

The Oregonian

Woman Suffered Whiplash After Police Pushed Her at Portland City Hall, Lawsuit Says

*By Aimee Green
October 10, 2018*

A woman who says she was violently shoved toward an exit of Portland City Hall by police officers after the shutdown of a comment period at a City Council meeting filed a \$1 million lawsuit Wednesday against the city.

Julie Crosse's lawsuit claims she suffered whiplash and now has post-traumatic stress disorder from the encounter with officers Heidi Kreis and Jasmine Sutton on Oct. 12, 2016.

The hall was jammed with protesters and people like Crosse who weren't able to comment about a police contract up for a council vote, the suit states. Crosse was trying to follow police orders to leave, but she had nowhere to go because of the wall of people in front of her, the suit states.

Portland City Attorney Tracy Reeve declined comment on the suit.

[The Oregonian/OregonLive.com captured the disarray that day in this video.](#)

Crosse has now joined a list of people who have filed lawsuits against the city in the past two years, alleging police brutality during protests.

In March, a half-dozen people filed suits claiming police assaulted them, sometimes using batons and pepper spray, during protests and rallies in 2016 and 2017. All six of those lawsuits are pending.

The city has successfully requested that a judge place protective orders on most of those lawsuits, shielding from public disclosure any documents about the police bureau's internal affairs investigations into its officers and any reports from the city auditor's Independent Police Review division about complaints filed.

Crosse's lawsuit says Portland has a long history of an "engaged citizenry" exercising its First Amendment rights. But police also have a history of clashing with protesters in violent confrontations, the suit says.

"The PPB has become increasingly militarized in its tactics, deploying chemical and physical crowd-control and weapons while they themselves are protected by their helmets, full-body shields and other tactical gear," the suit states.

Crosse's lawsuit says that after she was pushed, she ultimately was able to make her way to the exit despite the chaos.

"She witnessed PPB officers shoving and punching individuals, including one unidentified person who was trapped behind a handrail and unable to move per the officers' orders," the suit says. "People were bleeding and as she neared the exit she found a friend who had accompanied her, unconscious on the ground."

Portland attorney Roscoe Nelson filed the suit in Multnomah County Circuit Court, on Crosse's behalf. [Read the lawsuit here.](#)

Officer Kills Armed Man Holding Woman Hostage at SE Portland Motel, Police Say

*By Jim Ryan and Shane Dixon Kavanaugh
October 10, 2018*

Police shot and killed a knife-wielding man who was holding a woman hostage at a Southeast Portland motel Wednesday morning, authorities said.

No other people were injured, police said.

The incident began near the Del Rancho Motel, in the 7600 block of Southeast 82nd Avenue near Flavel Street in Lents, police and witnesses said.

Officers first responded about 9:10 a.m. on reports of two people fighting near the motel, Portland Police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley said during an afternoon news conference.

He said arriving officers learned one of the subjects was armed with a knife and had attempted to stab another person.

Officers learned a man matching the suspect's description had entered a room at the Del Rancho and was holding a woman hostage, Burley said.

Officers tried to contact the man, who threatened to kill the woman, Burley said. He added that early investigation indicated the woman in the motel room was not part of the initial dispute.

Burley declined to provide other details about the shooting or what led up to it, citing the early investigation.

The Special Emergency Reaction Team and Crisis Negotiation teams were called to the scene, Burley said. As those teams were setting up around the motel, an officer took one shot and killed the suspect, Burley said.

Marissa Manning, a guest at the Del Rancho, said police escorted her and her two small children from their room to a nearby 7-Eleven parking lot around 10 a.m.

Manning, 27, said she later heard two loud explosions — likely flash-bang grenades fired by tactical officers — followed by the sound of gunfire.

Angela Brown, a bartender at the Checkered Flag, said she and patrons at the nearby tavern also heard two sets of explosions, first about 9:45 a.m. then just after 10 a.m.

Brown said she and her patrons did not hear any gunshots.

Burley said the suspect would be identified possibly Thursday, after an autopsy and next of kin is notified.

The spokesman would not confirm when asked about reports the suspect was the same person involved in a hatchet attack in Northeast Portland early Sunday, but he said detectives were working to determine if the suspect was known to police and what interactions they had had previously.

The homicide detail is taking over the investigation with the assistance of the East County Major Crimes Team, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office, Burley said.

