

## **The Oregonian**

# **New Cadre of Portland Public Safety Specialists Would Become Members of Police Union, Under City Agreement**

*By Maxine Bernstein  
December 3, 2018*

The city is poised to begin hiring a new group of Portland police employees who will carry pepper spray but no guns and handle certain low-level calls after the city approved money more than a year ago for the new jobs.

The cadre of public safety specialists would be represented by the Portland Police Association as civilian employees intended to support sworn officers, according to a new city agreement.

They would respond to non-emergency calls to help search for missing people, help with non-injury traffic accidents, attend neighborhood or community events and do follow-up on property crimes by phone or in person when there's no immediate suspect information, under a negotiated agreement with the rank-and-file police union.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, and the City Council in June 2017 approved money for the program in the 2017-2018 budget. The cost for 12 specialists is \$649,459, according to the city.

Little action occurred until this summer when the city began negotiating with the union. Among the issues: qualifications and training for the new class of employees.

The agreement is set to go before City Council on Wednesday. The proposal is expected to pass, although one commissioner is expected to vote against it while another has voiced concerns but supports the initiative.

The specialists' starting pay would be \$49,816 and jump to \$58,302 after four years.

Former Police Chief Mike Marshman had hoped to model the program after a similar one in San Diego when he was an officer there for two years before joining Portland police.

When first proposed last year, Marshman referred to the positions as community service officers and said they would bolster the number of officers on the street "at a more effective cost to the public." Patrol officers would have time to handle their calls and become more engaged with the residents and businesses in their patrol districts, he said.

But it appears the scope of their work was narrowed during negotiations with the union.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz said anything to get the specialist program started is probably worth supporting, but she wants the program to evolve over time to meet earlier promises that they'd serve as community service officers.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's chief of staff, Marshall Runkel, said Eudaly is likely to vote no and feels it's a bait-and-switch to give the specialists so much deskwork.

The new specialist positions were placed in the rank-and-file police union as their roles were "closest to the job duties" of the members of the Portland Police Association, said bureau spokesman Sgt. Pete Simpson. The specialists won't drive patrol cars but other city vehicles.

The job would be open to those 21 or older, with a high school diploma or GED and either two years of work experience, two years of military service or four years of reserve military service.

Those hired must complete 12 months of probation to include extensive class and on-the-job training provided by Portland police. They'll work four days of 10-hour shifts, mirroring patrol officers, and report to a police sergeant.

They'll undergo the same background checks and psychological exams as Portland officers but will face a lower-standard physical agility test for hiring. The agility test will mirror one now given to parking code enforcers in the city.

The specialists also will receive use-of-force training on the bureau's guidelines for the pepper spray they will carry.

## **Portland Weighs New Strategy for 2016 Housing Bond**

*By Elliot Njus  
December 3, 2018*

The Portland Housing Bureau is preparing to hit the reset button on its 2016 affordable housing bond after voters gave cities more flexibility to spend bond dollars.

Oregon voters passed Measure 102 in November with 57 percent approval. The measure lets local governments put bond money toward privately owned projects. That was previously constitutionally barred, but private development has been the norm for affordable housing development in recent years as public housing fell out of favor.

The amendment was billed as a companion measure to the Metro regional government's \$653 million bond, which Portland-area voters also approved.

But its passage means proceeds from Portland's bond can similarly be combined with revenue from selling federal low-income housing tax credits or support projects belonging to housing nonprofits, which proponents said could result in more units.

The amendment, in a sense, puts the Housing Bureau on more familiar footing. Lending money for affordable housing developments has historically been one of the bureau's primary methods of promoting affordable housing in the city.

But a key difference is that the bond money will come with more strings attached than typical offerings. The bureau still must live up to the promises it made to voters: to create 1,300 homes, half of them with two or more bedrooms for families and 600 within reach for households making less than 60 percent of the area median income.

"Those goals aren't changing," said Karl Dinkelspiel, the bureau's affordable housing programs manager. "What's changing is that we have maybe less control — maybe — because we'll be asking our partners to meet those goals for us."

The bureau is still seeking legal opinions from its bond counsel about what the city is allowed under the new legal framework. It's also seeking the opinions of the city's Office of Management & Finance, which previously had reservations about lending bond money.

The amendment could mean a reset for a bond-funded housing development at Southeast 30th Avenue and Powell Boulevard, a site the city bought in 2017 using \$3.7 million in lodging taxes. It announced later that year it would build a 200- to 300-unit affordable housing development there using bond funds.

The housing bureau had planned to build and operate the apartments itself, but it's now considering offering the project to an affordable housing developer to complete, Dinkelspiel said.

The city has only just begun its development planning for the site, where it had expected to break ground early next year.

Another housing bureau site at 5827 N.E. Prescott St. could also be turned over to an affordable housing developer. The housing bureau has said it plans 50 to 75 units at the site, for which it paid \$500,000, but it hadn't started design work on that project.

Meanwhile, the city said it is moving closer to inking a contract with an independent auditor to keep watch over the housing bond, a condition of the measure passed by voters. The city's elected auditor is also preparing a report to be released next year.

## **Proposal Would Move Longtime N. Portland Rail Yard, Develop Waterfront Property**

*By Andrew Theen  
December 3, 2018*

As Portland mulls thorny transportation questions – like replacing the Interstate Bridge, tolling sections of Interstates 5 and 205 or bringing passenger ferry service to the region – one man is suggesting a perhaps more ambitious project: move the railroad.

Mohamed Badreddine, a 28-year-old Portland native, has approached city leaders and Union Pacific Railroad in hopes of starting a discussion about moving the railroad away from its more than 200-acre waterfront property Albina Yard facility.

Mayor Ted Wheeler signed a letter of support Nov. 18, giving the far-reaching concept, which would open up an enormous swath of valuable riverfront real estate, a first inkling of legitimacy.

As ferry backers ask for the city and the region to study whether water transportation makes sense on the Willamette and Columbia rivers as the region braces to add 500,000 residents in the next 18 years, Badreddine said the railroad's waterfront property presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

“It makes a lot of sense for them,” he said of moving its maintenance facility out of the city's center “for the city, for the people, I think this could be a deal that could really work.”

Badreddine, who goes by Moe, acknowledges he doesn't have any experience in owning or developing land, but he claims to have tacit support from well-heeled developers who are interested in his idea. He's registered his Portland Albina Rail Yard Relocation Project with the state's business division and met with Mayor Ted Wheeler and railroad officials in recent weeks. He plans to meet with state transportation officials and Metro as well.

Badreddine said the total project would probably cost several billion dollars and take the better part of a decade to complete. “It's going to take a lot of studying,” he said, “but we won't be the same city [in a decade].”

He envisions a combination of thousands of units of housing and potentially a commuter rail service or other transportation additions through the area. Badreddine said he doesn't have firm designs, but he said the city needs to take a step toward evaluating the possibility. “Going after this is a big one,” he said of relocating or burying the railroad, something other cities such as New York have done. “It's going to take a long time.”

