

## **The Oregonian**

# **Family of Quanice Hayes, shot and killed by Portland police, plans to sue city**

*By Maxine Bernstein  
February 7, 2018*

The family of Quanice Hayes, the 17-year-old shot and killed by Portland police a year ago, sent a notice Wednesday of its intent to sue the city, contending Hayes was on his knees and not a threat when he was killed.

"The Hayes family refuses to allow Quanice's death to go unanswered," said Jesse Merrithew, a lawyer representing Hayes' estate.

The family believes the Police Bureau has a pattern of killing unarmed young black people, Merrithew said.

While a grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing by officers, the Hayes family believes the grand jury proceeding was "inherently one-sided" with evidence designed to "vilify Quanice" while painting the officer in a "highly positive light, making it seem as if the officer had no choice but to shoot Quanice," the notice says.

"We disagree," it says.

Hayes, a suspect in an armed robbery on the morning of Feb. 9, 2017, was confronted by police outside a Northeast Portland home. Officers discovered him in an alcove in front of the home and ordered him to keep his hands up and crawl toward officers on the driveway.

When Hayes appeared to reach toward his waistband, Officer Andrew Hearst said he fired three shots from an AR-15 rifle, striking and killing the teenager, according to a grand jury transcript.

Hayes died at the scene from one gunshot above his forehead on the right side of his head, one near the bottom of his left rib cage and one to his torso, according to an autopsy.

His death increased tensions between police and members of the African American community after the grand jury findings.

Hearst testified that he never saw Hayes with a gun, but believed Hayes was the suspect in the holdup of a man in his car earlier that morning. The man described his assailant as holding a tan pistol.

Officers found a black and tan air soft pistol in a flower bed about 2 feet from Hayes' body, they said.

Portland Officer Andrew Hearst never saw Hayes with a gun was said he was convinced Hayes had one. He fired three shots from his rifle at Hayes when he saw him reach towards his waistband, Hearst testified before a Multnomah County grand jury.

Three months before the fatal shooting, another Portland police officer had warned Hayes and another boy who were accused of breaking into a car that the fake gun they had could get them killed.

"Quanice Hayes was only seventeen years old when he was killed and taken from a family and community that loved him dearly," the lawsuit notice says.

Hayes' lawyers said they'll seek damages that exceed state limitations, citing Portland as a "city where young Black men are discriminated against at every stage of their interactions with police and the criminal justice system."

Three months before a Portland officer fatally shot 17-year-old Quanice Hayes, another officer had warned the teenager and another boy accused of breaking into a car that the fake gun they had could get them killed.

The wrongful death lawsuit will argue that police violated Hayes' constitutional rights. It will be filed in federal court in Portland. The lawsuit notice urges the city to release its police reports, 911 recordings and other documents to the family's lawyers.

Hayes' family plans to seek financial support for the lawsuit through a crowd-funding campaign.

"In order to bring a case of this type to trial in federal court, it could cost upwards of \$150,000 between investigators, experts, depositions, and other costs," Merrithew said. "Trials are expensive, and if we don't have the resources, the city will simply outspend us."

The family also plans to hand-deliver a copy of the notice of intent to sue to Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner.

Hayes' uncle Steven Hayes was appointed to represent the teenager's estate to pursue the claim. The estate and Venus Hayes, Quanice Hayes' mother, are jointly represented by Merrithew and attorney Ashlee Albies.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City asks, hundreds respond on infill plan**

*By Jim Redden*

*February 8, 2018*

**Wildly varying feedback offers no clear easy choice for City Council decision later this year.**

Portlanders are deeply divided over draft city proposals intended to encourage the construction of less expensive housing in single-family neighborhoods.

The splits are revealed in nearly 3,500 comments about the discussion draft of the Residential Infill Project being undertaken by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. A report summarizing the comments from more than 725 people and organizations was released Jan. 23.