Chief Danielle Outlaw and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as the city's police commissioner, both arrived at the scene after the shooting.

"No police officer wants to use lethal force, and it is with great responsibility that we accept this authority," Outlaw said in a statement. "We know the community wants to understand what occurred and we will release information as soon as appropriate."

Tactical police vehicles, as well as a mobile command center, remained parked outside the motel about noon.

The officer who shot the suspect has been placed on routine paid administrative leave, per bureau policy, Burley said.

The fatal shooting is the fourth by police in Portland this year.

Portland police officers shot and killed Patrick Kimmons, 27, during a downtown confrontation Sept. 30 and John Elifritz, 48, inside a homeless shelter April 7.

Authorities say both men had been armed when they were fatally shot. A Multnomah County grand jury later ruled the shooting of Elifritz justified. Kimmons' death remains under investigation.

On June 29, Portland State University police shot and killed Jason Washington, 45, who was holding a friend's handgun amid a drunken street fight outside a bar near campus. The officers ordered Washington to drop the weapon, then opened fire, shooting him nine times.

A grand jury last month declined to indict the two PSU officers involved in the incident.

Willamette Week

Portland Lagging Behind Other West Coast Cities in Implementing Earthquake Detection System, New Report Says

*By Elise Herron
October 10, 2018*

The Trump administration is fast-tracking earthquake detection system implementation on the West Coast. But the Pacific Northwest is holding up the process.

It's been well-reported that at any given moment a massive Cascadian subduction zone earthquake—aka The Big One—could decimate the West Coast.

In preparation, the Trump administration is accelerating implementation of earthquake early warning detection systems, the Wall Street Journal reports.

The fast-tracked implementation order came on Oct. 5 from U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and encourages national parks and Bureaus of Land Management in major cities between Anchorage, Alaska and San Diego, Calif., to integrate earthquake detection on federal land with local monitoring efforts.

Technology like ShakeAlert, which detects tremors and sends alerts to cell phones and other devices, has been life-saving in recent years in Japan and Mexico—prompting San Francisco and Los Angeles' pushes to finish installing early warning systems.

In the Pacific Northwest, however, disaster preparedness efforts are lagging behind.

"Only about half of the 1,675 sensors needed to complete the [West Coast] alert network have been completed," the WSJ article reads, "with the biggest shortfall in Pacific Northwest cities like Portland and Seattle, U.S. Geological Survey officials say."

A spokesperson for USGS could not immediately be reached for comment on the reason for Portland's slow rollout of a detection system. But, the WSJ reports, permitting delays could be partially to blame.

Under Zinke's new order, directors of federal land management agencies in respective cities have 30 days to "identify and help remove regulatory impediments to putting in the alert sensors."

There is still no definitive timeline for a completed West Coast early earthquake detection system, but Oregon would be smart to catch up to its neighbors.

In January, a Secretary of State audit warned that Oregon's disaster preparedness plans do not meet national standards, in part because of a lack of funding for the state's Office of Emergency Management.

A spokesperson for OEM tells WW that the agency is not involved with the federal early earthquake warning project.

Meanwhile, Portland City Hall today required that unreinforced masonry buildings—the ones most likely to crumble in a quake—must be labeled as unsafe. Even that incremental step received blowback from business owners and community groups.

A New Program Lets Portlanders Take Discounted Taxi or Lyft Rides Home on Halloween

*By Elise Herron
October 10, 2018*

That's thanks to a Portland Bureau of Transportation "Safe Ride Home" program.

With the spooky season officially upon us, the likelihood of finding yourself inebriated while in costume increases.

In an effort to keep tipsy trick-or-treaters off the road, the city is partnering with local taxi and ride-hailing companies to offer Portlanders discounted rides home.

Portland Bureau of Transportation's Safe Ride Home program offers Halloween transit discounts of up to \$20 off a taxi ride and \$5 off Lyft and Uber rides citywide.

The program—which was launched this year on New Year's—is part of the city's [Vision Zero campaign](#) to reduce traffic deaths in Portland and is a partnership between the city, transit companies, the police bureau and local bar owners.

To take advantage of the deals, Portlanders should pick up a coupon at [participating establishments](#).

Because whether you decide to don bunny ears, go full-gore ex-wife or forego dressing up altogether, drinking and driving is never an attractive look.

