

## **Willamette Week**

# **Murmurs: Fritz Slated to Oversee Public Campaign Finance**

*By Aaron Mesh  
December 13, 2017*

**In other news: A convicted Malheur refuge occupier files to run for Congress.**

### **Fritz Slated to Oversee Public Campaign Finance**

City Commissioner Amanda Fritz is poised to oversee the city's public campaign finance program. The Portland City Council last December approved the program to bring back city funding for council candidates—a revival championed by Fritz, who first won election with a publicly financed campaign in 2008. Fritz no longer controls the bureau that runs the program, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. But Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who now oversees ONI, plans to give responsibility for the program back to Fritz. The program will be run separately from any bureau, much like the Portland Children's Levy, and will rotate between commissioners to avoid having them oversee an election they are running in, says Kate Titus, executive director of Common Cause Oregon.

### **Portland Public Schools Mishandled a Probe of Sexual Harassment Claims**

Portland Public Schools botched an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against Adam Kennybrew, the former Roosevelt High School head football coach. "The Kennybrew investigation was poorly planned and executed," Lisa Greenfield, an outside attorney hired by PPS, found after reviewing the district's response to complaints about the coach. The allegations against Kennebrew included that he "made numerous inappropriate comments, sent sexually explicit, inappropriate communications, and solicited and initiated unwanted physical contact" with female staff at Roosevelt, according to an Oct. 8 memo prepared by Greenfield. The district says it is considering making changes in how it conducts such investigations.

### **Convicted Malheur Occupier Files to Run for Congress**

One of the anti-government militants who occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016 is running for Congress in Arizona. Jon Ritzheimer was sentenced last month to 12 months and one day in federal prison for his leadership role in the armed takeover of the Eastern Oregon bird sanctuary. (During the occupation, Ritzheimer achieved special notoriety for his YouTube video telling his family, "I want to die a free man" and "Daddy swore an oath.") This week, he filed paperwork to run in the special election to replace U.S. Rep. Trent Franks (R-Arizona), who resigned following revelations he had asked staffers to be surrogate mothers of his children.

### **Give!Guide Tops \$1.5 Million**

WW's annual Give!Guide is live and accepting donations at [giveguide.org](http://giveguide.org). Giving has exceeded \$1.5 million. This week's G!G Happy Hour on Dec. 14 at White Owl Social Club boasts a DJ set from local music maven Natasha Kmeto, plus a chance to win a Poler knapsack, a Poler hat or a \$50 gift card to Hotlips Pizza.

# Vera Katz Always Played to Win—Even When We Dug Through Her Recycling

*By Katie Shepherd  
December 13, 2017*

**Katz artfully steered the Portland City Council to a series of landmark developments.**

Sometimes you don't know what you've got till it's gone.

The passing this week of former Oregon House Speaker and Portland Mayor Vera Katz at age 84 took from the stage a pioneering politician whose deftness and accomplishments shine even brighter in comparison to those who followed her.

After fleeing Hitler's Germany with her family as a young girl, Katz embodied the American dream, moving west from Brooklyn to leave a lasting mark on this city, which she led as mayor from 1993 to 2005.

Employing the skills she sharpened as the first woman to serve as speaker of the Oregon House—an accountant's attention to detail and a psychologist's understanding of her colleagues' motivations—Katz artfully steered the Portland City Council to a series of landmark developments. She was a dealmaker, a motivator and a visionary who understood the art of the possible.

Her legacies are the landscape of this city. She shaped the Pearl District, the Portland Streetcar, Moda Center, the South Waterfront, light rail to the airport, the Eastbank Esplanade, a renovated Providence Park and even Tilikum Crossing, for which she laid the groundwork before leaving office.

Under Katz, Portland lived up to its nickname, "The City That Works," in a way it never has since.

We talked to the people who knew her, and combed our archives for a few defining moments from the last successful mayor. Here's what they said.

**And here are four moments when the mayor's actions spoke for her.**

On May 7, 1992, WW endorsed Katz for Portland mayor over her main opponent, Earl Blumenauer. We wrote:

On paper, Commissioner Blumenauer is the best-prepared and most technically proficient mayoral candidate in recent memory. In other words, all the parts are there. Yet we are convinced that Portland would be better off with Vera Katz as mayor.