The project has two goals. One is to reduce the cost of new homes by limiting their size and encouraging more construction on so-called skinny lots. The other is to help accommodate the 260,000 additional people expected to live here by 2035.

To accomplish that, the project would rezone approximately 40 percent of all single-family neighborhoods to allow relatively small multifamily housing projects, including duplexes, triplexes, garden apartments and multiple accessory dwelling units. The area to be rezoned is called the Additional Housing Opportunity Overlay Zone.

Even a casual reading of the report shows city residents, businesses and advocacy groups have multiple opinions on virtually every proposal. Many of the comments strongly support or oppose each one. Others offer qualified support or opposition, and suggest changes to make them more acceptable.

According to the report, major issues repeatedly raised by the comments concerned the affordability of the potential new housing, accessibility requirements for disabled and older people, the methodology for determining where multifamily housing will be allowed in single-family neighborhoods, the potential displacement of lower-income residents, and the effects on existing trees and historic preservation.

Based on the feedback, a revised proposed draft of the Residential Infill Project will be released in the spring. The appointed citizen Planning and Sustainability Commission that advises the bureau is tentatively scheduled to begin holding hearings on it in May.

After approving any changes, the commission will vote on a recommended draft for the City Council, which will hold its own hearings. The council may amend the recommended draft before voting to adopt it, which is expected to happen in the fall of 2018.

### **Two-plus years in the making**

The Residential Infill Project was launched by former Mayor Charlie Hales and has continued under his successor, Mayor Ted Wheeler. When the project originally began in September 2015, much of the emphasis was on addressing neighborhood complaints that smaller, older homes were being demolished and replaced with large houses, derided as McMansions.

But as the 25-member Stakeholders Advisory Committee appointed to assist the project began discussing the problem, the issue of housing affordability soon took precedence. A majority of the group began advocating for construction of more so-called "missing middle" housing — including duplexes, triplexes, garden apartments and multiple accessory dwelling units — near major transportation corridors and transit stations.

### **Mandating 'missing middle'**

When the City Council updated the state-required Comprehensive Plan in June 2016, it included a new policy calling for more missing-middle housing and directed the project staff to draft the City Code language and zoning changes.

The discussion draft also retained the proposal to address McMansion complaints by reducing the maximum allowable size of new homes from 6,750 to 3,250 square feet. Proposals to allow more construction on skinny lots also were maintained.

According to the comment summary report, almost all of the proposals have fans, critics and just about everything in between. For example, the report says there was considerable support for reducing the scale of new housing, with many people arguing that smaller homes will cost less than the larger ones now being built. At the same time, other people felt that limiting the size will reduce the incentive to build new homes, reducing the future amount and diversity of housing.

Likewise, people were divided over rezoning approximately 40 percent of single-family neighborhoods for missing middle housing. Many felt it would result in a larger selection of less expensive housing, and some argued a larger percentage should be rezoned. But others said it would encourage the demolition of ever more older homes, and questioned how many people would be able to afford the new ones, given Portland's hot housing market. A few proposed starting with a small pilot project to learn what actually will happen.

The comments even reveal differences between similar organizations. For example, the Northeast Coalition of Neighbors, which assists neighborhood associations in Northeast Portland, wrote in support, and suggested allowing buildings with three or more units to be larger than the proposed limit. But Southwest Neighborhoods Inc., which assists associations in

Southwest Portland, wrote in opposition, citing concerns about demolition, affordability, loss of homeownership, parking, infrastructure and other issues.

If any City Council members hoped the comments would be lopsided and make their upcoming decisions easier, they are likely to be disappointed.

### **By the numbers**

- 433 people submitted 3,425 comments through the online and paper comment forms
- 249 emails were sent to project staff
- Staff received 46 letters from organizations or groups, including nonprofits and advocacy groups, public-sector agencies and commissions, coalitions of for-profit housing developers, business interests, and neighborhood associations and district coalitions.
- 36 comments came via the lobby exhibit in the 1900 Development Services Building

You can read the plan and comments at [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67728](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67728).

