

## **The Oregonian**

### **In Gesture of Openness, Portland Mayor to Hold Press Conferences, Reopen City Hall Pressroom**

*By Gordon Friedman  
July 23, 2018*

In a small yet significant step to better relationships with the press and the public, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler will hold regular press conference and reopen a City Hall pressroom.

Wheeler's new spokeswoman, Sophia June, announced the changes Monday. The announcement comes one week after Michael Cox, Wheeler's former spokesman, took over as his new chief of staff.

Wheeler will hold monthly half-hour press conferences on the last Friday of each month, said June, who previously worked for Willamette Week and KATU. A small pressroom on the third floor of City Hall will also reopen for use by "credentialed media," June said.

The room was first closed to the press in the last months of Mayor Charlie Hales' administration and has since been used to store city attorneys' paperwork. The Oregonian/OregonLive previously maintained a bureau in a large room on the first floor of City Hall, but that space has been made into a conference room.

Though his relations with the press have not been unusually strained, Wheeler has not held regular press conferences since becoming mayor.

June, the news spokesman, said the monthly press conferences and reopened pressroom are "initial steps" Wheeler will take to bolster transparency. It's unclear what more policy changes he may have planned.

### **Portland Mayor to ICE Occupiers: Disband Now**

*By Gordon Friedman  
July 23, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler on Monday warned protesters camping at the Portland office of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to disband before they are removed by police.

During a press conference at City Hall, Wheeler, flanked by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, Chief Danielle Outlaw and Fire Marshal Nate Takara, said occupiers should "peacefully disengage."

The mayor said officials will post a camp sweep notice Monday evening. Protesters will have until Tuesday to leave voluntarily, according to a city notice. The notice states that protesters who remain may be face citation or arrest for trespassing, illegal camping and building structures on public rights of way.

Occupiers set up a makeshift camp five weeks ago at a building leased by ICE on Southwest Macadam Avenue and have been at the building around the clock since. They said their intention is to protest the Trump administration's policy of separating children and parents who are detained after border crossings and seek the abolishment of ICE.

The field office closed for days because protesters blocked its entrances. Several demonstrators were detained and charged with misdemeanors when federal police moved to reopen the building. Protesters carried on, with tensions between their ranks and federal officers flaring up on occasion.

Demonstrations came to a head last week, when members of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group came to the campsite and argued with protesters. Three demonstrators were arrested at the time for crossing police lines and preventing access to the building.

A faction of protesters left voluntarily Monday, Eudaly said. Wheeler encouraged others to follow suit.

Wheeler said he supports protesters' cause, but believes the camp-out demonstration is no longer "sustainable."

"To all demonstrators: I urge you to keep up this effort," Wheeler said. He added that he believes it is time for protesters to "move on" and focus on changing immigration policy, rather than camping at the ICE field office.

Wheeler declined to answer reporters' questions about what would happen to protesters who do not leave voluntarily and what he considers an acceptable demonstration, saying he would not "answer hypotheticals."

Occupiers announced Monday that they cannot achieve their goal of abolishing ICE "using occupation as a tactic alone," according to a statement sent by Occupy ICE PDX.

"We need to diversify and evolve our tactics in order to level this many-tiered beast," the announcement said, adding that protesters intend to "decentralize the movement" and "transition" out of an occupation.

Occupy ICE PDX gave a conflicting message on Twitter. Following Wheeler's press conference, the group tweeted, "Camp consensus: We don't move until ICE is out of Portland and abolished."

A spokesman for the demonstration Monday evening said protesters would continue to "hold our ground," and called on others in the city to join them at the encampment.

"We are going to be here, we are not going anywhere until [the Trump administration's] zero tolerance policy is lifted, until the last child is reunited with their parents, until not another local family is separated by ICE," said Jacob Bureros.

He said a four-person Occupy ICE PDX committee working as liaisons with Portland City Hall earlier released an "autonomous statement" about decentralizing the movement, but a poll taken later at the encampment showed the majority of people there favored staying put. Bureros said avenues of negotiation with city hall closed when city officials informed them that there was no legal way to remove ICE from Portland.

