

The Oregonian

Major Bureau Shakeup Imminent at Portland City Hall

By Gordon Friedman

August 7, 2018

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is planning to announce this week a major change in which city commissioners are in charge of which city bureaus, with oversight of some of the most important departments changing hands.

One of the most significant powers that comes with being mayor is the ability to award or rescind bureau leadership by the four other elected commissioners.

Two City Hall officials briefed directly by the mayor or his staff on the planned assignment changes detailed them to The Oregonian/OregonLive Tuesday. The officials did not want to speak on the record about the assignments, which the mayor keeps a closely-guarded secret.

Wheeler intends to retain his roles as commissioner in charge of police, housing, planning and budget and management, the officials said. The mayor plans to take over the Bureau of Development Services from Commissioner Chloe Eudaly and cede his leadership of the 911 and emergency management bureaus to Commissioner Dan Saltzman, a lame duck who will leave office in December.

Eudaly will be assigned the Portland Bureau of Transportation, which had been overseen by Saltzman, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council, which had been run by Commissioner Nick Fish. She will retain her post as head of the Office of Civic & Community Life.

Fish will keep the Bureau of Environmental Services and also take over leadership of Portland Parks & Recreation from Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

Fritz in turn will get the Water Bureau from Fish.

Saltzman, formerly the transportation commissioner, would keep the Portland Fire & Rescue while taking over the 911 and emergency management agencies.

Wheeler spokeswoman Sophia June said the mayor intends to make a public announcement about bureau assignments this week.

80 Percent of Portland Airbnb-Style Rentals Operate Illegally, Audit Finds

By Gordon Friedman

August 7, 2018

Four in five short-term rental properties available in Portland operate illegally and the city hasn't managed to enforce its regulations on Airbnb-style bookings because it doesn't have the necessary data, city auditors said in a new report.

Portland has since 2014 set rules for the short-term rental market, requiring hosts to acquire a permit, be the primary resident of the rental, live there at least nine months a year and keep guest stays to a maximum of 30 days. The regulations are intended to make sure homes are just that – where people live rather than hotel-style businesses within residential neighborhoods.

But the city has trouble making sure those rules are followed and rarely enforces them, auditors said in their report, made public Wednesday. That's because the city lacks rental data, including information about listings, their hosts and frequency of rentals, auditors said.

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the development services bureau, said in a response letter to auditors that they are "dedicated to increasing our oversight and enforcement" of short-term rental regulations. They said auditors' findings indicate several "very concerning trends."

As example of the city's data deficiency, auditors showed that 15 companies such as Airbnb and Vacassa offer short-term rentals in Portland. But none regularly give their data to the city, citing user privacy concerns. Auditors said city development and tax officials should require those firms to turn over the data and give it to the Portland Housing Bureau so the short-term rental market may be monitored adequately.

Auditors paid an outside firm to gather what listing data is publicly available on the Airbnb website. It showed that there were more than 4,600 listings on the site in October 2017, compared to only 1,638 permits issued by that time. Auditors did not look at other companies' listings because Airbnb makes up the vast majority of available Portland rentals.

One reason permits numbers may be low is because they are expensive. If a host rents one or two bedrooms the permit fee is \$178. Rent three to five bedrooms, and the fee jumps to \$5,000 and requires a land use review. At least 440 properties require such a permit, but only 13 have been issued, auditors found.

Beyond the expense, many rogue bookings may exist in part because getting one's place inspected and permitted takes time and effort and the city can't easily detect when a rental host is evading the rules.

Increasing numbers of short-term rentals and the city's lack of monitoring may affect the Portland housing market, auditors said.

Most of the rentals are concentrated in inner Southeast and Northeast Portland neighborhoods, where gentrification and affordable housing shortages have been most severe. Hosts renting multiple properties in residential areas may be affecting housing availability, auditors said, and risk "diminishing the character and livability" of neighborhoods.

Auditors noted that some cities limit short-term rentals by neighborhoods to avoid exacerbating housing conditions. Portland does not.

One bright spot identified by auditors is that most hosts who rent short-term do pay the required city taxes on each night's stay.

The key to solving many of the problems identified by auditors is rental companies' data. It's unclear if Portland will get its hands on it, but officials are expressing optimism.

In the audit response letter, Wheeler and Eudaly said the city "will continue to finalize" data sharing agreements with the booking companies. They said they are "confident" those agreements will allow the city to properly regulate the growing number of short-term rentals.

Canzano: Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish Rooting for Major League Baseball to Portland

By John Canzano
August 7, 2018

Nick Fish, Portland City Commissioner, joined me on the Bald Faced Truth radio show (weekdays 12-3p on Portland's 102.9-FM) to talk about the Major League Baseball to Portland effort. Fish is encouraged by the effort by the Portland Diamond Project, but wants to know more.

[Listen to the full podcast here.](#)

"We're not going to know how real this is until we know who is the financial backing," Fish said. "It's wonderful to have the starting quarterback of the Seahawks on board, but we don't know where the real money is. We're talking about a stadium that will cost \$1 billion so it's going to take some deep pockets."

