

The Oregonian

Nearly 100 groups to join Portland mayor in warning Aug. 17 protesters

*By Jayati Ramakrishnan
August 13, 2019*

The mayor of Portland and nearly 100 city groups and individuals will meet Wednesday to warn protesters who plan to get violent at Saturday's planned event: Don't.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's office released a statement Tuesday afternoon announcing that he has gathered a group of almost 100 city agencies, labor unions, universities, other organizations, and individuals, all of whom will join him to publicly denounce violence at the upcoming protests. The groups will gather at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Wednesday from 10-11 a.m.

"To anyone planning to commit violence during demonstrations in Portland scheduled for Saturday, August 17, 2019, you are not welcome here," the news release said. "If you choose to commit violence, you will face legal consequences."

The news release said Wheeler, city commissioners Amanda Fritz and Jo Ann Hardesty, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and some others from the group would speak at the event.

Tim Becker, a spokesman for Wheeler's office, said the city started reaching out to various organizations last week, but the groundwork for the coalition had been laid long before that. He said that while the mayor's staff contacted several groups, others reached out to the city and asked to be involved.

"So many people feel the same way — we don't want this," Becker said.

He said although there have been other protests in the past, the information officials have received about the potential size and violence of this one led them to form a coalition.

"This is unprecedented — at least for this administration," he said.

The city is anticipating a right-wing rally and a left-wing counter-protest Saturday and has been preparing for the possibility that the events could get violent. Several events have been moved or canceled for that day, and police are encouraging people to stay away from the area that day.

Right-wing activists from around the country have been planning a rally at Tom McCall Waterfront Park to condemn anti-fascists, or antifa. They have also been pushing to have antifa designated as domestic terrorists.

A list of the groups that have joined the mayor's coalition is below. Becker said more groups may join.

- Portland Timbers
- Portland Thorns
- U.S. Attorney Office, District of Oregon
- Multnomah County Sheriff
- Travel Portland
- Portland Business Alliance
- Venture Portland
- Business for a Better Portland
- Oregon State Representative Janelle Bynum

- Former Oregon State Senator Avel Gordly
- Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
- Laborers
- Portland Public Schools
- Portland Public Schools Board of Education
- Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
- Oregon Commission of Hispanic Affairs
- Somali American Council of Oregon
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Native American Youth and Family Center
- Latino Network
- Muslim Educational Trust
- Chinese American Citizens Alliance
- Black Male Achievement
- Multnomah County Commissioners
- Multnomah Youth Commission
- Portland Office of Government Relations
- Portland City Attorney's Office
- Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights
- Portland Office of Community Technology
- Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
- Portland Office of Management & Finance
- Portland Bureau of Development Services
- Portland Office of Community and Civic Life
- Portland Police Association
- Portland Fire and Rescue
- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Water Bureau
- Portland Children's Levy
- Downtown Portland Clean & Safe
- Joint Office of Homeless Services
- Word is Bond
- Friends of the Children
- Unite Oregon
- Portland United Against Hate
- Portland Parks & Recreation
- Pearl District Neighborhood Association
- Reed College
- Concordia University
- Warner Pacific University
- Northwest Labor Council
- AFSCME
- SEIU
- IAFF 43
- Oregon Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals
- Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans

- Mayor of Oregon City
- Police Chief of Oregon City
- AFT Oregon
- Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc- Omicron Theta Chapter
- Weird Portland United
- Portland State University
- Portland State University Campus Public Safety Office
- Portland Saturday Market
- Dr. T Allen Bethel
- Dr. Steven Holt
- Rabbi Michael Cahana
- Rev. Katie Larsell
- Interfaith Alliance
- Western States Center
- Parkrose School District
- Building Owners and Managers Association of Oregon
- IRCO
- APANO
- Salvation Army
- PTE
- Building Trades
- Portland Bureau of Fire & Police Disability & Retirement
- Prosper Portland
- Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
- Lewis & Clark College
- Mayor of Vancouver
- Mental Health Association of Portland
- Oregon State Senator Lew Frederick
- Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications
- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes
- Mayor's Office of Youth Violence Prevention
- Portland Housing Bureau
- Portland Bureau of Transportation
- City of Portland Auditor's Office
- University of Portland

Southeast Portland homeless shelter opens this week to women and couples

By Diana Kruzman

August 13, 2019

UPDATED 6:09 p.m. to clarify that the Portland Homeless Family Solutions shelter has not yet opened.

