

## **The Oregonian**

### **Portland's Top Cop on DOJ settlement: 'The buck stops with the chief'**

*By Maxine Bernstein*

*March 1, 2018*

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw told community members Wednesday night she's "very engaged" in the reforms mandated by a federal settlement agreement and she recognizes "the buck stops with the chief."

"I've made it very clear that my role in this is that everything that's DOJ related, obviously as far as policy goes in this agency, is approved by the chief of police," Outlaw said, speaking at a public safety forum. The meeting was the first of what will be monthly sessions until a new community oversight committee is created and operating.

She said the reforms to training, policies and oversight required under the city's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice need to be "driven by the chief of police."

"It needs to be shown its valued at the very top of the organization," Outlaw said.

A U.S. Justice Department investigation found in 2012 that Portland police used excessive force against people with mental illness. The negotiated settlement with the city, approved by a federal judge in 2014, calls for changes to Portland's use of force and Taser policies, training and oversight.

A central part of the settlement was to have independent oversight by community members, but the city has been out of compliance for more than a year.

An initial community board formed by the city, known as the Community Oversight Advisory Board, was dissolved in late January 2017, and no public discussion on the status of the settlement agreement occurred for 13 months.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw appeared at Wednesday night's public safety forum with Cmdr. Steve Young of the bureau's Professional Standards Division and Mary Claire Buckley, principal management analyst who works on the Police Bureau's Department of Justice compliance team.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, is working to form a new community group called Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing. The city is seeking bids for a facilitator, then a five-member selection committee will review applications and interview prospective volunteers for committee seats.

The city will accept applications from March 30 through May 30 for volunteers who want to serve on the committee. The mayor will make the final selections and hopes to have the committee formed and ready to begin its work by July or August.

The new Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing will focus on mental health issues and racial justice, said Nicole Grant, the mayor's senior policy adviser.

Philip Wolfe, chairman of the previous community oversight board, expressed dismay that the 50-plus recommendations its members made based on their extensive review of Police Bureau policies and training were shelved without any response from the city or bureau.

Grant said the mayor has read the recommendations but is juggling many responsibilities.

"We understand the stakes are high, and the city has made a lot of missteps – a lot of missteps in earning your trust," Grant said. "The city is committed to getting this right."

Yet Grant cautioned the public not to expect the new committee to serve as a "panacea" for correcting mental health problems in the city.

Others attending called for a court monitor to track the police reforms, since the community oversight piece has fallen apart, and for independent investigations of police shootings. Ann Kasper and Jason Renaud, two people attending the meeting who use mental-health resources, urged the chief and the Police Bureau to work directly with them, not just mental health professionals.

When a community member asked what Outlaw is doing to gain and build trust between police and the public, the chief said, "You have to be visible. You have to know who we are" and see officers as human beings.

Who the bureau hires, who it promotes, who is put in influential positions at the bureau will all contribute to gaining legitimacy with the public, Outlaw said. The chief is expected to name a new deputy chief shortly, after interviewing three finalists.

The bureau also plans to provide additional training for officers on de-escalation tactics and implicit bias.

"You might not see differences right away," the chief said, "but hopefully you'll see changes over time."

The mayor's office will hold monthly forums the last Wednesday of the month until the committee is in place. They'll be at 6:30 p.m. in Room 2500 B of the Bureau of Developmental Services at 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **'South Portland' May Be Newest City Designation**

*By Amy Frazier  
March 1, 2018*

**The plan is under development by the Portland Bureau of Transportation. It would change addresses east of Southwest Naito Parkway.**

It may take a while, but South Portland could become the city's 6th directional area.

The sextant — which would take about 5 years to implement beginning in 2020 — would join the designations of North, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest Portland.

The plan would change about 5000 Southwest Portland addresses to, simply, South Portland.

About 8 percent of Southwest Portland addresses are in the area — including Johns Landing and the South Waterfront — which includes a zero as the lead number in their mailing address.

The plan is under development by the Portland Bureau of Transportation. It would change addresses east of Southwest Naito Parkway.

PBOT said the eastward curve in the Willamette River is the reason the east-west addresses in that area begin with a zero. The zero is what differentiates them from addresses west of the dividing line.

Those addresses cause confusion with 911 dispatchers and emergency responders, plus Google Maps and delivery of packages to certain homes. Residents in the area say they have a hard time getting everything from mail to a pizza.

City leaders also say there are many computer systems and databases that don't recognize addresses that begin with zero.

If this plan takes effect, that zero would be eliminated for east-west streets. No addresses would change for north-south streets.

