

The Portland Tribune

Sources: Eudaly's New Renter Measure Runs Into Legal Problems

*By Jim Redden
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Plus, Portland leaders are offered few gifts and the police launch a podcast.

The Portland City Attorney's Office has sent the City Council a memo outlining legal problems with Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's most recent landlord-tenant reform measure.

Although the measure was first heard April 3 and 4, Eudaly has delayed the council vote until May 23, at the earliest.

Among other things, the measure prohibits landlords from requiring that rental applicants earn more than two times the rent to qualify, sets requirements on withholding security deposits, and prevents landlords from refusing to rent to convicted criminals in some cases.

City Attorney Tracy Reeve declined a public records request to release the memo, saying it is protected by landlord-client privilege.

But Mayor Ted Wheeler, who has read the memo, told the Portland Tribune editorial board on May 7 that it ranks the risk of legal challenges to the original measure from low to high, "depending on the issue." Wheeler said Eudaly's office is working to resolve the potential legal problems before the next hearing.

Few gifts for city leaders

Lobbyists have either decided that Portland leaders can't be bribed — or aren't willing to spend much to find out.

City code requires Portland officials to report all gifts they receive to the City Auditor's Office. Only three officials reported receiving anything of value from anyone in the first quarter of 2019 — Mayor Ted Wheeler, his chief of staff Jennifer Arguinzoni, and Prosper Portland Director Kimberly Branam. And the gifts weren't much.

According to the recently released filings, Wheeler received two Skanner newspaper T-shirts from publisher Bernie Foster, a Pendleton blanket accepted on behalf of the city from Greenbrier Inc., and pins and a figurine from Shanghai, China, students visiting the city. Arguinzoni accepted a Pendleton blanket from Greenbrier on behalf of the city.

Branam received four tickets to the Chinese New Year Donor Lantern Viewing from Lan Su Chinese Garden.

The total value of all the gifts was \$493.

Police podcasts available

The Portland Police Bureau is adapting to social media. It already uses Twitter, in addition to email, to announce news. And now it is launching a regular podcast called the Talking Beat.

But don't expect true crime exposes like "Serial." The first three episodes include information about officer recruitment, the Behavioral Health Unit and traffic-related issues. Upcoming episodes include interviews with the precinct commanders and the members of the Sexual Assault Unit.

"We are really excited about this project, and this will be a great addition to our messaging," Chief Danielle Outlaw said. "The podcast provides an in-depth dive into various areas of the bureau and listeners can hear directly from subject matter experts. We hope it provides additional insight and understanding into some of the work being done in our city."

To subscribe, visit: portlandoregon.gov/police/podcast. Episodes also can be downloaded from all the popular podcast directories.

The Skanner

Sam Baraso Tapped to Administer Clean Energy Fund

May 14, 2019

Sam Baraso has been hired as the program manager for the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, overseeing an estimated a \$50 to \$70 million fund approved by voters last fall to support clean energy projects. He steps into his role June 6.

For the last four years, Baraso has worked as a senior policy analyst for the Multnomah County Office of Sustainability. Prior to that he worked as the ecosystem services manager for Willamette Partnership; he holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Washington University and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. He's also served on the executive committee and the environmental justice committee for the Portland African American Leadership Forum.

"In so many ways it felt like a natural evolution," Baraso said of the new position. He added that he's excited to oversee the fund, which is unlike anything he's seen on a local level in the United States – and which he sees as a potential blueprint for a nationwide Green New Deal.

The Portland Clean Energy Fund also announced Tuesday that it's [accepting applications for the community benefit grants fund committee](#) through June 2. Committee members will meet twice per month, for two hours, in the first month, and then set their own schedule; members of the first grant committee will have five members appointed for four-year terms and four members appointed for two-year terms. Some supports are available for members including translation services and transportation or childcare.

To learn more about the Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, [visit the city's website](#).