

The Oregonian

Declaring run for Portland mayor, activist Sarah Iannarone says ‘Ted, your time is up.’

By Gordon Friedman

July 9, 2019

Sarah Iannarone, a progressive activist and critic of Portland’s government, announced her second campaign for mayor on Tuesday, taking direct aim at the current officeholder, Ted Wheeler, and pledging a new administration that aligns with residents’ liberal sensibilities.

In a 2 minute, 47 second announcement video, Iannarone, said Wheeler had adopted a progressive outlook to win election as mayor and had failed to embody it once in office.

“Mayor Wheeler, the social, economic and environmental issues you pledged to solve in 2016 still plague us today, only now with increased urgency,” Iannarone, 46, said in the video, which shows her riding a bike, taking public transit and participating in rallies.

She continued: “When you ran for mayor you cloaked your campaign in the rhetoric of progressivism. But when the time came to lead, you abandoned those values.”

Iannarone criticized Wheeler’s handling of violent protests, saying he had “ceded the streets of our sanctuary city to armed gangs of bigots.” And she said the mayor has a too-cozy relationship with wealthy campaign donors.

Above all, she said Wheeler was not the leader Portland needs, declaring, “Ted, your time is up.” Portland instead needs “dynamic visionary leadership to unite us and get our city back on track,” she said.

Iannarone is a neighborhood organizer and self-described “everyday antifascist” who has supported nonviolent confrontations with right-wing groups. She is also an advocate for greater bike- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and opposes a planned expansion of Interstate 5 through Portland.

In an interview, Iannarone said that if elected she would ease what she described as the city’s harsh treatment of homeless people and pursue major transportation reforms, including the “decommissioning” of I-5.

Iannarone formerly operated the Arleta Library Bakery Cafe and was a leader of First Stop Portland, a Portland State University office that organizes tours of the city’s eco-friendly infrastructure.

She left her job at First Stop in February. Her online resume describes her as a self-employed urban policy consultant and as a faculty member of Wayfinding Academy, a private two-year college in Portland.

Iannarone and Wheeler are familiar opponents. They faced off in the May 2016 primary, in which Wheeler won with 55 percent of the vote to Iannarone’s 12 percent.

Wheeler has said the public should assume he is seeking reelection and his confidants are certain of his intention to run. But he has not officially declared and has not fundraised.

Carmen Rubio, leader of Latino nonprofit, to run for Portland City Council

By Gordon Friedman

July 9, 2019

Carmen Rubio, the director of a nonprofit supporting Latino youth and families, will run for Portland City Council, she announced on Tuesday.

This is the first time Rubio, 45, is seeking elected office, though she is no stranger to politics. She held jobs as an aide to Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz, Mayor Tom Potter and Commissioner Nick Fish over 10 years.

Rubio has led the Latino Network since 2009, growing the organization from a small advocacy group to a 120-person team that “lifts up youth and families to achieve their potential and self-determine their lives,” according to her campaign website.

Rubio’s experience and political ties have led to longstanding rumors that she would be a candidate for the council seat held by Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who announced earlier that she would not seek reelection. She has now made that run for office official.

In an interview, Rubio said her foremost concerns are Portland’s lack of affordable housing and supporting policies that empower the city’s youth.

Asked what specific changes she would advocate for on the City Council, Rubio said, “I’m still learning and talking to people. I know what my vision is and it’s to ensure that we uphold Portland values of community, family and inclusivity.”

Rubio was born and raised in Hillsboro and is of Mexican descent. If elected, she would be Portland’s first Latina commissioner.

“Growing up in a hardworking family, I know from personal experience some of the barriers that families in our community face every day,” Rubio said in her campaign announcement. “We can do better. And with leadership that represents all of Portland’s communities, we will do better.”

Portland police chief creates an inspector general office and new community services division

By Maxine Bernstein

July 9, 2019

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Tuesday announced the creation of an Office of Inspector General led by a civilian employee to oversee use of force audits and policy development, and a new Community Services Division.

“These divisions will be direct reports to me, and the focus will be on improving continuity of their work product and services as well as enhancing the Bureau’s accountability functions to better meet the community’s expectations,” the chief said in a prepared statement.

The chief also has combined the bureau’s sex trafficking unit, which had operated out of East Precinct conducting undercover stings in the city, with the agency’s human trafficking unit, basing both together in the central detective division in the bureau’s headquarters in downtown Portland.