On the Portland Diamond Project:

"They've been unusually thoughtful in the way they've rolled this thing out. They haven't overpromised. They've been strategic. I'm rooting for them."

On the political support at City Hall:

"There's no substitute for having a champion on the third floor (the Mayor's office). At the end of the day if this is going to work the Mayor is going to have to be a champion for having baseball."

On potential stadium sites:

"If I were a betting person I think that something along the river is likely to be the most attractive for a variety of reasons... it's very smart. You acquire the land. You put together the financing. You work with Major League Baseball... and then you come to the city and say, 'We want you to be a full partner.'"

On whether the city wants baseball:

"We have a number of sites that would be attractive for baseball. At the end of the day, this will be successful if they come up with the financing and if Major League Baseball comes through on all the rosy talk."

On the city's involvement in a potential stadium:

"We're talking about sewers and water. We're talking about streets and sidewalks. We're talking about expediting permits so this thing doesn't languish forever. Those are the kinds of things that are right in our wheelhouse."

Anti-ICE Graffiti Sprayed on Portland City Hall Overnight

By Andrew Meunier
August 7, 2018

Opponents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency sprayed graffiti on columns and walls outside Portland City Hall overnight Monday.

Numerous columns on the portico outside the east side of City Hall and a low barrier wall along the sidewalk were tagged with anti-ICE messages.

Demonstrators calling for an end to the federal ICE agency Sunday night set up a small camp on the sidewalk outside City Hall.

Protesters had previously occupied land surrounding the agency's headquarters in Southwest Portland for five weeks over June and July. That encampment was broken up by Portland police July 25.

Three members of Occupy ICE PDX were on the sidewalk Tuesday morning outside City Hall. They said they didn't know who had spray-painted the building.

Clean-up crew workers said they also found vomit in the portico.

Sidewalk chalk messages now also adorn the plaza near the portico.

Demonstrations in Portland and across the U.S. began amid nationwide outrage over President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policy.

As part of this strategy, the administration refers asylum seekers for criminal prosecution and houses them in facilities including prisons, and separates children from their parents.

Editorial: An Uneasy Peace in Portland

By The Oregonian Editorial Board

August 7, 2018

Portland was not another Charlottesville. Despite all the ingredients for a violent confrontation between right-wing Patriot Prayer demonstrators and counter-protesters on Saturday, Portland escaped without the loss of life that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia, when, officials say, a neo-Nazi deliberately plowed his car into a crowd of protesters. And instead of the brawling that has marked past clashes between right-wing marchers and anti-fascists in Portland, police successfully enforced an uneasy peace by maintaining a no-go zone between the two sides.

But the city hasn't escaped injury.

While Portland Police as a whole did a commendable job of managing a near-impossible situation, reports of serious wounds from police "flash bang grenades" and videos of some officers' use of force deserve prompt and thorough investigation.

Among the disturbing cases reported by The Oregonian/OregonLive and other media organizations after police ordered the crowd to disperse: one female counter-protester who appeared to be leaving the area was yanked to the ground by a police officer who grabbed the poster she was carrying. After she got up, other officers piled on. And a male counter-protester sustained a head injury after officers fired a flash-bang grenade that lodged in his helmet, according to the man's friend.

Certainly, police were operating amid chaos. Some of that stems from the subset of counter-protesters who were intent on wreaking havoc, whether it was on Patriot Prayer members or the police. Individuals in the crowd pelted officers and others, including Oregonian/OregonLive reporter Eder Campuzano, with projectiles. But some of the chaos resulted from police officers themselves, who, according to reporters' accounts, gave little time for the crowd to disperse before lobbing the disorienting flash-bang grenades and rushing people in the crowd.

But chaos and obnoxious behavior from some protesters don't relieve police officers of the responsibility to act professionally and respect personal rights as they aim to protect public safety. With the bureau's mixed record of handling protests, Chief Danielle Outlaw's promise to investigate allegations of misconduct and suspend use of flash-bang grenades is a welcome and necessary one.

She shouldn't stop there. She should also review other methods for crowd control, favoring tactics that ease compliance with police requests rather than alarm or intimidate people into a panicked reaction.

It's worth noting that Outlaw's conduct in the aftermath of the protests has been an encouraging sign of her leadership style. Despite sharp criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union and others, she has owned responsibility for the police bureau's response. She has defended her officers' overall performance while standing front and center to hear complaints. She has talked publicly and acted decisively. In other words, she's showing what accountability looks like. Her actions send a reassuring message to those concerned about these protests and bode well for relations between police and community members in the future.

But last weekend's protests also leave a question for Portlanders to answer. What will they do if - or likely when - Patriot Prayer decides to troll Portland by protesting here again? Is an in-your-face response to Patriot Prayer members really the best way to counter their specious rantings? Should Portlanders reward their extremism by treating them with credibility that they don't merit?