“We must champion visionary ideas as Portland transforms into a global city,” the mayor wrote in a letter to Badreddine. Wheeler said he supports the vision to bury I-5 through the Central

Eastside Industrial District as well, and he described Badreddine's proposal as another example of a "a long-term vision," while adding the city "must plan for the future."

"Portlanders didn't foresee current efforts for ferry service, or higher density downtown or the promise of the Gateway District ten or twenty years ago," Wheeler said, "yet Portlanders grew those visions through community leaders."

Kristen South, a Union Pacific spokeswoman, confirmed railroad officials had met with Badreddine. "Union Pacific is aware of the Albina Yard relocation concept and open to development-related discussions," she said in an e-mail.

Stating the obvious, South said it is "difficult to relocate a rail yard, especially in an urban setting, due to many logistical, environmental and financial complexities."

She described the North Portland facility, which sits broadly west of Greeley Avenue and south of Swan Island, as "critical" to the railroad's operations in the Pacific Northwest. The railroad declined to confirm the size of its property. Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, which Union Pacific acquired, began purchasing land at the site in 1881, and Albina Yard's distinctive brick smokestack was built in 1887.

South said Union Pacific assembles and sorts trains for departure to "destinations nationwide" at the Albina Yard.

Union Pacific has 1,073 miles of track in Oregon and 1,511 employees, according to 2017 figures. About 215,732 rail cars started their trips in the state, while 319,512 terminated their travels in Oregon.-- Andrew Theen

## **Many Vacancies Atop Portland Bureaus at Key Time**

*By Gordon Friedman  
December 1, 2018*

Six Portland bureaus have acting or fill-in directors, an unusually high number of vacancies atop the city government amid efforts to modernize and set long-term plans during a period of rapid growth.

Bureaus hosting interim directors run the gamut of city services. The acting directors include Chris Warner at the Bureau of Transportation, Kia Selley at Parks & Recreation, Courtney Patterson at the Bureau of Emergency Management, Joe Zehnder at Planning and Sustainability, Koffi Dessou at the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and Jessica Kinard at the City Budget Office.

Most of the stand-ins were high-level officials within their bureaus before being tapped by a commissioner-in-charge as a temporary director. Others once worked in a commissioner's office, like Warner, who was chief of staff to then-Commissioner Steve Novick.

Some have served for months in their acting role, like Dessou, who has been an interim director for close to a year.

Churn is common atop Portland's sprawling bureaucracy. (Police chiefs are notoriously short-tenured.) But so much turnover at once is atypical. It can also affect city services as temporary directors learn the ropes of being a chief executive, and as bureaus take on new, big, important projects.

Take the City Budget Office, a bureau that is obscure and small yet of vital importance to city operations. The bureau has an interim director as officials are working on a million-dollar project to replace the city's budgeting software and as city bureaus are undertaking a new budget-writing process on the orders of Mayor Ted Wheeler and Tom Rinehart, his chief administrative officer.

The vacancies also offer a chance for Wheeler and the city commissioners, who can hire and fire bureau directors at will, to move their agendas forward — and cement legacies. Executives selected by the mayor and commissioners leave an imprint on bureau cultures and projects, and often outlast the elected official who appointed them.

## **Winter Shelter for Homeless Families Opening**

*By Molly Harbarger  
December 1, 2018*

A winter shelter for families experiencing homelessness will open Monday.

Developer Tom Cody donated a warehouse at 1150 N.W. 17th Ave. in Northwest Portland before it is renovated. The building, which is 5,500 square feet, will house 75 families.

The shelter will be operated by Portland Homeless Family Solutions. The nonprofit will also provide case management, rent assistance and other services to help families find permanent housing.

Congregation Beth Israel, which hosted a shelter last year, will provide volunteers and connections through its congregants.

This is the second winter shelter funded through the city-county Joint Office of Homeless Services. Transition Projects opened Walnut Park around Thanksgiving for 80 people. The Multnomah County-owned building at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. will house men, women and couples in Northeast Portland.

The family shelter will prioritize families sleeping outside or in their vehicles. They will receive a hot dinner every evening and breakfast in the morning. Kids will have space to play and programming aimed at them. There will be an “awake room” so that families have options for their bedtime schedule.

Once in the shelter, families may stay as long as needed and leave their belongings there during the day.

“It is our collective responsibility to take care of our most vulnerable neighbors. This should happen all year, but particularly when it's cold outside,” Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said. “No one seeking a warm, safe place to sleep should be turned away.”

The families can take showers, do laundry and hang out at a day shelter run by Portland Homeless Family Solutions and housed inside the First Unitarian Church building at Southwest 13th Avenue and Salmon Street.

“When you're a parent, you do everything you can to keep your children safe and warm. That's no different for the families whose only place to care for their kids is a car,” Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury said.

To get a space in the shelter, families must call 211 to schedule an appointment.

People who want to volunteer can bring meals, lead activities for kids or help with chores, such as laundry or sorting donations. To volunteer, email [bethany@pdxhfs.org](mailto:bethany@pdxhfs.org).

Portland Homeless Family Solutions is also in need of twin sheet sets, blankets, pillows, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coats, diapers and baby wipes. To donate, email [emma@pdxhfs.org](mailto:emma@pdxhfs.org).

## **Costs for Portland City Hall Security Have Skyrocketed**

*By Gordon Friedman  
November 29, 2018*

The cost to Portland taxpayers for security guards to maintain order at City Hall has increased more than fivefold in less than two years, a review of city financial documents by The Oregonian has found.

The central reasons for the increases: more “protests and uncivil outbursts at City Hall,” an “upsurge of city business disruption incidents” and “enhanced needs” identified by the mayor’s bodyguards, city budget documents say.

The increase in frequency and intensity of protests and disruptions at City Hall, and the resulting steep increase in the number of contract security personnel posted there, coincides with Mayor Ted Wheeler’s time in office. He was sworn in Jan. 1, 2017.

In a statement, Wheeler’s office said the increased spending is to protect elected officials, employees, dignitaries and other visitors to City Hall, and is necessary given the escalating number of protests and direct threats to Wheeler.

The mayor considered installing police officers at the building, the statement said, “but when he saw the exorbitant cost, he opted for private security” because that option is cheaper.

In 2016, the annual cost for City Hall guards and the mayor’s security detail was \$175,811. This year’s security costs, by contrast, ballooned to \$847,034 with a July vote of the city council. With the same vote, the council set aside another \$400,000 for “unanticipated events” requiring security through May 2019.

At the time, Wheeler, Commissioner Nick Fish and David O’Longaigh, the city facilities manager, said the added funds were to pay for cost-of-living raises for the guards. That was misleading.

Along with raises, the vote helped expand the roster of guards for City Hall and the mayor to 18, with 11 at full-time status. Records indicate there were three guards stationed there in 2016 and seven in 2017.

“The question today is simply whether we’re going to grant a cost-of-living increase. ... That is correct?” Fish asked O’Longaigh during the July meeting.

“That is correct, along with some other measures,” he replied.

O’Longaigh said Thursday that cost-of-living raises negotiated by the guards’ union constituted an “enormous” portion of the July budget increase. Those raises made up \$581,000 of the \$2.9 million increase, about 20 percent of the total.