“These strategic moves bring together units that may have overlapping services so they can work more collaboratively,” Outlaw said in the release.

The new Community Services Division will include the Behavioral Health Unit, a community engagement officer, a new homeless community liaison who is undergoing a background check and a new civilian community engagement specialist, yet to be hired. Acting Capt. Chuck Lovell, who has served as Outlaw’s executive assistant, will lead this new division and report directly to the chief.

Mary Claire Buckley, now a civilian bureau analyst working on Portland police compliance with its 2014 settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, will lead the new Office of Inspector General, managing the bureau’s policy development team, use of force inspector and eight analysts. In the past, a high-ranking police supervisor has led what was called the bureau’s Professional Standards Division, which encompassed these responsibilities.

The federal settlement agreement called for reforms to police training, policies and oversight after a 2012 federal investigation found Portland police engaged in excessive force against people with mental illness and too often used stun guns.

The organizational changes take effect on Thursday.

With Lovell now reassigned, the chief will rotate interested lieutenants or sergeants as her executive assistant before filling that job.

The Portland Tribune

Council gets handle on arts spending

By Jim Redden

July 09, 2019

City Council may update criteria for spending funds generated by the city's 2% for Art Program.

WHAT IS HAPPENING? The City Council will consider updating the criteria for spending funds generated by the city's 2% for Art Program on Wednesday, June 10. The ordinance sponsored by Commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Nick Fish expands eligible uses of the funds, prioritizes underserved communities, and clarifies city accountability for the spending of the funds, which is overseen by the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE? The proposed new criteria is one of several steps the council is taking in recent years to assert more control over arts spending. It is one of the recommendations of the Arts Affordability Plan crafted by Fish and approved by the council in February 2018. It also addresses concerns raised in a May 2018 audit of RACC by the City Auditor's Office.

RACC is a semi-autonomous organization with its own board of directors. It receives and spends funds from a variety of city sources, including the controversial Arts Tax intended to help fund school art teachers and arts organizations.

Although the audit did not find any misspending or misconduct by RACC, it noted that large, well-established arts organizations received most of the funds, while relatively little went to small groups more likely to serve minority communities. It also found the city had no clear goals for arts and culture.

The audit prompted Fish, who was the council's liaison to RACC at the time, to schedule a work session to discuss the findings. The council agreed that it wanted a larger share of the city's funds to benefit the smaller organizations. Mayor Ted Wheeler subsequently appointed Eudaly to be the RACC liaison.

WHAT CHANGES ARE UNDERWAY? When the affordability plan was approved and the audit was released, RACC was in transition. Its director had left and a permanent replacement had not been named. Madison Cario, the Inaugural Director of the Office of the Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology, was hired last November.

Following the hiring, RACC's board agreed to begin changing its spending, starting in the fiscal year that began July 1. Current recipients will receive base budgets that will be reduced in the fiscal year, freeing up more funds that can be spent on smaller organizations.

The 2% for Art Program dedicates 2% of eligible construction project costs to public art. That has historically meant sculptures and other pieces downtown, where most city projects take place. The proposed ordinance would expand eligible uses to include creative space and artists-in-residence programs and encourages the funds be spent in historically underserved communities, including North and Northeast Portland. It also clarifies that the city bureau doing the project decides what type of public art their funds will support.

WHAT CAN I DO? You can find the proposed ordinance as Item 667 on this week's council agenda on the city's website at portlandoregon.gov. You can also find contact information for all council members on the website.

Carmen Rubio running for City Council

*By Jim Redden
July 09, 2019*

The executive director of the Latino Network filed a political action committee on Monday, July 8

Carmen Rubio, the executive director of the Latino Network, is running for the City Council seat being vacated by Amanda Fritz.

Rubio filed a political action committee called Carman for Portland on Monday, July 8, with the stated purpose of running for Position 1 seat on the council in the May 2020 primary election.

Fritz has announced she will not seek reelection in 2020.

Iannarone announces second race for Portland mayor

*By Jim Redden
July 09, 2019*

Community activist finished in third place with 22,831 votes in 2016 primary election.

Community activist Sarah Iannarone announced she is running for Portland mayor on Tuesday, June 9.