There are other ways to drown out messages of intolerance and hate. It starts by Portlanders setting their own agenda rather than giving outside agitators that control.

Portlanders show time and again that this is a city that values inclusion, compassion and tolerance. They show this through the priorities they fund, the leaders they elect and the peaceful gatherings that they organize. They do this in staging their own demonstrations, away from attention-hungry gimmick groups, that emphasize Portland's beliefs. They don't do this as well when their primary purpose is to physically shout down the opposition.

It's telling that while the high-profile Patriot Prayer protest and counter-protest drew several hundred people last weekend, the June 30 Families Belong Together rally supporting immigrants drew several thousand. There were families, not flash-bang grenades. There was a clear message of what this city and its residents stand for and support. And there was a feeling of solidarity and faith that this city's values will endure.

That is how Portland fights back.

The Portland Tribune

Mayor Sorry to See Clean Energy Fund on Ballot

By Shasta Kearns Moore

August 8, 2018

An initiative petition to tax large corporations for green projects and jobs training is headed for the Nov. 6 ballot.

An initiative petition that just qualified for Portland's November ballot may prove to be a local wedge issue as the city struggles with its energy future.

Portland is expected to vote Nov. 6 on whether it wants to create a Clean Energy Fund from a 1 percent surcharge on sales of large corporations.

"It's a 1 percent surcharge on billion-dollar corporations that ultimately will lead to funding almost \$30 million per year," said María Hernández Segoviano, advocacy coordinator for OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. OPAL is part of a coalition of 11 organizations that helped bring the citywide Clean Energy Community Benefits Initiative to the ballot.

But not everyone is on board. Mayor Ted Wheeler said he supports the cause, just not the method. He declined to take a position on the measure, in particular, but said he has different priorities for a new tax.

"For me, right now, housing and homelessness and education are the top priorities," Wheeler said. "I'm not going to say more, other than I have already been very clear and on the record about my opposition to a gross receipts tax."

The former state treasurer added that he feels the new fund would be redundant with a statewide energy-savings program.

"We're already being taxed through the Oregon Energy Trust," the mayor said. "It was my hope that we could create some sort of agreement around the resources that were already in the Oregon Energy Trust and have it deployed for purposes that the proponents would like to see it deployed."

Hernández Segoviano argued that the funds will add to the Energy Trust efforts and that the measure is not a tax, but a surcharge.

Merriam-Webster defines a surcharge as an "additional tax, cost or impost." The dictionary further defines a tax as "a charge, usually of money, imposed by authority on persons or property for public purposes."

The ballot measure — which doesn't have a number yet as the elections office waits to see if the Portland City Council simply adopts the new code — will charge large corporations a 1 percent surcharge on sales within the city. Those are defined as businesses making more than \$1 billion in national annual revenue and \$500,000 of revenue in Portland. Groceries, medicines and health care will be excluded.

Hernández Segoviano said large businesses that have the opportunity to do business in Portland have an interest in making sure the community is healthy, safe and resilient.

The money would be used as directed by a new committee to fund clean energy infrastructure projects, future innovation, and green jobs training for underserved communities, like women, people with disabilities and people of color.

"It's one of the key priorities of the campaign," Hernández Segoviano said. "Making sure that communities of color are at the forefront of such policy is a clear indication that it could be successful."

Now that the signature-gathering portion of the campaign is in the rearview mirror, the campaign is switching to gathering endorsements, campaign funds and yes-vote pledges.

For more information, [see the campaign website](#).

Audit Faults Portland's 'Lax' Approach to Regulating Airbnb, Other Short-Term Rentals

*By Steve Law
August 8, 2018*

City's system won't guarantee safety for guests or properly evaluate the impact on the affordable housing crisis, auditors say.

City auditors issued a scathing critique of Portland's approach to Airbnb and similar short-term rental operators Wednesday, faulting the city for "lax" enforcement and being clueless about how the industry is affecting Portland's housing affordability crisis.

"If the regulations were working as intended, all short-term rentals would meet permit requirements, inspections would ensure the safety and livability of the spaces rented, and all taxes would be paid," auditors wrote. "In addition, the city would analyze effects of short-term rental activity on housing affordability and availability. We found shortcomings in these areas."

The audit was released by elected City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, and prepared by three of her staff auditors: Alexandra Fercak, Tenzin Gonta and Minh Dan Vuong.

It's well-known that Portland, along with other cities around the globe, have had trouble getting the notoriously slippery short-term rental industry to comply with city regulations. Though the city requires Airbnb and smaller operators to assure that local hosts get city inspections and permits before advertising on their listing services, none of the estimated 15 companies operating here comply.

The city has issued 1,638 permits for short-term rental hosts since legalizing them in 2014. However, that's estimated to be only slightly more than one in five of the short-term rentals. And only a tiny number of hosts who rent out three or more bedrooms — an estimated 13 out of 444 — bothered to seek the more expensive permits required for their operations, auditors found.

