

The Oregonian

Portland Mayor Announces Sweeping City Bureau Assignment Changes

*By Gordon Friedman
August 8, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler on Wednesday announced sweeping changes to the bureaus he has assigned himself and other city commissioners to oversee.

As mayor, Wheeler has the power to give and rescind bureau leadership assignments to City Council members. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Tuesday most of the changes Wheeler has now publicly announced.

Wheeler announced he will keep his posts as commissioner in charge of police, housing, planning, development, and management and finance.

He will add to already his packed portfolio the Bureau of Development Services, which handles most city building permit duties. Wheeler said in an executive order announcing the bureau changes he hopes to "decrease the time and hassle of permitting projects."

Development Services was previously overseen by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. She will now run the massive Portland Bureau of Transportation and the retain the Office of Civic and Community Life.

Commissioner Nick Fish will run Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who previously ran Parks & Recreation, will now oversee the Water Bureau, Office of Equity and Human Rights and the Open & Accountable Elections program.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman, a lame duck who is leaving office at the end of the year, was assigned the city 911 agency and Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, and will keep his post as head of the Fire Bureau. The mayor's office said Wheeler plans to assign the same bureaus to whoever is elected to replace Saltzman: Jo Ann Hardesty or Loretta Smith.

Protesters Storm Portland City Hall, Injuring Guards; Arrests Made

*By Shane Dixon Kavanagh and Gordon Friedman
August 8, 2018*

A protest against police brutality itself turned violent Wednesday when activists attempted to storm Portland City Hall, clobbered one security guard and scuffled with several others.

It was the biggest disruption to a Portland City Council meeting in more than a year, but the Council did not address the substance of protesters' ire: violent crowd control techniques used by police during a large counter-demonstration downtown Saturday.

Some of those who say they were injured by officers dressed in military gear and wielding batons or non-lethal munitions were on scene Wednesday, trying to speak with city officials.

One demonstrator, who was masked and wearing a baseball helmet, smashed a security guard over the head repeatedly with a megaphone. The guard was seen afterward clutching a bag of ice, a bruise beginning to form on his cheek.

City Hall security chief Dorothy Elmore said she was also struck by a protester, in the arm.

An unidentified man, bandana-clad and lying on the floor outside the mayor's office, was detained and carried out of City Hall by his arms and legs. Cops also arrested Diane Keeauver, 67, said Sgt. Chris Burley, a Portland police spokesman.

Each face second-degree trespassing charges, Burley said.

The demonstration started on a less rowdy note. A few dozen protesters converged near City Hall's east portico beginning around 9:30 a.m. to rail against police brutality after riot cops injured multiple people at Saturday's downtown protests.

Among them were those who say they were physically harmed by officers as police attempted to clear the rally against the right-wing group Patriot Prayer.

"I should be home recovering from the pain and trauma I'm suffering. But I'm also suffering from complete outrage and powerlessness," said Michelle Fawcett, who lives in Portland.

Fawcett, 52, sustained third-degree chemical burns after she was struck by a flash-bang grenade fired by police at counter-demonstrators. The non-lethal munition is meant to deliver a jarring blast of noise and light that can disperse crowds of people.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw on Monday said the bureau had temporarily suspended the use of the flash-bang projectiles, which she and other department officials refer to as aerial distraction devices, until it can be determined if they are working properly.

At least three people, including Fawcett, were hospitalized Saturday, according to activists and counter-protest organizers. Others who came to City Hall said they sustained less serious wounds.

Leo Lacroix said he was injured when a non-lethal projectile fired by police grazed his head. He showed a reporter photos of his bloodied forehead and a scab from the small wound.

"I'd like to know why I was shot in the head by the cops," said Lacroix, 28.

The morning council meeting began with little disruption. But a man was escorted out after swearing at council members and then people in the audience broke out into chants of "end police brutality."

Mayor Ted Wheeler admonished attendees to stop chanting. They did not, and he recessed the meeting.

Wheeler and the commissioners reconvened in a conference room outside the mayor's office. None were allowed in except city staff, the press and people called to testify on council business.

Wheeler had not made the council convene in such a semi-private manner since last spring, when council meetings were regularly disrupted by protests over the fatal shooting black teen Quanice Hayes.

Commissioner carried on through their agenda despite muffled chants of "shame on you" from protesters outside.

"What's happening downstairs?" Commissioner Amanda Fritz asked during a break between hearings.

"Well, there's actually a gentleman laying on the floor right outside," replied Matt Grumm, chief of staff to Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

Grumm turned to Commissioner Nick Fish: "Jumped on an e-scooter yet?"

Fish replied that he had not, but that they "seem to be everywhere."

Though the meeting went on in ho-hum fashion, with discussions of property liens, eminent domain and parks bonds, the atmosphere outside was anything but.