When residents testifying about the proposed increase veered into criticism of the company that employs the guards, Wheeler admonished them to stay on topic.

“This is about the cost-of-living adjustment for the employees, so please keep your testimony focused on that,” the mayor said. (Guards are employees of mammoth private security firm G4S Security Systems, not city employees.)

Officials further expanded spending on guards in 2018 even as the number of protests dropped off.

“Year to date security incidents at City Hall appear to have fallen” compared to the spike in 2017, a city budget analyst wrote this year. The analyst said it was unclear if the drop off was due to the additional guards or “external factors.”

Officials had to dip into rainy day funds to pay for the additional armed and unarmed guards and their supervisors.

Beefed-up security “may be warranted to ensure both tenants and the public’s sense of safety when accessing City Hall,” the analyst wrote. Yet the increase “is too substantial to be covered by the City Hall operations and maintenance budget,” the analyst said.

Officials approved spending reserve funds earmarked for building upkeep to help pay the guard bill.

City Hall is quiet most days. Uniformed and plainclothes guards watch City Hall entryways, monitor security cameras and wave people through turnstiles after a bag search and scan with a metal-detecting wand. Other guards follow the mayor wherever he goes.

Turnstiles were first installed more than a decade ago during Mayor Tom Potter’s tenure. Mayor Charlie Hales took them out; Wheeler brought them back and instituted the metal detectors and bag-check policy.

The increasingly uncivil unrest at City Hall has led city employees and, privately, elected officials to report they feel unsafe at work. One aide to Fish even said he retired because the protests set off his post-traumatic stress disorder.

When the occasional protest erupts at City Hall, the guards are empowered to do little else than tell the unruly to leave or call the police.

Consider the bedlam on Aug. 8. Left-wing protesters upset over police conduct stormed City Hall as the council began a meeting. One man, wearing a baseball helmet and a black bandana over his face, repeatedly smacked a security guard in the head with a megaphone. Police soon arrived, but no one was arrested for the assault, which was caught on video.

City officials went to lengths to keep information about spending on City Hall security from public view.

After The Oregonian inquired about spending for the mayor’s bodyguards, Heather Hafer, an Office of Management and Finance office spokeswoman, said the information is not public. She directed the reporter to file a public records request, though The Oregonian had not asked for documents.

“Simply put, we cannot release this information due to security concerns,” Hafer said.

The reporter insisted the information is in fact public. Hafer responded in an email, “We will not disclose information about the mayor’s security detail, nor are we required to.”

The reporter then filed a public records request for budget records related to the mayor’s security detail. In response, the city released 91 pages of documents.

But one file was missing: a detailed document called a rate schedule, which shows number of guards, weekly hours each is to work and the hourly wage agreed to in July, when the city council added \$2.9 million to the contract for security at City Hall and more than a half dozen other city buildings. The page where it should have been was blank except for “Insert rate schedule here.”

A reporter filed a subsequent records request for the document, but Hafer said the information likely was not public. A reporter then emailed Michael Cox, Wheeler’s chief of staff, and Tom Rinehart, the city chief administrative officer, to say he would file a public records appeal with the district attorney. Hafer released the rate schedule the following day.

Hafer later said the city’s intention was not to withhold public documents but to protect confidential information.

## **Portland City Council Won’t Block NW Portland Affordable Housing Development**

*By Elliot Njus  
November 30, 2018*

The City Council made short work of rejecting a neighborhood association’s request to block a Northwest Portland affordable housing development.

The Northwest District Association had asked the council to reject a proposal from the nonprofit developer Northwest Housing Alternatives to build 148 affordable apartments for seniors and low-income workers, saying the building was too big for the immediate surrounding neighborhood.

But in a preliminary vote Thursday, with few questions and minimal discussion, four council members voted to uphold an earlier approval from the Historic Landmarks Commission. (Commissioner Nick Fish was absent.) The council will finalize the decision in a vote on Dec. 19.

The Historic Landmarks Commission weighed in on the proposal because it lies in the Alphabet Historic District and because it would encompass the historic Buck-Prager Building, built in 1918 as a maternity hospital.

Neighbors argued the commission had made the wrong decision. The neighborhood association said the building failed to meet a city requirement that it “reinforce the historic district” because the new structures would be much larger than others nearby.

“The guideline is not met by sandwiching the Buck-Prager Building between two really large buildings or by putting those large buildings in the middle of a nearly intact cluster of historic homes,” said Jessica Richman, a former city planner and Northwest Portland resident.

Neighbors asked the council, if it backed the project, to add a requirement that the units be affordable. But the council found the Historic Landmarks Commission had made the right decision in approving the project.

“This would be an acceptable development whether or not it was affordable,” said Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. “This is extremely expensive real estate. The idea that it’s going to be developed at two stories in keeping with the adjacent structures is just unrealistic.”

# Portland 911 Greatly Improves Call Response Times

*By Gordon Friedman  
November 30, 2018*

Portland's 911 center has vastly improved its call answering times since hitting rock bottom in June, the latest data shows.

Dispatchers answered 46 percent of calls within 10 seconds during October, [according to figures published by the Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications](#). That's up from a low of 8 percent in June, as The Oregonian reported this summer.

Though call-takers are improving, the numbers are still far below national standards. Those benchmarks say 90 percent of calls should be answered in 10 seconds or less during a call center's busy hours.

Bob Cozzie, the Emergency Communications director, on Friday attributed the improved numbers to his agency hiring more dispatchers and making technical changes that connect callers to dispatchers faster.

The central tenet of that change was to disable a "filter" that routes calls from cell phones to a recording that prompts callers to make a noise or press a button in order to be patched through to a dispatcher. The filter is meant to weed out accidental dials, officials say.

Since turning it off – except during times when all dispatchers are busy at once – call times have improved, the data shows.

Cozzie, the bureau director, told The Oregonian this summer that he aims to hire dozens more dispatchers in the next five years. The most recent data report indicates the 911 center plans to seek funding for 10 more dispatchers in the next city budget.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City Hall Update Panel Meets in Effort to Improve Community Policing**

*By Jim Redden  
December 4, 2018*

**Plus, truck tax stays the same and Southwest transportation projects discussed at open house and online.**

The 13-member Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing held its first meeting Wednesday evening.

The group is required by a settlement between Portland and the U.S. Department of Justice intended to reduce the Portland Police Bureau's historic use of excessive force against the mentally ill.

After the first committee appointed by former Mayor Charlie Hales failed, Mayor Ted Wheeler established this one.

The committee's mandate is to report on how the bureau can do a better job engaging with and policing the communities they're sworn to serve. You can learn more about it at: [portlandoregon.gov/wheeler/76741](http://portlandoregon.gov/wheeler/76741)

### **Truck tax stays the same**

The City Council decided not to increase the temporary heavy-vehicle use tax Wednesday, even though it will raise \$2 million less than expected.

When the 10-year tax was passed in 2016, it was expected to raise \$10 million to help repair damage to city streets caused by heavy trucks. The council recently learned that it will raise only \$8 million, however, because fewer trucks are covered by it than predicted.