In December 2017, there were 4,648 Portland homes listed on the Airbnb website, according to the audit, which obtained much of its information from the independent Inside Airbnb website.

Several hundred properties are believed to be managed by hosts or companies with multiple sites, and many of them are violating city rules requiring hosts to live on-site at least nine months of the year. But the city claims it doesn't have a way to crack down on those violations because Airbnb and other companies won't divulge the names of their hosts or where the properties are.

City officials have been largely successful in collecting lodging taxes from the many operators, but has so far been unable to get them to provide the names and addresses of hosts, which the city says is vital to enforcing its regulations. The city did negotiate a deal with HomeAway several months ago to provide that, in exchange for loosening its permitting and inspection system and allowing the company to essentially register its own hosts on-line. Under that plan, hosts would merely have to stipulate they are meeting city safety and other requirements. But that deal doesn't take effect until the city negotiates a similar deal with Airbnb, and those talks have been dragging on for months, though city officials promise to secure such a deal soon.

In responses to the audit, city officials noted those deals will enable the city to more properly enforce its rules, knowing where the hosts are located.

However, auditors also scored the city for relatively loose inspections and minimal safety requirements, which mainly are that hosts maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and have proper exits in case of fires.

"Safety inspections are brief, taking about ten minutes to complete. This is because current City Code includes only specific requirements, such as the presence of a smoke detector in the bedrooms, and does not require a comprehensive safety inspection of the property," auditors wrote. "The city may be exposing itself to legal risk when inspectors do not address a property's other code violations, such as an unsafe staircase or patio."

The Bureau of Development Services, which handles inspections and issues permits, only inspects other properties if there are complaints from neighbors.

Auditors note that the number of citizen complaints has risen, totaling 297 last year. However, auditors said the city needs to adopt a more "proactive" system. The city should "conduct targeted inspections and focus resources on high-risk properties," auditors wrote.

They also question the city's complaint-driven system for regulating short-term rentals, which is similar to how the city handles other regulatory matters in residential neighborhoods.

"Relying on a complaint-based process means that only those with knowledge of the process will submit a complaint to the city and increases the likelihood that compliance with regulations will remain low. As long as the city does not proactively enforce requirements and there is widespread noncompliance, it will be unable to control short-term rental activities and protect the residential nature of neighborhoods."

In recognition that short-term rentals are taking some rentable rooms in homes and other affordable properties off the long-term rental market, the city recently imposed a new nightly fee on short-term rentals of \$4 per room per night, with the proceeds going into the city's Housing Investment Fund.

Auditors suggest the city needs to develop actual data on the impact of short-term rentals on the housing market, and be more proactive with its findings.

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly issued a joint response to the audit, promising to finalize deals with the listing companies so the city can get names and addresses of hosts. "This will effectively respond to the issues brought forward by the audit," Wheeler and Eudaly wrote.

Rebecca Esau, the director of the Bureau of Development Services, said the City Council will need to revise its code requirements if it wants to get tougher on regulating the industry. "City Council will need to revise the adopted zoning code language if they wish to set a new inspection scope," she wrote.

Esau also said she'd need to get more money to inspect more properties as called-for in the audit. "Current revenue collections from registration and inspection fees are not sufficient to implement proactive, risk-based enforcement to target these hosts," Esau wrote.

Police Union: Violent Protesters to Blame for Officers' Response

By Nick Budnick

August 7, 2018

The Portland Police Association head, Daryl Turner, late on Tuesday released a statement faulting violent protesters for a police response that has sparked controversy.

The statement backed Chief Danielle Outlaw, who on Monday said some of the counter-protesters had shown up to a march by the Patriot Prayers group with the intent to engage in violence.

"This wasn't folks that were coming to just march peacefully and demonstrate, sing Kumbaya and go on their way," she said.

Turner and Outlaw were responding to complaints as well as media coverage of the police response to the protest, including the use of "flash-bang" explosive rounds that led to injuries.

Some groups criticized the police as playing favorites, targeting the counter-protesters while going easy on the Patriot Prayers marchers.

David Rogers, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, called the police response "completely unacceptable in a free society. The repeated use of excessive force, and the targeting of demonstrators based on political beliefs are a danger to the First Amendment rights of all people."

Turner, late on Tuesday, added his voice to the mix, saying "I deplore the thought of hate speech and racist rhetoric openly advertised on the streets of Portland. However, we are sworn to protect the Constitution of the United States. What we saw on Saturday was violent behavior. And it was that behavior that prompted police action—and rightly so."

Here is the full statement:

Like many Portlanders and Oregonians, I anticipated that last Saturday's protest in Waterfront Park would become a more dangerous and volatile situation than it did. I'm thankful that our officers were there to maintain general public safety and, to the degree possible, provide a safe venue for those who truly sought to peacefully protest.