Portland's newest homeless shelter features an on-site medical clinic, a stainless-steel kitchen, a laundry room – and even an outdoor area for people to walk their pets.

The Laurelwood Center, a 120-bed adult-only space for women and couples, will open Thursday after nearly two years of planning and development.

The Southeast Portland shelter at the corner of Foster Road and 61st Avenue is part of a countywide push to build longer-lasting, bigger-capacity spaces that provide services beyond just a place to sleep, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said at an open house at the Laurelwood Center Monday evening.

“We’re changing the way shelter works – people can bring their pets, their partners, their possessions, and they don’t have to line up night after night,” Wheeler said. “We’ve brought together the shelter component with the service component, to make sure that people get whatever help they need to get off and stay off the streets.”

The shelter faced opposition from neighborhood groups when it was first proposed in December 2017. Residents of the Foster-Powell area said the proposed location was too close to schools, homes and a library and community center that lie within a mile of the new building.

But in designing the space, the city and county’s Joint Office of Homeless Services worked with neighborhood groups to ensure that local voices were heard, Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson said Monday. The organization tried a new approach, forming a steering committee and taking input from local residents, Vega Pederson said.

“It wasn’t always a completely smooth process, but I am proud to say we maintained mutual respect and trust throughout our time together,” Vega Pederson said.

One result of this process was a Good Neighbor Agreement released in October, which set guidelines for the shelter operator – nonprofit Transition Projects – to address community concerns such as littering, crowds and smoking in the vicinity.

Stacy Borke, a program director at Transition Projects, said she hoped the process would serve as a model for building future shelters.

“We’re thinking, how do we do it better next time and keep building on this idea that you can have dissenting opinions come together and still have a product that you’re really proud of?” Borke said.

The Laurelwood Center joins a number of new shelter openings and restructurings this year.

Lilac Meadows, a 40-room family shelter on Southeast Powell Boulevard, opened in June, and the Portland Homeless Family Solutions shelter, a 26-room space in Lents, is set to open later this year. And Later this month, the Joint Office of Homeless Services and nonprofit Harbor of Hope plan to open the River District Navigation Center, a 24-hour shelter in Northwest Portland.

But some shelters, such as the Salvation Army women's shelter downtown, have closed, while others have shifted their residents to new locations. Overall, officials expect a slight increase in the number of shelter beds available by the end of the summer.

The changes come as the city and county work to address the growing number of people sleeping outdoors.

Despite a drop in the actual number of people who identified as homeless, 20% more people in Multnomah County are without shelter in 2019 compared to 2017. That leaves about 2,000 people sleeping "outdoors, in public spaces, vehicles and places not meant for human habitation," according to the 2019 Point-in-Time homeless count.

The Laurelwood Center aims to steer some unsheltered people, who might not be allowed into other spaces due to partners or pets, toward services such as short- and long-term housing referrals, employment assistance and health treatment.

The center will operate on a reservation basis and plans to accept 20 people per day until all the beds are filled, Borke said. Priority will be given to people who are currently experiencing homelessness in the Foster-Powell neighborhood before county agencies start referring people from other areas to the shelter. People who are 55 and older, have disabilities or are veterans will also be prioritized.

Portland readies another round of Lents Town Center development

*By Elliot Njus
August 13, 2019*

Portland's urban renewal agency is preparing to launch a second phase of redevelopment in Lents.

Prosper Portland's plan for 4.8 acres it owns in the the Southeast Portland neighborhood calls for around 244 new apartments and a commercial center that includes a plaza, a neighborhood tool library, and renovated commercial spaces. The existing Zoiglhaus brewpub — owned by a principal of the prospective developer — would remain on the site.

On Wednesday, the agency will ask its board to approve the structure of the deal with developer Palindrome Communities. If it moves ahead, construction on the commercial center piece of the project could begin early next year.

The agency would directly subsidize public amenities on the planned commercial center and plaza site — known as the Bakery Blocks — to the tune of \$800,000 deducted from the land purchase price and a \$300,000 grant for construction of the public plaza.

It also would finance Palindrome's purchase of part of the land, but the agency said the terms are comparable to private financing and would generate revenue for the agency.

The second site, where the apartments are planned, Prosper Portland would lease to Palindrome for 99 years, another effort to create a revenue stream for the agency. The development company would phase in construction over up to five years, and it would make smaller option payments to the city in the lead-up to construction.