As tensions rose, security blocked dozens of demonstrators as they tried enter City Hall near the Happy Cup Coffee kiosk. Some carried placards showing images of the bloody wounds and gashes caused by crowd-control munitions fired by Portland police over the weekend.

"Come down Wheeler!" the crowd chanted between verbal barbs and invective hurled at security as well several police officers who appeared in the atrium.

"It's our f----- building," one demonstrator screamed.

But police threatened the protesters with arrest if they did not leave the building immediately. Another protester grabbed a glass sugar urn from the coffee stand and smashed it on the floor.

A wall of security personnel then began to move against the demonstrators, slowly forcing them out the front doors.

Several security guards tangled with activists, including the guard who was bashed on the head, while the crowd shouted "Shame on you!"

Lacroix, the protester injured Saturday, had hoped to address the City Council about his injury. He was unable to because the mayor and commissioners were meeting behind closed doors.

"I think they're cowards," Lacroix said. "I think this is really sad."

Portland City Council Pauses Action Amid Cries Against Police Violence

*By Gordon Friedman
August 8, 2018*

Armed police officers, rowdy protesters and at least one arrest jarred normal operations at Portland City Hall Wednesday.

Amid the disruption, the City Council paused its meeting and moved to a small conference room to continue moving through its agenda. Only commissioners, city employees, members of the media and a few precleared members of the public were allowed into the room. Members of the public could watch live online.

Unruly protests that shut down City Council proceedings were routine during Mayor Ted Wheeler's first three months in office, beginning in January 2017. Police violence against protesters and in the shooting death of Quanice Hayes were a primary topic of those shout fests.

But additional security and crowd control methods put in place in March 2017 worked to largely quell subsequent interruptions.

The Portland Tribune

Sources: Journal Blames Mayor for Anarchy in Portland

By Jim Redden

August 9, 2018

Plus, Merkley not making recent lists of presidential candidates and political distrust strikes home.

Anti-ICE protesters upset that Mayor Ted Wheeler directed the police to shut down their camp must be surprised to learn a Wall Street Journal contributor thinks he's on their side.

A few days after police cleared the 38-day-old camp outside the ICE facility in Southwest Portland, the Journal published an opinion piece headlined, "Anarchy Breaks Out in Portland, With Mayor's Blessing." Written by Andy Ngo, the Portland-based sub-editor of the Quillette website, it chronicled all the complaints of bad behavior against the protesters, including their confrontations with a nearby food cart that drove it out of business.

Ngo then went on to charge the camp was operating with Wheeler's approval, citing repeated instances of him saying the police would not intervene in the protest, including a tweet which said, "If (ICE is) looking for a bailout from this mayor, they are looking in the wrong place."

Jeff who?

Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley is not being mentioned in new media roundups of potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidates, despite the press he's gotten for calling attention to Trump's family-separation policy and the withdrawal of Oregon federal prosecutor Ryan Bounds' nomination to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Daily Beast website posted a story headlined "The 2020 Dem Class is Already Frantically Making Moves Behind the Scenes" on July 31. It mentioned 13 potential candidates, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, in addition to such usual suspects as former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. But it didn't mention Merkley.

Nor was Merkley included in recent rankings of top Democratic presidential candidates by CNN, The Observer, the Times of London, and the Chicago Tribune. He was included in the "worth watching" category by the Tribune, however.

Political distrust strikes home

Even though the Portland area voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, the lack of trust in elected officials that helped send Donald Trump to the White House still exists here.

An online survey conducted for the Oregon Department of Transportation in December 2017 found far more residents in the region have no trust at all in their local elected officials than a lot of trust.

According to the survey, only 9 percent of respondents have a great deal of trust in city officials, compared to 31 percent who have no trust at all. The split for their state representatives was 7 percent to 30 percent. When asked about bipartisan elected officials, it was 7 percent to 22 percent.

Two Arrested During City Hall Protests

*By Jim Redden
August 8, 2018*

Two security guards assaulted during confrontation but did not require hospitalization.

Police arrested two people during a protest at City Hall on Wednesday morning.

The protesters came to the first City Council meeting following confrontations between demonstrators and the police in downtown Portland on Saturday.

Diane Keeauver, 67, was charged with trespass in the second degree. The other person was not immediately identified and was lodged at the Multnomah County Jail as "John Doe" on a charge of trespass in the second degree.

Police say two security guards were assaulted during the Thursday morning confrontation. Neither required hospitalization.

The council left the Council Chambers when the protests began and continued meeting in another room.

According to police, at approximately 11 a.m. on Aug. 8, 2018, Central Precinct officers responded to City Hall, located at 1221 Southwest 4th Avenue council rules and refused to leave when directed to so by security staff.

When officers arrived, they contacted security officers, who said that protesters on the third floor of were told to leave the premises, but refused to leave. When the officers arrived at the third floor, they observed a group of protesters with two people lying on the ground.