"This movement started because we were tired of waiting for the politicians and the so-called leaders to fix this," Bureros said. "We were tired of waiting for the rigged system to bring this to a reasonable end. We needed to stand up and do this ourselves."

Portland police officers later escorted people through the encampment who posted notices of intent to "clear the unlawful campsite" starting Tuesday. Anyone who doesn't leave could be arrested or cited, the signs said.

# Portland Threatens Reporter with Subpoena in Protesters' Class Action Suit

*By Gordon Friedman*

*July 23, 2018*

The city of Portland is seeking a reporter's declaration under oath for its defense in a civil rights lawsuit, a move generally viewed by the press as a strongarm tactic given laws that protect journalists from testifying about their work.

If freelance reporter Mike Bivins refuses to sign the declaration, he may face a subpoena to testify in court, he said in an interview Monday.

Bivins said he was told of a possible subpoena during a phone call with the lead city attorney in the case, Naomi Sheffield. "She said, 'I don't want this to come off as threatening but we might seek a subpoena if you don't want sign the declaration,'" Bivins said.

The city is interested in five tweets Bivins posted during a June 4, 2017 protest in downtown Portland. The tweets include Bivins' account of what may be illegal or rowdy activity by protesters.

Bivins published articles for Willamette Week and Al Jazeera about the protest, during which police allegedly corralled hundreds of protesters and demanded their IDs. The tactic, called "kettling," led the American Civil Liberties Union to file a class action suit in federal court against Mayor Ted Wheeler and more than 50 police officers.

Bivins provided The Oregonian/OregonLive messages from Sheffield seeking his under-oath statement.

"I have reviewed your Twitter feed, including the photographs, comments, and video that you have posted relating to that event," Sheffield wrote on July 20. "We would appreciate it if you would be willing to sign a declaration stating under oath, that certain video, photographs and comments are an accurate depiction or description of the events as you perceived them on June 4, 2017."

Duane Bosworth, a Portland attorney who has defended journalists against government subpoena requests, said in his view Oregon's media "shield law" would likely protect Bivins from being forced to testify. Shield laws protect reporters' privilege to not testify about information they gather or their sources. The Oregon shield law is perhaps the strongest in the nation, said Bosworth, who occasionally represents The Oregonian/OregonLive.

Bivins said he does not intend to sign a declaration in order to "not appear like I'm on one side or another." He said the ACLU approached him about joining their lawsuit against the city, but he declined.

If a judge were to issue a subpoena, Bivins said he would consult with an attorney before deciding whether to testify or not. People under subpoena who refuse to testify can be jailed for contempt of court.

"That'd be crazy if they did" issue a subpoena, Bivins said.

Bosworth said governments can chill reporters' ability to gather news and make sources by issuing subpoena threats.

"If a person is speaking to a reporter and knows that information could be provided to the cops that would dry up those conversations," Bosworth said. He said what "no reporter wants" is to appear to take sides, or worse, be compelled to do so by the government.

## **Portland Commissioner Nick Fish's Cancer Treatments to Intensify**

*By Gordon Friedman  
July 23, 2018*

Nearly a year after being diagnosed with stomach cancer, Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish said his treatment is progressing well, but that it will temporarily ramp up in intensity, affecting his ability to work.

"My doctors are modifying my treatment for a few months to maximize our progress – and it will have an impact on my public and private life," Fish said in a memo posted to his city website Thursday.

At the time he went public with his diagnosis of an adenocarcinoma of the abdomen, Fish said having cancer is "the biggest challenge I have ever faced," adding, "I intend to fight this disease with every fiber of my body."

In his Thursday memo, Fish, 59, said he will receive infusions every two weeks at Oregon Health & Science University's Knight Cancer Institute. The treatments will cause lethargy and may result in hair loss, he said. Fish added that his tumor "will continue to take a pounding."

The longtime public servant, who was elected to a third full term in May, said he will also need more time to recover from treatment. He said he will maintain a full schedule but attend fewer evening events.