Katz's record should speak for itself, but here's a reminder: She has proven herself to be one of the best state lawmakers in the recent history of Oregon. Katz has served her Northwest Portland district with distinction, courage and intelligence for 19 years. She has avoided even the hint of scandal during her years of public service and has earned a reputation for being a thoughtful, tireless public servant. Her warmth and charm make her likable; her guts and savvy allow her to play hardball politically when she has to.

On Feb. 8, 1996, Katz used her considerable political sway to call on Portlanders to construct an emergency, mile-long seawall along the Willamette River. Here's what happened:

Normal people—people actually familiar with the phenomenon of honest labor—built a makeshift sea wall out of plywood, plastic sheeting and 2-by-6s.

Most were volunteers who had been there since mid-morning. The mood was calm and businesslike, the volunteers perfectly confident that the wall – a hastily built structure hundreds of yards long— would be completed in time, less certain whether it would hold.

Here the city was at last able to bind together to fight a common enemy— and what enemy could be more universal than a flood? Neighbors may differ on immorality and politics, but virtually everyone is willing to come out against the wholesale washing away of children and pets.

In 1998, WW took a critical look at the Katz administration, but our cover story found the mayor had as many fans as critics. We wrote:

When she wants, Katz can be charming, stimulating and teary-eyed—and a gifted saleswoman.

"Vera is one of the few politicians who doesn't immediately set off voters' bullshit detectors," adds Lauren Moughon, former press secretary for Ron Wyden's and Tom Bruggere's senate campaigns. "She's real. It's one part New York attitude, one part love of Portland and one part Amazon warrior."

In 2002, WW rummaged through Katz's home recycling bin, in response to local officials ruling that curbside trash was public property. She was not amused:

We filed into the mayor's private conference room. The atmosphere, chilly to begin with, turned arctic when the mayor marched in. She speared us each with a wounded glare, then hoisted the bin of newspaper and stalked out of the room—all without uttering a word.

Our haul from Mayor Vera Katz is limited to a stack of newsprint from her recycling bin—her garbage can was well out of reach—but we assemble several clues to her intellectual leanings. We find overwhelming evidence that the Mayor reads *The Oregonian*, *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, *U.S. Mayor* and the *Portland Tribune*.

We also stumble across a copy of *TV Click* in which certain programs have been circled in municipal red. If we're not mistaken, the mayor has a special fondness for dog shows, figure skating and *The West Wing*.

## **Vera Katz Had Five Big Ideas That Never Happened. But They Still Could.**

*By Nigel Jaquiss*  
*December 13, 2017*

### **She wanted to build a new neighborhood atop a Portland highway.**

Vera Katz got a lot of things done.

Any map of Portland serves as testimony: Katz championed every modern Portland landmark from Moda Center to the Aerial Tram. She ushered this city into national prominence with a bevy of big ideas that she refused to let die.

Yet a few of Katz's passion projects, both in the Oregon Legislature and the Portland mayor's office, remain unfinished.

Here are five ideas for which she never got traction:

1. The "animal tax." As a lawmaker for 20 years, including three terms as House speaker, Katz often took aim at sacred cows—and few are more sacred than the tax exemptions that social

clubs such as the Elks and Moose lodges enjoy. Katz loathed the notion that private clubs, which could discriminate against whom they admitted, including women, should enjoy a property tax exemption. "Every year, she introduced the 'animal tax' bill," recalls former state Sen. Jane Cease (D-Portland). "She always introduced it."

2. Getting lawyers to work for free. While serving in the Legislature, Katz tried a little social engineering: Lawyers enjoy a lucrative monopoly, and many Oregonians cannot afford to hire legal representation. She proposed a bill that would have required all lawyers to do some pro bono work annually. "She was unafraid of the inconvenient, unsettling question," recalls former state Rep. and later Secretary of State Phil Keisling (D-Portland). "Lawyers accused her of trying to push them into indentured servitude."

3. Covering I-405. In her 1998 State of the City speech, Mayor Katz suggested repairing the deep scar cut through the westside by the construction of Interstate 405 in the 1970s. "I propose that we cover sections of I-405 and bring back a great neighborhood," Katz said. "Above I-405, and in the neighborhoods surrounding it, we have the potential to build parks, design an urban high-tech campus, provide parking, create pedestrian walks, and build housing, office and retail space."

4. Bringing Major League Baseball to Portland. When the Portland Rockies returned minor league baseball to the Rose City in 1995, Katz immediately bought two season tickets. By the following year, she'd convened a task force to begin figuring out how to bring Major League Baseball to Portland. The city's best shot came in 2003, when the Montreal Expos went looking for a new home. "This is an opportunity we can't miss," Katz told WW. We missed it.

