

## **The Oregonian**

### **Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler: White House Actions the 'Most Disappointing' in his Lifetime**

*By Jessica Floum  
January 24, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler excoriated the United States Department of Justice's threats against sanctuary states and cities while at a national conference of mayors in Washington D.C. Wednesday.

A justice department official on Wednesday sent a letter to criminal justice officials from Oregon and 22 other sanctuary states, cities and counties demanding documents about their compliance with federal immigration laws and threatening to subpoena them for the documents if they do not produce them by deadline. Oregon could lose several millions of dollars in federal grants if the justice department finds it violated federal law, the letter said.

Wheeler did not mince words when stepping to a national microphone to denounce the action. "This is one of the most disappointing actions from a White House in my lifetime," Wheeler said.

He called the justice department's decision to send a threatening letter to state and city leaders ahead of a group of mayors going to the White House to meet with President Trump and his senior staffers "insulting."

"It demonstrates a lack of a moral compass in the leadership of the United States of America," he said.

Wheeler also called comments from acting ICE director Thomas Homan earlier this month "dangerous." Homan suggested leaders if sanctuary jurisdictions be held "personally accountable" if the justice department finds they are violating federal crimes.

"For a White House to threaten duly elected leaders who are following the law and following the United States constitution with arrest is unconscionable," Wheeler said.

He called on the American people to hold Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Trump administration accountable.

"This is not the value of America," Wheeler said. "This is not who we are fundamentally as a people and we will not stand for it."

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Sources Say: Hardesty Criticizes Mayor over Landlord Exemption**

*By Jim Redden  
January 25, 2018*

Plus, some but not all elections heat up and 2018 has so far been a whole new year for Wheeler.

Portland City Council candidate Jo Ann Hardesty picked a fight with Mayor Ted Wheeler last week over his continuing support for exempting landlords with just one rental property from the tenant protections approved by the council in February 2017.

The requirement that landlords pay relocation assistance to tenants subject to no-fault evictions will be reconsidered by the council before the policy sunsets in coming months. Hardesty favors revoking the exemption and criticized Wheeler for postponing a meeting of an advisory committee considering the issue last Thursday. She also released an unofficial study by researcher Meg Hanson that estimated the exemption covers nearly 20 percent of all rentals in Portland.

In response, Wheeler released a statement confirming his support for the exemption for now, saying the issue needs further study. He also said the committee meeting was postponed because several members could not make it, and promised to attend the next one himself.

### **Some elections heat up**

Although the filing deadline for the May 2018 primary election is not until March 6, numerous candidates have begun filing in some — but hardly all — of this year's local races. Vacant seats are drawing the most interest, with one big exception.

At press time, former Clackamas County Chair Lynn Peterson was the only candidate to file for the Metro Council president position being vacated by Tom Hughes. That compares to four candidates who filed for Metro's District 2 seat that was vacated by Carlotta Collette, who is moving to Corvallis. And two candidates have filed for the District 4 seat being vacated by Kathryn Harrington, who is one of five candidates for the Washington County chair seat being vacated by Andy Duyck. No one had filed against incumbent Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick for her District 1 seat.

At Multnomah County, no one had filed to run against Sheriff Mike Reese. Only one candidate had filed against Chair Deborah Kafoury. But five candidates had filed for the seat being vacated by Commissioner Loretta Smith, who is being term-limited out of office and running for Dan Saltzman's seat on the Portland City Council.

Three other candidates also had filed for Saltzman's seat, with architect Stuart Emmons announcing he will jump into the race by the end of the month. Two people had filed against Commissioner Nick Fish, who holds the only other seat up for election this year. Portland lawyer and police accountability activist Crystal Maloney is considering the race.

### **2018 is a whole new year**

What a difference a year makes.

At this time last year, Ted Wheeler had been in office less than a month and was struggling to respond to a series of snowstorms that killed at least four homeless people and violent anti-Trump demonstrations that generated charges of police brutality. Both helped fuel protests that repeatedly shut down City Council meetings.

Today, things are back to normal. He is mostly getting criticized for policy decisions, like supporting increased building heights along the Willamette River to increase residential density.

## The Portland Mercury

### Hall Monitor: An Unexpected I-5 Roadblock

By Dirk VanderHart

January 24, 2018

#### The Latest Concern Over the Rose Quarter Highway Project? Schoolchildren.

IT HAPPENS any time the subject of widening Interstate 5 comes up at Portland City Council—a resolute hardening of the will.