At least 10 percent of the apartments would be rent-restricted for low-income renters under Portland's inclusionary zoning policy.

A third site will be held for future affordable housing development by the Portland Housing Bureau.

The property sits east of Southeast 92nd Avenue between Harold Street and Ramona Street. Much of the land not already occupied by commercial buildings is the former home of Lents Little League. The Wattles Boys & Girls Club, which owns its property, is not included in the redevelopment.

City leaders have been trying since 1998 to bring vitality back to the neighborhood through an urban renewal area. Prosper Portland, previously known as the Portland Development Commission, bought up parcels in the area but developed few of them.

That changed with a \$109 million construction binge along Southeast Foster Road that started in 2016.

That first phase of the Lents Town Center redevelopment included:

- Palindrome's Oliver Station apartment building, which comprised 126 affordable and 19 market-rate apartments;
- Lents Commons, owned by Prosper Portland and the Portland Housing Bureau, which includes 16 affordable and 38 market-rate apartments;
- Woody Guthrie Place, a 64-unit affordable apartment building owned by Rose Community Development;
- and a new headquarters for the nonprofit Asian Health & Service Center.

Willamette Week

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz Lectures a Parent Who Doesn't Want a Cannabis Dispensary Next to his Daughter's Kindergarten

*By Katie Shepherd
August 14, 2019*

"Do you avoid taking your children to restaurants where alcohol is served?" Fritz asks.

Last week, an alarmed Portland father wrote City Commissioner Amanda Fritz to complain about a cannabis dispensary opening next door to his daughter's private kindergarten. Fritz was not receptive.

In her Aug. 12 reply to Sellwood resident Gregory Hemmon, Fritz correctly notes that the shop's plans are legal. But she goes further, comparing cannabis to alcohol and offering unsolicited parenting advice.

"Do you avoid taking your children to restaurants where alcohol is served?" Fritz asks. "Why do you consider cannabis more harmful than alcohol?"

"Cannabis sales are legal in Oregon," Fritz concludes. "If you don't want your children to buy cannabis once they are of age to be carded and buy it, I recommend you take this opportunity to instill your values into your family while they still believe every word you say is true."

Fritz's email comes amid a flurry of opposition from parents in the Southeast Portland neighborhood of Sellwood. They object to Electric Lettuce, a chain of cannabis dispensaries that

advertises with psychedelic neon designs, opening a new store on Southeast 13th Avenue next to a preschool and kindergarten.

Oregon law says those plans are fine. The state only bars cannabis shops from opening within 1,000 feet of "a public elementary or secondary school for which attendance is compulsory" or "a private or parochial elementary or secondary school" that teaches kindergarten through 12th grade.

It doesn't mention preschools.

Electric Lettuce's plans were first reported by WW's news partner, KATU-TV. Since then, Sellwood residents have been grouching about the proposed dispensary's proximity to the Creative Minds Learning Center and a toy store called Oodles for Kids.

An Oregon Liquor Control Commission spokesman confirms to WW that state law doesn't prevent cannabis businesses from operating next to day cares and preschools. Parents would need to lobby state lawmakers for a bill—or seek tighter city regulations.

Groundworks Industries, Electric Lettuce's parent company, did not respond to a request for comment.

Some of the parents appealing to local officials say they do not oppose the legal cannabis industry, but they do not want dispensaries—and their advertising—right next to their kids' schools.

"We have an opportunity to really enforce these sensible barriers between young, impressionable kids and cannabis," says Hemmon, who emailed Fritz. "Nobody is arguing against the industry. If we continue to go down this path, Oregon is going to become a case study in how not to legalize the cannabis industry."

Some other cities, like Gresham, have decided to add day cares and preschools to the list of properties shielded from new dispensaries opening within 1,000 feet of them.

Mayor Ted Wheeler's office says he appreciates parents raising concerns. "It's commendable any time parents care for their children enough to motivate them to seek a revision of current code," says spokesman Tim Becker.

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the city's cannabis licensing program, did not reply to a request for comment.

Fritz told WW she did not wish to elaborate on her email. She has long engaged in detailed personal correspondence with constituents—and may be feeling more free than ever to contradict them, since she isn't seeking re-election next year.

She offers a personal anecdote of how to handle childish curiosity about adult habits.