Growing up in the 1960s I remember watching the peaceful protest marches led by Martin Luther King Jr. Although Dr. King's safety was constantly in danger, not once did you see Dr. King hiding his face with a bandana or mask. Not once did you see Dr. King wearing a ballistic vest or helmet during a protest. And never did you see Dr. King throwing rocks, bricks, or bottles at police and destroying property during his peaceful protest. Through his peaceful approach, Dr. King made his point and the world followed.

Much of what we saw last weekend on our waterfront was far from Dr. King's peaceful approach to fighting back hate. I deplore the thought of hate speech and racist rhetoric openly advertised on the streets of Portland. However, we are sworn to protect the Constitution of the United States. What we saw on Saturday was violent behavior. And it was that behavior that prompted police action—and rightly so.

Portlanders are tired of having their public safety jeopardized by groups of people that seek to use violence to get their point across. Portlanders are tired of hundreds of thousands of their hard-earned tax dollars going towards the cleanup of rocks, bottles, bricks, and bottles with

hazardous fluids thrown by some protesters during what is billed as a peaceful protest. Portlanders are tired of the national reputation of being called the civil disobedience center of America when violence is the tool of choice by protestors.

To those officers who endured violent behavior and took prompt action to maintain public safety: thank you. I also want to thank Chief Outlaw for her message supporting the work that the officers put in on Saturday and calling out those individuals who threw rocks, bottles, explosive devices, and bio-hazards. Her comments to local media were informative and explained how those in the crowd who were committing acts of violence dictated our police response. The tactics and strategies used prevented a potentially catastrophic outcome to a situation that grabbed media attention nationwide.

Portland Police Captain Files Federal Discrimination Lawsuit

*By Nick Budnick
August 7, 2018*

Derek Rodrigues says he was unfairly disciplined over ex-Chief Larry O'Dea case, coworker complaint.

Portland Police Captain Derek Rodrigues is suing the city of Portland, claiming he was discriminated against because he is Latino.

Rodrigues formerly led the police bureau's Internal Affairs Division, which investigates complaints of officer misconduct. He was placed on leave in connection with then-Chief Larry O'Dea's accidental shooting of a friend in Harney County in April 2016. In his lawsuit, filed Monday, Aug. 6, in Oregon's U.S. District Court, he claims it was discriminatory that he was placed on leave for months and given a two-day unpaid suspension for failing to report to the city's civilian oversight office, Independent Police Review, that O'Dea informed him about the shooting. Noting that O'Dea had shared the info with his assistant chiefs as well, Rodrigues' suit notes that they did not report it, but faced no discipline.

Rodrigues' lawsuit also questions why he was suspended two days without pay for failing to report a comment that a coworker found offensive. According to the complaint, the comment was shared with him by a coworker, who is of Pacific Islander descent, over a "casual lunch." She said that the bureau diversity and equity manager, Elle Weatheroy, who is African-American, asked her "Why did you marry a white man?"

"Captain Rodrigues did not consider the statement made to him ... to be a report of discrimination, nor would a reasonable person consider that to be the case," according to the complaint.

The lawsuit requests unspecified damages and attorney fees.

The city of Portland does not comment on pending litigation. No court date has been set for the lawsuit.

Willamette Week

Portland Police Kept Warring Protesters Apart Last Weekend. It's What Else They Did That Raised an Outcry.

*By Katie Shepherd
August 8, 2018*

Michelle Fawcett was chatting with a friend when she heard a deafening boom and felt a searing pain in her arm and chest.

Police poured into downtown Portland on Aug. 4 with one goal: Keep protest groups separate to avoid the savage brawls that broke out in the city in June.

Even the Police Bureau's toughest critics concede: On that front, they succeeded.

"I saw what happened last month when the police did nothing and allowed Patriot Prayer to beat protesters with flag poles," says Olivia Katbi Smith, co-chairwoman of the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. "So I would say at least this was better than that."

But Portland police also used tactics that severely injured at least two protesters.

In addition, according to dozens of on-the-ground accounts, including by this reporter, the police's use of force was focused on one side: the antifascists. At about 2 pm, cops deployed explosive devices and chemical irritants against left-wing protesters. Police say they did so after antifa protesters threw rocks and water bottles at them.

A number of witnesses told WW they saw no violence until after police let loose with their chemical cannons. Several journalists and observers watching the demonstration told this reporter they did not see protesters throw anything until after the first police grenade exploded. Videos posted online, including footage the Portland Police Bureau itself sent to reporters, corroborate this narrative.

As of Aug. 7, the Police Bureau had not released any video to support its version of events and no video showing protesters throwing projectiles first had surfaced.

"If the cops hadn't divided us and ran us out, it would have been a forceful showing that Portland does not welcome this ideology in our city," says Katbi Smith. "[Police] were itching to do something like this, and they did it even though we did not provoke them."

One of those left-wing protesters was Michelle Fawcett. Fawcett, 52, showed up to protest the Patriot Prayer rally wearing capri pants, white sneakers and a T-shirt.