## **Source Say: Wyden's complaints about memo blasted**

*By Jim Redden*

*February 8, 2018*

**Plus, Smith is top council candidate fundraiser in January and a Portland bureau director offers some unusual lobbying advice.**

Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden has criticized the release of the Republican memo on the Russiagate investigation, saying it was hypocritical because the White House has opposed the release of other sensitive intelligence records in the past. The Democrat serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Journalist Glenn Greenwald, who did much of the early reporting on National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, is unimpressed. After Wyden started complaining about the pending release of the memo, Greenwald tweeted, "As whistle-blowers have gone to prison, Ron Wyden has been playing this game for years where he hints, winks & coyly offers clues of what he claims is massive, serious, high-level surveillance abuses — as though it's a game of charades — but refuses to tell the public what it is."

Greenwald, who now writes for The Intercept website, has been critical of both the Russiagate investigation and the media's coverage of it. You can read his Twitter feed at [tinyurl.com/y9cxjyew](https://tinyurl.com/y9cxjyew).

### **Smith is top council candidate fundraiser**

Despite being accused of election law violations, Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith raised more than any other candidate running for the City Council seat being vacated by Commissioner Dan Saltzman in January.

According to the most recent filings with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, Smith raised \$73,927 for the race in January, which is more than she raised in all of 2017.

In second place was mayoral staffer and David Douglas School Board member Andrea Valderrama, who raised \$17,551 in cash and in-kind contributions by press time. She was

followed by NAACP of Portland President Jo Ann Hardesty, who reported raising \$9,625 in January.

Smith raised far more than Commissioner Nick Fish, who is running for re-election and reported collecting \$19,570 in the first month of the year. His campaign kickoff fundraiser was on Feb. 1, however. Fish's most serious opponent, environmentalist Julia DeGraw, raised \$3,197 by press time.

State election officials have fined Smith \$250 for not updating her political action committee, and activist Seth Woolley has filed a lawsuit in Multnomah County Circuit Court to force her to resign from her commission seat because she began running for the council before the start of her last year, which is barred by the county charter.

### **Unusual lobbying advice**

Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Leah Treat offered some unusual advice to those hoping to influence the City Council on Tuesday.

Speaking at a panel discussion on transportation issues, Treat urged Portlanders to testify in person before the council whenever possible. "And bring your children. They'll listen to you closer," she added.

When someone in the audience said he doesn't have any children, Treat shot back, "Borrow some."

Treat was speaking at the first monthly membership meeting of the year of Business for a Better Portland, a year-old business organization that urges its members to get involved in public affairs.

## **Hardesty praises Wheeler's reversal on renter protections**

*By Jim Redden  
February 7, 2018*

### **City Council candidate had previously criticized mayor for wanting to keep exemption for landlords with only one property.**

City Council candidate Jo Ann Hardesty is praising Mayor Ted Wheeler for changing his mind about exempting landlords with only one rental property from the city's tenant protection policies.

Hardesty criticized Wheeler in January when the mayor said he was not convinced the exemption should be repealed when the policies are renewed later this month. The exemption was included in the policies sponsored by Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly last February.

Among other things, they require landlords to pay moving costs ranging from \$2,900 to \$4,500 in most cases of no-cause evictions and 10 percent rent hikes.

But on Tuesday, Wheeler let it be known he had changed his mind. Instead, he now believes the exemption should only apply to owner-occupied duplexes and accessory dwelling units. That change is now expected to pass when the council takes the policies up for renewal on Feb. 28.

"I am thrilled that the council reconsidered this policy, and came to the conclusion that advocates and renters have come to over a year ago, that protections must be extended to all renters in order to help end our housing crisis."