The Portland Mercury

Portland City Council Votes to Label All Earthquake-Unsafe Buildings

*By Alex Zielinski
October 10, 2018*

This morning, Portland City Council voted to mark at least 1,600 buildings in Portland with an 8-by-10-inch plaque.

These labels will be affixed on an outer wall near the building's entryway and will read (in at least 30-point bold type): "This is an unreinforced masonry building. Unreinforced masonry buildings may be unsafe in the event of a major earthquake."

Most buildings will be required to attach these placards to their buildings by March 1, 2019.

The plaques themselves are unremarkable. But it's what the small sign signifies that has sent ripples of opposition across Portland's small-scale property owner community. Many believe the label could turn away cautious tenants, customers, or parishioners (38 of the buildings are churches). Others call it the "Scarlett letter," and fear the plaque will make their building trickier to refinance or take out a second mortgage on the building.

The ordinance also mandates building owners include information about their buildings' safety issues in future leases. It's an unfair punishment, owners argue, for not being able to afford the cost of a seismic upgrade to ensure their old brick building won't collapse on itself during an earthquake.

"This is an obligation to Portland's 10-year-olds... those who aren't at the table today," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman before voting in favor. "I understand this is no easy task to building owners. But earthquakes are not produced by the city, they are produced as an act of god or a natural disaster. We can't do anything about the seismic risks we face... and I certainly don't think it's the city's obligation to fund the seismic improvements. I sympathize, but it's not our responsibility."

Portland's Black community has expressed particular concern with the placarding requirements. While Black property owners don't question a URM's safety issues during an earthquake, many see this labeling system—which appears to disproportionately impact older buildings owned by Black Portlanders—as a way to further disenfranchise the city's small population of color.

In a letter sent to city council in August, NAACP Portland President E. D. Mondaine Jr. compares the labeling of earthquake-unsafe buildings to the city's decision to label more than 150 African American-owned buildings in the Albina neighborhood as "blighted" in the 1960s—an incredibly vague label that allowed the city to enforce eminent domain and demolish all buildings.

"It is the hope of the NAACP Portland Branch that the City Council recalls the long history of racist tactics, including publicly shaming African Americans, and creating policies and processes that have intentionally excluded the African American community from the decision-making process," writes Mondaine. He notes that several building owners weren't told that their buildings were URMs until after this placard policy was voted on by city council in the summer.

At a hearing before city council last week, Mondaine and fellow Black community leaders called on the city to halt the placarding program and start the entire URM policymaking process over—only this time, making sure the African American community was involved.

"We've been displaced so many times," said Mondaine. "There are two things for sure you can count on about the African American community and public policy, usually: It's that we're the first affected and the last informed."

At the same council meeting, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said she's concerned that this policy has pitted public safety against private profit.

"I have to say to the building owners, the stakeholders include your tenants, your employees, your customers, your parishioners," Eudaly said. "I'm really nervous about kicking this down the road another few years. I really want us to do right by everyone, but I think it's going to hurt a little no matter what we do."

Today's vote is one step in a lengthy debate over what responsibilities owners of "unreinforced masonry buildings," or URMS, have to keep the public safe.

In June, members of council decided to extend the deadline of when URM owners are mandated retrofit their roofs—which entails tightly securing roofs to a building's outside walls—to 20 years. Roof retrofits are the only seismic building upgrade to URMs required by the city, since so many building owners say they won't be able to afford a full building overhaul (estimated costs range from \$43 to \$105 per square foot). The roof fixes still costs at least \$33 per square foot.

The government doesn't offer much in the way of financial support for these upgrades. Some URMS are old enough to qualify for a federal tax credit given to owners of "historically designated" buildings who retrofit their property. That credit covers 20 percent of the total retrofit cost. A state law offers 15 years of property tax exemptions to people who own buildings built before 1993 and chose to seismically retrofit their building.

Some owners believe it'll be more cost effective for them to just demolish their unsafe buildings and sell the land.

"I truly believe that 50 percent of these buildings are going to disappear, because who can afford this?" URM homeowner Angie Even told the Mercury earlier this year.

Meanwhile, earthquake experts say the required roof retrofit might not even be worth it. A building will need a full seismic retrofit to truly withstand a major earthquake, according to Oregon State University geophysics professor Christopher Goldfinger.

"It winds up being sort of an experiment. It might not do anything at all," he told the Mercury in May. "It doesn't sound very effective at all, to be honest."