"I'm very excited to announce my candidacy for Mayor," said Iannarone in a prepared statement. "Portlanders have seen the inability of our establishment politicians to move the needle on our

housing crisis, to lead in averting climate catastrophe, or to restore trust between the community and law enforcement. I'm looking forward to spending the next ten months speaking with Portlanders across the city about their priorities and how a people-powered campaign to elect a policy wonk turned community organizer will help us stick up for all of the people in our Portland."

Mayor Ted Wheeler has told the Portland Tribune he will run for reelection.

Iannarone is a former small business owner who previously managed the First Stop Portland program at Portland State University. She currently teaches at the Wayfinding Academy in St. Johns.

In her announcement, Iannarone said she intends to take advantage of the city's newly established Open and Accountable Elections public campaign financing program. In exchange for limiting contributions to \$250, her campaign will receive a 6-to-1 match for the first \$50 of each contribution. To qualify, Iannarone must raise at least \$5,000 from 500 Portlanders.

"I want to be accountable to every community member from Portsmouth to Powellhurst-Gilbert, Montavilla to Multnomah Village," said Iannarone. "Instead of letting our agenda be set by wealthy, entrenched corporate interests, we'll be participating in the city's innovative new campaign finance program to ensure we hear from everyday Portlanders across the city, not just those who can buy access to City Hall with big checks."

Iannarone ran for mayor in 2016 and finished in third place with 22,831 votes.

The announcement included a two-minute video that includes her criticisms of Mayor Ted Wheeler's administration so far. You can view it at https://youtu.be/oEykgGxe_tY.

Willamette Week

Portland's Mayor Promises to Seek Solutions to Violent Protests. But Observers Say Police Just Need to Make More Arrests.

*By Katie Shepherd
July 10, 2019*

After two years of brawls, national attention has increased pressure on Ted Wheeler and the police.

Portland is back in the national news, for all the same old bad reasons.

On June 29, a handful of masked antifascists punched, kicked and threw milkshakes at Andy Ngo, a conservative videographer. After the assault, Ngo asked police: "Where the hell were all of you?"

Ngo's assault became a political football. Right-wing media exaggerated the violence to build a narrative about the danger of Antifa, while progressives argued that Ngo sought conflict by frequently antagonizing and maligning leftist protesters.

But Ngo asked a question on many Portlanders' minds.

For more than two years, far-right provocateurs have targeted Portland with rallies to bait antifascists. The Portland police have repeatedly failed to keep the opposing sides apart.

Mayor Ted Wheeler has promised a thorough investigation of the June 29 violence, but did not voice new ideas for how to prevent future street brawls.

Chief Danielle Outlaw suggested Portland police have been hamstrung by a lack of laws allowing officers to film protesters or ban masks at rallies.

"The laws are different [in Portland]," she says. "There might be more legislative tools available to other jurisdictions that we don't have here."

The chief did not respond to WW's follow-up questions. But WW spoke with several outside observers—legal experts, civil rights advocates, former law enforcement officials, and politicians—to ask what the city could do to prevent violence at the next rally, scheduled for July 20 and already abuzz with online threats of extreme violence from the far right.

Are Portland police handling the recent violence any differently from past rallies?

Wheeler and the Portland Police Bureau have promised to investigate the June 29 violence and make arrests when they have credible evidence of a crime. Police made three arrests during the protest, one for an assault that took place during the most violent moment of the June 29 rally when people exchanged blows with batons and pepper spray. The promise of more arrests may mark a change from past rallies, where extreme violence has largely gone unpunished.

An Oct. 13 video showed Tusitala "Tiny" Toese and another right-wing supporter repeatedly kicking a man who lay on the ground, aiming for his head. Police and prosecutors cited "mutual combat" as the rationale for not making an arrest in that incident. Video taken May 1 shows a man, identified in a civil lawsuit as Ian Kramer, striking a woman in the back of the head with a baton so forcefully she collapsed, unconscious. More than two months later, PPB says it has not made an arrest in that investigation.

Some observers see an ongoing problem in the way the Police Bureau approaches far-right rallies: a failure to understand the dynamics that lead to violence.

"It became clear to me the police were not understanding how these far-right groups worked to provoke violence," says Michael German, a former FBI agent who now teaches at New York University. German has not witnessed Portland's protest firsthand, but he studies law enforcement response to extremism.

"Something that was well understood in the late '90s, when I was working on these cases, was that far-right groups would intentionally go into areas where they knew they were unwelcome to draw out opposition so that they could then attack," he says. "Police have lost that intelligence."