Council members have heard it all before: The arguments that two new auxiliary lanes won't solve the city's congestion problems, or the exhortations that widening the freeway—as officials hope to do using \$450 million in state funds—runs counter to Portland's climate goals.

These points are always made passionately, and often include some novel tweak that freeway-expansion opponents have dreamed up. But while council members sometimes compliment inventive testimony, they more often set their jaws, listen patiently, and move on.

Which is why Paul Anthony's recent testimony was so striking. Anthony, an elected member of the Portland Public Schools Board of Education, showed up to a hearing on long-term city growth on Thursday, January 18, and gave the council an entirely new reason to second-guess the freeway proposal: middle-school students.

“In my view, ODOT and the city are putting Portland Public Schools and its board in a nearly impossible situation,” Anthony told the council. The dais began to perk up.

In August, PPS plans to reopen its Harriett Tubman campus, which is perched over the stretch of I-5 that the Oregon Department of Transportation hopes to widen. But the building is in disrepair, needing a new roof and HVAC system. The school district is faced with \$12 million in fixes this summer to get it into shape for students in the fall.

Anthony—and other board members, he says—are worried. They don't know whether the highway expansion will jeopardize the building's structural integrity, or if noise from the megaproject will impinge on school hours. What they do know is that the highway project is likely incompatible with a wall PPS wants to build in order to minimize noise and shield Tubman from vehicle fumes.

“The whole board is very concerned about this,” Anthony tells me. “We aren't quite sure what to make of it, because we are not sure that ODOT understands the circumstances.”

ODOT, unsurprisingly, says everything is fine. Spokesperson Don Hamilton says there's no way the I-5 project would affect the structural integrity of Tubman.

“Is it possible the wall will have to come down?” Hamilton says. “Yeah, it is possible. But we will make sure the school district's needs are met.”

Anthony wants more assurance than that. He mentions the possibility of ODOT purchasing the Tubman facility from PPS or—better yet—finding an acceptable plot of land on the inner eastside to swap with the school district.

“That would be a nice resolution,” Anthony says. “Short of that level of fantasy, I don't know that there is an answer they can give us now.”

It's a sentiment that could reshape the debate around the I-5 project. Until Thursday, Portland's elected leaders had been virtually lockstep in their support of the expansion. Now an entire public body appears to be casting serious doubts.

At any rate, Anthony's testimony had some impact: Wheeler did more than just move on.

"You've raised legitimate questions that deserve an answer," the mayor said. "I'll make sure that sure that happens."

## **Trump Administration Again Threatens Oregon and Other Jurisdictions Deemed Insufficiently Cruel to Immigrants**

*By Doug Brown  
January 24, 2018*

The United State Department of Justice has escalated its attacks on local governments it thinks are insufficiently cruel to immigrants, demanding that 23 so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions around the country turn over documents or face a DOJ subpoena.

In letters to the sanctuary agencies today, including the State of Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission, the DOJ, led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, "is demanding the production of documents that could show whether each jurisdiction is unlawfully restricting information sharing by its law enforcement officers with federal immigration authorities."

Sanctuary jurisdictions in theory, refuse to cooperate with the federal agencies enforcing immigration law, directing local enforcement to not share its information on immigrants with the feds. The DOJ, it came out last week, may try to arrest mayors of sanctuary cities.

The Trump Administration, which has branded immigrants as rapists and murderers since day one of the presidential campaign despite that immigrants are less likely to commit crime than those born in the country, doesn't like this. Attorney General Jeff Sessions came to Portland, a sanctuary city, in September and ranted about "the dangers of protecting undocumented immigrants who might be "pedophiles, rapists, murderers, drug dealers, and arsonists."

Wednesday's message from the DOJ is more of the same.

"Protecting criminal aliens from federal immigration authorities defies common sense and undermines the rule of law," Sessions, who once said he thought KKK members "were OK until I learned they smoke pot," said in a statement today. "We have seen too many examples of the threat to public safety represented by jurisdictions that actively thwart the federal government's immigration—enough is enough."

If agencies don't turn over records, they'll be subpoenaed for them. If they don't comply with the subpoena, they could lose millions in federal criminal justice grant money. Here's what the DOJ wants from Oregon:

All documents reflecting any orders, directives, instructions, or guidance to your law enforcement employees (including, but not limited to, police officers, correctional officers, and contract employees), whether formal or informal, that were distributed, produced, and/or in effect during the relevant timeframe, regarding whether and how these employees may, or may not, communicate with the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and/or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or their agents, whether directly or indirectly.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who's in Washington DC for the National Conference of Mayors, addressed the DOJ at a press conference today.