5. Dumping the city's unusual form of government. Although she was a master at getting her four colleagues to work collaboratively, Katz decided that Portland's system, in which five commissioners enjoy broad authority over city bureaus rather than relying on a strong mayor and city manager as many cities do, was archaic. "If you want a government that's responsive and manageable, you can't continue to govern with a commission," Katz told WW on Jan. 17, 2007. "Every one of the commissioners see themselves as mayor."

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Mayor Wheeler Demands Retraction from the Guardian**

*By Steven Humphrey*

*December 12, 2017*

Mayor Ted Wheeler is taking a lot of heat today from activists who are angry that he may have encouraged Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle to write an Oregonian op-ed about Portland's homelessness problem, per a scathing article in the Guardian:

Intriguingly, Boyle has said that he wrote the op-ed at the request of none other than Wheeler, who, in Boyle's telling, is hoping to gain momentum to get more police on the streets.

As the Mercury has reported, Boyle—who made substantial donations to Wheeler's campaign—pressured the mayor's office to put up a "no sit zone" sign outside his downtown Columbia store, after complaining about defecation and that his employees frequently have their things stolen and are sometimes threatened.

As the Guardian stated, it would indeed be intriguing if the mayor was teaming up with his donor, awarding him special favors, and encouraging him to pen op-eds where he threatens to

move his business out of town if his demands aren't met. That version of events came from an interview Boyle did with OPB's Think Out Loud, in which he vaguely alluded to agreeing to help Wheeler find support for more police resources. Boyle made the comment in passing, and it was unclear whether he was referring to the op-ed.

Wheeler's office emphatically says he wasn't.

As our Dirk VanderHart first reported on Twitter, the mayor's office flatly denies that version of events and has demanded a retraction from the newspaper. Here's the retraction request from the mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Cox:

Dear Guardian Editors,

I am writing to request a correction to your story, "Portland homeless crisis: sportswear CEO's threat prompts soul-searching," dated December 11, 2017. [Link here](#):

I requested a correction through your reporter, Thatcher Schmid, yesterday. I have yet to receive a satisfactory response.

The passage I would like corrected is:

Intriguingly, Boyle has said that he wrote the op-ed at the request of none other than Wheeler, who, in Boyle's telling, is hoping to gain momentum to get more police on the streets.

Mayor Wheeler did not ask Tim Boyle to write the op-ed, and Tim Boyle never made that claim. Further, both the Mayor's office and Columbia Sportswear deny that the Mayor asked Mr. Boyle to pen the op-ed.

When I asked your reporter to offer a citation for his sloppy paraphrase he offered up this OPB interview with Tim Boyle (6 minutes in). [Link here](#):

There is nothing in this segment that implies, much less states, that the Mayor asked Mr. Boyle to pen the op-ed. Even if one were being charitable and could forgive a misinterpretation of Mr. Boyle's remarks, editors should have caught this. A claim of this magnitude requires actual evidence to substantiate.

Let's review the evidence. Your story links Mr. Boyle's op-ed with the Mayor's efforts to secure more police officers. Mr. Boyle's op-ed was submitted to the Oregonian on November 10. The City Council passed a budget approving funding for more officers on November 8. [Link here](#):

Further, the idea that any Mayor would ask a prominent business owner to threaten to move a business out of the city, criticize the city the Mayor serves, and criticize the Mayor himself is ludicrous on its face.

The claim made in your story is untrue, absurd, and inflammatory. I request an immediate correction.

Sincerely,

Michael Cox

Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Communications

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

We'll keep you posted on the Guardian's response, if they supply one.

Update, 1:35 pm: The Guardian hasn't posted a correction, but has modified its story to more clearly reflect Boyle's comments, and include Wheeler's denial. It now reads:

Intriguingly, in a discussion on Oregon Public Broadcasting of the context in which he wrote his op-ed, Boyle related that the mayor had “asked me: ‘Listen, we need more policemen on the street’”, to which Boyle replied that he would “help”. In e-mailed comments, the mayor’s spokesman, Michael Cox, said “there is nothing in this segment that implies” that the mayor asked Boyle to write the op-ed.

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **Portland’s 2035 Comprehensive Plan Upheld by State Agency**

*By Chuck Slothower  
December 12, 2017*

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development has turned back objections to Portland’s 2035 comprehensive plan.