Fish thanked the public for support and said that given his progress, he is "even more confident" he will "win this fight" against cancer.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City Hall Update: Neighborhood Office Gets a New Name**

*By Jim Redden  
July 24, 2018*

**Plus, Biketown celebrated at two-year mark and the Portland Water Bureau posts algae testing information.**

The Portland City Council voted to change the name of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to the Office of Community & Civic Life on Wednesday. It also voted to create a committee to recommend changes to the City Code to better reflect the current operations of the office.

The vote followed more than two hours of public testimony. Some neighborhood association representatives worried the changes will undermine the public involvement system first created in 1974 that emphasizes neighborhood-based feedback on land use and other issues.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who is in charge of the office, said the changes are intended to expand the city's public involvement process, not limit any part of it.

### **Biketown hits two-year mark**

The Portland Bureau of Transportation celebrated the two-year anniversary of the Biketown short-term bike rental program Thursday.

According to PBOT, since the Nike-sponsored service was launched June 19, 2016, users have taken 700,464 rides on its 1,000 distinctive orange bikes. The system has seen a 24 percent increase in ridership in the past 12 months, with more than 387,000 trips occurring since last July 17.

The Biketown service area expanded by 70 percent in June, reaching from downtown and inner neighborhoods out to Northeast and Southeast 53rd Avenue.

"The city is tremendously grateful for successful public-private partnerships like Biketown," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversees PBOT. Motivate, the company that owns the bikes and docking stations, recently was purchased by the Lyft ride-sharing company.

### **Algae testing information posted**

The Portland Water Bureau has posted information on its algae-testing program on the city's website.

The information is being provided in response to the potentially harmful cyanobacteria bloom in Detroit Lake, the source of Salem's water, earlier this year.

The bureau says it tests for algae in the Bull Run Reservoir every week and has never detected potentially harmful toxins.

You can find the page at <http://portlandoregon.gov/water/77253>.

## **Some at Occupy ICE Leave as Portland Preps to Clear Camp**

*By Zane Sparling  
July 23, 2018*

### **Mayor Ted Wheeler says vacate notices to be posted at Macadam Avenue immigration center on July 23.**

A major group at the Occupy ICE camp is heading home — and stragglers have been ordered to pack it up as well.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said vacate notices would be posted on Monday, July 23, at the tent city surrounding a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility on Southwest Macadam Avenue.

While he had previously vouched that the Portland Police Bureau would not interfere with demonstrators on federal land, Wheeler noted that the encampment is now located entirely on private property and plots owned by the city of Portland and the transportation bureau.

He said his primary concern is maintaining access for cancer patients to Oregon Health & Science University — not the news that occupiers had forced a nearby nonprofit coffee cart to close over the weekend.

"We will continue to support the safe expression of first amendment rights," Wheeler added. "The camp itself with the wooden structures is not sustainable."

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly — who megaphoned her support for the camp from the steps of the ICE building during the first days of the protest — said there are two factions at the camp, #OccupyICE and #AbolishICE.

"Abolish ICE is more representative of individuals from that impacted community, and they have publicly state that occupation is a tactic and not a strategy," she explained. "We should be listening to the voices of the people who are most impacted."

Wheeler declined to say what he will do if some of the protesters refuse the city's order to vacate. He said he has never walked through the camp but only driven past it.

The #OccupyICE protest sprouted five weeks ago in response to federal immigration rules that separated parents from their children when they were caught illegally crossing the border. President Donald Trump has officially rescinded that policy.

At least 21 people have been arrested during sometimes heated confrontations with Federal Protective Service and Department of Homeland Security police. Far-right leader Joey Gibson conducted a mostly peaceful visit with his band of Patriot Prayer members on Friday, July 20.

In an email, #AbolishICE said it would continue to hold vigils at the ICE facility.

"With humility, we acknowledge that this fight has been fought long before us, and we have much to learn," the group said in an email. "This move will decentralize the movement and allow it to exist indefinitely."