"We think it's time, as the city continues to grow, this is a good time to take this problem head-on, to really address it in a big way," PBOT spokesperson Dylan Rivera told KOIN 6 News. "It's only going to get worse if we don't take action now. We have 5000 addresses affected by this. We don't want to wait until we have 10,000 addresses affected by this."

People with affected addresses should have recently received a mailing from PBOT about the plan. You can find out if your address is included at [www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/index.cfm?&a=673632](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/index.cfm?&a=673632).

The city will hold a number of open houses during March to inform the public about the plan, and the Portland City Council will hear this issue on May 31.

The transition period would begin in May 2020 and continue through May 2025.

## **Willamette Week**

### **City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly Requests \$750,000 to Defend Portland Immigrants Arrested and Facing Deportation**

*By Rachel Monahan  
March 1, 2018*

**She's withdrawing a separate budget request for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to help fund the initiative.**

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly is requesting \$750,000 in city funds to defend people arrested and facing deportation in the Portland area.

"The hostile environment created by our federal administration has required us to give more of ourselves in order to stand united against attacks on our immigrant communities," she wrote in a letter today, announcing her budget request to the Welcoming/Inclusive/Sanctuary City Task Force, which recommended the policy.

The task force, which was established after city passed a resolution last year designating Portland a welcoming, inclusive and sanctuary city, last month recommended legal defense as a its "highest-priority" item.

"At a minimum, funding should support five attorneys and three paralegals to begin building the capacity for providing universal defense to all immigrants and refugees who are detained or put into deportation proceedings," according to the task force recommendations.

The proposal would vastly expand the funding the city has made available for immigration legal defense.

To help fund the program, Eudaly is withdrawing a proposal for a separate budget request for resiliency at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **Portlandia Protected for Renovation Project**

*By Sam Tenney*

*March 1, 2018*

Northwest Scaffold crews are erecting a protective covering around the 35-foot-tall Portlandia statue as the Portland Building undergoes a \$195 million reconstruction. The design/build/relocate team of DLR Group and Howard S. Wright Construction began work on the project in December 2017. The three-year rebuild will address a number of issues with the 36-year-old building, including moisture penetration and poor air quality, by covering the façade with a metal tile rain screen system. The building will also be seismically upgraded with a shear core and column wrapping, and mechanical systems will be upgraded for improved efficiency. The iconic statue will remain covered by the scaffolding until November 2019.

### **Portland Tenant Relocation Ordinance on Verge of Permanence**

*By Chuck Slothower*

*March 1, 2018*

The Portland City Council moved closer Wednesday to ending an exemption to the city's relocation ordinance for small-scale landlords.

The council's measure would also make permanent the relocation ordinance, which took effect in February 2017. Without council action, the ordinance is set to expire April 6.

Commissioners also would require the Housing Bureau to collect data on relocation payments. That would be the first step in creating a rental registration database that could eventually include citywide data on rents, evictions and lease agreements.

Commissioners are poised to allocate \$394,700 to develop the system and pay for two new Housing Bureau staff positions to administer it.

"We're trying to make sure that we're collecting good data and are tracking our policies going forward," said Shannon Callahan, interim director of the Housing Bureau.

The current relocation policy exempts landlords who rent only one housing unit from paying relocation costs. Ending that exemption has prompted backlash from some small-time landlords who said regulatory requirements would be a burden.

Landlords are required to pay their tenants \$2,900 to \$4,500, depending on the unit's size, when evicting tenants without cause or prompting them to move with a rent increase of 10 percent or more in any 12-month period. Removing the single-unit exemption would affect an estimated 20,000 dwellings.

Mayor Ted Wheeler defended commissioners' drive to end the exemption.

“On the margin, I believe it is possible that some landlords could remove their units from the market,” he said. “However, the broader stability provided to the overall market, in my opinion, outweighs the concerns of the loss of some units in the near term.”

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said the policy is the result of compromise among the five commissioners.

“I want to acknowledge this policy would look very different if it was left up to any single commissioner,” she said. “But this is a group effort requiring compromise from all of us, and while I have some concerns – I’ll call them yellow flags – that I’ve raised, and which I’ll be watching closely, I want to acknowledge that we are taking a huge step forward today in the right direction, and that is something to celebrate even if it’s not perfect.”

Commissioners heard more than three hours of testimony by renters, landlords and city staffers. A second and final reading is likely to be held next week.

Tenant advocates turned out in force to support removing the exemption.

“Involuntary displacement affects us all as a community, especially when it leads to homelessness,” said Katrina Holland, executive director of the Community Alliance of Tenants and a member of the city’s Rental Services Commission advisory board. “We’ve all experienced the externalities created by a business decision between one person and another, and we don’t believe it has to continue to fall on the rest of the population to make up that burden.”