The council is expected to vote on the measure by noon. [Follow along here.](#)

Hall Monitor: Service Resistant

By Alex Zielinski

October 11, 2018

Public comment at city council meetings has recently centered on one topic: criminalizing Portland's homeless population.

One group that's been especially vocal? The "Montavilla Initiative," a conservative spinoff of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association.

Montavilla Initiative members have vilified the police bureau for not responding to low-level crimes they say have been committed by homeless people in their steadily gentrifying East Portland neighborhood. The group also recently filmed individuals who were entering a syringe exchange site and domestic violence shelter, with the stated aim of documenting their "bad behavior" to share with police.

To sell others on this narrative, the group has perpetuated a familiar, but dangerous, myth: That most homeless people don't want to be helped.

In an interview with right-wing radio host Lars Larson, Montavilla Initiative Chair Angela Todd claimed that she's spoken with hundreds of homeless people who are "service resistant"—meaning they choose to be homeless, take drugs, and commit crimes, even when offered alternatives.

The idea makes Leo Rhodes laugh.

"That's crazy to me," says Rhodes, a Street Roots vendor who experienced homelessness in both Seattle and Portland. "Absolutely no one I know enjoys being homeless. It's offensive."

Liora Berry, the head of Cascadia Behavioral Health Care's street outreach team, says it's "really, really uncommon" to encounter homeless individuals who reject help.

But she can see how outsiders can jump to conclusions.

"The experience of not having a place to call home is an idea that's so hard to wrap your head around unless you've lived it," Berry says.

There are many reasons individuals might seem "resistant" to services, Berry adds. Perhaps they were previously promised housing, health care, or addiction treatment, only to have it fall through. Perhaps they've been scammed by a seemingly friendly stranger too many times.

"People don't want to get their hopes up unless they can trust you," says Berry. It sometimes takes outreach teams months of visiting a homeless encampment before earning enough trust to help transition its occupants off the streets.

Perhaps they were sexually assaulted the last time they slept at a shelter. Perhaps their possessions were stolen the last time they left to seek housing assistance. Perhaps they're hesitant to accept help before others who are worse off.

These explanations aren't as tidy or convenient as simply being "service resistant." But the label certainly makes it easier to blame individuals for systemic failures.

"Calling people 'service resistant' helps distance us from responsibility," says Marc Jolin, director of the county and city's Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS). "If someone says they're not interested in services, it doesn't mean they want to be homeless. It should make us ask, 'Are we offering the right services?'"

Portland's service providers have begun to tweak their models to meet the population's needs. Transition Projects now allows guests to bring their dogs inside their shelters and allows couples to sleep in the same area. Peer-run villages like Right 2 Dream Too, Hazelnut Grove, and the Kenton Women's Village have expanded, often with public support for their success at transitioning folks into permanent housing. And JOHS has funneled dollars into programs that help newly housed people find stability, while Metro pushes for a housing bond that would expand this model across the region.

These incremental solutions show proven success—unlike the reactionary arrests that groups like Montavilla Initiative are clamoring for. Which begs the question: Which population is truly resistant to our region's services?

Illegal Airbnbs Could Take 1,500 Rentals Off Market

*By Thacher Schmid and Cornelius Swart
October 11, 2018*

Illegal short-term rentals posted on Airbnb may keep more than 1,500 units out of the Portland housing market—even after the city’s much-publicized clampdown on Airbnb takes effect this winter.

The finding comes at a bad time for the 47 percent of Portlanders who rent: A recent report from Metro found the Portland metro region needs to add 48,000 affordable units to keep up with demand, and the current wait time for people wanting to live in Portland’s affordable public housing is 14.5 years.

Despite two years of behind-the-scenes negotiations between the city and Airbnb—negotiations that were intended to convince the San Francisco company and its local hosts to follow Portland’s rules regarding short-term rentals—the best available data suggests little will be done to rein in Airbnb hosts who illegally rent out entire homes for most of the year.

Airbnb opened its Portland offices in Old Town in 2014, the same year it signed a first-of-its-kind agreement with Portland that legalized short-term rental programs and required Airbnb to stick an 11.5 percent hotel tax on its reservations.

The agreement with the city did not require Airbnb to share its data on its hosts or guests, nor did it appoint city staff to actively enforce these new short-term rental rules.