An unofficial analysis by Chariot Wheel Research estimates that approximately 24,000 units (nearly 20%) are not covered by the current renter relocation policy. That nearly 20 percent of the city's rental stock and more than 50,000 Portland residents.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Quote of the Week: Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Says He's OK With a Short Career in Politics**

*By Rachel Monahan  
February 7, 2018*

**At the same time, he's fundraising for a political future.**

"In order to do the right thing and to provide the right long-term view for the city, it might mean you're only in politics for a little while. And I made a decision that that's OK with me." — Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, speaking at a "Mayors of Cascadia" panel at the Crosscut Festival in Seattle on Feb. 3.

The day before, Wheeler weathered criticism for ordering the sweep of the latest organized homeless camp.

Portland has had a string of three one-term mayors, but Wheeler has clearly not given up on a career in politics just yet. A Feb. 6 fundraiser in his honor asked donors to contribute between \$500 and \$2,500. Wheeler won't face re-election until 2020.

### **Quanice Hayes' Family Files Notice that It Will Sue the City of Portland for the Teenager's Death**

*By Aaron Mesh  
February 7, 2018*

**The family filed notice that it will sue the city and the Portland Police Bureau officers involved in Hayes' death.**

The family of Quanice Hayes, a black teenager fatally shot by a Portland police officer last year, formally told the city today that it intends to sue over his death.

The family filed notice that it will sue the city and the Portland Police Bureau officers involved in Hayes' death.

Officer Andrew Hearst shot Hayes in the head with an AR-15 rifle last February outside an East Portland home. Hayes was kneeling and unarmed, and police found a toy gun lying near his body.

Last March, A Multnomah County grand jury ruled the shooting was justified. But the lawyer for Hayes' family says that doesn't end the case.

"The Hayes family refuses to allow Quanice's death to go unanswered. Despite the grand jury's decision not to bring criminal charges against Officer Hearst, the family is determined to do what it takes to get justice for Quanice," said Jesse Merrithew, an attorney representing Hayes' estate.

"Quanice's death is part of a pattern by the Portland Police Bureau of killing unarmed young black people."

A Portland police spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

In grand-jury transcripts released last year, Hearst said he believed it was his responsibility to fire on Hayes when he saw the teenager reach for his waistband in defiance of police orders.

"So it was absolutely a conscious decision on my part," Hearst testified, "to defend myself, my co-workers and any citizen that might be behind me from the threat of him getting that gun out and shooting us."

Merrithew and several other lawyers say they will file the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Portland. Today's notice comes almost a year to the day after Hayes' death.

"The lawsuit will allege that Hearst acted unreasonably when he shot Quanice Hayes three times with his AR-15 rifle," the Hayes' family lawyers say in a statement.

On Monday, Longreads published a lengthy examination of the case. It shows a series of bad decisions that led to the shooting. (The 17-year-old was being chased by police after allegedly trying to rob a man in a parking lot.)

It also raises questions about Portland Police Bureau practices, and the unrestricted sale of toy guns. In the days after Hayes died, WW looked at a rash of shootings where the victim was carrying a fake or toy gun.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Portland Cops Might Scrap Their New \$12 Million Records System**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
February 7, 2018*

#### **RegJIN Was Supposed to Revolutionize Police Data. Instead, It Just Costs a Lot.**

BY THE TIME it was retired in 2015, the city's old Portland Police Data System had stored police records for more than three decades. Now, that system's \$12 million replacement might already be on its way out.

In part of an ongoing spiral of dysfunction, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) says it needs more than \$900,000 to cover unanticipated costs for its three-year-old record management system. That's not so surprising—since it went live in May 2015, the Regional Justice Information Network (or RegJIN, pronounced "region") has seen a steady stream of defections by local law enforcement agencies, which means remaining agencies have to pay more to keep it going.

More notably: For the first time, the PPB is acknowledging it might need to ditch RegJIN altogether. The bureau is asking for \$300,000 to pay a consultant to study replacements.

That tidbit was tucked into a requested budget the PPB filed last week. The document included a head-turning request for more than 90 new sworn police positions, and floated the possibility of the bureau moving its Central Precinct headquarters out of downtown.