The majority of the council felt raising the tax 60 percent in its remaining year to make up the difference was too much of an increase.

The tax was passed along with the temporary 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax to fund street repairs and safety improvements. The newest Fixing Our Streets project will close Southeast 17th Avenue between Tacoma and Spokane streets through Dec. 12 for repaving work.

### **Southwest transportation projects discussed**

The Portland Bureau of Transportation held an open house Thursday in Southwest Portland to discuss potential improvement projects in that part of town. Feedback also will be sought through an online survey.

The project list is being developed through PBOT's Southwest in Motion process. Priorities include walking and biking connections to the proposed Southwest Corridor MAX line and the development of low-traffic neighborhood greenway streets.

Approximately \$15 million worth of projects already have been identified. To learn more and sign up for the online survey, go to the project website at: [tinyurl.com/y87spm2](http://tinyurl.com/y87spm2)

## **Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler 'Expects' to Run for Re-election**

*By Nick Budnick  
December 3, 2018*

### **Wheeler touts successes but won't commit. Will make decision with family in coming year.**

Mayor Ted Wheeler now says he expects to run for re-election despite a comment last month that indicated the opposite was true.

His new comments came as political circles continue to buzz about what Wheeler muttered in the presence of a reporter for The Oregonian — that he "can't wait" for his term as mayor to end in two years.

Though Wheeler has since dismissed the comment as stemming from momentary frustration, it has triggered continued speculation. What does this mean for Wheeler's agenda and the city of Portland? Who may line up to replace him?

Walking back his earlier statement, Wheeler now says that while he hasn't made a final decision, people should assume that he's running again. And he is touting accomplishments and projects

— a scrawled list of them is posted on the wall of his office — that he says he wants to see through.

His way forward, however, is far murkier than it was a month ago. The muttering came on the heels of a botched proposal to regulate protests in Portland to address recurring assaults and fighting — a failure Wheeler made worse with comments blaming the media and others, but not himself. The public finger-pointing highlighted criticisms of his leadership style as well as authorities' failure to prosecute those involved in the violence at protests.

In a half-hour interview at his office last week, Wheeler addressed some of the criticisms, as well as Portland's unusual weak-mayor form of government, in which each member of the council oversees a portion of the city's bureaucracy.

The following has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Tribune: Are you going to run for re-election?

Wheeler: First of all, let me just address the (comment)... I was in front of an audience of 400 people speaking on the intersection of health and homelessness. I should not have let (heckling) get under my skin, but I did.

I'll make a decision sometime in the next year with my wife about whether or not I'm running for re-election. But people should assume that I'm going to run a very aggressive re-election campaign, with an equally aggressive forward-looking agenda. That's my expectation.

When you look at my agenda, there's a lot of work that we've put into what's coming to fruition now and will come to fruition in the next couple of years. We are very aggressively looking at a forward-looking agenda for the future, and I want to be here to see it through. But my family has a right to be in on that final decision, and I'll be making that decision sometime in 2019.

Tribune: Do you see systemic issues with Portland's system of government that might have contributed to the string of mayors who only served one term?

Wheeler: I knew what I was getting into. I knew it would be a tough job.

Because of the form of government, every time you push a significant agenda item in front of the council, you have to effectively build a coalition government. So you have to work with bureaus that aren't necessarily under your control, you have to work with commissioners who have their own agendas. You have to bring the public along and that's a critical piece, particularly here in Portland, where people highly value public engagement in decision-making.

But I don't view it as a problem, it's just the reality of the system that we have.

Now, I have made some changes since I've gotten here. I've hired a chief administrative officer, tasked with the responsibility of centralizing as many management functions as possible.

We've made great headway on the budgeting process. We've made some decisions as a council, for example the Build Portland initiative: We've committed to a 20-year initiative to invest in basic infrastructure like roads, parks and civic infrastructure. We're centralizing customer service, we've centralized the budget process.

I've brought together bureaus to help reform our permitting process and speed up the process of getting affordable housing and other critical projects online. And we've centralized a lot of the livability issues, everything from trash collection to graffiti abatement.

And so I'll keep looking for those opportunities, to keep looking enterprise-wide while respecting the reality that we're in a commission form of government.

Tribune: Knowing how City Hall works, losing the protest safety ordinance vote did not come as surprise to you. Why did you press forward with that when you knew it would fail?

Wheeler: I and Chief (Danielle) Outlaw approached that protest safety ordinance with a sense of urgency and with a sense of passion. We were very concerned, and we're still very concerned, with the increased frequency of demonstrations that devolve into violence.

It became a national issue, and it was starting to be attached to Portland as part of our brand, as part of our image. We were concerned about the safety of the public, we were concerned about the safety of demonstrators.

My colleagues, while concerned about these issues, and I think appreciating the intentions behind my ordinance, needed more time. And I thought I could get to three (votes), to be honest with you.

But as my colleagues voted against it, they said they needed more time, they wanted more time to reflect on it, they wanted more time to meet with the ACLU and other organizations who'd raised concerns about constitutionality.

And in retrospect I pushed them too hard, too quickly. I heard what they said as they cast their no votes, that in the future they want more time, they want to have more engagement opportunities.

There's nobody to blame for that but myself. And I've learned the lessons from that.

Tribune: It seems like you've been making unforced errors.

Wheeler: Anybody who comes into this office and doesn't make errors isn't trying very hard. If you look at the issues on the wall, there are a lot of very high bars that I've set for my administration, and we are making good progress.

Previous administrations struggled to find money, to find funding for transportation; I've found \$600 million over 20 years through a new program called Build Portland. There's been a lot of talk about so-called community service officers, nonsworn officers who can help with public safety-related issues in the community. We'll be bringing that to the council shortly.

The budget process in this city has been criticized as lacking in transparency, lacking in accountability, and lacking in financial discipline. We now have had two unanimous budgets. We just had a fall (adjustment) that brought a heightened level of discipline to the process. The housing bond has been an unmitigated success. And the list goes on and on and on.

I didn't come here to play small ball. I didn't come here to sit in that chair and keep it warm. I came here to move my agenda in the community, to lift the city of Portland and the people who live here. And I will continue to be aggressive in my agenda, and that means we'll have spectacular successes, and we'll have spectacular failures, and everything in between.

Tribune: What letter grade would you assign your job performance so far?

Wheeler: Incomplete. I'm not even two years into this job.

In less than two years we've moved to 100 percent renewable as a commitment. We just passed the straws and plastic ordinance on to its final reading where it will pass presumably unanimously next week.

The website's going live in the next several weeks, 3-1-1 is going to happen. We've moved the auditor into a more independent position. The Portland Building (renovation) is on time, on budget. We've reformed the permitting process, we continue to work on that to speed up housing.

We've set up the rental services offices, which was a major commitment of my campaign. A whole host of development projects are under way.

These are all opportunities to shape the look and the feel and the future of this community. There's been a whole host of things around transportation. We increased the number of park rangers, we put more police patrols out there. We improved the analyst function in the police bureau to keep it accountable.