Commissioner Amanda Fritz offered an amendment that would exempt landlords who establish a fixed term of tenancy and notify the tenant prior to occupancy of the landlord’s intent to sell or permanently convert the unit to another use.

## **The Skanner**

### **Could Portland Adopt Municipal Broadband?**

*By Christen McCurdy*

*March 1, 2018*

A small group of Portlanders wants local government to offer Internet access as a public utility. They have the ear of a few government officials, one city council candidate and the co-chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon – but the plan is still in the nascent stages.

Municipal Broadband Portland held a rally in December and one in January to voice support for a municipal Internet provider. Those rallies were small: the first attracted 40 and the second attracted about 30, according to Michael Hanna, an organizer with the group. The Municipal Broadband PDX Facebook group currently has 1,800 members, though.

But Portland residents are interested in the concept again in part because of the Federal Communication Commission’s December vote to repeal net neutrality, opening the door for private Internet providers to block competing applications, slow connection speeds or offer higher speeds only to customers who are willing to pay more.

“The repeal of net neutrality has sparked a wildfire across the nation,” Hanna said.

Earlier this week Oregon’s House of Representatives passed a law requiring state agencies to sign Internet service contracts with providers that abide by net neutrality practices. While Municipal Broadband organizers support net neutrality, they see net neutrality as a symptom of

the bigger problem: that two private companies, Comcast and CenturyLink, hold a near-monopoly (and in some neighborhoods, a monopoly) on Internet access in the city. Advocates for making Internet access a public utility say access is critical for daily life activities and for getting ahead in society, that building out and maintaining a fiber network would create jobs and that revenue could help pay for needed services.

The idea isn't unique to Portland, and the idea is not new, said Russell Senior, president of Personal Telco, a Portland-based nonprofit wireless network and member of Municipal Broadband Portland. Russell, along with Hanna and Roberta Phillip-Robbins, are working to form a 501(c)(4) corporation and political action committee.

According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance's Community Networks page, more than 750 American communities have built publicly owned broadband networks.

"When a community is served by a municipal network, the infrastructure is a publicly-owned asset, similar to a road or an electric utility. There are a variety of models from full retail, in which the city takes on the role of an Internet Service Provider like Comcast or AT&T, delivering services directly to residents and businesses, to Institutional networks in which only municipal facilities receive services," said Lisa Gonzalez, a senior researcher for the institute's Community Broadband Networks Initiative.

Hanna sees the notion as a revival of a Progressive Era notion of making certain utilities part of the public good.

"A hundred years ago there was an effort to municipalize utilities, which is responsible for the city life we know today. There's been a gradual chipping away at that effort," Hanna said.

Senior likened the potential creation of a municipal utility to the creation of the Portland Water Bureau in 1885, prior to which there were a number of private water companies in Portland that failed to consistently provide clean water as the city grew.

Last year the City of Portland released a Digital Equity Action Plan that reported 15 percent of Portland households do not have Internet access at home, citing cost as a barrier.

"It starts when young people have homework they cannot complete," Phillip-Robbins said. That inequity perpetuates itself when low-income people do not have the necessary tools to search for jobs or housing. "If we want to close the gap, this is a major opportunity."

The plan recommends making sure wi-fi is available at all public buildings throughout the county, and outreach to ensure private programs that provide Internet access to low-income people, such as Comcast's Internet Essentials program and CenturyLink's Internet Basics.

Senior said while those programs can be helpful, they can also be complex and difficult to apply for, and that may be why they are so under-utilized.

"The other part of this that's really compelling is money stays in the community," Phillip-Robbins said.

The next step is to procure \$300,000 for a feasibility study. Hanna, Senior and Phillip-Robbins said they've spoken with staff at the city and county and have had interest from both entities, but no firm commitments yet.

Advocates say the initial buildout – and work required to maintain the network – would also create jobs. Because municipal networks can vary, it's hard to say what the buildout would cost or how many jobs it could create, Gonzalez said.

“The cost varies substantially, based on way a community decides to proceed with deployment. Rapid citywide deployments can run as high as \$2,000 per premise, while slower, incremental approaches may be much lower. Other considerations include what assets a community already has, such as existing fiber or conduit they include in the network, and whether or not the construction is aerial or underground,” Gonzalez said.

Valdez Bravo, first vice chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon and a board member at Portland Community College, said the state party will meet later this month to discuss its platform and he hopes it will adopt municipal broadband as a key issue.

“This is a win-win for Portland. I feel it would benefit our entire community,” Bravo said.