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City Hall Update: Wheeler blasts Trump, Boycotts White House Talks

By Jim Redden January 30, 2018

Plus, Commissioner Nick Fish tours the coming OHSU Knight Cancer Research Building and Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw was formally sworn in.

Mayor Ted Wheeler criticized the Trump administration and refused to attend a White House meeting on infrastructure issues last Wednesday after the U.S. Department of Justice threatened to subpoena documents from Oregon and other sanctuary states and cities about their compliance with federal immigration laws.

"This is one of the most disappointing actions from a White House in my lifetime," Wheeler said at a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting he was attending in Washington, D.C. "It demonstrates a lack of a moral compass in the leadership of the United States of America," he said.

Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer, who also was at the conference, attended the meeting where President Trump spoke.

Fish tours OHSU Knight Cancer Research Building

Commissioner Nick Fish toured the Oregon Health and Science University's new Knight Cancer Research Building on Tuesday. Fish is currently being treated for abdominal cancer by OHSU.

The building is under construction at OHSU's South Waterfront campus and will open this fall. It is intended to provide a cutting-edge space for scientists, data analysts and researchers to work collaboratively to find a cure for cancer.

The building was funded through a public-private partnership, including a \$500 million challenge grant by Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife, Penny, that was matched to raise \$1 billion. Portland successfully lobbied the Oregon Legislature to contribute \$200 million in bonding authority toward the project.

Outlaw sworn in as police chief

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw was formally sworn in Monday, Jan. 22, at the Oregon Historical Society. She is the city's 48th police chief and officially began work in early October. Outlaw is a 19-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department.

Outlaw talked for about 20 minutes to a crowd that included African-American leaders, police chiefs and top justice officials from across Oregon. Among other things, she spoke about the many eras throughout U.S. history when police forces were used to preserve inequality and racial segregation, and promised to build a relationship of trust with communities in Oregon.

"Seeking to understand our history is not divisive, nor is it an act of race-baiting, as I've heard before, nor is it meant to be accusatory," she said. "It serves as a starting point for transformation and positive progression."