The state agency’s Dec. 5 ruling means the comprehensive plan has cleared a hurdle toward implementation by the city of Portland in 2018. Yet opponents could still appeal the plan to the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Land Use Board of Appeals.

One group left no doubt an appeal would be forthcoming.

“We’re going on with the appeal, and we’re working on it right now,” said Martie Sucec, chairwoman of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association in Southwest Portland was joined by the Goose Hollow Foothills League, Rose City Park Association and several individual property owners in lodging objections to the comprehensive plan.

Several objections concern changing the character of single-family neighborhoods by adding apartment buildings. Others also lodged complaints about the city’s process in adopting the comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive plan is a wide-ranging set of rules meant to guide how Portland will develop during the next two decades. The plan affects zoning throughout the city, and such crucial rules as maximum height and allowed building uses.

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association lodged objections against Multnomah Village being designated as a “neighborhood center,” and also against the city’s public process.

“We’ve just been ignored, which is why we’ve filed objections,” Sucec said.

The city’s neighborhood center designation “wipes out Multnomah as a single-family neighborhood,” she added.

Multnomah Village has seen a recent influx of apartment proposals. Crews are finishing construction of a four-story building with 70 units at 7661 S.W. Capitol Highway – a site that formerly held a gas station.

“What we don’t want is for developers to have free rein on any lot at any time,” Sucec said. “This is not good planning, to just say build anything, anywhere.”

Nevertheless, the DLCD turned back the group’s objections. The department found the city complied with its citizen involvement program during development of the comprehensive plan. It

also found that designating an area a neighborhood center did not result in rezoning, and that rezoning would require further public notice.

The City Council adopted the comprehensive plan in June 2016. State law requires periodic review of a city's comprehensive plan, and the 2035 plan is the first thorough overhaul of Portland's rules since 1980.

The city's plan allows neighborhoods to grow up to accommodate housing demand, DLCD Director Jim Rue stated in a news release.

"Portland is an attractive city with lots of people moving there each year," he stated. "The City Council had to make difficult choices about how to best accommodate the expected growth. Our review found the plan to be consistent with the state's requirements for efficient, managed use of land."

## **The Portland Observer**

### **First Equity Director Resigns**

*December 12, 2017*

The first director of a Portland office charged with removing barriers in government for Portlanders of color and people with disabilities is leaving his post.

Dante J. James announced his resignation last week saying he planned to move to Colorado to reunite with his family.

James was hired in 2012 to run the newly created office of Equity and Human Rights. Under his leadership, the office elevated the discussion and awareness of racial issues in the city in order to reduce disparities.

"Dante's work was instrumental in creating the budget equity tool and our plan to enhance equitable workforce development in city construction projects through our Community Equity and Inclusion Plan, which was unanimously adopted by City Council this year, among many accomplishments," said Mayor Ted Wheeler. "His leadership at the helm of OEHR will be sorely missed."

Wheeler has named Koffi Dessou, currently equity and business operations manager in the equity office, as interim bureau director. Dessou's contributions to the city include creating the city's equity training and education program.

## **OPB**

### **Right Wing Group, Counter-Protestors Hold Opposing Rallies Outside Clinton Event**

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra  
December 12, 2017*

Members of the Vancouver, Washington-based right wing group Patriot Prayer were met by Antifa counter-protestors in downtown Portland on Tuesday outside of where former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton was scheduled to speak.

Clinton is in Portland for one of the final stops on her national tour for her new book “What Happened,” which details her experience as the first female presidential nominee of a major political party.

“We have to continue to put the pressure on the country; to put the pressure on the culture, to stand against these politicians,” said Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson. “We’re going to take this country back, take it away from these politicians.”

About 100 Patriot Prayer protestors and counter-protestors stood on opposite ends of Southwest Main Street outside of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, where Clinton held her event.

“Listen, 2018 we got midterm elections, and I hope with your guys’ help, we’re going to run up and down on the West Coast to make sure that we get rid of the establishment in Washington, D.C. and on the West Coast,” Gibson said.

Portland Police monitored the protestors as bewildered event-goers walked past opposing factions yelling at one another.

When Patriot Prayer protestors began chanting “build the wall!” Antifa counter-protestors chanted “Can’t build a wall, hands too small!”

Both groups have held several protests and rallies in Portland since the 2016 election, at times engaging in physical skirmishes with each other.