attempt to keep homeless Portlanders from resting outside of shops.

The new notices come two weeks after Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle penned an op-ed in *The Oregonian* voicing concerns about how frequently his employees had been the victims of crime and harassment.

The protest calls for people to sit in the so-called "no sit zones" as a show of "solidarity with our houseless neighbors." The event is scheduled for 12 pm to 3 pm on Saturday.

Mayor Ted Wheeler says criticisms of the no-sit zones are misguided.

"It's irresponsible to conflate homelessness and crime," he said in a statement. "We can address safety issues with common sense enforcement. We can address homelessness with compassion. That's our plan."

But the protest group, led by social-justice activist Gregory McKelvey, says the no-sit zones are a betrayal by the mayor of his commitment to housing vulnerable people.

"Ted Wheeler has chosen to fast-track more no-sit zones to prevent houseless individuals from being where businessmen don't want to see them," the group writes. "He has also increased police patrols which will result in more deportations, harassment of houseless individuals and racist policing."

Portland's Resistance is best known for organizing six nights of anti-Trump protests in the week following last November's presidential election. Those marches shut down city streets and interstate highways.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Activists Are Planning a Sit-In to Protest New No-Sit Sidewalks**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
December 1, 2017*

Portland law now says no one can sit on the sidewalk outside of Columbia Sportswear's flagship store on Southwest Broadway from 7 am to 9 pm daily. So of course Portland's Resistance is holding a sit-in.

The local activist group announced last night it's organizing an action Saturday in protest of the recent expansion of no-sit sidewalk zones at the behest of downtown businesses. As we reported this week, in the face of outcry from business owners like Columbia Sportswear's Tim Boyle, who say downtown feels unsafe, Mayor Ted Wheeler pushed for eight new block faces to be designated with expanded "pedestrian use zones," meaning it's illegal to sit down on them during the day (most sidewalks downtown have a small ribbon near the curb where sitting is allowed).

According to the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) those block faces are:

- SW Broadway (westside) between SW Taylor and SW Salmon
- SW Taylor (southside) between SW Broadway and SW Park
- SW 10th (westside) between SW Jefferson and Columbia
- SW Jefferson (southside) between SW 10th and SW 11th
- SW Columbia (northside) between SW 10th and SW 11th
- SW 10th (eastside) between SW Alder and SW Morrison
- SW Morrison (northside) between SW 9th and SW 10th
- SW 9th (westside) between SW Morrison and SW Alder

"This Saturday (12/2) at noon, we are calling for Portlanders to sit-in solidarity with our houseless neighbors, precisely where Ted Wheeler and Tim Boyle declare that no person shall be

able to sit," says a statement from Portland's Resistance. "We are demanding that Ted Wheeler repeal 'no-sit' policies, stop favoring his own donors and stop criminalizing homelessness."

On Twitter, Wheeler has rejected the notion the sidewalk designations are about homelessness.

Under city policy, the decision to prohibit sitting on downtown sidewalks is rooted in sidewalk design. PBOT Director Leah Treat is allowed to make the designation in cases where "sidewalks are not to the preferred width, or have complex topographical constraints and the sidewalk does not safely support the main use of the sidewalk, due to other competing uses."

Such decisions in the past have been deliberative. Whereas the Portland Business Alliance called on PBOT to prohibit sitting on roughly 90 new block faces in 2014, the bureau wound up designating only eight. Here's a map [PDF] of current designations (minus the recent additions).

PBOT and Wheeler's office have said in recent days there is an easier way for PBOT to approve no-sit zones. It's as simple as the Portland Police Bureau asking them to, they say. That move has precedent—former Mayor Charlie Hales used it to outlaw daytime sitting outside of City Hall in 2013—but it's not clear from ordinance language where the authority comes from.

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **Group Issues Report on Historic Preservation in Portland**

*By Kent Hohlfeld  
December 1, 2017*

The Portland Historic Landmarks Commission on Wednesday presented to the City Council a 20-page report highlighting what it believes are the top issues facing historic resources in the city.

"I wanted to highlight the folks in the city of Portland and their endeavors to preserve the built environment," Commission Chairman Kirk Ranzetta told the council, which accepted the report with a 4-0 vote. "The bottom line is the folks of Portland individually take efforts to preserve our heritage seriously."

Nevertheless, more than 1,442 historic buildings were demolished between 2012 and 2017, according to the report. Factors ranged from the city's need for more, higher density housing to safety issues regarding unreinforced masonry.

The need for a balance of preservation and new housing is the most contentious issue the commission faces, according to Vice Chairwoman Kristen Minor. The commission does not oppose higher density in historic districts, she said.

"There have been a lot of unfair accusations (about the commission)," she said. "It is the zoning that prohibits density."

Many demolitions can be avoided via incentives prioritizing adaptive reuse, Minor said. The commission's report argues for creation of both city and state government tax credits to help entice developers to prioritize reuse instead of demolition. Those credits could be paid for through system development charges, according to the report.

Such incentives helped save the Bronaugh Apartments. The 112-year-old building was in danger of being demolished before low-income tax credits helped pay for a renovation. Now, the three-

story building offers 50 apartments for residents on fixed incomes. The project won a Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award in the HUD preservation category

However, some city commissioners warned against tax credits becoming a panacea to save historic buildings.

“There are real trade-offs, and it is naive for us to assume there aren’t,” Mayor Ted Wheeler said. “The real hard part is drawing the lines. There is a trade-off between preserving a historic asset and the value of commercial space.”

Wheeler said he has had conversations about protecting historical assets, a housing emergency and safety involving unreinforced masonry (URM) all within the last year.