Police told the protesters they were trespassing in the building, and that if they refused to leave, they would be arrested. The protesters that were lying on the floor did not leave and they were taken into custody without incident.

Security guards also requested police officers respond to the main level of City Hall. The goard instructed protesters there and near the east entrance of the building to exit the facility. As protesters were directed out of the building, two guards were assaulted. One protester was seen throwing a glass jar to the ground as the group was directed out of City Hall.

Officers were not able to take the suspect who reportedly assaulted the guards into custody at the time, and no arrests were immediately made in connection with the assaults.

Officers were also contacted and will write a report after a protester reported being "elbowed" by a security officer.

Wheeler Shakes Up Portland Bureau Assignments

*By Jim Redden
August 8, 2018*

Mayor takes development services bureau to speed up construction permits, splits utility bureaus between two commissioners.

Mayor Ted Wheeler reassigned Portland bureau to himself and the other members of the City Council on Thursday.

Assigning bureaus is perhaps the greatest power the mayor has under the city's almost unique form of government, where every member of the council can introduce legislation but also oversees individual bureaus.

"Portland is transitioning from a big city with a small city feel to a truly global city, and we're confronted with all the opportunities and difficulties that come with it," Wheeler said in a prepared statement. "These bureau assignments link the daily management of the city with a vision for the future of Portland as an equitable, sustainable, and economically vibrant city."

The changes occurred as the council is preparing for a period of transition. Commissioner Dan Saltzman, the longest serving member of the council, did not run for reelection. He will be replaced by either activist Jo Ann Hardesty or Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, after the Nov. 6 general election.

Among the most significant changes, Wheeler reassigned the Bureau of Development Services from Commissioner Chloe Eudaly to himself. The development services bureau issues building permits in cooperation with other construction-related bureaus and enforces building codes. Wheeler kept the Portland Housing Bureau, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Prosper Portland (the former Portland Development Commission). His office announced he will convene regular meetings of their staffs to speed up the permit issuing process, especially for housing projects.

With this move, Wheeler is trying to solve a problem that has so far defied repeated efforts to solve it — speeding the city's cumbersome permit processing and inspection system. Although construction work almost completely stopped during the Great Recession, it is now at an unprecedented pace and bureau officials admit they are struggling to keep up with the demand, even though bureau employment is also at record levels.

The bureau has 364 employees today compared to 147 in 2010. But it still has 78 vacant positions, even though it hired 77 new employees so far this year. The workload has exceeded the hirings, however. In 2011, the Residential Inspections Division had an average of 325 inspection requests a day. Today, the staff is completing approximately 425 requested inspections a day.

Wheeler also split the city's utility bureaus, reassigning the Portland Water Bureau from Commissioner Nick Fish to Commissioner Amanda Fritz, while allowing Fish to retain the Bureau of Environmental Services, which operates the city sewer system and stormwater management system. The water bureau bill residents and businesses for both services.

In addition, Wheeler transferred the Portland Bureau of Transportation from Commissioner Dan Saltzman to Eudaly. A search is underway for a new director for the transportation bureau. Eudaly previously replaced the director of the development services bureau and the Office of Community & Civic Life (formerly the Office of Neighborhood Involvement), which she retained.

And Wheeler transferred Portland Parks & Recreation from Fritz to Fish. A search is underway for a new parks director.

Wheeler kept the Portland Police Bureau, which has traditionally been overseen by the mayor with only a few exceptions.

In making the assignments, Wheeler said he asked the commissioners to work with him to achieve the following goals:

- Fostering cross bureau collaboration on related issues to avoid redundant or unnecessary expenses (where multiple bureaus are dealing with similar or the same issues).

- Decrease the time and hassle of permitting projects, particularly new housing, and transform the cityscape to reflect our status as a global destination.
- Provide equitable access to transportation options, especially in East Portland.
- Maintain our commitment to preserving our roads, parks, and other civic infrastructure.
- Protect our natural areas, maintain stewardship over the environment, and increase public access to the Willamette River.
- Improve the city's preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster resilience.

The Portland Mercury

Hall Monitor: Silent Treatment

*By Alex Zielinski
August 8, 2018*

The First Amendment Has Become the City's Excuse for Inaction Against Hate Groups—Rather Than an Opportunity to Condemn Them

Patriot Prayer has become predictable.

Every few months, the alt-right provocateurs take a bus from Vancouver, WA, to Portland, where they pelt the city with hate speech and Trump-isms, throw punches at those who disagree, and then leave us to cope with the emotional (and physical) toll.

Just as predictable, though—and perhaps more concerning—is the city's response to these visits.

Leading up to Patriot Prayer's violent August 4 rally in Portland, Mayor Ted Wheeler politely explained that, thanks to the First Amendment, he couldn't do anything to stop the out-of-towners from inciting riots in his city. Commissioner Chloe Eudaly echoed Wheeler in a Facebook post. "To be clear," she wrote, "the law does not allow me or my colleagues... to prevent this gathering." No other city commissioner commented on the rally that the Southern Poverty Law Center predicted could be "the next Charlottesville."