"My three children grew up in an area of Southwest Portland where there were seven sex businesses in 2 miles, including an 'Adult Superstore' near their elementary school," she writes. "When asked, 'Mommy, why are the windows of that store painted white?', I answered, 'It sells stuff some grown-ups like to buy, but our family doesn't.' End of inquisitiveness for my children."

Critics Question Why Portland's Latest Renter-Protection Effort Benefits a High-Flying Tech Startup

*By Nigel Jaquiss
August 14, 2019*

OneApp couldn't do what it promised the city. So it pivoted.

Last week, the Portland Housing Bureau's new Office of Rental Services got a big cash infusion when the City Council approved a \$60-per-unit fee on all non-subsidized rental housing in the city, about 101,000 units.

The fee should eventually generate \$5.4 million a year for the office. Much of the money will be used to compile a registry of properties and protect renters' rights.

But the Rental Services Office will also oversee an existing contract, worth \$128,000 a year, with OneApp, a company that seeks to make applying for an apartment cheaper and easier. The for-profit Portland company has raised millions in private funding from local investors, including real estate developer Homer Williams.

It is this expenditure that has some people in the housing industry shaking their heads and wondering if it's reflective of how the new office will spend its money.

Deborah Imse, executive director of Multifamily NW, a trade association for rental property owners and managers, objects. She says members of her organization, who control 200,000 residential units in the metro area, have found OneApp to be a flawed product.

"There are a number of concerns with it," Imse says. "We're not sure all aspects of the app comply with Fair Housing Act regulations."

Imse explains that OneApp gathers demographic data, such as an applicant's race, that landlords can't legally ask about.

She adds that some of her landlord members conducted trial runs with OneApp but found that tenants who used the site were coming to them believing they had qualified to rent a property only to fail the landlord's screening process. "Our members don't use it," she says.

Margot Black is an advocate with Portland Tenants United, a member of the city's Rental Services Commission—and normally an adversary of Imse's. But she also wonders why the city is continuing its relationship with OneApp.

"Usually if you're not doing your job, you stop getting paid for it," she says. "This should be especially true in the middle of a deepening housing crisis where lack of funding is often cited as a reason that we can't do more faster."

Black wants the Rental Services Office to be more accountable.

"The city originally and enthusiastically invested in OneApp to meet two critical needs: limit the time and money renters spend on application fees during a housing search and, perhaps more importantly, provide a platform to see and apply for all of the affordable housing in the city," Black says. "Neither goal has been met or is even in progress."

Portlander Tyrone Poole founded OneApp in 2012, initially calling it Noapp-fee.com. As one of the city's most visible young entrepreneurs, Poole has received widespread media coverage of his quest to streamline the often nightmarish process of obtaining an apartment lease.

With a compelling personal story and a product with national potential, he won over backers, including Williams and Jon Maroney, a general partner at the Oregon Venture Fund.

OneApp first received a three-year city grant in 2016 to provide no-cost, one-stop shopping for renters seeking apartments designated as affordable.

The problem was, Poole concedes, the concept didn't work. Demand for affordable units so far outstripped supply there was never any inventory for renters to view.

"Affordable buildings don't have vacancies," Poole says. "All there were was wait lists. And that was frustrating for everybody."

The city continued working with OneApp, but what it got out of the relationship changed over the past couple of years. Poole says OneApp switched its focus to market-rate rentals and, for the \$128,000 a year the city pays the company, supplies data to the city about prospective renters. Previously, the city had little information about the specific experiences of renters as they tried to navigate applications and find housing.

The data OneApp provides is highly useful, Poole says.

Last year, for example, city officials discovered that many renters who had Section 8 vouchers for affordable housing were being rejected by landlords. City officials took that to mean the value of the vouchers was too low. But Poole says OneApp's data showed that the tenants were being rejected for other, nonfinancial reasons.

Poole argues the city has never had anything resembling the data OneApp has provided. He says he's talking to city officials about what their business relationship will look like going forward.

He adds that a data set of 10,000 renters and the challenges they faced with background checks, security deposits and other barriers to securing apartments shaped the slate of new tenant protections the council approved in June. Poole says without his company's data, the city was flying blind. "The entire ordinance was written from OneApp's data," Poole says.

Jamey Duhamel, policy director for City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who pushed the tenant protections, confirms that.

"Tyrone is absolutely correct that his platform was the only database available to us that represented a broad spectrum of renters and could serve as a baseline for how our policies would increase access to housing," Duhamel says.