Less noticed, but just as striking, was a request for more than \$1.2 million to cover rising expenses attached to RegJIN and research for a potential replacement.

“The bureau and a substantial number of the Chiefs and Sheriffs of partner agencies met to discuss this in August and again in November,” the request reads, “and by consensus believe that it is prudent to explore options for possible replacement of this system to one that has a more sustainable cost model.”

It’s a rare display of doubt for a bureau that has stalwartly defended the RegJIN software. But it makes sense: The system has been troubled almost since it went live.

When Portland City Council approved the system in 2013, RegJIN was touted as a way for law enforcement agencies in the Portland area to seamlessly share information. Beaverton cops who stopped a suspect, for instance, would be able to immediately see if that person was wanted in Portland. The system had buy-in from 43 different agencies, with around 2,900 total users (nearly a third of them from PPB).

As the Mercury has reported, this sales pitch was enough for the city to spend double what it had originally planned for RegJIN—more than \$12 million instead of an early \$6.5 million estimate—and to partner with a Canadian software company called Versaterm, whose products local cops had disliked in the past.

But three years after its launch, RegJIN users are quitting in droves.

A number of Clark County agencies were the first to jump ship. Then several Clackamas County agencies opted out, settling on software they said was far easier to use. Two other departures are expected in coming months.

In total, more than 50 percent of the system’s non-PPB users have already abandoned RegJIN, and the city is contemplating the possibility that rate could rise to 77 percent in coming years. The exodus puts the state’s largest law enforcement agency in the position of having to pay \$915,250 more than planned next year, according to the PPB budget request.

“Additional early exit decisions... only heighten the need to carefully assess and define alternatives as quickly as possible,” the document reads.

Agencies who’ve left the system complain that RegJIN is hugely inefficient, requiring officers to take far too long to write reports. Clark County Undersheriff Mike Cooke told the Mercury in 2016 that his deputies were choosing not to arrest people simply to avoid the unwieldy paperwork, adding that the system was akin to “going back 10 years in computer technology.” Daryl Turner, president of Portland’s rank-and-file police union, has voiced similar concerns.

Hiccups with RegJIN have also made it difficult for local agencies to transmit crime data to the Oregon State Police and federal officials.

For its part, the PPB now believes there are better products on the market, acknowledging in its budget request that RegJIN involved “relatively old technology,” and that “vendors have entered the field with more advanced technologies that are better suited to the needs of these systems.”

Still, when the Mercury raised the possibility of PPB scrapping its relatively new records system, spokesperson Sgt. Chris Burley took exception.

“The Police Bureau and RegJIN partners are not ‘scrapping’ the system; rather, researching the best products available at this time,” Burley said. “Versaterm was the best option for the time, but technology changes at a rapid pace and it is incumbent upon RegJIN to ensure the technology we use has evolved with today’s technology enhancements.”



# As the City Increases Camp Cleanups, It Wants Permission to Sweep State Land, Too

*By Dirk VanderHart*

*February 7, 2018*

## **A Bill Before the Oregon Legislative Assembly Could Make That Happen**

The City of Portland wants more say on who camps next to I-205, and who has to go. Oregon legislators might be ready to help out.

A bill that received a hearing before a legislative committee this morning could curb a disconnect that's long proved thorny in East Portland: the separate sets of rules by which the City of Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation clear out homeless camps. House Bill 4054 would do away with that by allowing ODOT to contract with the city to carry out its camp sweeps.

It's a move proponents—including the entire Portland city council—say would create more consistency. But some worry it will only result in increased sweeps, at a time when the city is clearing up more campsites than ever.

"Everybody knows that homelessness and homeless shelters and homeless camping is a problem that we need to deal with," state Sen. Rod Monroe, an East Portland legislator and one of the bill's chief sponsors, told members of the House Committee on Transportation Policy this morning.

"The problem today is that you often have homeless camps that are set up on land that is controlled by ODOT."

Monroe tacked on a sentiment that many activists would disagree with: "The City of Portland has had a lot of experience moving homeless camps to places where they're safe."