## **Willamette Week**

### **Portland Mayor Announces Plans to Sweep Out the Occupy ICE Camp**

*By Rachel Monahan*

*July 23, 2018*

#### **Decision comes after some protesters announced plans to leave the camp.**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced today the city is moving toward sweeping out the protest camp that has endured for a month next to the South Waterfront headquarters of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

City officials will formally issue a notice of eviction later today, so that the city can move in to demolish structures the mayor said were unsafe. Wheeler did not announce a precise time frame for when the camp might actually be swept.

[UPDATE, 5:25 pm: WW's news partner KATU-TV has obtained a copy of the eviction notice. It says the camp sweep could begin as soon as tomorrow, July 24.](#)

For more than a month, protesters have camped out near the federal immigration agency's Portland office. The camp forced the closure of the ICE office for the first week of demonstrations, until federal police raided the camp June 28 and pushed it away from the building entrance.

The camp at its height grew to more than 90 tents and 200 people. It has largely been erected on Trimet and city property, not the property rented by the federal agency.

The mayor's decision comes shortly after reports of frustration and fear from South Waterfront restaurants and businesses, who have grown exhausted by the often hostile interactions between protesters and federal agents.

Wheeler and City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly emphasized different explanations of why the decision came today.

Wheeler said the move comes after Patriot Prayer demonstrators showed up at the camp on Friday—a potentially violent confrontation that the mayor asked Portland Police Bureau to show up to.

"We're concerned about that kind of activity bleeding over to more concerning situations," Wheeler said.

Eudaly said the move came after a split between two factions of demonstrators at the camp. She said the "Abolish ICE" protesters, who "are more representative of the impacted communities," have already left, while other protestors remain.

"They are moving on, so what we're hoping is that other faction follows suit," she says. "We should be listening to the voices of the people who are most impacted."

## **E-Scooters Debut in Portland? City Hall Says It's Just a Tech Glitch**

*By Elise Herron  
July 23, 2018*

**PBOT says the scooters are waiting in warehouses, for now.**

Eager e-scooter users who preemptively downloaded Lime's smart phone app found something surprising last night: rides available to rent in Portland.

That's ahead of the city issuing any formal permits for its four-month pilot program, says Portland Bureau of Transportation spokesperson John Brady.

The agency has been keeping a close eye on scooter companies after announcing in June that any entity that begins operation without explicit permission from the city will be fined and have scooters confiscated.

Brady says that when PBOT spotted activity on Lime's app this morning, it worked quickly to "get to the bottom of it," and learned that no scooters are actually on the street yet.

"They didn't jump the gun," Brady tells WW. "Lime is getting ready to launch and so it has scooters on site in warehouses that will manifest on the app."

A spokesperson for Lime declined to comment on the company's plans for launching, citing PBOT's still-pending permitting process.

But we want to know from you, astute readers and commuters: have you seen any scooters zipping by? If so, let us know!

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Coming Soon to City Hall: Monthly Press Conferences With Mayor Wheeler**

*By Alex Zielinski  
July 23, 2018*

Mayor Ted Wheeler's office is kicking off a new tradition: Monthly press conferences.

Starting Friday, July 27, Wheeler will be holding a 30-minute press conference with reporters on the last Friday of every month. According to Wheeler's new chief of staff Michael Cox, this is one of three new steps to improve transparency in Wheeler's notoriously opaque office.

The other two: Creating a work space for reporters on City Hall's third floor (so we'll no longer have to file stories from hallway benches on the second floor) and promoting Sophia June to be the "primary media contact" for the Wheeler administration. Cox held this position before June.

This announcement comes on the heels of a number of wide-ranging interviews Wheeler has given to local publications, including the Oregonian, Portland Tribune, and (as of today) the Mercury. The decisions appear to be a direct response to a growing demand—from both the media, members of the public, and city hall staffers—for Wheeler's office to improve its communication style.

We're not complaining.

### **ICE Protesters Given Three Hours to Evacuate Camp**

*By Alex Zielinski  
July 23, 2018*

Portland Police interrupted an Occupy ICE PDX press conference this evening to start notifying the protest camp's occupants that they need to clear out by tomorrow—or face arrest.

We are going to maintain this encampment," said camp spokesperson Jacob Bureros during the 8:30 conference. "We are going to hold our ground."