Perhaps city council is still spooked by the last time Wheeler tried to stop Patriot Prayer from storming the city in June 2017—mere days after a white nationalist (and regular participant in Patriot Prayer rallies) hurled racist slurs at a pair of teens on the MAX and then killed two men who tried to intervene. At the time, Wheeler asked the feds to revoke permits allowing Patriot Prayer to hold rallies in a federal plaza. But, as the ACLU reminded him, Wheeler's request qualified as censoring free speech. Wheeler backed off and threw up his hands.

Fast-forward a year, and little has changed. In the process of protecting the free speech of a group aligned with white supremacy, it seems city leaders have forgotten how to use that same constitutional right to fight back.

Where are the statements from city, county, and state lawmakers loudly denouncing the group's sexist, racist, and anti-immigrant ideals? It appears the First Amendment has become an excuse for inaction against hate groups—rather than an opportunity to decry a bigoted movement that's decided to use Portland as a battlefield.

And that's exactly why Patriot Prayer keeps coming back.

“I think it’s clear they’re intentionally focusing their attention on Portland because they believe city leadership is weak in maintaining order,” says Lindsay Schubiner, program director for the Western States Center, a nonprofit focused on racial and social justice in the West. “The city’s response hasn’t changed, while Patriot Prayer’s violence increases.”

Some cities have taken a different approach. Last August, news of a Patriot Prayer rally coming to San Francisco sparked instant, united opposition from elected officials at every level of government.

“You are not welcome here,” said then-Supervisor London Breed, who is now the city’s mayor. “We are going to do everything we can to stop you.” She was backed by then-Mayor Ed Lee, the city’s police chief, and state lawmakers—even US Representative Nancy Pelosi chimed in. Patriot Prayer promptly canceled the event, blaming the politicians for creating a “hostile environment.”

San Francisco’s leaders didn’t just discourage an alt-right protest. They acknowledged that Patriot Prayer was a serious threat to their city.

That’s not the case in Portland. Following Saturday’s protest, Wheeler released a brief statement simplistically condemning “numerous individuals” who came to the protest seeking to inflict harm. Later, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw admitted that officers may have disproportionately focused their attention—and their pepper spray—on Portlanders who protested against the rally rather than the armed interlopers from Washington.

Patriot Prayer leaders, meanwhile, called the event “beautiful,” and applauded the police for defending their First Amendment rights.

Portland Considers a New Disaster Preparedness Model

*By Kelly Kenoyer
August 8, 2018*

And It Looks Really Weird!

A futuristic structure may soon be coming to the Portland State University (PSU) campus—complete with loudspeakers, solar panels, bike pedals, and electrical outlets. But this alien-looking creation isn’t a toy for millennials—it’s designed to help save lives after a disaster. And its introduction at PSU may inspire more of them to pop up across the city.

The “PrepHub” looks like several park benches outfitted with bike pedals and arranged underneath a tall, glowing pillar with speakers and screens on its sides. Fueled by solar and pedal power, PrepHub is the brainchild of the Urban Risk Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); its purpose is to generate electricity, disperse important information following a disaster, and create a location for people to gather. It will also provide storage for emergency supplies like first aid kits and radios for communication.

The idea to outfit PSU with a PrepHub has been floating around City Hall for a year, but planning won’t kick off until Portland City Council votes to sign off on \$90,000 of funding for the pilot project on Wednesday, August 8. Portland General Electric (PGE) and PSU will also contribute funds to cover the project’s \$300,000 price tag. If approved, the first PrepHub will be installed sometime in 2019. Where exactly it will land on the PSU campus is still up in the air.

Portland is putting its own twist on PrepHub, including materials that should help the structure survive all types of weather.

“We’re thinking about using powder-coated sheet metal as one of the primary materials for this one, similar to the Portland Loo,” says David Moses, the PrepHub project manager at MIT.

The program could also integrate into one of Portland’s existing emergency management programs—the Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node (BEECN). BEECN is a network of sites that are prepared ahead of time to be run as communication hubs by volunteers, post-disaster. There’s already a BEECN site on the PSU campus—one of about 50 across the city, says Ernest Jones, Portland’s BEECN coordinator. Placed in public parks and other open locations where a neighborhood’s residents can easily gather, BEECN sites pop up 24 to 48 hours after a disaster to provide first aid kits, communications, and a planned gathering place.

But the city admits that BEECN sites are unknown to the average Portlander, despite the map being available online. Setting up PrepHubs at BEECN sites could help publicize these locations—and because PrepHubs are tall and light up at night, they should be easy to spot from a distance.

PSU’s PrepHub will also provide opportunities for research in electrical engineering and sociology. PrepHubs include batteries that can pull power from the electric grid for use after a disaster hits. PGE and PSU researchers will be able to study the use of such batteries during peak usage periods or power outages.