The disconnect between city and state policies for clearing homeless camps arises from different legal settlements that have been reached over the years, as homeless advocates have sued over camp cleanups. ODOT has entered into two separate settlements with the Oregon Law Center on the matter. The first required the agency to give at least 10 days' notice before clearing a homeless camp. The second provided an exception to that rule, stating ODOT could give just 24 hours' notice if it had already posted permanent "no trespassing" signs on the property.

The City of Portland has a single settlement, which dictates officials must give at least 24 hours' notice to campers before a sweep, and have to carry out a sweep within 7 days of posting.

That disagreement between the settlement agreements has led to regular communication between the city and state over how to tackle camping. The interplay between the two policies is most stark where the Springwater Corridor path meets the I-205 Multi-use Path in Southeast Portland. The Springwater, controlled by the city, has seen far less camping activity since a massive 2016 sweep under former Mayor Charlie Hales cleared out hundreds of campers. The I-205 path, controlled by ODOT, has seen more camping as a result—and become the latest focal point for East Portland residents tired of camping activity near their homes.

Under HB 4054, the rules set forth in ODOT's settlements would essentially be moot within city limits. The narrowly written bill allows (but does not require) ODOT to contract with Portland for cleanup services on its land—including storing people's possessions after a cleanup—and sets forth a minimum 48 hour notice before a camp is swept.

Depending on whether ODOT has posted "no trespassing" signs, that arrangement would either ensure campers are guaranteed more notice before a cleanup (48 hours instead of 24) or far less.

It would also give more control to a city government that has ramped up its campsite cleanups under Mayor Ted Wheeler, including a swift crackdown on an organized homeless camp advocates attempted to create in Northeast Portland last week.

"The City of Portland has really worked hard to serve the homeless and they do have an expertise that they've developed," state Rep. Jeff Reardon, a Democrat whose district includes the Lents neighborhood and the bill's other chief sponsor, testified this morning. "This is not a sweeps bill."

At today's hearing, testimony was almost universally positive. A lobbyist for the Portland Business Alliance said her organization supports it. Lucas Hillier, a city employee who oversees the city's cleanup system, laid out the process by which the officials decide whether to force people to move or not—a sequence of events he says begins with an assessment of a camp to determine whether mere trash pickup will suffice. (That process doesn't appear to have been used when officials swept the nascent Village of Hope last week.) Marc Jolin, director of the county-city Joint Office of Homelessness Services praised the city's practice of posting weekly lists of its cleanups as "frankly unprecedented transparency."

Even groups that typically take officials to task for cleanups are reserving judgment. Both the Oregon Law Center and ACLU of Oregon have taken a neutral stance on the bill, though representatives from each group urged officials not to increase sweeps.

"Camps are one way that neighbors who are houseless can protect themselves and create some community," said the Oregon Law Center's Sybil Hebb. "We really hope that all their efforts will be focused around harm reduction. We hope that any policy that is implemented will have sweeps or removal as a very, very last resort."

ACLU of Oregon Policy Director Kimberly McCullough concurred, saying: "I know there was a comment about how this bill isn't about sweeps, but I would like to respectfully disagree. I'm a bit disappointed that we tend to focus on how we can do sweeps in a more humane manner, rather than focusing on how we can get beyond sweeps."

HB 4054 isn't currently scheduled for a vote in the transportation committee.

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **UPDATED: Battle over plans for Portland subdivision goes to City Council**

*By Chuck Slothower  
February 7, 2018*

**UPDATE: The Portland City Council has upheld the South Burlingame Neighborhood Association's appeal in a 5-0 vote, dealing a setback to plans to build the Macadam Ridge subdivision.**

Neighbors are resisting plans for a 21-home subdivision on 14 acres in Southwest Portland, and the City Council is due to weigh in today.

The South Burlingame Neighborhood Association has appealed a hearings officer's decision in favor of the landowner. The Portland City Council is scheduled to hear the appeal beginning at 2 p.m.