In 2014, Portland also began requiring permits for Airbnb rentals—which the city called “accessory” short-term rentals—within residences containing up to five bedrooms. These permits require that hosts live in the unit they rent out via Airbnb (or any other short-term rental service) for at least 270 days of the year. That means hosts technically can’t rent out more than one residence at a time.

Currently, data from industry watchdogs indicate that as many as half of all Portland Airbnbs—conservatively, more than 1,500 units—still violate the city’s 270-day rule.

As one of the most successful Silicon Valley businesses exploiting the “sharing” economy, Airbnb’s disruption of the hotel industry has been welcomed by many. But few know the impact the service is having on housing markets; across the country, Airbnb has refused to share data on hosts and rentals. The company claims doing so would violate the privacy of its hosts—but its hoarding of data may also provide cover for illegal rentals offered through the service.

In lieu of data from Airbnb, groups like the team behind InsideAirbnb.com have begun to collect their own. The open-source site uses bots to scrape Airbnb’s site for calendar data and guest reviews.

InsideAirbnb data calculates that Portland has 4,852 total listings—2,424 of which are entire homes or apartments that have “high availability.” The group’s website says units like these “probably don’t have the owner present, could be illegal, and more importantly, are displacing residents.”

The site also determines that 1,532 units—representing 31 percent of InsideAirbnb’s Portland listings—have a host who operates more than one rental unit, which automatically violates the 270-day rule.

While Airbnb spokeswoman Laura Rillos dismissed InsideAirbnb’s data as “unreliable,” the company declined to provide data to refute it.

Another independent Airbnb analytics company, Airdna.co, shows data similar to that of InsideAirbnb: 5,185 active rentals in Portland, 43 percent of which are “available full time.” That means 2,229 could be violating Portland’s 270-day rule.

As part of negotiations that are expected to wrap up by the end of the year, Portland officials hope to get new data from Airbnb that will allow it to crack down on certain types of violations.

Sophia June, a spokesperson for Mayor Ted Wheeler’s office, says the city hopes to specifically receive data points that include the first and last name, or the business name, of the person listing the property, along with their mailing address, phone number, and email address. Also included in the proposed dataset will be the address of the rental property, its number of rooms for rent, and a signed promise by hosts that they’re complying with city codes.

In exchange for this transparency, officials say, the city will curtail its current requirement that all properties listed on Airbnb get an in-person review by a certified building inspector. June says Airbnb’s “frequent hosts,” however, will still be subject to in-person inspections.

While the proposed changes will certainly reduce overall Airbnb violations, they won’t affect the 1,573 Portland Airbnb units that appear to be breaking the 270-day rule.

That means Portland tenants could continue to be pushed out of rentals by landlords who decide to cater to the more lucrative Airbnb market, even if doing so breaks Portland law.

Last April, artist and recent Portland State University graduate Jude Boatman was evicted from her Kenton apartment when the unit was converted into an Airbnb.

It was a “great neighborhood, great house, super close to my work,” Boatman says. The unexpected eviction impacted Boatman, who has been homeless in Portland in the past.

“It’s like a trauma that lives with you forever,” she says. “Housing is always a scary thing for me, because it’s hard to find.”

In August, the Portland City Auditor’s Office used InsideAirbnb data to investigate the city’s ability to regulate its short-term rentals. The resulting audit found only 22 percent of Airbnb hosts had applied for and received the required city permits, and that “lax” enforcement of the regulations was having an “unknown” effect on the city’s housing crisis.

Local real estate experts say the short-term rental market is particularly hard to understand—not only is privately held data hard to come by, but many businesses like Airbnb are known to constantly and quickly change their practices.

Patrick Barry, whose real estate appraisal firm tracks apartment trends, calls Airbnb’s local industry a “shadow” market.

“I don’t think anyone really knows what the actual impact is,” says Barry. He believes the thousands of new apartments that are becoming available in Portland each year have a “much bigger impact” on housing affordability than Airbnb.

Chris Smith, a member of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission that helped create the city’s Airbnb regulations, sees Airbnb’s illegal listings differently.

During a housing crisis like Portland’s, Smith says, “even small changes in supply can make a difference.”

This isn’t Portland’s first attempt to mitigate the impact of short-term rentals in a city with a housing crisis. Earlier this year, the city assessed two new fees on short-term rentals; together,

they're projected to annually contribute more than \$1 million to the city's efforts to support affordable housing.