Tribune: What would be your biggest criticism of your tenure?

Wheeler: Much of the job of mayor and much of the work we do in this office is responding to the crisis of the moment — and not a day goes by where there isn't some crisis of the moment. But you can never lose sight of your agenda, and where you want to go and where you want the city to go.

And I think it's taken us a while to get the right formula internally in terms of how do we deploy our very limited resources in this office to manage the crises du jour, and continue to move the agenda forward. I think we can do better in terms of keeping our priorities in line and following our north star relentlessly.

Tribune: Do you need to adapt your style to the new City Council you're going to be dealing with, and if so how?

Wheeler: I've worked with Commissioner-elect (Jo Ann) Hardesty going all the way back to when I was at the county chair. And we will undoubtedly have disagreements on specific issues, as I do with all my colleagues, but I believe I can work well with her.

We've got an agenda that we need to work on together around public safety. She'll have the bureau of emergency communications and the bureau of emergency management. There's a lot of work that needs to be done to improve our response time to 911 calls.

The office of emergency management needs to be more engaged with communities that are typically not directly engaged, communities where people speak a different language, people that come from a culture where they don't necessarily trust government to be the ones to help them in a time of need or a time of crisis, and I think Jo Ann will be uniquely well-positioned to partner with me on that.

Tribune: Some people think a lack of humility on your part works against you. Do you think that is a fair criticism?

Wheeler: At times it's a fair criticism. All of us could learn to be more humble; I certainly could. I've learned new types of humility on this job that I didn't even know exist.

It's a very humbling experience being the mayor of Portland, and at any given moment there are always people there to remind you that you are human and that you have foibles, and that you can screw up just like everybody else.

I believe that I'm a humble person. I approach this job with humility. I think you need humility to be able to survive and thrive in the position of mayor. But I also have confidence. I have confidence in my agenda, I have confidence in my team, and I have confidence in myself. If I didn't, I wouldn't have gone for the job in the first place.

But I don't want to approach it with hubris. I've been a statewide elected officer, I've been county chair. Neither of those jobs prepared me to be the mayor of Portland, Oregon. You learn on the job.

I hope that people will see that I'm very passionate about this community, that I care deeply about the people that I serve, that I am 100 percent committed to the agenda that I promised I would deliver when I ran for this office. And I hope they see my passion and my sense of urgency to address this agenda as that, as opposed to just flat-out hubris.

Tribune: When you now say you expect to run again, people will think you've realized that your ability to achieve any success rests on people not thinking you're a lame duck and a short-timer.

Wheeler: It was a stupid thing to say. That was out of frustration rather than a statement of fact. People should expect that I will run for re-election. My team knows that I am committed. I have explained it all to them. I am raising funds for a re-election campaign, including since that day.

And people have a long history of underestimating me. If they think I'm just going to walk away, or if they think I'm not going to aggressively run for re-election should my wife and I decide to do that a year from now, they will be sorely mistaken.

## **Council to Consider Transferring Domestic Violence Staff to County**

*By Jim Redden  
December 2, 2018*

### **Commissioner Dan Saltzman says Multnomah County should administer the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services.**

The City Council will consider transferring the operation of the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services to Multnomah County on Wednesday.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who led the creation of the center, says the council now realized the county is a "better fit" for managing the center in East Portland, which provides a wide variety of services and resources to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

The city will continue to pay the salaries of the staff working at the center for five years, although they would become county employees under the proposed ordinance. The city's cost will be \$943,415 in the current fiscal year, and will increase by inflation in future years.

The center was established through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) approved by the council and Multnomah County Commission in 2009. It works closely with other agencies, including the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Saltzman said the city and county concluded the transfer was justified while negotiating the next extension of the current IGA.

"By all accounts, the Gateway Center has helped countless survivors move past the events that brought them to the facility. Gateway Center staff and the agencies at the Center use a survivor-driven service model, and recognize that survivors are the experts in their own lives. They work to ensure that the services at the Center are closely integrated with the public safety system. Almost one in four referrals to the Center come from police officers," reads the Impact Statement that accompanies the proposed ordinance.

To learn more about the center and its services [here](#).

# Developer Donates NW Portland Building for Family Shelter

*By Zane Sparling  
December 2, 2018*

**Tom Cody of Project^ has donated a storefront for use as a winter seasonal shelter for 75 folks.**

Another 75 children and parents will have somewhere warm to sleep this winter after a Portland developer donated a storefront for use as a seasonal family shelter.

The building, located at 1150 N.W. 17th Avenue, will open its doors Monday, Dec. 3 through April 30, with nighttime accommodations available daily between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

The shelter will be funded by the Multnomah County Joint Office of Homeless Services and operated by Portland Homeless Family Solutions. Last year, this shelter was hosted a few blocks away at Congregation Beth Israel, who will remain a lead volunteer partner.

Project^ developer Tom Cody donated the building.

"I am optimistic that by working together, the business community and the public sector can continue to make meaningful progress in addressing homelessness," said Cody, who has opened winter shelters in his projects before. "With many contributing, outcomes can be immediate and impactful. I hope we can continue to build on these kinds of partnerships."

County officials say the only way to access the shelter service is by calling 2-1-1 and scheduling an intake interview. Staff will serve guests a hot dinner and breakfast each day, and will also provide play spaces, activities for children and an "awake room" for night owls. Guests who are accepted into the shelter can store belongings there and keep service animals.

"It is our collective responsibility to take care of our most vulnerable neighbors. This should happen all year, but particularly when it's cold outside," Mayor Ted Wheeler said. "No one seeking a warm, safe place to sleep should be turned away."

Portland Homeless Family Solutions will also operate a day center at Southwest 13th Avenue and Salmon Street with help from First Unitarian Church. That location will offer hot showers, laundry and space to socialize. Families will be connected with social services like rental assistance.

Officials say no one will be lining up outside the shelter or having to cart around their belongings.

The opening — which complements another shelter on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard — comes just as forecasts are predicting chilly overnight temperatures.

And while the county has pledged to open hundreds of overnight beds this winter, there are already 100 families stuck on a waitlist for shelter services. Most are currently sleeping on the streets or in cars.

"These are kids who don't have anywhere to do their homework, brush their teeth, or read bedtime stories," said Brandi Tuck, executive director of Portland Homeless Family Solutions.

"When you're a parent, you do everything you can to keep your children safe and warm. That's no different for the families whose only place to care for their kids is a car," added Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

## Ready to help?

Portland Homeless Family Solutions hopes more volunteers will help staff the shelter or give donations.

"The items most needed are twin sheet sets, blankets, pillows, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coats, diapers, and baby wipes," according to a news release.

Email [bethany@pdxhfs.org](mailto:bethany@pdxhfs.org) to volunteer or [emma@pdxhfs.org](mailto:emma@pdxhfs.org) to donate.

Local providers are also looking for more winter clothing, including shoes, thick socks, gloves and mittens, winter coats, sleeping bags, blankets, knit hats, tarps, hand warmers and rain ponchos. Water resistant or waterproof options are preferred. Visit this website for more information.