About 20 neighbors are expected to offer public testimony, said Robert Lennox, president of the neighborhood association.

The parcel is one of the last potential locations for a new single-family subdivision within Portland city limits, and plans for the development known as Macadam Ridge come as Mayor Ted Wheeler and other city officials have pushed to expand the city's housing stock.

The subdivision has been a long time coming for Stephen Griffith's family. Griffith's grandfather, Willard, acquired the land around 1945. Now Stephen and his brothers – Robert, David and Mark – own it. The family also owns Riverview Abbey Mausoleum Co. near the subdivision site on Southwest Taylors Ferry Road.

"We're not out-of-state developers," Stephen Griffith said. "We're just a family that's owned land for 70 years."

The neighborhood association has objected on the grounds the parcel is a known landslide area and sits in an environmental overlay zone that deserves special protections.

A landslide in the area is "an identified threat to our resources and we need to protect against it," Lennox said.

Plans to remove 500 trees on the parcel would make a landslide more likely, Lennox said.

"By removing 500 trees, you remove 500 water pipes off the site," he said.

Griffith said the family has pared back development plans to protect natural resources.

"The neighbors are fearmongering over landslides and other issues that were already addressed in the (land-use) hearing," he said.

The two sides have hired dueling lawyers and geologists. Whatever the City Council decides, the result could be appealed to the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

## **The Portland Business Journal**

### **Commissioner Saltzman on why the Children's Levy is worth your vote**

*By Portland Commissioner Saltzman  
February 7, 2018*

#### **Commissioner Saltzman: Supporting the levy, up for renewal on the May ballot, is a long-term investment in a stronger workforce**

In 2002 Portland's business and community leaders began discussing the idea for a local levy that would make children a priority. Some questioned whether voters would support it. But many agreed with its simple premise, that a region known for its sustainability must not only take care of its rivers, trees and mountains, but also its most precious resource: our children.

Since that early concept, Portland voters have overwhelmingly supported the Portland Children's Levy, approving its creation in 2002 and enthusiastically renewing it in 2008 and 2013. The Levy currently serves an average of 12,000 children each year with roughly \$18 million invested in more than 70 proven programs to help our children succeed.

The children in these programs come from historically underserved populations that face significant systemic barriers to achieving success later in life. They come from homes speaking any one of 50-plus languages. Some are in foster care. Some are immigrants and refugees. Others are in families struggling with trauma or poverty.

If you're thinking "how does this affect me?" you don't have to look far. A recent report by Worksystems – "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oregon 2017" – shows that a third of Multnomah County households are not meeting their basic needs for necessities such as childcare, food and housing without public or private assistance. At the same time, Portland businesses need qualified workers with trade skills and college degrees. Our future workforce also requires wages sufficient enough to afford local housing. Children who drop out of high school or are otherwise without a social safety net are at risk of ending up on the street.

In light of these facts, the positive, long-term outcomes for children in Levy programs are clear in every funding category:

**Early childhood:** The Levy provides financial assistance to working parents for childcare as well as for preparing children for success in kindergarten. A recent Rand Corporation study called "Investing Early" shows positive benefit-cost returns for early childhood programs in the range of \$2 to \$4 for every dollar invested.

**Child abuse prevention and intervention:** Levy funded programs reduce home violence, help parents get relief from stress and trauma, and better equip parents and caregivers.

**After school, mentoring and foster care:** The Levy's after-school and mentoring programs keep students safe and stimulated in engaging classes so they will meet an educational attainment that will make them successful. Children in or aging out of foster care also receive nurturing and attention from caring mentors, boosting their self-esteem and keeping them on track to graduate high school.

**Hunger relief:** Hunger stunts healthy growth, makes children susceptible to illness and puts them at higher risk for behavioral problems. Levy-funded programs such as the Meals on Wheels "Meals for Kids" program delivered an average of 152,000 meals to children and caregivers over the last two years.