“These would be independent sources of emergency power for a community,” says Jay Jewess, PGE’s director of emergency management. “It can be recharged during an emergency through pedal power and the use of the solar array.”

That power storage device is also an opportunity for PGE to experiment with creating a modern electric grid that can better withstand disaster, Jewess adds.

The sociological research would focus more on how such a visible structure focused on disaster preparedness can help neighbors plan for emergencies. “One of the intents is to try to raise earthquake awareness and therefore resilience,” says Kristin Tufte, the smart cities liaison at PSU. Researchers will try to determine whether the PrepHub has achieved that awareness, and if it has helped people become personally prepared for disaster.

While there aren’t current plans to put PrepHubs at every BEECN site, “the end goal would be to expand this if the pilot is a success,” says Portland Bureau of Emergency Management spokesperson Dan Douthit. The pilot program could be expanded to one or two other sites, likely in areas further from downtown, like outer East Portland. PrepHubs at the other pilot sites may integrate free public wifi.

“Long term, if it’s successful,” says Douthit, “we’d like to see these [as] permanent structures throughout the city.”

Portland Police Arrest Two Protesters at City Hall

By Kelly Kenoyer

August 8, 2018

Two people protesting police brutality during a Portland City Council meeting were arrested this morning after refusing to leave.

The protesters were part of a larger group that came to protest how the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) handled last weekend’s Patriot Prayer rally, which ended with the cops tossing flash bang

grenades at counter-protesters. At least two people who suffered serious injuries from those munitions came to testify before council.

The group interrupted the weekly council meeting with loud chants—eventually forcing city commissioners to hold the meeting in another room in the building. Police arrived and arrested two protesters who refused to leave the second floor. Both people were arrested on second degree trespassing charges.

While this was going on upstairs, city hall security guards were attempting to wrangle the rest of the protesters out of the building. It wasn't easy. Protesters allegedly called guards "Nazis" and demanded the guards let them speak with Mayor Ted Wheeler. According to the Oregonian, one of the guards was repeatedly hit in the head with a megaphone.

According to a PPB press release, two security guards were assaulted during the confrontation on the first floor, though neither sustained serious injuries.

This is the second incident in two months where a protester injured a security guard during a Portland City Council session.

Mayor Wheeler Unveils New Bureau Assignments

By Alex Zielinski
August 8, 2018

It's that time again: Mayor Ted Wheeler has redistributed (some of) the city's bureaus among his fellow city commissioners. It's one of the few responsibilities that sets Wheeler apart from the rest of city council, thanks to our city's "weak mayor" form of government. It's also a patently bizarre tradition, but now's not the time for that debate. [Here's the list of new assignments.](#)

Two of Wheeler's biggest changes: Assigning himself the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), which was originally in Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's portfolio, and moving the Office of Equity and Human Rights from his office to Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

[Wheeler already raised eyebrows in 2017](#) when he didn't assign the Housing Bureau to incoming commissioner Eudaly, whose election campaign was rooted in fair housing and tenant's rights. But Eudaly has been able to flex her housing muscle through BDS, the bureau that issues building permits and enforces building codes.

Not any longer. In a press release announcing the reassignments, Wheeler spokesperson Sophia June explained that the mayor has assigned all "major planning bureaus" to himself in hopes of streamlining development projects.

Eudaly has been newly assigned to the Portland Bureau of Transportation—which is currently under outgoing Commissioner Dan Saltzman's watch. Eudaly will continue to oversee the Office of Community and Civic Life (formally Office of Neighborhood Involvement).

Wheeler's decision to shed the Office of Equity and Human Rights will likely disappoint community equity advocates—especially those who believe the mayor's office holds the most power. But the decision to hand the bureau over to Fritz makes sense, based on history alone. According to Office of Equity spokesperson Jeff Selby, Fritz was the original commissioner to suggest to then-Mayor Sam Adams that the office exist in the first place. Since Adams created the office in 2011, Fritz has been a vocal advocate of the office's work.

"She has offered unwavering support of our office since its inception," says Selby.

A few less-notable assignments: Portland Parks and Recreation reassigned from Fritz to Commissioner Nick Fish, Portland Water Bureau moved from Fish to Fritz. Fritz will also be in charge of the Bureau of Hydroelectric Power which I didn't know existed and now I am very interested in.

Wheeler handed all "non-police public safety bureaus" to Saltzman, and noted that his replacement will be expected to take on those assignments in January.

"These bureau assignments link the daily management of the city with a vision for the future of Portland as an equitable, sustainable, and economically vibrant city," Wheeler said in the press release. The new assignments will take effect on September 4.

City Audit Unsurprisingly Finds Majority of Portland Airbnb Hosts Shirk City Regulations

*By Alex Zielinski
August 8, 2018*

A [new city audit](#) has revealed that the vast majority of Portlanders who rent out their homes through Airbnb, HomeAway, or other short-term rental companies are shirking the city's regulations.