Fawcett told WW she was chatting with a friend on Southwest Columbia Street between 1st Avenue and Naito Parkway when she heard a deafening boom and felt a searing pain in her arm and chest.

She clutched her chest and ran down the street as dozens of more explosions erupted above and around her.

"I just had to keep running, and there were many, many more explosions," she says. She was later treated for third-degree chemical burns and soft tissue damage.

On Aug. 6, Police Chief Danielle Outlaw defended the actions of her officers, and called the suggestion that police were biased against one group or another "ridiculous."

Antifa protesters argue that on at least five occasions in the past 18 months, Portland police have deployed force against left-leaning protesters, often while right-wing extremists cheered them on. Outlaw says the police response is a direct response to protesters' actions—that is, attempts by anarchists in the crowd to injure cops.

"I think we need to be very realistic about those who came and what their purpose was that day," she says. "These weren't folks who were just coming to march peacefully and demonstrate, sing 'Kumbaya' and then go on their way."

But Outlaw also walked back her original position, a bit.

She suspended the future use of explosive devices called "flash-bang" grenades until the city could investigate whether police used them properly.

At that same press conference Aug. 6, she also expressed frustration her force was being asked to referee street fights advertised for weeks in advance on social media.

"Where's the accountability for the people who come with the intent to harm, destroy and to tear things up and to actually come and physically fight other people?" she asked. "Then we are called to break it up. And if one side gets the short end of the stick for whatever reason, then we're accused of not protecting one side or the other."

Murmurs: Oregon's Sanctuary State Fight Heats Up

By WW Staff

August 8, 2018

In other news: The Portland office running publicly financed elections is poised to move again.

Sanctuary State Fight Heats Up: Fundraising is well underway for campaigns battling over a ballot measure that would end Oregon's sanctuary protections for undocumented immigrants. Oregonians United Against Profiling, a political action committee trying to defeat Measure 105, has reported contributions of \$362,012, including \$100,000 apiece from the American Civil Liberties Union and ACLU of Oregon. The measure's proponents with the Repeal Oregon Sanctuary Law Committee aren't far behind, with \$282,540, the vast majority from two groups—the Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR, and Oregonians for Immigration Reform—that have provided direct help to the campaign, including advertising and campaign literature.

Office for Financing Campaigns May Move Again Within City Hall: Portland's recently reinstated program for publicly financed election campaigns may be moved again. Two sources tell WW that Mayor Ted Wheeler is exploring moving the Open and Accountable Elections program, slated to begin for the 2020 election cycle, to the Office of Management and Finance rather than rotating it between city commissioners' offices, as previously planned. Commissioner Amanda Fritz, a champion of publicly financed campaigns, has overseen the office since March. "We believe we have a solution that will provide long-term stability for the program," says Fritz's chief of staff Tim Crail.

Two Organizations Get New Leadership After Uneasy Transitions: The nonprofit Black Parent Initiative has been without a permanent CEO since February, when the board fired founder Charles McGee after WW revealed allegations of sexual assault against him. On Aug. 6, the nonprofit's board announced the hiring of Tara Cooper as CEO. Cooper previously served as

director of equity, diversity and inclusion at the Graduate School of Education at Portland State University. Meanwhile, Alejandro Queral will officially become executive director of the left-leaning public policy group Oregon Center for Public Policy on Aug. 30. Former state lawmaker Jefferson Smith was originally offered the job replacing founder Chuck Sheketoff last October. But Smith resigned before he started, when 20 left-wing leaders criticized the decision, citing WW's reporting during his 2012 run for Portland mayor that Smith punched a woman in college.

Patent Lawsuit Could Roil Oregon Cannabis Industry: What may be the first-ever patent lawsuit over cannabis was filed in federal court in Colorado last week. The outcome of the case may have broad-reaching effects on growers and dispensaries across the U.S., including in Oregon. "Enforcement of cannabis patents could significantly limit the opportunities for Oregonians in the cannabis market to sell their products," says Portland patent lawyer John Mansfield. "Patents have nationwide application. A patent can potentially be enforced in any state." Local advocates have feared for years that patents on pot could destroy competition and create monopolies among just a few giant producers.

Right-Wing Marchers From Across the Country Have Declared Portland Enemy Territory to Conquer

*By Jason Wilson
August 8, 2018*

Why Portland? And will it ever stop?

Last weekend, 400 people, mostly men, met in a parking lot along the Columbia River in Vancouver, Wash., girded for battle.

They carried helmets and shields. They wore full suits of futuristic combat armor, Boba Fett helmets and homemade Pepe the Frog costumes.

They clambered onto private school buses and drove into enemy territory: Portland.

Within hours, the streets of the Rose City were filled with strange sights that have recently become common in Portland: neon chemical smoke, men in costumes throwing punches, and riot cops charging into battle.

It was the 15th rally held in Portland in the past year and a half by the Vancouver-based protest group Patriot Prayer. In that time, the group has visited just three other cities outside its home state of Washington: Salem, San Francisco and Berkeley, Calif.