The pending agreement, officials say, is part of a larger overhaul that will include a citywide rental registry, the continued prioritizing of building thousands of new units of affordable housing, and collecting taxes and fees on short-term rental companies like Airbnb.

First, the city will have to improve its ability to track and respond to Airbnb violations.

Since the city adopted new short-term rental regulations in February 2017, the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has issued 186 citations to property owners for operating without the city-required permit, for fines totaling \$440,500.

None were for violating the 270-day rule, which BDS Supervisor Mark Liefeld calls "extremely difficult to enforce."

Portland's enforcement system is entirely complaint-driven and relies on publicly posted reviews from Airbnb guest reviews—not data provided by Airbnb or its hosts.

"Everything is set up where the burden of proof is on the city," says Liefeld.

There is no dedicated, full-time city staffer tasked with enforcing the city's short-term rental regulations. While such a position could locate, fine, and restrict Airbnb hosts who violate the law, such a position would cost about \$70,000 annually.

City documents obtained through a public records request show that on November 8, 2016—the same day Wheeler and City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly took office—the city's Bureau of Revenue and Financial Services threatened Airbnb with \$1,663,500 in fines if it didn't provide addresses for each of its rental locations and host contact information by the end of that month.

The city has extended that deadline twice already. Thomas Lannom, the city's director of revenue, says the city's threat of actually collecting those fines was "dropped pending the outcome of our negotiations."

Meanwhile, Airbnb's Portland lobbying team is one of the most powerful in city hall. In a January 4, 2017 email to the mayor's office obtained by the Mercury, Airbnb lobbyist Dan Jarman requested that the city "stay" its hand—or face the consequences.

"While we work to find a legislative solution," Jarman wrote, "we ask that your office commit to a stay of enforcement, which could terminate discussions before they begin."

Marshall Runkel, Eudaly's chief of staff, claims the city has the upper hand in negotiations with Airbnb.

"I don't think that we've stayed enforcement," says Runkel. "I believe that we are holding [Airbnb's] feet to the fire."

Nationwide, Airbnb aggressively lobbies local governments—and when that hasn't worked, the business has also gone to court to battle much larger cities, including San Francisco and New York City. In New York, Airbnb is currently fighting a new city ordinance that requires the company to hand over data that includes some tenancy information.

In the three years since Portland City Council declared a "housing state of emergency," the city's seen more than 15,000 new apartments pop up across town.

Yet despite new tenant protections, tenant strikes, and lawsuits, rents in Portland have fallen for the rich and risen for the poor. According to some, Airbnb's growing reach isn't helping.

“We believe it is critical that local policies ensure that affordable housing is available for local residents,” says Katrina Holland, the executive director of the Community Alliance of Tenants. “Lax enforcement, both in the short-term and long-term rental market, encourages landlords to skirt safety and livability standards and puts tenants at risk.”

Airbnb says its business model has minimal impact on the Portland housing crisis but offers little data to support the claim.

In the past, the company cited a 2016 study by ECONorthwest as evidence that its model doesn’t adversely impact Portland’s long-term rental market. Paid for by Airbnb, the study found only 83 Airbnb listings in Portland at the time were breaking the 270-day rule—a sharp difference from the thousands found by InsideAirbnb and Airdna.co.

An official inside city hall who asked to remain anonymous tells the Mercury that an Airbnb lobbyist privately confirmed the company’s illegal hosting operations have swiped at least 1,300 units from the housing market.

In a prepared statement to the Mercury, Airbnb spokeswoman Molly Weedn noted the company has removed 500 Portland listings found to be in violation with its “One Host, One Home” policy.

“Airbnb is an economic lifeline for Portland families and in fact, 58 percent of Portland hosts say they use Airbnb to help afford staying in their homes,” writes Weedn.

And from the mayor’s office, Wheeler emphasizes that consensus is the best approach to regulating short-term rentals.

“My first choice going forward would be for [Airbnb] to see that we have a mutual benefit in getting it right,” Wheeler tells the Mercury. “I’m not taking any strategy off the table, just to be crystal clear.”

Short-term rentals are “very lucrative, and desirable for people who come here,” adds Wheeler. “What we don’t want to do is have a significant portion of our housing stock taken up by people from Palm Springs when we have people in our own community who are struggling to keep a roof over their head.”