As of October 2017, auditors estimated that nearly 80 percent of all listed rentals were operating without the mandatory city permit. More than 97 percent of all rentals offering three or more bedrooms lacked a permit (kudos to the 13 people that registered). Not only does the audit show that Portland's 4-year-old regulations on short-term rentals aren't being followed, it found that it's nearly impossible for the city to enforce them. That's largely because companies like Airbnb don't require their hosts to apply for a permit before listing a rental, nor do they share any data on their listings with the city.

But, for city officials and housing advocates, this news doesn't necessarily come as a surprise

"Without data, the original version of the rules is completely unenforceable," says Marshall Runkel, chief of staff for Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

Eudaly's office oversees the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), [the bureau tasked with regulating these short-term rentals](#). However, since none of the 15 rental companies that operate in Portland regularly share data with BDS, it's impossible for the city to know which homes or condos are being used as short-term rentals, let alone who owns them and if they have a permit. The city essentially relies on the benevolence a host to apply for a permit (which can cost \$178 for a host renting one or two bedrooms or \$5,000 for a house with three or more bedrooms) before renting out their home. But without actual repercussions in place for skipping that step, it's hard to blame hosts for shirking on their permits.

The more serious problem, according to Runkel, is the city's inability to regulate what it calls "commercial" short-term rental outfits—or, people who manage several different listings across the city. Those hosts are blatantly breaking one of Portland's short-term rental rules: that a host must occupy the residence at least nine months of the year. Once the city gets data from those companies, Runkel says, "it's not going to be very hard to find out who those commercial providers are."

But first, those companies must hand over their data. According to Portland's Director of Revenue Thomas Lannom, the city is currently in negotiations with short-term rental companies

to get them to start sharing data with the city, a requirement that other larger cities like San Francisco have mandated.

In an email to the Mercury, Lannom writes that while "there are no substantive disagreements about what information to share" between the city and companies, it's unclear when data-sharing will begin. In Lannom's words: "Soon."

City council passed short-term rental regulations in 2014, even though they didn't have access to the data needed to enforce the new rules or calculate their impact. Should they have waited until rental companies agreed to share that data before passing the ordinance?

"No, definitely not," says Katrina Holland, director of Oregon Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT). "This is one of those situations where we have no choice but to act, because the housing crisis is so incredibly traumatic."

Holland says that the city and community organizations like CAT already have enough anecdotal data to prove that there's a need for immediate regulations on all aspects of housing—including short-term rentals. Many renters have reported getting a no-cause eviction by a landlord who wanted to turn their apartment or room into an Airbnb. It's that kind of qualitative data that can inspire urgently-needed city policies, even when quantitative data is lacking, Holland says.

She compares this process to when her father was treated for sepsis.

"He came in [to the hospital] with all the physical signs of sepsis. No, they didn't necessarily have all the tests back to clearly identify what bacteria had invaded his bloodstream," Holland says. "But they gave him antibiotics because they knew it was going to save his life."

CAT and other tenants' rights organizations have long pushed the city to collect housing data—not just on short-term rentals, but on permanent rentals, on how rents are changing over time, how many people receive no-cause evictions, and a number of other metrics. Now, the city appears to be catching on, slowly.

In July, city commissioners approved a new program that would require all landlords register their properties with the city and be subject to routine inspections. Ideally, this system would give the city a better idea of how many rental units are on the market and track negligent landlords.

Today's audit may expedite to the current city negotiations with companies to start collecting data.

"CAT and Mayor Wheeler... we have our differences," Holland says. "But one thing we definitely agree on is that there's a significant lack of data collection. And we need that."

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Audit: 80 Percent of Portland Short-Term Rentals Illegal (UPDATE)

August 8, 2018

Four out of five short-term rental properties in Portland are operating illegally and there is not much the city can do about them yet since it doesn't have complete information, according to a recent report by city officials.

Portland requires hosts of Airbnb-style bookings to apply for a permit, be the primary resident of the rental, live in the home nine months out of the year and limit each booking to a maximum of 30 days, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

It's hard to enforce these rules since companies like Airbnb or Vacasa don't regularly share rental information about each listing, their hosts and frequency of rentals with the city, citing privacy reasons, auditors said in a report released Wednesday.

Public data on Airbnb's website showed it had more than 4,600 listings in Portland in October 2017, according to the audit. At that time, the city had only issued 1,638 permits.

One possible reason why hosts may not be applying for a permit is the cost. The permit fee for hosts renting one or two bedrooms is \$178. If hosts advertise three to five bedrooms, the cost goes up to \$5,000 and requires a land use review.

However, most short-term rental hosts do pay the required city taxes on each night's stay, the auditors found.

The city hopes to finalize data sharing agreements with booking companies, said Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in a response letter to auditors.