Wheeler came out swinging, saying it's "one of the most disappointing actions from a White House in my lifetime" and that the DOJ has been "more than insulting" and "dangerous." You can watch Wheeler's remarks on CSPAN (at the 37:47 mark).

Here's what Wheeler said, in full:

This is one of the most disappointing actions from a White House in my lifetime. And the reason it is so disappointing to me is that it demonstrates a lack of a moral compass in the leadership of the United States of America. It is not only insulting that the attorney general would send a notice to us here today, knowing we are coming here and knowing that there is a delegation going to the White House to have a conversation with the president, and the president's senior staffers. It is more than insulting, it is dangerous, for a White House—any White House—to threaten duly elected leaders who are following the law, and following the United States constitution, with arrest is unconscionable. The people of this country should hold Jeff Sessions and the White House accountable for this action. They need to know that this is not what the people of the United States of America agree to. This is not the value of America. This is not who we are, fundamentally, as a people. And we will not stand for it.

And here are the jurisdictions the DOJ threatened today:

- Chicago, Illinois;
- Cook County, Illinois;
- New York City, New York;
- State of California;
- Albany, New York;
- Berkeley, California;
- Bernalillo County, New Mexico;
- Burlington, Vermont;
- City and County of Denver, Colorado;
- Fremont, California;
- Jackson, Mississippi;
- King County, Washington;
- Lawrence, Massachusetts;
- City of Los Angeles, California;
- Louisville Metro, Kentucky;
- Monterey County, California;
- Sacramento County, California;
- City and County of San Francisco, California;
- Sonoma County, California;
- Watsonville, California;

- West Palm Beach, Florida;
- State of Illinois; and
- State of Oregon.

## Portland's Small-Time Landlords Don't Have to Follow Renter Protections

*By Dirk VanderHart*  
*January 24, 2018*

### **But as City Council Prepares to Reconsider, a New Study Suggests Thousands of Tenants Are at Risk**

The signature renter protection to emerge from Portland's housing emergency has a soft spot for small-timers.

Last year, Portland City Council passed a new law requiring landlords to pay between \$2,900 and \$4,500 in relocation assistance to tenants they bounce with no-cause evictions or rent increases of at least 10 percent. It was money to help soften the disorienting blows being dealt to renters at a time when entire buildings full of tenants were being unceremoniously evicted.

But the law has its limits: So-called "mom-and-pop" landlords who rent out only a single apartment or home are still free to raise rents and evict without cause and not pay the fees.

This "single-unit exemption" has been an item of heated contention as Portland City Council prepares to make the relocation law permanent in the near future. Now, with a new study purporting to shine a light on the loophole, it's become a political football in upcoming city elections, too.

"The people who are supposed to lead us are backing away from the critical issue of protecting people's homes," Jo Ann Hardesty, an NAACP leader, former state representative, and city council candidate said at a press conference on Friday, January 19. "If our leaders won't lead, then the people will lead them."

Hardesty was lambasting city council—and particularly Mayor Ted Wheeler—in response to a new analysis aimed at showing just how many people are affected by the "mom-and-pop" exemption. It's a lot.

According to the report, fleshed out over the course of three months by a Portland researcher named Meg Hanson, more than 24,000 units are exempt from the renter relocation law because they are their owners' sole rental property. That accounts for more than 16 percent of the city's total rental units, the report suggests, with more than half the single-family homes and condos available for rent citywide subject to the exemption.

"There's been this big piece of data that's been missing from this very important conversation about policy," Hanson told the Mercury last week. "This is a huge gap and something that was really important."

To arrive at her conclusions, Hanson says she scraped tax data from the Multnomah County assessor's website. By drilling down, she says she was able to get a sense of which properties weren't occupied by their owners. She labeled those rentals, then analyzed them to find owners who appeared to own only one rental unit.

“This is a blunt instrument,” says Hanson, who notes that Portland Housing Bureau staff did not voice any major concern with her methodology. “This study is not intended to split hairs.”

The report arrives at an interesting time. For months, a volunteer advisory committee has been working to shape the relocation payment law into a form that can be implemented in perpetuity. A current, temporary version of the law expires in April, and the city council is expected to enact a permanent policy before that happens.

The single-unit exemption was always going to be a sticking point in that discussion, but substantive data on the effect of the loophole has been hard to come by.