Do police need more tools to intervene?

In the wake of the June 29 violence, Chief Outlaw proposed a new policy solution she believes would decrease violence at protests: a law making it illegal to wear a mask while committing a crime.

"If you knew that you could be easily identified," she said, "do you think you would be as inclined to commit that act of violence, or commit that crime?"

She's probably right about that. But critics point out that police aren't using the laws they have to arrest unmasked people.

"It's all about just enforcing the laws we already have," says Multnomah County Republican Party chairman James Buchal. "Maybe some extra ones about masks would be great, but law enforcement already has the tools they need to solve the problem. They just don't have the will."

Amy Herzfeld-Copple, a deputy director at the Western States Center, says the anti-mask law favors far-right extremists, who have vocally encouraged vigilantes to rip masks off antifascist protesters. "When you see a policy solution obviously targeting antifascists," she says, "it gives Patriot Prayer and the Proud Boys a win."

NYU's German says police can focus on enforcing existing laws. "It's against the law to assault people," he says. "It's against the law to threaten people."

What can police do to stop these protests from getting violent in the future?

They can arrest more people.

In New York City last fall, the investigation of a Proud Boy attack on antifascists caught on camera quickly led to arrests and prosecutions.

"In New York City, when Proud Boys engaged in violence, state and city actors came down on them," says Zakir Khan, co-chair of the Muslim advocacy group CAIR-Oregon. "If that crackdown came [in Portland], this problem would not be as big of a problem anymore."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, which defends the right to free speech, says it has no problem with police officers intervening in fights.

"We have consistently called on PPB to do a handful of techniques we believe are constitutional," says Mat dos Santos, legal director for the ACLU of Oregon. "The final point is to begin to act when they see the violence."

The lack of arrests troubles German.

"I don't understand what has let that happen, but obviously, inactivity is repeated over and over again at these rallies," he says. "I think that's where the violent elements within these groups get the indication they can do that. And so, of course, if there's no disincentives, that behavior will continue."

Is the violence going to get worse?

The national attention, especially on Fox News and other right-wing media, has increased pressure on Wheeler and the police. It could force city officials to take a hard look at how Portland has approached violent political rallies.

"When things reach a national level of attention, it creates an opportunity to tell the whole story around why Portland is being targeted and what are more effective ways to respond," Herzfeld-Copple says. "We think Portland is being targeted because it is perceived as a progressive city, and these groups have a very specific intention of creating chaos and undermining democratic institutions of government."

That's already reflected on social media, where radical right-wing extremists have fantasized about coming to Portland and gunning down antifascist demonstrators in front of the mayor's house.

"Once people learned they could go to a rally and commit violence, promote themselves as somebody who commits violence at a rally, be allowed to go home after the rally, and come back to the next one, I think that gave an incentive for more violent people to start showing up to these rallies," German says. "Trying to put this all back together is going to be very, very difficult."

Portland Fire Bureau Stops Responding to Fireworks Complaints

By Aaron Mesh

July 9, 2019

This July 4, Portland Fire & Rescue did not respond to complaints of illegal fireworks by confiscating them and issuing fines.

Portland firefighters have suspended the War on Fireworks.

This July 4, Portland Fire & Rescue did not respond to complaints of illegal fireworks by confiscating them and issuing fines.

That's a major policy shift from as recently as four years ago, when the fire bureau created a dedicated hotline for fireworks complaints and sent nine patrol teams of police officers and firefighters to crack down, at a cost of \$110,523.

It didn't work. "We weren't having an impact," says bureau spokesman Lt. Rich Chatman. "Imagine if half the residents of Portland, all at the same time, decided to jaywalk."

Chatman says the fireworks program, "Operation Lower the Boom," mostly resulted in citizen anger by setting an expectation firefighters couldn't meet. That program has its roots in a crackdown championed in 2012 by then-City Commissioner Randy Leonard and then-Fire Chief Erin Janssens.

A memo sent by Portland Fire & Rescue this week to City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's office says the hotline was overloaded by calls in 2015 "and PF&R came under intense media scrutiny for failing to deliver on its commitment to help eliminate the use of illegal fireworks."

That year, firefighters answered 1,386 calls of complaint from residents—but dropped or deflected another 2,926 calls because too many people were on hold.

The fire bureau started scaling back the program in 2016. It tried an online for complaints—but the memo says the bureau kept taking criticism for "setting expectations that we could not deliver on.