They are confident the data will help the city better regulate these types of rentals.

The Portland Business Journal

Five Things to Know for Thursday: City Hall is Wheeler's Oyster

*By Andy Giegerich
August 9, 2018*

As fires of unknown origin rage south of us, we're hoping those with friends and relatives in California remain safe and hopeful.

Here's what's happening a bit closer to home.

After dark

From Elizabeth Hayes comes a glance at what could be a great program for both patients and, well, Oregonians.

As Elizabeth writes, "The Oregon Health Authority could cover five conditions related to chronic pain, including fibromyalgia, while giving Medicaid enrollees access to alternative therapies and limiting prescriptions of opioid painkillers."

This ain't the summer of love

This one may not be over yet. The state's justice department said an agreement among Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, Nike Inc. and two labor unions doesn't merit a criminal investigation.

As Matthew Kish writes, the agreement involves taxation and elections, not to mention revenue reform and a bunch of other things that someone will likely continue to fight.

History shows again and again...

Our PBJ Interview this week is with the voluble and sagacious Jonathan Maus.

The BikePortland leader worries that the city isn't quite as up to the two-wheeled snuff as it purports.

Here's a snippet: "It crested with Sam Adams being mayor and 2009 and took a big hit when he went down. When his sex scandal hit, that changed everything. He was, for better or worse, really attached to cycling. He became a punching bag and a focus of a lot of difficult feelings in the city, especially from the media. And this is a classic thing — instead of going after him, they'd go after everything he was attached to."

Home in the valley

The Portland Apparel Lab has a new spot with which to drive various types of innovation.

It will move eight blocks south, near Southeast Hawthorne and 11th Avenue, as it looks to prove Matt's theory that "Portland remains a good place to get an apparel company off the ground."

Home in the city

And, because we want to have a good reference spot whenever we need to look this up, we're following up yesterday's announcement that Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has reorganized the city's bureau leadership.

It's a good thing for businesses to know should leaders have issues or concerns with various City Hall doings. Without further adieu, here's who oversees what within those hallowed halls.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's bureaus

- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Housing Bureau
- Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Prosper Portland
- Bureau of Development Services
- City Budget Office
- City Attorney
- Government Relations
- Office of Management & Finance
- Office of Community Technology

Wheeler's liaison responsibilities

- Travel Portland
- Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization – Policy Committee (with Commissioner Saltzman)
- Home Forward
- A Home For Everyone (with Commissioner Eudaly)
- Visitor Development Fund Board (VDF Board)
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (with Commissioner Saltzman)
- Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
- Portland Community Media
- Human Rights Commission (with Commissioner Fritz)
- League of Oregon Cities (with Commissioner Fritz)
- Portland Children's Levy (with Commissioner Saltzman)
- Royal Rosarians
- Portland Commission on Disability (with Commissioner Fritz)

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's bureaus

- Office Community & Civic Life
- Portland Bureau of Transportation

Eudaly's liaison responsibilities

- A Home for Everyone (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Regional Arts & Culture Council
- Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts
- Public Involvement Advisory Committee
- New Portlanders Policy Council
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
- Multnomah County Animal Control
- Multnomah Youth Commission
- Portland Streetcar, Inc.
- Portland Mall Management, Inc.
- Portland Aerial Tram Board
- Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)

Commissioner Nick Fish's bureaus

- Bureau of Environmental Services
- Portland Parks & Recreation

Fish's liaison responsibilities

- Office of Film & Video
- Venture Portland
- Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC)
- Elders in Action
- Portland Utility Board (PUB)
- Portland Parks Foundation
- Portland Parks Board
- Pioneer Courthouse Square

Commissioner Amanda Fritz's bureaus

- Portland Water Bureau
- Bureau of Hydroelectric Power
- Office of Equity and Human Rights
- Fritz's liaison responsibilities
- League of Oregon Cities (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
- Fair & Moral Claims Committee
- Portland Utility Board (PUB)
- Human Rights Commission (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Visitor Development Fund Board (VDF Board)
- Rose Festival Foundation
- Portland Commission on Disability (with Mayor Wheeler)

Fritz's oversight responsibilities

- Open & Accountable Elections program

Commissioner Dan Saltzman's bureaus

- Portland Fire & Rescue
- Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
- Bureau of Emergency Communications
- Fire & Police Disability & Retirement

Saltzman's oversight responsibilities

- Portland Children's Levy (with Mayor Wheeler)
- The Gateway Center
- Saltzman's liaison responsibilities
- BOEC User Board
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization – Policy Committee (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Fair & Moral Claims Committee

The Portland Observer

Outlaw Defends Response

August 8, 2018

Crowd control tactics will be reviewed

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw is defending the crowd control tactics police used for dueling demonstrations that happened Saturday and resulted in multiple reported hospitalizations, including chemical burns, lacerations, and a reported brain injury.

