

The Portland Tribune

Police Chief Says Clearing ICE Protest Camp Was Her Idea

By Zane Sparling

August 14, 2018

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw gives interview on Antifa protest, other topics on Tuesday.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw says it was her initiative to clear the protest camp that surrounded an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Portland.

The Occupy ICE camp located off Southwest Macadam Avenue lasted just over five weeks before it was swept clean by local law enforcement in late July.

"I went to the mayor and said, 'Look, this isn't sustainable, not just resource wise, it's just out of control for many reasons.' He was extremely supportive and said okay," she recalled in a radio interview.

"I wasn't asking for permission to go out and clear this camp. I said, 'This is what's going to happen and here's how it's going to happen.' And again, I got the support to do that,"

Outlaw's comments — broadcast on The Lars Larson Show on Tuesday, Aug. 14 — mark her 10th month as Portland's top law enforcement official.

She was hand-picked for the job by Mayor Ted Wheeler, who oversees the police bureau. She previously spent 19 years with the Oakland Police Department, rising up the ranks to deputy chief.

Outlaw dodged several questions during the radio interview — declining to say if the black-clad anti-fascists known as Antifa qualify as a "terrorist" organization.

But she did have some choice words about the media coverage of the Antifa and Patriot Prayer rally on Aug. 4, saying she was surprised that journalists later asked her so many questions about the riot control devices that were used exclusively on counter protesters.

In her memory, one of the reporters at a press conference told her: "Yeah, I was there, we all heard the dispersal orders but nobody listens to that."

That left Outlaw with a question of her own:

"Why didn't you obey the dispersal order? There's been no focus on that, but there's been focus on our tactics. I tell people 'We hold ourselves accountable.' If we did something wrong, we own it. I own it."

Outlaw also declined to reveal if she'll vote yes or no on an upcoming ballot measure that would repeal Oregon's "sanctuary" immigration laws.

"I have to focus our attention on violent crime, quality-of-life crimes, not someone's mere presence," she explained. "Presence doesn't bother me."

You can listen to the full 14-minute radio interview as a podcast [here](#).

Water Bureau Recommends Type, Location of Filtration Plant

*By Jim Redden
August 14, 2018*

City Council will considering contracting process next week and hold another public hearing before making final decisions.

The Portland Water Bureau is recommending the City Council approve the construction of a "granular media" filtration plant on property it already owns east of Oxbow Park to fight contaminants in Bull Run water.

During a Tuesday morning work session, bureau officials stuck by earlier cost estimates for such a plant of between \$350 million and \$500 million. They will also the council to approve the contracting process next week, but do not need a decision on the type or location of the plant until early 2019.

The council authorized the bureau to pursue construction of such a plant after cryptosporidium, a potentially deadly parasite, was repeated found in the reservoir in the Bull Run Watershed, the primary source of Portland's water.

During the work session, the council was told that most large municipal water agencies filter their water with mixes of sand and gravel known as granular media. Only a few use membrane or "slow sand" methods, which the officials said were not as satisfactory.

After considering several locations for the plant, the bureau is recommending a 95-acre parcel known as Carpenter Lane. The plant would only need around 35 acres, leaving room for solar panels to help power it, the council was told.

The council will not consider testimony on the type and location of the proposed plant next week, but will schedule a public hearing on those questions before making a final decision. Although water rates will need to be increased to pay for the plant, how much will not be known until then.

The Portland Mercury

Neighborhood Association Opposes New City Rules on Developer Outreach

*By Kelly Kenoyer
August 14, 2018*

The Overlook Neighborhood Association (ONA) strongly opposes new city rules about when and how developers notify neighbors about coming construction plans.

Under current rules, developers with buildings of a certain size are required to mail notifications to the relevant neighborhood association, and for some, require a public meeting. The new rules would be a little more flexible for renters, allowing notification by email and physical signs near the proposed development, and putting the responsibility for setting up public meetings on developers instead of the neighborhood associations. Though some Portlanders support the decentralizing changes, at least one neighborhood association is fighting the shift.

“The new code would create a fractured neighborhood communication system that would make it difficult for any single resident to keep up with all development in a neighborhood,” wrote ONA chair Christian Trejbal in submitted testimony to the city about the rule change.

But the change also intends to hold more developers accountable. The city’s current rules only require developers notify neighbors and participate in neighborhood meetings when a proposed building is over 40,000 square feet. If implemented, the rule change will require developers proposing buildings between 10,000 and 25,000 square feet to notify neighbors, and developers with a building over 25,000 square feet need to hold a neighborhood meeting.

The draft changes include a shift in how the notifications are delivered, allowing email and regular mail notifications and requiring on-site, physical notice of the coming development to anyone who passes by. The previous system required only a certified letter to the neighborhood association, which then had a limited amount of time to respond and request a neighborhood meeting—leaving anyone outside the circle of the association unaware of the communications.

“Right now the only people who find out are those in the communication network of the neighborhood association,” says Sara Wright, the code change project manager at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. “That’s a really small universe of people.”

It also shifts the responsibility of holding a meeting to the developer instead of the neighborhood association—something the city hopes will lead to more meetings in areas without active neighborhood associations. “Applicants will be encouraged to reach out to neighborhood associations to see if they want to host or co-host the meeting,” the draft proposal says. The neighborhood meetings allow for public comment but require nothing of the developers, who can listen to neighbors complain about a project and then move ahead with it unchanged anyway.

Wright says that flexibility is built into the rule change to accommodate neighborhoods with few available public meeting spaces, like in East Portland, as well as those that don’t have robust neighborhood associations. Under the previous rules, neighbors often never found out about developments until they were built because there weren’t active neighborhood associations there to schedule meetings. The new rules would make visible notifications at the project site, where anyone walking by can read them.

Anecdotally, Wright says most developers prefer to work with neighborhood associations where they’re available because the meeting times are more consistent. “We can’t make or force the rules that prevent every single bad outcome. We’re trying to create more good outcomes for more people,” she says.

Still, Trejbal argues that some of the changes don’t go far enough: that all buildings over 10,000 square feet should mandate a public meeting, not just those over 25,000. “This will become even more important as the city places greater emphasis on density, encouraging garden apartments and other missing middle housing in neighborhoods through changes like the Residential Infill Project,” he writes, adding that larger projects can greatly change “the character of a residential street.”

This comes amidst a public outcry over the Residential Infill Project led by various neighborhood associations. The project may increase density in single-family zoned neighborhoods by legalizing duplexes, triplexes, and garden apartments—something many long-time residents decry as harmful to “neighborhood character,” but that housing advocates welcome as an opportunity for density in some of Portland’s least-dense, most desirable neighborhoods.

Trejbai is also concerned about when and where developers can schedule meetings. “The requirement that a meeting only be within two miles of the neighborhood is much too distant,” Trejbai writes, pointing out that a developer could host a 30 minute meeting downtown during a Trail Blazers home game to try and prevent neighbors from being able to attend. He and ONA ask that the meetings be required to run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on weeknights, last at least an hour, and take place within half a mile of the neighborhood being affected, according to the letter. Notably, ONA meetings occur monthly on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The proposed code allows meetings between 6 pm and 9 pm on weekdays or between 9 am and 6 pm on weekends.