Tenant advocates say Hanson’s analysis changes things, showing that tens of thousands of renters are being denied a protection available to many others—and they’re quick to offer up real-life examples.

Last week’s press conference featured a Portland attorney named Candice Aiston, who described receiving a 90-day notice that she’d have to leave her home last fall. Aiston said she “felt like a failure telling my kids we’re moving. Again.” She’d become momentarily hopeful when she learned the relocation payment law might cover most of her \$5,000 moving expenses, she said, but then realized it didn’t apply to her. She was her landlord’s sole tenant

Realtors have attempted to marshal data of their own. In a hearing last October, Jane Leo, a lobbyist for the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors, suggested to the city council that hundreds of single-family rentals had been sold or put up for sale following the renter relocation law, because landlords didn’t want to deal with the policy. Leo did not elaborate on how she arrived at her figures, and has yet to respond to multiple messages left by the Mercury.

Wheeler, for now, is siding with the landlords, saying he wants more clarity on how the single-unit exemption is actually impacting tenants. “Assumptions don’t necessarily make good policy,” Wheeler wrote last week, in a letter addressed to the committee haggling over changes to the relocation policy. “Rather, good data help to inform the creation of good policy. Consequently, I have instructed PHB to refrain from amending the one-unit exemption at this time.”

It’s not that Wheeler is “philosophically opposed” to doing away with the loophole, he wrote. He just wants different data.

“I support the creation of the Rental Registration System, which will provide us with quality data to help us better understanding [sic] of what specific steps are appropriate for our housing market, and a better sense of the consequences—both intended or unintended—of our policy choices,” the mayor’s letter read.

Wheeler’s been promising a rental registry since his 2016 campaign for mayor, and his first budget allocated around \$915,000 for a “Renter-Owner Services office” that would administer such a program. But a registry system hasn’t begun, and the new office—now known as the Office of Rental Services—is still figuring out which data points the city might want to collect.

Wheeler, of course, doesn’t have final say in what happens with the single-unit landlord exemption. That decision will be made by Portland City Council as a whole—and the battle lines of the discussion are blurry so far.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz supports the single-landlord exemption, her office confirms, while Commissioner Chloe Eudaly has repeatedly tried to do away with the loophole. The split probably gives commissioners Nick Fish and Dan Saltzman decisive votes should Eudaly want

to force the issue (as she did in October), and their offices haven't offered clarity on their positions.

While they figure it out, the council can count on being raked over the rhetorical coals by people like Hardesty, who's vying for the city council seat Saltzman is giving up.

"I am so disappointed that the mayor and city council are not acting like it's an emergency," she said last week. "We will present this report to city council, and we will demand action."

## **The Portland Business Journal**

### **Wheeler to Trump and Sessions: Sanctuary City Subpoena Threats are 'Unconscionable'**

*By Andy Giegerich  
January 24, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler was one of nearly two dozens mayors who backed out of a planned White House meeting after Attorney General Jeff Sessions threatened to subpoena'd 23 sanctuary cities in an attempt to spur broader immigration crackdowns.

Wheeler, who's in Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, bluntly criticized the action in a statement that earned applause from his peers. The Washington Post reported that Sessions targeted "23 states, cities and other localities which have policies the department suspects might be unlawfully interfering with immigration enforcement."

"I have to say this is one of the most disappointing actions from a White House in my lifetime," Wheeler said in remarks to the Conference (at the 37:47 mark of this C-Span video). "...It demonstrates the lack of a moral compass in the leadership of the United States of America."

Wheeler and other mayors had planned to visit the White House as part of the Conference.

"It is not only insulting that the attorney general would send a notice to us here today knowing that we are coming here and knowing that there is a delegation going to the White House to have a conversation with the president and the president's senior staffers ... it is dangerous for a White House, for any White House, to threaten duly elected leaders who are following the law and the United States Constitution is unconscionable.

"The people of this country should hold Jeff Sessions and the White House accountable for this action. They need to know that this is not what the people of the United States of America agree to. This is not the value of America, this is not who we are fundamentally are as a people and we will not stand for it."

According to the Post, a Sessions lieutenant said Trump administration officials are "concerned" that many jurisdictions "had policies that violate the law, even after their previous responses." The department wants any new directives and other orders to local law enforcement employees.

Wheeler wrote a year ago that Portland would remain a sanctuary city. The term generally refers to locales that limit enforcement of immigration laws, on which the Trump administration has taken a hardline.