In 2018, firefighters "shifted away from issuing citations," according to the bureau memo. This year, and emergency dispatchers encouraged Portlanders not to call with reports of fireworks in their neighborhoods.

Chatman says the fire bureau will now go "back to the drawing board" under incoming Chief Sara Boone to try to figure out a new approach to Portland's noisiest night. "We wanted to take a year to kind of cool off," he says.

2016 Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone Will Run Again Against Mayor Ted Wheeler

By Rachel Monahan

July 9, 2019

In an open letter, Iannarone criticizes the mayor for failing to live up to "rhetoric of progressivism."

An e-bike-riding, funky-glasses-wearing city planner-turned-community organizer has opened her second campaign for mayor with an open letter (and video) attacking incumbent Mayor Ted Wheeler's record.

Sarah Iannarone, who lost to Wheeler in 2016, is trying for a rematch, arguing Wheeler didn't live up to his promises.

"The issues you highlighted in your 2016 mayoral bid still plague this city today—only now with increased urgency," writes Iannarone, 46, who garnered roughly 12 percent of the vote in the 2016 mayoral primary. (She finished third.) "When you ran, you cloaked your campaign in the rhetoric of progressivism but when the time came to lead, those values were nowhere to be seen."

The mayor ran on an agenda of police reform and housing, but has lost favor with many on the left on those issues.

Iannarone copied a strategy of Wheeler's, when he ran against an incumbent mayor. Wheeler delivered a letter to then-Mayor Charlie Hales demanding a series of debates on policy issues. (Hales later opted not to run for reelection.) Iannarone isn't asking for a debate—just starting a public discussion, with a letter outlining his failings, in case he hasn't been following her steady critique on Twitter.

The contrasts between them are substantive. Iannarone has taken issue with Wheeler's handling of policing, particularly protests, and on the response to homelessness.

"Amidst the rise of right-wing populism, you ceded our Sanctuary City to armed gangs powered by hate and bigotry," Iannarone's letter continues. "In the middle of a housing state of emergency, Portland Police continue to sweep the homeless from our streets."

Iannarone organized neighbors to support a shelter going into the Foster-Powell neighborhood, and she calls herself an "everyday antifascist," who supports a nonviolent but public rejection of far-right groups and has been deeply critical of the mayor's response to groups, including the Proud Boys and Vancouver, Wash.-based Patriot Prayer, which have come to Portland after the 2016 election to brawl with the militant leftists that make up Antifa. (She has spoken at counter-demonstration rallies against Patriot Prayer.)

And Iannarone has also vocally opposed the freeway expansion in the Rose Quarter, a contrast to Wheeler.

Wheeler has said he's running for election, though he has raised next to no money since last year.

Iannarone says a rematch will have different results, pointing not just to Wheeler's record, but her own record over the past three years of supporting community efforts and the city's newly revamped publicly funded elections, among other reasons.

Iannarone says she'll participate in publicly funded elections, which will match 6-to-1 donations up to \$50. The program also limits donations to \$250 in the primary and \$250 in the general

election. (New campaign finance limits barring anyone from contributing more than \$500 in a city race were passed by voters and overturned by the Multnomah Circuit Court, though advocates have appealed to the Supreme Court.)

Iannarone says Portland needs more dramatic action against serious threats.

"Portlanders have seen the inability of our establishment politicians to move the needle on our housing crisis, to lead in averting climate catastrophe, or to restore trust between the community and law enforcement," said Iannarone. "I'm looking forward to spending the next ten months speaking with Portlanders across the city about their priorities and how a people-powered campaign to elect a policy wonk turned community organizer will help us stick up for all of the people in our Portland."

OPB

The Race For Portland Mayor In 2020 Is Beginning To Take Shape

By Amelia Templeton
July 9, 2019

There's a new candidate in the race for Portland mayor — and she is one of the first people to opt into Portland's new public campaign finance system.

Sarah Iannarone — a teacher, activist and self-described urban policy wonk — announced her campaign Tuesday with a video and website launch.

Iannarone ran against Mayor Ted Wheeler in 2016 and placed third, with just under 12% of votes.

"I ran in 2016 because I had serious concerns about whether or not at that time the heir apparent, Ted Wheeler, whether he would be the right person to lead our city," she said. "I think a lot of the criticism that he's gotten over the past few years reflect that I was right."