“At some point these three conversations have to come together,” he said.

Many older buildings in Portland were constructed with masonry that would not hold up in a major earthquake. Retrofit costs can be significant. Nevertheless, such efforts are important to preserve structures, according to the Historic Landmarks Commission’s report.

“These places help reorient people and remind people where they are and who they are (after a big seismic event),” Minor said. “We need better solutions and incentives for URMs.”

Deciding which structures are worthy of seismic investment is the tough call.

“Not all unreinforced masonry should be preserved and protected,” Wheeler said. “Some of it is junk and should probably be scraped. Others are assets that are literally irreplaceable.”

Nearly everyone at Wednesday’s meeting agreed that the city’s Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) needs an update. The previous full count of buildings that could qualify for historic status occurred 35 years ago.

“The HRI provides a new set of eyes on resources and looks at them in a new light,” Ranzetta said.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz was the most upbeat about the report’s suggestions for meeting the challenges facing historic preservation efforts.

“We can accommodate density without destroying our neighborhoods,” she said. “It’s not either or. We can do it all.”

## **The Portland Observer**

### **Livability Grants Awarded**

*By Danny Peterson  
December 1, 2017*

#### **Projects promote shared prosperity**

Prosper Portland, the city of Portland’s urban development agency, is awarding \$1.7 million in Community Livability Grants, leveraging \$11 million in private investment, to promote projects with shared prosperity benefitting communities of color and people with low incomes.

The successful applicants were from five urban renewal areas across the city and had proposals that honor local culture and history, support expansion of workforce services facilities and improve community centers and services, officials said. They also commit to making a good

faith effort to hire minority-owned, woman-owned, disadvantaged or emerging small businesses and organizations.

Among the 21 grant recipients are several serving the African American community, including a \$280,000 grant to Allen Temple Church to help rebuild a fellowship hall and provide space for community programs, classes and public events; a \$129,000 award to the historic African American Billy Webb Elks Lodge to expand services, and \$300,000 to Constructing Hope, a nonprofit that plans to expand its training facility which prepares participants to do construction work through a pre-apprenticeship program.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church will receive \$42,500 to assist with roof replacement;

The Portland Miracle Revival Church Restoration Outreach Community Center will receive \$38,000 for storefront improvements to increase community engagement with the organization's social services; and Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church will receive \$32,500 for renovation of the church's interior to encourage a more optimized and efficient use of space.

## **OPB**

### **Critics Say Portland 'No-Sit Zone' Unfairly Punishes Homeless**

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra  
December 2, 2017*

Outside the Columbia Sportswear flagship store in downtown Portland Saturday, signs instructing pedestrians to keep the sidewalk clear were instead covered with posters that read "Mayor For Sale."

The covered signs designate sidewalks for pedestrian use only under city code. A product of the city's Sidewalk Management Plan, the so-called "no-sit zone" prohibits people from blocking pedestrian traffic in busy downtown areas.

About 40 protestors sat anyway, opposing city policy they say criminalizes homelessness in favor of businesses like Columbia Sportswear. Cities across Oregon continue to grapple with the same question of whether such policies actually criminalize homelessness.

"When you criminalize things that only homeless people have to do, you're criminalizing homelessness," said Portland Resistance organizer Gregory McKelvey. "Human beings need to sit and to rest, and to simply say that homeless people should not be around here is not as a solution."

Mayor Ted Wheeler instructed the Portland Police Bureau and the city's transportation agency to expand the no-sit zone downtown, the Portland Mercury reported Wednesday.

On Twitter, Wheeler — seemingly responding to criticism of the action — said it was "irresponsible" to conflate homelessness with crime.

"We can address safety issues with common sense enforcement," Wheeler tweeted. "We can address homelessness with compassion. That's our plan."

PPB Sgt. Ryan Bren said the Bureau had not instructed its officers to enforce the signs.

“The Police Bureau is taking no action currently with respect to the signs that have been put up,” Bren said. “The Police Bureau has not been given any specific direction to enforce it and that is not our intention.”

Protestors saw the move as suspect in timing. About two weeks prior to the mayor’s announcement, Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle wrote a guest column in the Oregonian/OregonLive urging city leaders to address safety downtown. Boyle said his employees have reported being harassed and threatened by people near the downtown office.

“We are so concerned that we brought together senior management this week to talk through the challenges and options for addressing it, including a review of whether to stay downtown,” Boyle wrote.

In March, Eugene City Council launched a pilot program that restricted dogs on public property in specific areas of the city’s downtown. The Register-Guard reported the majority of people cited in the first six months of the program were homeless.

Last month, a proposal to expand Medford’s downtown “exclusion zone” failed in a city council meeting. The zone is off-limits for 90 days to people cited for civil offenses like possession of a controlled substance or failure to control dangerous dogs.

The expansion sought to include buildings such as the Jackson County Courthouse and the District Attorney’s Office.

At the Nov. 2 council meeting, Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler said the zone was not intended to criminalize homelessness but to discourage bad behavior in the city’s downtown corridor and to encourage thriving businesses, an idea mirrored in Boyle’s op-ed.

“I love Portland,” Boyle wrote in his op-ed. “But as the chief executive officer of a company based here, I am concerned I may have made a mistake when we recently relocated one of our brand headquarters downtown.”

Medford council members who voted against the expansion of the exclusion zone worried the plan would not address homelessness head-on.

“I mean maybe it will come to what council member Kay Brooks suggested: that we’ll just squeeze [homeless people] out of town,” council member Clay Bearnson said at the meeting. “I just don’t know if that’s very effective or if that’s a good way to spend tax dollars.”