## Willamette Week

### Portland Commissioner-Elect Jo Ann Hardesty Says Unarmed Officers Shouldn't Be Part of The Existing Police Union

*By Katie Shepherd  
December 3, 2018*

**"If the current police are writing the rules for unarmed police how good can they be!" Hardesty wrote on Facebook.**

City Commissioner-elect Jo Ann Hardesty says she is opposed to a new police classification that would allow the Portland Police Bureau to hire unarmed officers.

Mayor Ted Wheeler funded the Community Service Officer pilot program in June 2017, by eliminating the horseback police called the Mounted Patrol Unit.

The new positions have since been renamed Public Safety Support Specialists, or PS3s, and Wheeler will bring the final proposal for the positions before City Council on Dec. 5, after negotiating with the Portland Police Association to define the new roles.

That negotiation process is precisely why Hardesty says she would vote against the proposal.

"How will having unarmed police who are part of the same union (where you can't fire anyone) benefit Portland residents?" she wrote on Facebook Dec. 3. "How will unarmed police whose role is to assist armed police be better? I think we should just say no!"

Her criticism is echoed by police reform advocates who have wondered how effective the PS3s can be under the police union's negotiated contract.

"The PPA decided they would represent these folks," says Dan Handelman of Portland Copwatch. "That's too bad because the PPA doesn't like to comply with regulations that say you have to use less force. They complain that those regulations are tying their hand behind their back."

Handelman says he supports the idea of having unarmed officers who can respond to some calls for service. Some other jurisdictions use similar unarmed officers trained in social services as first responders to welfare checks, nuisance calls and low-level crime.

PPA President Daryl Turner could not immediately be reached for comment.

Last week, the police union and mayor's office voiced conflicting visions for the PS3 hires. Union president Daryl Turner said the new police employees would be manning front desks and waiting for tow trucks. The mayor's spokeswoman said the PS3 officers would have a much more active role in the bureau and would be a visible presence in the city.

The proposal Wheeler is introducing on Wednesday suggests that the PS3s will take some police reports and can make follow-up calls on some criminal investigations. But other activities would likely require an armed, sworn police officer to accompany a PS3.

Hardesty says the PS3s should be divorced from the police union.

"If the current police are writing the rules for unarmed police how good can they be!" she wrote in a Facebook comment.

## **The Mayor's Office Asked Select Reporters to Sign Non-Disclosure Agreements and Let A Police Officer Determine What They Publish**

*By Katie Shepherd  
December 2, 2018*

**The mayor's communication director asked a reporter to let a Portland police officer "guide when and what you will be able to tweet and share."**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's communications staff asked a select group of reporters to sign non-disclosure agreements to gain access to the Portland Police Bureau's command staff during a right-wing protest on Nov. 17.

An email exchange from Nov. 14 obtained by WW via a public records request provides more insight into the terms of an offer by the mayor's office to allow selected reporters to enter the police's nerve center during the latest in a series of fraught protests. The Portland Mercury first reported last month that a few reporters had been picked.

No news organization ultimately attended.

In the emails between the mayor's communications director Eileen Park and a KGW reporter, Park offered exclusive access to the Portland Police Bureau's Incident Command Post, or ICP, and asked the TV station to sign an agreement to allow the city to dictate what it would publish. Park offered similar access to hand-picked reporters from The Oregonian and the Portland Tribune.

"It's an effort to provide more access, transparency, and to show the public what goes into the decision making and planning process prior to and during these protests," Park wrote. "But because a lot of what you will be hearing and observing is confidential, we will have to get a NDA signed by both you and the photog—which our attorneys have drafted."

(The city did not provide a copy of the draft NDA in response to WW's records request.)

The offer included another key restriction: A police officer would decide what the reporter could tell the public.

"Lt Craig Dobson will be your liason [sic], and can guide when and what you will be able to tweet and share," Park continued.

The offer shows the mayor's office trying to craft a more positive view of police actions after months of critical news coverage surrounding protests. Protests organized by Vancouver, Wash.-based group Patriot Prayer and frequented by right-wing extremists like the Proud Boys have for two years troubled city leaders and attracted antifascists eager to fight.

Wheeler faced backlash after police fired riot control agents into a crowd of antifascist counter-demonstrators on Aug. 4. In October, when officers stood by as black-clad protesters briefly blocked traffic, right-wing media including Fox News harangued the mayor for allowing "mob rule" in the streets.

In the midst of blows from both political extremes, the mayor's office tried to pass a controversial ordinance that would have given Portland police more authority to control when and where protest groups with a history of violence could gather.

His office also decided to grant some media a look inside police decisions.

"We decided on the reporters based on their history of being tough, factual, fair and consistent," Park says. "I had one sincere intention, to open up more opportunities for journalists to see what happens within the Police Bureau."

Text messages between Park and the reporter show that KGW declined the offer and refused to sign the NDA. The reporter called the NDA "unprecedented".

Park stands by that aspect of the decision.

"I know that is not common for NDAs to be requested," Park says, "but this is a very unique situation where confidential, highly sensitive information is being shared."

Shortly after the Portland Mercury reported on the invitations, the mayor's office rescinded the offer and declined to provide access to the command post to any journalists.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Family Winter Shelter Opens Tonight for Homeless Portlanders**

*By Blair Stenvick  
December 3, 2018*

A winter homeless shelter opens for the season tonight at 1150 NW 17th. It will accommodate 75 children and their parents.

The shelter, operated by Portland Homeless Family Solutions, will serve families from 6 pm to 8 am everyday through April 30 of next year. It's hosted by the City of Portland and Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS).

Portland regularly opens additional shelters in the winter months, when dropping temperatures and harsh weather conditions make it especially unsafe to sleep outside or in a car. The shelter on NW 17th will replace last year's location at Congregation Beth Israel.

Last month, the JOHS opened another winter shelter for men, women, and couples at 5329 NE Martin Luther King. JOHS also added beds to its veterans shelter in Rose City Park, and in the

youth homeless shelter system, to accommodate an expected winter surge in demand. Portsmouth Union Church, at 4775 N Lombard, is also hosting 50 beds for anyone seeking shelter this winter.

Find out more about these shelters [here](#).

Local nonprofit JOIN is accepting donations of the following items for houseless people at its Portland office, at 1435 NE 81st, Suite 100:

- Footwear and thick socks
- Waterproof/resistant gloves or mittens (preferably dark colors/black)
- Waterproof/resistant winter coats (adult sizes)
- Sleeping bags and warm blankets
- Waterproof/resistant hats (preferably dark colors/black)
- Knit hats (preferably dark colors/black)
- Tarps (preferably brown, dark colors)
- Hand warmers
- Rain ponchos

## **Audit Finds Holes in Portland's Watershed Restoration Program**

*By Blair Stenvick  
December 4, 2018*

Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is falling behind on tracking of its watershed restoration and flood prevention projects, according to an audit released Tuesday by the city auditor's office.