Imse says her members would like the City Council to slow down on regulations like the new \$60 rental registry fee and focus on speeding the development of new housing.

"[Multifamily NW members] are getting gun-shy on new development because they don't know what regulations are going to impact them," Imse says. "And it can still take up to two years to get through the permitting system."

Study Finds E-Scooters On Average Produce More Emissions Per Mile Than Buses With High Ridership

By Elise Herron

August 13, 2019

PBOT is offering incentives to scooter companies that demonstrate ability to lessen emissions in Portland

Electric scooters might not be as environmentally friendly as billed.

A new study by researchers at North Carolina State University found that e-scooters generally produce more greenhouse-gas emissions per mile than standard diesel buses with high ridership, MIT Technology Review first reported.

The study looked at the lifecycle of e-scooters—including production, shipping, charging, collection, distribution and disposal—to calculate how they compare with other modes of transportation.

It found around two-thirds of the time, scooters contribute more emissions per mile than other alternatives—such as high volume busing, electric mopeds, electric biking, biking and walking. However, cars produce about twice the amount of carbon dioxide per mile compared to scooters.

To determine scooter emissions, the study focused on the vehicle's components, such as aluminum frames, lithium-ion batteries and electric motors, and assessed how raw materials for those parts are extracted and delivered. It calculated that the average lifespan for rental scooters is 28.8 days.

In a survey of Raleigh, North Carolina scooter riders, nearly half of all respondents said they would have biked, walked, taken a bus or skipped the trip if scooters weren't available.

Data from Portland Bureau of Transportation's preliminary 2018 e-scooter findings report show that the availability of e-scooters in the city did decrease car driving somewhat. Thirty-four percent of Portland scooter riders surveyed said they took an e-scooter instead of using a car. However, the survey didn't ask whether scooter riders would have utilized other transit options if scooters weren't available.

A spokesman for PBOT, Dylan Rivera, says the city is "certainly concerned about the life cycle impact of our transportation choices, including e-scooters."

He says the agency is offering incentives to scooter companies that demonstrate ability to lessen emissions in Portland, "such as using e-bikes or other low-emission vehicles to pick up and rebalance scooters."

"This study suggests that as e-scooters are built with more durability, their total impact on carbon emissions will go down," Rivera says. "And the study confirms that, if we can continue to replace automobile trips with e-scooter trips today, we can immediately reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector."

The Portland Mercury

Portland Activists Say Mayor Is Using Fear to Silence Opposition to Alt-Right Extremism

*By Alex Zielinski
August 14, 2019*

With an August 17 rally organized by a designated hate group on the horizon, the message from city leadership is clear: Stay away.

“In these politically-charged times, the stakes couldn’t be higher,” wrote Mayor Ted Wheeler in an August 7 statement about the coming rally organized by the Proud Boys, whose self-identified “Western chauvinist” viewpoints will be met by a group of local leftist counter-protesters.

Members of the Proud Boys—and other extremist militia groups with shared viewpoints—are coming from across the country to participate in the event, which is slated to begin at 11 am August 17 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Several of these alt-right visitors have made threats of violence towards counter-protesters online.

In his statement, Wheeler specifically discouraged any protesters who plan on committing violence from attending the protests. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has been less discerning.

In a Tuesday press release, PPB urged Portlanders to avoid the downtown protest, regardless of their intent.

“The demonstrations will be impacting a very small area of Portland,” writes PPB Chief Danielle Outlaw in the release, which includes a list of alternate events PPB suggests Portlanders should attend on the 17th. “I encourage everyone to enjoy what will likely be a beautiful day by engaging in fun activities at a number of community events.”

In an August 5 interview with the *Oregonian*, Outlaw directly dissuaded Portlanders from attending the protests.

“If you’re coming to be a lookie-loo to watch, you’re enabling an event,” said Outlaw. “These events would not occur if there was no audience.” She noted that no PPB officer will have the day off Saturday.

In statements leading up to Saturday’s event, Outlaw and Wheeler have all but guaranteed violence—both by protesters and the police. Their messaging signals to the public that, to stay safe, they should stay clear of downtown.

This advice comes as an affront to Portlanders who’ve worked hard to form a solidified coalition to oppose the upcoming protest and its organizers’ overtly racist, homophobic, and misogynistic rhetoric.