The injuries were sustained from crowd-control munitions fired by police, according to multiple news outlets and from activists on social media. Four arrests were made.

The right-wing Patriot Prayer held its rally Saturday morning at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland while counter-protestors, including from anti-fascist group antifa, assembled in the same general area.

Police received criticism for their use of crowd control tactics, including the use of flash-bang projectiles, which Outlaw said police would temporarily stop using in light of multiple reported injuries from them. One shell reportedly lodged into the helmet of a protester and caused brain trauma.

Outlaw contended that the crowd-control measures were taken only after demonstrators fired their own projectiles, including an m-80 explosive.

Others who were present, including protesters and some journalists saw the opposite—flash-bang grenades thrown by police, followed by projectiles from protesters. There are two separate videos on social media that purportedly show police's first use of a flash-bang grenade that day, each from different angles. One was posted by KATU-TV photojournalist Ric Peavyhouse and another by Twitter user danielvmedia.

Relief that the protests didn't get any more violent, and didn't result in more serious injuries or fatalities, was a point lauded by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler. He said police accomplished their

goals of keeping opposing groups separated, protecting lives. He added that Outlaw authorized an internal review of police tactics in response to the protester's injuries.

OPB

Portland Mayor Announces Shake-Up of Bureau Assignments

*By Amelia Templeton
August 8, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has announced new bureau assignments for the City Council that will take effect Sept. 4.

In the city's unusual commission form of government, choosing bureau assignments is one of the mayor's few unique powers.

In a signal of his priorities, the mayor is taking control of the Bureau of Development Services, which issues building permits and enforces code compliance, among other things.

Since his campaign, Wheeler has talked about trying to speed up permitting, particularly for housing.

His portfolio also includes the Portland Housing Bureau, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, and Prosper Portland — formerly the Portland Development Commission.

“He took on the Bureau of Development Services because there's a natural link between that bureau and the other planning bureaus in the mayor's portfolio,” said Michael Cox, Wheeler's chief of staff. “What he'd like to do is significantly reduce the time it takes to bring projects, especially housing projects, to market and by grouping these bureaus together there's a real opportunity to do that.”

Some people in City Hall have worried that taking on another bureau with complex bureaucracy will add to an already large workload for the mayor.

In addition to the planning and housing bureaus, Wheeler also oversees the Portland Police Bureau, the City Budget Office and the Office of Management and Finance, among others.

Cox noted that while he's taking on BDS, the mayor has given up three smaller bureaus.

Other big changes include Commissioner Chloe Eudaly taking charge of the Bureau of Transportation, Commissioner Nick Fish managing Portland Parks and Recreation and Commissioner Amanda Fritz overseeing the Water Bureau and the Office of Equity and Human Rights.

The Transportation Bureau is a big assignment for Eudaly — still a relative newcomer to government — with an annual budget of around \$320 million and an underfunded mandate to maintain the city's streets, a depreciating asset after years of deferred maintenance.

“The assignment, in general, is daunting,” said Marshal Runkel, Eudaly's chief of staff.

Runkel said Eudaly, who is out on vacation, is excited about the challenge. They have both signed up for a free transportation course at PSU, started years ago by U.S. Rep Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland.

“The transportation systems are going to look very different 10 years from now than they do right now. It’s an incredible moment of change,” Runkel said.

The mayor’s office has been working on the significant reorganization since the budget process in April.

Staff and commissioners at city hall described the mayor as “collaborative” in his approach.

“I think he was trying to make sure that every one of my colleagues had something that they were passionate about,” Fish said.

While Wheeler will retain oversight over the Portland Police Bureau – as almost every mayor has — he assigned the city’s other public safety bureaus to retiring Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

Those are Portland Fire and Rescue, the Bureau of Emergency Communications, Fire and Police Disability and Retirement and the Bureau of Emergency Management.

Wheeler said he intends to hand those bureaus off in five months to the council member elected to replace Saltzman. Jo Ann Hardesty and Loretta Smith are in a November runoff for the seat. He reached out to both candidates before settling on the assignments.

“I’m pleased to have those bureaus for the next five months. I will be a good caretaker,” Saltzman said.

Fish encountered a similar situation in 2008 when he was a candidate and then-Commissioner Eric Sten announced his retirement.

The mayor at the time, Tom Potter, announced that the winner would take over Sten’s bureaus.

Fish said the mayor may have done the two candidates a favor.

“There is a virtue to run for office knowing what you may get,” he said. “I would expect to hear from both of them. It sharpens your platform a little bit, to talk about what your assignments are going to be.”

Fritz said she was pleased with both of her new assignments. She said she sees the possibility for overlap between work promoting equity and in the city’s hiring practices and her work overseeing the Water Bureau.

“There are huge contracts, so there’s a lot of opportunity with equity in those contracts,” Fritz said. “It’s great that we have a chief engineer and deputy engineer both of whom are women, which is not common in utility bureaus.”