Auditors found that Portland does not have a comprehensive plan to identify areas that are prone to flooding and pollution, fails to consistently report on project results, and does not regularly maintain and inspect its many projects. The bureau spent \$13 million on these projects this year alone.

The audit specifically focuses on watershed restoration projects, in which BES staff plant native vegetation and excavates land to create wetlands, so as to improve water quality and reduce pollution in that area. The report also focuses on so-called "green streets"—roads that include off-curb green areas that work to filter out pollution and reduce the risk of flooding.

BES' own protocol calls for green street inspection each spring and fall. But according to the audit report, 53 percent of Portland's green streets (usually contained to several blocks—not the entire length of a street) were not inspected last spring. Additionally, the audit finds that some 36 percent of the city's over 2,000 green streets might not have been necessary to create in the first place.

Kari Guy, the director of audit services, said that one way to improve BES' handling of both watershed restoration projects and green streets would be to put together a stormwater system plan, which would look at the projects on a city-wide scale, rather than single, isolated projects.

BES originally committed to completing that kind of plan by 2016, which was extended to 2017. That deadline has since been bumped to 2028.

“[The stormwater systems plan] has been in process since 2010,” Guy said. “It’s been ongoing for a long time, and the bureau’s really had trouble meeting some of the commitments it’s laid out.”

In its official reply to the audit, BES committed to completing parts of a stormwater systems plan, including new citywide stormwater risks maps, by next year.

## **Portland is "Not Going to Buy a Ballpark," Says Mayor Wheeler**

*By Blair Stenvick  
November 30, 2018*

No, taxpayers won't be footing the bill to build a Major League Baseball (MLB) stadium in Portland. At least, that's what Mayor Ted Wheeler promised reporters Friday afternoon.

“The taxpayers here are not going to buy a team, and we’re not going to buy a ballpark,” Wheeler said.

Wheeler did say he was open to indirect funding to assist the Portland Diamond Project (PDP) in turning Port of Portland’s Terminal 2 into a ballpark, like putting city dollars toward surrounding infrastructure and waiving fees associated with development.

“Obviously we would give the same kind of considerations to this that we would in terms of any other economic development plan around infrastructure, transportation, and the like,” he said. “It would be very naïve to assume there would be no public contribution.”

Wheeler said he supported PDP’s plan to develop Terminal 2, which he called an “under-utilized port facility.” Traditionally, the port has been used to accommodate “breakbulk,” or cargo ships containing steel rail, power transformers, or oversized materials.

“The region has many competitive breakbulk facilities, and shallow river depth limits the type of ships that can [dock] at [Terminal 2],” Melanie Mesaros, the port’s media relations manager, told the Mercury. “We have begun to direct this type of cargo to Terminal 6, which is better suited to handle it.”

The mayor told reporters he planned to meet with officials from the transportation, planning, and development bureaus later Friday afternoon to start the planning process for supporting infrastructure for the ballpark.

He said that there wasn’t a connection between PDP’s Thursday announcement and his recent stated support of the Passenger Ferry Initiative, which aims to bring ferry service to the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, but that he could see a potential "opportunity" to make the PDP site a ferry stop.

The PDP has stated in the past that a new ballpark plan could include new housing developments as well—perhaps as much as 8,000 units—but made no mention of it in Thursday’s announcement. Wheeler pointed out that the ballpark plans make up a relatively small portion of the Terminal 2 site, meaning there would potentially be space for housing there.

He also called the potential development a good opportunity to “build another central city neighborhood from scratch.”

Wheeler has seen the names of PDP's private investors, but did not share those names with reporters. He said he isn't sure what his role would be in lobbying Major League Baseball to bring a team to Portland.

## **City Council Rejects Neighbors' Aesthetic Complaints Over Affordable Housing Development**

*By Blair Stenvick  
November 30, 2018*

Members of the Northwest District Association (NWDA) wanted to make one thing clear at Thursday's Portland City Council meeting: They aren't against building more affordable housing in their Alphabet District neighborhood.

They just don't like this particular affordable housing project.

The neighborhood group had filed an appeal against plans to transform the historic Buck-Prager building on NW Hoyt into a multi-building affordable housing development. Their appeal stated that the planned development, which the city's Historical Landmarks Commission approved in September, wouldn't properly blend in with the historical district or meet zoning requirements. (NWDA member and attorney Tony Schwartz filed a separate appeal that listed similar concerns.)

The city council, however, didn't agree. Commissioners overturned the appeals in a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Nick Fish was absent) Thursday afternoon.

Although the NWDA's appeal is based on aesthetic worries over the development's appearance, the group brought a different concern to the council meeting: that the development might not actually offer affordable housing.

"Any developer or landowner can come in and build this design, and it can be market-rate, two-bedroom, et cetera," said Jessica Richman, a member of the NWDA and neighbor of the Buck-Prager building, when presenting the appeal.

Richman also cited her worry that the planned development for Buck-Prager—expanding the building to house 148 affordable housing units—would change the look and feel of her neighborhood.

"I'm hearing a lot that Portland's changing, it's not Portland anymore, we're losing our special character," she said. "To keep that special character, we ask that you deny this proposal or ask for significant revisions."

During their own presentation, representatives from project developer Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) and architecture firm Carlton Hart Architecture refuted both of Richman's claims.

"We're not new to this," said Trell Anderson, executive director of NHA, "and we're committed to historic preservation."

Michelle Black of Carlton Hart said her firm had taken special consideration to ensure the development blend in with the building styles found in the Alphabet District.

"There is a vast variety of architectural styles, sizes, types in this neighborhood," she said.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz attempted to negotiate a deal in which NHA and Carlton Hart would include language in their plans that would guarantee housing that wouldn't rise above 60 percent median market value. Anderson and Black pushed back on this request, arguing that such a concrete requirement would make it difficult to secure funding, and that it was more severe than what most affordable housing plans in the city are held to.

No projects NHA is involved in exceed 80 percent median market value.

"If this is a concern for you, I understand that, but this is not out of keeping with what other multifamily projects are getting allowed," said Black.

Fritz ended up voting in favor of moving the project forward without the 60 percent requirement, saying she felt "very confident" the end result would be affordable.

Before also voting in favor of the project, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly attempted to bridge the gap between those in favor of the affordable project, and those worried about changes to the neighborhood's aesthetic.

"Like a lot of Portlanders, I am overwhelmed by the rate of change in the city, and I don't like a lot of it," she said. "But in this case, I actually think that this is a much more attractive new development that I am seeing on our streets, and the developer and architect have really gone to great lengths to meet the criteria."

City council will make its final vote to reject the appeal on December 19.

## **OPB**

### **Audit Flags Problems With Portland's Environmental Agency**

*By Cassandra Profita  
December 4, 2018*

A new audit finds problems with how the City of Portland is managing environmental restoration projects and "green streets" designed to control stormwater.

The Bureau of Environmental Services is spending millions on projects aimed at improving water quality, restoring wildlife habitat and preventing flooding, but auditors found the bureau often can't prove those projects are meeting their goals.

This year, the bureau invested \$13 million in restoration projects and green streets. The agency needs a better system for measuring the benefits of those investments, the auditors concluded.