“What’s even more unsafe is letting these movements go unopposed,” says Effie Baum, spokesperson for Popular Mobilization, or PopMob, a group that organizes left-wing rallies. “If we don’t go, they’re going to continue to grow and continue to come back. Honestly, the growing far-right movement is far more dangerous than the decision to show up and oppose it.”

Baum believes the city’s pushback violates Portlanders’ First Amendment rights to protest.

“Their fear mongering will prevent people from showing up... it’s silencing folks,” Baum says.

Baum has spent the past year working with other local progressive groups to coordinate a united response to the frequent far-right rallies held in Portland. In the past, these rallies (usually organized by Vancouver, Washington's alt-right group Patriot Prayer) would attract a variety of different counter-protests representing different groups: From interfaith organizations to political groups to self-proclaimed anti-fascists (or, antifa) dressed in all-black. These scattered groups would rarely coordinate with one another, despite their shared disdain for the alt-right visitors.

"We realized it's safer and more impactful to all be together, joined under the umbrella of PopMob," says Baum. "We want to show that anti-fascists are not violent scary boogeyman, we're just people that care about our community. And we're united."

PopMob's planned counter-protest to Saturday's Proud Boys rally will feature a variety of different leftist organizations—from labor unions to vegans—and eight different events throughout the day, starting with a 9:30 am Buddhist meditation and ending with a convergence of people dressed as poop emojis.

PopMob's encouraging counter-protesters to wear silly costumes, play instruments, and make a general mockery of the far-right demonstrators.

"We really want to provide an atmosphere of joyous resistance," Baum says. "I want to do everything possible to make [the Proud Boys'] riot porn include someone dressed as a banana playing a tuba."

Baum acknowledges that Portland's various anti-fascist groups often use different tactics during protests. Some of them can turn violent.

"The bottom line is that we are all on the same team and we all have the same end goals," Baum says, "which is we don't want fascists feeling welcome in our community."

One of the groups who'll rally under the PopMob umbrella Saturday is Portland's Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They're planning on dressing up as "very scary communists."

"That's what these fascist groups think Portland's made up of," says Evan Burchfield, a spokesperson for the Portland DSA. "We're calling it the 'Red Scare'."

Burchfield said the DSA is in staunch disagreement with the strategy Wheeler and Outlaw are using to prevent people from opposing groups that espouse what the DSA considers fascist ideals.

"The city is under the false impression that if you don't show up to oppose fascists they'll go away," says Burchfield. To underscore this belief, he paraphrases a Martin Luther King, Jr. quote: "Peace is not merely the absence of some negative force... but it is the presence of [justice]."

Burchfield's particularly critical of an event Wheeler is hosting at Pioneer Courthouse Square at 10 am this morning, where Wheeler will again condemn violence from protesters, "regardless of their political beliefs." Wheeler's released a lengthy coalition of city bureaus, elected officials, law enforcement, business groups, unions, and civil rights organizations that support this message.

DSA and other groups who plan on opposing the Proud Boys believe Wheeler's event is simply an attempt to undercut the August 17 counter-protest.

"Mayor Wheeler has decided that the far-left is just as much as bad as the far-right," Burchfield says. "And he's engaging in the erroneous idea that if you just talk sensibly to these people, they will see how wrong they are."

If the city wanted to truly show their opposition to the Proud Boys using Portland as a battlefield, Burchfield says, Wheeler would hold his event on August 17.

Activist Sarah Iannarone, who plans on running for Wheeler's office in 2020, agrees.

"Where is the mayor's coalition going to be on Saturday morning? Where are our leaders then?" Iannarone asks.

Iannarone, who previously ran against Wheeler in 2016, plans on attending Saturday's counter-protest. She'll be away from the front lines, holding a feminine hygiene drive for her neighborhood's new homeless shelter, the Laurelwood Center.

Like Baum, Iannarone is frustrated with Wheeler's "fear mongering" response to the upcoming protests. She believes Wheeler's only responding to the national spotlight directed on Portland protests (thanks to direct attacks by Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump), not to the actual needs of the community.

"Are we supporting the people in our community who are most vulnerable to alt-right violence?" Iannarone asks. "Or are we making them feel less safe with a militarized police force?"

Iannarone understands if some Portlanders feel unsafe participating in Saturday's counter-protest, and encourages everyone to stay in their "comfort zone."

