

## **The Oregonian**

# **Pearl District to Drop Opposition to Apartment Building near Fremont Bridge**

*By Elliot Njus*

*May 1, 2018*

The Pearl District Neighborhood Association said it's dropping its opposition to an apartment building proposed near the Fremont Bridge.

The decision clears the way for the 17-story tower proposed by Lincoln Property Co. of Dallas, Texas, to win the Portland City Council's blessing later this month.

The neighborhood group had sought to block the building's construction, arguing the building would block views of the Willamette River and the Fremont Bridge, including from the nearby The Fields Park, and it would set a precedent for future development at that scale.

City commissioners initially sided with the neighborhood, with several saying their decision was based not on views but instead on the argument that the development would create a narrow stretch on the Willamette River Greenway, an effort to piece together a continuous trail along the river.

But Mayor Ted Wheeler asked the council to revisit its decision on the project after he had second thoughts about making the projects' developers start the permitting process over. He said last month that it might be simpler to reopen the record, allowing Lincoln to tweak its design.

Housing activists had said the city would be contributing to the escalating cost of housing by denying the project and further limiting the supply of new homes. Developers said the decision added to a cloud of uncertainty in Portland, which they said could discourage future investment in the city.

In a post on its website Monday, the neighborhood association said the redesign had widened the greenway to at least 20 feet. The developer had also agreed to donate \$35,000 to the neighborhood association, which the association said would help defray legal costs from the appeal.

"We understand that some PDNA supporters have had expectations of further legal action," the association said. "However, weighing the probable outcome of all the various steps that a further appeal would require, the majority of the PDNA Board felt that this agreement represented the most viable option available to us."

The City Council is expected to make its final decision on May 10.

## Willamette Week

### **City of Portland Lawsuit, Aimed at Hiding Public Records from a Union-Busting Nonprofit, Tossed Out by a Judge**

*By Nigel Jaquiss*  
*May 2, 2018*

**Last year, the group requested the names of all city employees represented by Laborers' Local 483.**

The city of Portland's efforts to withhold public records from the Freedom Foundation, a union-busting nonprofit, have ended in failure.

Last year, the group requested the names of all city employees represented by Laborers' Local 483. The city refused, but Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill ordered the names released. When the city declined to comply with Underhill's order, the Freedom Foundation sued successfully in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

But then the city of Portland filed a lawsuit of its own, seeking to block the Freedom Foundation from requesting a list of union members in the future—rather than just a list of those represented by Laborers' 483.

On April 20, Judge Pro Tem Thomas Christ dismissed the city's lawsuit, noting it wanted him to rule on a request the foundation hadn't made.

"The city's lawsuit was a clear waste of taxpayer money," said Freedom Foundation attorney Christi Goeller. "From day one, it was a frivolous action."

A city spokeswoman declined to comment.

### **Portland City Hall Could Soon Spend Half a Million Dollars on Immigration Lawyers to Fight Deportations**

*By Rachel Monahan*  
*May 2, 2018*

**Commissioner Chloe Eudaly wants Portland, a self-proclaimed "sanctuary city," to put its money where its mouth is.**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has proposed spending \$500,000 on hiring immigration lawyers to defend against deportations.

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly had requested city funds to defend people facing deportation in the Portland area. An April 2 budget memo says 843 people in Multnomah County currently face deportation, nearly 600 of them from East Portland.

The mayor's \$553.5 million general-fund budget, released April 30, includes increases for police and cops, but also this small yet notable expenditure.

When Eudaly requested the funds in March, she described it as a way for Portland, a self-proclaimed "sanctuary city," to put its money where its mouth is. "The hostile environment created by our federal administration," she wrote, "has required us to give more of ourselves in order to stand united against attacks on our immigrant communities."