The Portland Children's Levy is audited annually, its five-member citizen oversight board includes a Portland Business Alliance member and the Levy adheres to a voter-mandated 5 percent administrative cap ensuring that 95 cents of every tax dollar is invested in quality and proven local programs.

All children should have the chance to thrive and succeed. Levy programs help level the playing field and help make educational and economic opportunities within reach for all Portland's children.

You will have a chance to renew the Portland Children's Levy for another five years on the upcoming May ballot. By renewing the Levy, you will help make Portland a safer and stronger city.

## **Neighbors turn out in droves to oppose Macadam Ridge housing development**

*By Jon Bell  
February 7, 2018*

Close to 40 neighbors and residents have signed up to testify before the Portland City Council this afternoon in opposition to a proposed 21-home subdivision in Portland's South Burlingame Neighborhood.

The hearing began at 2 p.m. today, though testimony from opposition speakers didn't begin until a little after 2:30.

The development proposal for Macadam Ridge comes from the Riverview Abbey Mausoleum Company, which owns a 14-acre property adjacent to the address at 0319 S.W. Taylors Ferry Road and adjacent to Southwest Canby Street and Southwest Hume Street.

The plan is to essentially clear cut close to 500 mature trees and build 21 single family homes.

Members of the South Burlingame Neighborhood Association have appealed an earlier land-use decision that approve the plan, saying that the proposal doesn't go far enough to limit environmental impact, that it doesn't preserve enough trees and that it doesn't properly account for impacts to traffic, transit and nearby neighborhoods. The appeal also notes that neighbors were not given enough time to review new evidence submitted to the record this past fall.

Council is expected to hear the testimony throughout the three hours allotted for the hearing. Members could decide to reject the appeal or uphold it. Should the council reject SBNA's appeal, neighbors could then file an appeal with the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

The Business Journal will have an update on this story as it develops.

## **City Council shuts down controversial Macadam Ridge housing development**

*By Jon Bell*

*February 7, 2018*

The Portland City Council on Wednesday sided with neighbors who were opposed to a 21-home residential development in Southwest Portland.

After more than three-and-a-half hours of public testimony and debate, the commissioners voted 5-0 to uphold the South Burlingame Neighborhood Association's appeal of the Riverview Abbey Mausoleum Company's proposed development. The proposed project, known as Macadam Ridge, would have built 21 single-family homes on about five acres of property near 0319 S.W. Taylors Ferry Road and adjacent to Southwest Canby Street and Southwest Hume Street.

The SBNA had appealed an earlier decision by a city hearings officer who gave the thumbs up for the development. In its appeal of the decision, the SBNA claimed that the proposal didn't go far enough to limit environmental impact, that it didn't preserve enough trees and that it didn't properly account for impacts to traffic, transit and nearby neighborhoods. The appeal also noted that neighbors were not given enough time to review new evidence submitted to the record this past fall.

Close to 40 supporters of the appeal signed up to testify; six opponents, including Stephen Griffith, head of the family that owns the land and the mausoleum company, spoke against the appeal.

"Macadam Ridge is actually a showcase for environmentally sound development," Griffith said during his testimony. He also noted that the plan would have found the Griffiths donating close

to 10 acres of the 14-acre property to the city for use as a park, as well as replacing a sanitary sewer and repairing a failed stormwater outfall on the property.

Additionally, supporters of the development noted that it had been scaled down from close to 60 homes to 21.

In the end, however, commissioners backed the appeal, noting that there were too many unanswered questions from the hearings officer's approval and that too many city bureaus had expressed concerns over the officer's conclusions.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman said that he and many others believe the property will eventually be developed but that this was not the right proposal. He said he hopes the Griffiths will be the ones who develop the property and not some well-heeled, out-of-town developer.

"I do believe this property will be developed," he said. "I think the Griffith family should be the ones to do it."

Today's vote was a tentative vote, with a final vote scheduled for next Wednesday, Feb. 14.