"If people feel compromised by alt-right in the street, they should stay away," she says. "But for those of us that have privilege, whether it's white privilege, economic privilege, straight privilege... I do believe that it is our responsibility to come together in community in a sense of peacefulness and joyfulness and stand together against hate."

Albert Lee, another progressive running to represent Portland in 2020, shares Iannarone's belief. Lee, a Democrat running to represent Oregon's 3rd congressional district, says he supports Wheeler's call for unity—but encourages participation. Lee is familiar with PPB's protest tactics from his work on the Citizen Review Commission (CRC), a city committee that reviews police misconduct cases.

"I would hope that folks engaged in counter-protest remain safe, vigilant, and together," wrote Lee in a statement emailed to the Mercury. "Furthermore, those with privilege should be on the front lines of any counter-protests for they have the relative safety of their privilege that the marginalized and oppressed do not share."

The Portland Business Journal

Prosper Portland tees up more new development in Lents

By Jon Bell

August 12, 2019

With four projects all wrapped up for the first phase of Lents Town Center, Prosper Portland is turning its focus to the next round of development in the neighborhood.

At its meeting this week, Prosper Portland's board of commissioners will consider giving Executive Director Kimberly Branam the go-ahead to negotiate agreements that would pave the way for three potential projects on nearly 5 acres that the city owns on Southeast 92nd Avenue.

One would be a 244-unit apartment complex with a mix of affordable and market rate housing, while another would be the redevelopment of existing buildings known as the Bakery Blocks

into a neighborhood commercial center with a public plaza, neighborhood tool library and renovated commercial spaces.

The apartment complex, likely two separate buildings in separate phases, would be located on a 2.9-acre site that Prosper Portland owns at Southeast 92nd Street and Southeast Harold Street. Prosper Portland would lease the site to Palindrome Communities, the developer behind the 145-unit Oliver Station apartment building in the first phase of Lents projects.

Funding for the project would total \$84.3 million and come from a mix of U.S. Housing and Urban Development loans and equity.

The Bakery Blocks is currently home to Zoiglhaus Brewing, Carpet Outlet and the Green Lents Community Tool Library. Under the plan, Prosper Portland would sell the property to a subsidiary of Palindrome, which would redevelop it. The brewery would stay in place, though another portion of the commercial space would be demolished to make way for a new public plaza.

A third project would be the development of more affordable housing units on a 0.6-acre site that Prosper Portland owns at the southeast corner of Southeast 92nd Avenue and Southeast Harold Street. Prosper Portland plans to transfer that site to the Portland Housing Bureau, which would then pursue development of affordable housing on it.

Board documents note that “there are sufficient resources in the Lents Town Center TIF District” budget and forecast to fund the actions being considered by the board.

OPB

Portland Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone Hits Major Fundraising Target

*By Amelia Templeton
August 13, 2019*

Portland mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone says she’s hit a major fundraising target: She has enough small donations to qualify for the city’s new taxpayer-funded elections program.

This is the first campaign cycle during which Portland will be giving out matching dollars to candidates who opt into the program.

To qualify, candidates for mayor have to get at least 500 individuals in Portland to donate at least \$5.

Sarah Iannarone is self-reporting that her campaign passed that threshold a few days ago.

The city’s Open and Accountable Elections program won’t start certifying candidates — and verifying if their donations qualify for matches — until mid-September.

The program is meant to encourage campaigns to focus on grassroots fundraising. It pays out public matching dollars at a six-to-one ratio for the first \$50 of small contributions from Portlanders.

In exchange, candidates agree to fundraising limits, including capping donations at \$250 per person during the primary and general elections and only taking money from individuals — not businesses, unions, or PACs.

Iannarone's campaign has reported raising \$26,978 in election filings with the Oregon Secretary of State.

The campaign believes \$13,709 of that will qualify for the city's six-to-one match, netting it \$82,254 in public funding.

Whether all those donations will qualify for the match is hard to independently verify: Oregon's campaign finance reporting system allows candidates to aggregate small donations of \$100 or less instead of reporting them individually.

If the campaign's figures are accurate, it would put Iannarone almost neck and neck with Mayor Ted Wheeler.

Wheeler has \$117,539 in his campaign account. He's raised just \$5,510 this year from a small handful of donors, including a single \$5,000 contribution from Pepsico.

The remainder in his campaign account is money left over from his previous campaigns, including loans Wheeler and his wife made to the campaign.