"The Bureau cannot report on overall progress because there is no inventory of restoration projects on which to base reporting, none of the projects we reviewed had quantifiable goals, and there are no protocols for consistent monitoring or data collection," the audit states.

Kaitlin Lovell, science integration division manager for the Bureau of Environmental Services, said the bureau has plenty of evidence that its restoration projects have been successful.

"We know they have been effective by having salmon swimming in urban streams and by having a swimmable Willamette River," she said. "What they're asking us to do is to be more

quantifiable – to really demonstrate we are getting a return on our investment in a much more tangible way, and we think we can do that.”

Lovell said the bureau agrees with the audit’s conclusions and plans to collect more data at the beginning of its restoration projects to help measure the benefits over time.

The city’s “green streets” use plants alongside roads to absorb stormwater and prevent sewer backups and overflows. But auditors found the bureau doesn’t have a way of determining where they’re most needed or how well they’re working. Plus, it’s failing to inspect and maintain them.

The audit reports 36 percent of the city’s green streets are outside the areas with the highest risk of sewer backups and overflows. The bureau is supposed to maintain green streets at least three or four times a year, but auditors found 40 percent of them didn’t meet that standard in 2017.

“The Bureau cannot demonstrate to ratepayers or regulators that the \$1 million it spends annually on green street maintenance kept them in functioning condition,” the audit concludes.

Commissioner Nick Fish and Bureau Director Michael Jordan submitted a written response to the eight recommendations in the audit, noting that efforts are already underway to develop stormwater risk maps and a new program for maintaining green streets by the spring of 2019.

“We agree with the auditor’s findings,” Lovell said. “And we are changing our ongoing maintenance and monitoring of green streets so we can demonstrate when green streets are effective and when they become not effective.”

The bureau also has a new interactive online tool scheduled to be released next year that will analyze and forecast the individual and cumulative impacts to salmon from habitat restoration projects implemented from 2003 and 2018.

## **Immigration Arrests May Be Key to Portland's Future In FBI Task Force**

*By Conrad Wilson  
November 30, 2018*

At a Portland City Hall meeting behind closed doors this month, city staff asked Oregon’s top FBI agent and other federal law enforcement officials about immigration related arrests made by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, according to public records obtained by OPB.

The briefing took place Nov. 8. Attendees included Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, FBI Special Agent in Charge Renn Cannon, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Ethan Knight, who coordinates national security cases for the U.S. attorney’s office in Oregon.

Two of Wheeler’s staffers — Nicole Grant and Berk Nelson — took notes, which OPB received through a public records request. Portions have been redacted.

The records reveal figures the FBI apparently told attendees about JTTF arrests.

Nelson’s typed notes state: “200 arrests from JTTF and 25 of them immigration related.”

Grant’s handwritten notes are similar.

“2017: 200 arrests in the [international] unit —> 25 were immigration related,” she wrote. “PPB officers do not work immigration matters — officers are fenced off.”

In Portland and elsewhere, JTTFs are divided into two teams: one that focuses on international terrorism and the other on domestic threats.

The questions around immigration could be important to the future of the JTTF in Portland, as the city weighs whether it wants a relationship with any federal agency that participates in immigration-related arrests. But it's not clear whether any of the arrests mentioned in the staffer notes happened in Oregon.

When asked about the numbers, the FBI disputed how they were characterized in the Nov. 8 notes. But the agency declined to clarify how they may have been inaccurate.

"I can't speak to the person who took the notes," said an FBI agency official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The total number of arrests across the country of both [international terrorism] and [domestic terrorism] subjects likely would've been discussed at this meeting."

The mayor's office said Friday that the notes accurately reflect what the FBI said during the Nov. 8 briefing.

"We have confidence in the identical notes taken independently by two members of the mayor's team," said Michael Cox, the mayor's chief of staff.

The FBI official told OPB that JTTFs around the country had made "more than 100 arrests" of international terrorism subjects last fiscal year. Beyond that, the official wouldn't give more detail about the numbers documented by the mayor's staffers.

In September 2017, FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Homeland Security Committee there were approximately 176 arrests related to domestic terrorism threats.

"There are significant numbers of agents working very, very hard on that subject, so I can assure you it's a top, top priority for us," Wray testified.

The bureau official who spoke to OPB said immigration is not a priority for the agency unless there's a criminal or national security threat.

But the FBI also did not state whether Oregon's JTTF participated in any immigration-related arrests.

"We will use immigration violations as appropriate to disrupt subjects who pose a threat to our communities," the FBI official said. "We take terrorism subjects off the streets using every tool we have."

Immigration enforcement surrounding the JTTF is a critical issue for Portland Commissioner-elect Jo Ann Hardesty, who has said her first act upon taking office next year will be to vote to remove the city from the partnership. Hardesty said she believes the JTTF conflicts with Portland's status as a sanctuary city for immigrants. Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Chloe Eudaly have also raised concerns about the city's participation, meaning a majority of the Council may oppose the JTTF in January.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the FBI expanded JTTFs across the country to all 56 of its field offices.

Since 2015, when the city rejoined the JTTF, two Portland Police Bureau officers have been assigned to the partnership between the region's local and federal law enforcement agencies. As part of the city rejoining, the FBI agreed to provide briefings every quarter or as needed to the mayor — who currently functions as the city's police commissioner — and the police chief.

“Portland Police Bureau officers assigned to the JTTF do not participate in immigration related arrests or investigations per bureau policy,” Sgt. Pete Simpson, a spokesman for PPB, wrote in an email.

Former Portland FBI Special Agent in Charge Greg Bretzing led the effort to get the city to rejoin the JTTF in 2015. He said he doesn’t see how Portland’s status as a sanctuary city would impact its participation on a terrorism task force.

“A suspect’s immigration status in the United States — that’s not driving the investigation,” Bretzing said. “What would drive the investigation is the suspect’s involvement in terrorism activities or activities that could potentially be a threat to Portland or Oregon.”

Bretzing didn’t have any direct knowledge of the arrest numbers documented by the mayor’s staff, but said it’s misleading to call them immigration arrests.

“If it’s a terrorism investigation or a JTTF investigation, then someone involved in that investigation is being arrested and charged with an immigration violation,” he said. “But that is very, very likely not the purpose of the investigation and how it was initiated.”

Bretzing said by charging terrorism cases as something else — for example money laundering, immigration or mortgage fraud — it protects investigative methods.

“That’s why you don’t take those tools out of the arsenal,” he said. “You address the threat, eradicate the threat if you can, and you put the person away. You go for the most effective way to address the threat.”

FBI Director Wray made a similar argument during the 2017 hearing before the Senate committee.

“A lot of times the best charge — even in the international terrorism arena where we have a statute — may not be the terrorism charge,” Wray testified. “There may be reasons why it’s simpler, easier, quicker, less resource intensive. You can still get a long sentence with some of the other offenses.”

The FBI’s Portland field office has scheduled a media briefing Tuesday to discuss the local JTTF. That comes as the fate of the task force remains uncertain under what may be a more skeptical Portland City Council in 2019.