Iannarone said she's been particularly disappointed with Wheeler's support of the Oregon Department of Transportation-led freeway expansion in the Rose Quarter, which she vehemently opposes, and on his continued program of sweeping or removing homeless camps.

"I think he's a very good person, but I think he lacks courage sometimes, and he tries to please everybody," she said.

Wheeler has said he plans to run again, but has not launched a campaign or started fundraising in earnest.

Iannarone does not have previous experience in elected office. She teaches at Wayfinding Academy, an alternative community college. Previously, she helped start the Alberta Library Cafe and First Stop Portland, a Portland State University program that offers study tours of the city for visiting delegations. Iannarone said she left her PSU position in February.

Iannarone is opting into Portland's public campaign finance system, which was approved by the City Council in 2018.

To qualify for matching dollars under the nascent system, candidates for mayor first have to raise at least \$5,000 from 500 individuals. Qualified candidates can then receive \$6 from Portland's

taxpayer supported Open and Accountable Elections Fund for every \$1 they raise, on donations of \$50 or less.

The public campaign finance system is being run by Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who is not seeking re-election. Some members of the City Council have expressed concerns about whether the program has the staff, technology and funding it needs to be ready for the upcoming campaign cycle.

Iannarone said she and her treasurer have met with city staff and studied how to follow program rules. Starting Tuesday, her campaign is qualified to receive donations that could be eligible for matching funds.

“I feel a lot of responsibility, but a lot of opportunity and privilege, to be able to participate in it,” Iannarone said.

Wheeler, who raised \$850,000 in private donations when he was elected mayor in 2016, is also facing a potential challenge from Ozzie Gonzalez, a political newcomer.

Gonzales, who trained as an architect, is Diversity and Sustainability Director at Balfour Beatty, a major contractor and construction firm. He serves on the boards of TriMet and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Like Iannarone, he has not previously held elected office.

He’s currently overseeing equity and workforce development for the renovation of the Portland Building.

Gonzalez announced what he calls “an exploratory campaign” at a small business meeting last month.

“I’ve opened up a PAC, and I’ve put it out into the universe to see if my support network is willing to help me build a foundation for launching a campaign this fall,” he said.

Gonzales said that in his 15 years as an architect, he’s collaborated on projects at the international, federal and regional levels, and he has worked closely with urban planners and local governments.

He believes he can help Portland better manage its growing pains, from increased congestion to lack of housing.

“Having a history of helping city and regional governments solve problems of growth, being at the front lines of implementation when governments are looking to address issues of mobility and affordability and economic development — I think the time is now to really dive in and start solving some of these issues,” he said.

Gonzalez said he has not yet decided whether to opt into the public campaign finance system and said he doesn’t want to constrain his likelihood of being successful. “If others are opting in, I have no reservation about doing that myself,” he said.

Gonzalez has reported \$2,650 in contributions to his political action committee so far.

Teressa Raiford, a self-employed activist and the founder of Don’t Shoot Portland, has also announced a campaign and created a candidate PAC. She’s reported \$2,220 in contributions so far in 2019.

Latino Network Leader Announces Run For Portland City Council

By Amelia Templeton

July 9, 2019

It may seem early, but candidates are emerging in the 2020 Portland City Council races.

Carmen Rubio, the executive director of Latino Network, said today she will run for the seat on the Council now held by Commissioner Amanda Fritz. Fritz has said she won't seek another term in 2020.

Rubio says she wants to create economic opportunity for families living on the margins. Her priorities include affordable housing and homelessness.

Rubio was born and raised in Hillsboro in a migrant family and has personal experience with not having a stable place to live.

"Before I turned 14, my family had moved more than 10 times. And so I have that lens that I bring with me," she said. "I just want to make sure there are opportunities still here in Portland for families to make a life for themselves."

Rubio has led Latino Network for the past 10 years. She hasn't held elective office before but worked in City Hall and local government for many years.

She's previously worked for former Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz Walsh, former Portland Mayor Tom Potter and Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish.

Rubio said she's lined up dozens of early endorsements from former employers, local leaders and colleagues in the nonprofit world.

"She would be a great addition to Council," said Fish, who is endorsing her "enthusiastically."

Rubio is planning to opt into Portland's new taxpayer-funded campaign finance system. It offers matching funds to candidates who agree to only take small contributions from individual donors.