"If I was able to prevent it, I certainly would," said City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in an Aug. 3 statement denouncing Gibson's rally. "I believe that the principles these groups espouse are intended to foment hatred and violence in our city."

As at previous events, the march was something of a campaign rally for Washington U.S. Senate candidate Joey Gibson, who has parlayed his leadership of Patriot Prayer into a growing profile on the fringes of conservative media.

And, like every other time the right-wing group comes to Portland, it has been confronted by antifascist counterprotesters, sometimes in masks and "black bloc" clothing. This time, roughly 1,000 antifascists arrived, and proceeded chanting from the other side of Southwest Naito Parkway. (A few leftist mariners berated Patriot Prayer from a boat in the Willamette.)

And last weekend, like every other time Patriot Prayer has come to Portland, police were present.

This time, their larger and more militant presence meant that running brawls like those seen downtown one month ago did not occur.

Police largely kept the two groups apart. They did that in part by turning explosive devices and gas weapons on the antifascist protesters, seriously injuring two people.

Despite the injuries to protesters, the mayor defended the tactics of his police officers.

"Numerous individuals were arriving with every intent to inflict great bodily harm," Mayor Ted Wheeler said in a statement Aug. 6. "The goals of the police during the demonstrations were to keep groups separated and to protect lives, both of which they did."

Gibson's rally—and the brawls that occurred in its wake—nevertheless disrupted what would have otherwise been a beautiful summer weekend in Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Many Portlanders avoided the area. Local Starbucks franchises didn't bother opening.

While the mayor and police are justifying their response by claiming they averted the worst-case scenario, the rally does raise a couple of questions: Why Portland? And will it ever stop?

The answer to that is: Unless city authorities try a different approach, it won't stop until Patriot Prayer wants it to stop. And the group has every motivation to continue.

WW spoke to dozens of Patriot Prayer participants throughout the day—who made it clear they saw Portland as hostile territory.

Few of them knew the city well. The protesters WW spoke to had come from as far away as Arkansas, though many more had come from rural and small-town Washington. In fact, this reporter could find less than half a dozen Oregonians in the Trump-supporting group, let alone Portlanders.

The weekend's "freedom march" drew one of the largest crowds yet seen at Gibson's events, and Patriot Prayer members we spoke with believe their movement is gaining momentum. While the group espouses a platform of supporting the president, no one expects Gibson to unseat incumbent Democrat Maria Cantwell.

That said, Gibson's campaign has been given oxygen by right-wing media outlets. Chief among them is Alex Jones' Infowars, which acted as a de facto publicity arm for Patriot Prayer throughout July.

Jones spent entire segments of his radio and YouTube show demonizing Portland. With Gibson as a guest immediately after the June 30 Patriot Prayer brawl in Portland, Jones accused Portland police of being in league with billionaire George Soros and "standing down to allow antifa violence."

He then gave Gibson a platform on his show to do the same.

On Jones' show last week, Gibson said: "Portland is one of the worst cities in this country. It's full of so much darkness. That's why I'm so motivated to go there. If we don't bring all of this hate onto the streets from antifa and communists, well, people won't see it. I'm happy to go down there and stand up for freedom and stand up for God."

Many who showed up on Gibson's side Saturday were wearing Infowars-branded gear. Others were dressed in outfits that spoke to a desire to antagonize their opposition.

Tusitala "Tiny" Toese, who allegedly assaulted a Portland resident in May, was among those wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan "Pinochet did nothing wrong," a reference to the

Chilean dictator who murdered leftist foes. On the back, it showed a cartoon of antifascists being dropped out of a helicopter, an infamous tactic of Pinochet's death squads.

Dozens also wore the black and gold colors of a men's fraternity called the Proud Boys. The Proud Boys, who have been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, have been involved in a number of violent incidents.

Members of American Guard, an Indiana-based paramilitary group tied to white supremacists, were filmed brawling. Another man was photographed sporting an SS neck tattoo.

The Patriot Prayer contingent was met by protesters who ignored pleas by city officials to stay home. Rose City Antifa was joined by a "PopMob" protest, supported by a broad range of community groups and progressive organizations.

Police concentrated much of their energy on these groups. Shortly after 2 pm, police fired six rounds of "less lethal" ordnance into the antifascist groups, claiming protesters had launched missiles at them. Video and the testimony of journalists have cast doubt on this claim.

The spectacle was greeted with jeers and chants by the Patriot Prayer crowd.

Right-wing protesters have every motivation to continue, given that U.S. Court of Appeals rulings restrict cities from pre-emptively banning protests, even if those events have led to violence in the past.

WW spent much of the day with right-wing protesters Saturday. We watched plentiful brawls occur during and after the main protest, and the evident delight of right-wing demonstrators when police turned on their adversaries.

In the following pages, you'll read comments from protesters on opposite sides of the police line describing what unfolded.

To the members of Patriot Prayer, Saturday looked like victory. And they want to do it again.