Minutes later, police officers entered the camp and began hammering signs into the ground informing occupiers of the unexpected decision made by Mayor Ted Wheeler to clear the camp. The notices, printed on neon green paper, were akin to the alerts posted at homeless campsites before the police make a sweep.

The crimes cited in the notice are certainly familiar: Criminal trespassing, erecting a structure in a public right-of-way, and camping in a public right-of-way. If the campers do not evacuate the area by July 24, the notice warns, they will be subject to citation or arrest by the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). This means officers could start issuing citations as soon as midnight.

Wheeler announced the city's plans to clear the 5-week-old protest camp this afternoon, citing the dangers of wooden structures and the fact that the left-wing camp attracted alt-right protesters last Friday. This announcement came weeks after Wheeler said he didn't want Portland police to get involved in the protest, since he shared the protester's opposition to the actions of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He hasn't spoken publicly about the camp since

making those remarks in June. It's still unclear why, exactly, Wheeler decided to change course today.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, the city official who's been the most engaged with the camp since its initiation, joined Wheeler in asking the camp's protesters to pack up. Eudaly's support of Wheeler came as a surprise to longtime camp participants who originally saw an ally in Eudaly.

"We didn't anticipate this coming from the city," said Bureros. "But we know not to really count on the words that they give us."

## **City Asks Occupy ICE Protesters to Vacate the Camp**

*By Kelly Kenoyer*

*July 23, 2018*

The city has finally taken a stand on the protest camp that's been occupying space next to an US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building on SW Macadam. In an afternoon press conference, Mayor Ted Wheeler asked the Occupy ICE PDX camp, which is currently on TriMet property, to pack up and go home. It's the first comment Wheeler's made about the encampment since it appeared five weeks ago, when he swore the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) wouldn't be getting involved. The city plans to post notices at the campsite today asking that the protesters leave, according to Wheeler.

His change of heart comes after alt-right group Patriot Prayer made a camp visit and after a splintering off of protest groups still at the camp.

Wheeler previously had a very hands-off approach to the protest, allegedly refusing to respond to calls for service in the area. That approach led to one business shutting down operation, after repeated calls to the police about harassment from protesters allegedly went unanswered.

"This demonstration is no longer on federal property," Wheeler said at the press conference. "It's time to move onto the second phase of this, to something more sustainable." The demonstration, however, was removed from federal property nearly a month ago. It's unclear why Wheeler waited until today to take action.

Wheeler said the occupation is also limiting access to Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)—one of many stated reasons that the city plans to shut the camp on TriMet property down. Neither OHSU or TriMet have released statements on the city's decision.

Wheeler also suggested that Patriot Prayer's appearance at the Occupy protest last Friday led to the decision. The group's visit was the first time PPB officers were sent to the Occupy ICE camp since it set up five weeks ago. "We're concerned about that kind of activity bleeding over into other situations," he said of Patriot Prayer's visit, implying concern that the protesters could become violent.

Wheeler's last explanation is a safety concern—the protesters have wooden structures that the mayor considers unsafe. "We have said the Occupy camp is not sustainable, especially with the wooden structures," he said, reading from a hand-written statement during the press conference.

It is still unclear how the police will respond if protesters refuse to vacate the encampment before deadline. The mayor's chief of staff Michael Cox warned reporters before the conference that there would be no answers on police response. "Everyone will have a million versions of the same question, 'what are the cops going to do,' and we're not going to be able to answer that," he said.

While PPB Chief Danielle Outlaw was present at the afternoon meeting, she did not speak once during the conference. Wheeler did not answer questions related to police response during the press conference, calling them "hypothetical questions."

In a statement sent the media earlier this afternoon, one faction of the protesters who call themselves #AbolishICEPDX announced it would, essentially, be leaving the camp and continuing its work to Abolish ICE using different tactics. The message indicated that the remaining protesters don't truly represent the immigrant community.

At the press conference, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said she supported the decision for #AbolishICEPDX to leave camp. "We're hoping the other faction follows suit," she said.

The remaining protesters, however, say they're not going anywhere. [Here's how they responded to Wheeler's announcement.](#)