"Success will be when we can march through downtown Portland with a flag and do whatever we want without being assaulted. If you're not of [Portland's] mindset, it's hard to do.

"We're getting some attention. I don't know if the other side is getting the message, but we're definitely getting some attention."

—Josh from Vancouver—no last name given—who has attended several Patriot rallies. Josh arrived for the event wearing a khaki tactical vest and carrying a military surplus combat helmet.

"Our community in Portland and Vancouver has been plagued recently. Minority communities feel like there is no one here to help them. [Patriot Prayer is] looking for a Sunday or Monday headline that says they're victims, which is false, or that it was all about freedom of speech. Well, we've set up a table; this is their opportunity to be heard. If you walk away from this opportunity, clearly you didn't want to speak—you just wanted to be seen."

—Chris Thobaben, a veteran running for the Washington state house as a Democrat in the District 18a primary. Thobaben and others set up a table across the street from the original Patriot Prayer rendezvous point in Vancouver. They offered right-wing protesters an opportunity to debate them before leaving for Portland. There were no takers while WW was there.

"I don't trust mainstream media any more. Infowars have helped me wake up. Before the media used to cover everything up, and now we have the internet. The awakening is happening this year. We can see the evil cabal running our planet now.

"I'm a family man. This is my first rally. I am just so fed up with how things are."

—Zach, from Washington, a newcomer to Patriot Prayer rallies, who would not give his last name. Zach was interviewed at Marine Park in Vancouver wearing an Infowars-branded "Hillary for Prison" T-shirt.

"When I first got into this stuff, I went to some End the Fed protests, but nothing like this really. I saw a video of these guys singing the national anthem, walking down the street and getting attacked for it.

"I'm out here supporting everyone's right to free speech. [The media] are trying to divide us and get us to fight...Honestly, it's about bringing people together."

—Roth, a Vancouver protester and self-described "working-class guy" who was also attending his first Patriot Prayer rally. Roth also wore an Infowars T-shirt and expressed appreciation for the conspiracy broadcaster.

"Lock them up! Lock them up!"

—Patriot Prayer chant as Portland police fired explosive devices at counterprotesters and charged them on Southwest Columbia Street.

"Nothing gave rise to it. I saw no provocation. The Portland Police Bureau just wanted to go have their fuckin' lunch. If it's a victory for Patriot Prayer, it's a victory won by the cops. We outnumbered them."

—Olivia Katbi Smith, co-chairwoman of the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, who co-sponsored a counterprotest called Popular Mobilization—or PopMob. The PopMob and antifascist protests were charged by police on Southwest Columbia Street after they followed Patriot Prayer's march south.

"The aggressive policing of counterprotesters who didn't appear to be throwing anything allows people to think that police are acting on behalf of the Proud Boys."

—Eric Ward, executive director of the Western States Center, which co-sponsored the PopMob counterprotest.

People like California resident John Turano, aka "Based Spartan," live-streamed the events to online fans. People like California resident John Turano, aka "Based Spartan," live-streamed the events to online fans.

"Today is a big win for America. Today, we have proven to Portland that no matter what kind of threat they send our way, they are not gonna stop us. They are not gonna make us bend the knee. The only way we bend the knee is before the cross.

"Even if your cops stand down and don't do their job, we're still gonna come. Even if we get injured, we're still gonna come. [Today,] the cops did their jobs, and we're proud of them."

—Patriot Prayer organizer Tusitala "Tiny" Toese at the microphone at the conclusion of Patriot Prayer's rally. Toese has been involved in several alleged assaults at rallies, on Portland Streets, and at the Vancouver Westfield Mall.

"Portland police did what we have been asking them to do for a year and kept the sides separated. You saw the result, you saw which way the police were facing, away from us. Today went really well. Our main objective was for Ted Wheeler to do what he is supposed to do, to get the police to do their jobs.

"Today was success."

—David Machado, longtime Vancouver member of Patriot Prayer who has taken care of organizational details like permits and bus driving in the past. Machado says he was pepper-sprayed by Portland police on June 30.

The Portland Business Journal

Report: Wheeler Could Shake Up Portland Bureau Management

By Andy Giegerich

August 8, 2018

Oversight of Portland's city bureaus could change in a pronounced manner this week.

As the Oregonian reports, Mayor Ted Wheeler could shake up the bureaus, many of which deal directly with businesses that seek permits, contracts or regulatory clarification.

The Oregonian learned that Wheeler could take over the Bureau of Development Services from Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, a move that would remove Eudaly's staff from the department that deals with many housing issues. Eudaly had run on a fair housing platform in unseating incumbent Steve Novick in 2016.

The Oregonian also wrote that Eudaly could move to the city's transportation bureau, taking over for Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who leaves office Jan. 1.

Eudaly would take over the Regional Arts and Culture Council, the current purview of Commissioner Nick Fish.

Fish would also effectively swap his Water Bureau leadership role for that of the parks department.