

The Oregonian

Airbnb to share data with Portland for tax, license enforcement

*By Elliot Njus
September 5, 2019*

Portland officials said Airbnb will start to disclose information on its hosts to the city, which will use the data to collect lodging taxes and enforce its vacation rental regulations.

The new data pass-through agreement is the most comprehensive in the country, the city's revenue bureau said. It's intended help cut down on short-term rental scofflaws who operate outside the city's oversight.

The city has long required vacation rental hosts to get a permit from the city, but city regulators have said as recently as last year that only 22% of people offering vacation rental sites online had complied.

In June, the Portland City Council passed an ordinance requiring companies like Airbnb and competitor HomeAway to disclose their hosts' identities or else stop doing business in the city.

HomeAway had already agreed — in a legal settlement after years of trading lawsuits with the city — to purge listings for unregistered vacation rentals by the end of the month, the revenue bureau said. The city said that was the company's first such agreement in the U.S.

But Airbnb, which had earlier agreed to collect lodging taxes on its users' behalf, had previously declined to share user data with the city or purge users violating the rules itself. It instead pushed the city to streamline its registration process. In a statement this week, the company said the new portal would help accomplish that.

The company is the largest vacation-rental platform active in the city, with more than 4,000 listings last year.

Under the new agreement, Airbnb will build a registration system into its own website. It will pay the city's revenue division \$20,000 up front and \$5,000 a year afterward to maintain the secure data-sharing system.

In a separate crackdown, the City Council last week voted unanimously to revoke the operating permit for a short-term rental in a home in the Irvington neighborhood after a slew of neighborhood complaints. The council's vote was preliminary and will have to be reaffirmed later this month.

City inspectors found that visiting groups exceeded the size allowed under the permit and that guests used outdoor spaces during overnight hours, which wasn't allowed under the conditional permit issued to the owner. City officials said the vacation rental had previously operated without a permit under two different owners despite repeated citations, which remain unpaid.

The Portland Tribune

Portland teens planning another climate strike

By Courtney Vaughn

September 05, 2019

Organizers say students will leave school for demonstration downtown, inviting adults to join in and skip work

It's happening again.

On Friday, Sept. 20, teens across the Portland region say they plan to skip class and instead head downtown for the latest in a series of climate strikes.

The strike follows similar action taken by teens in March, when a youth climate strike saw teens leave school and gather in downtown Portland with megaphones and posters, marching to demand climate justice.

In keeping with youth Swedish youth activist Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future strikes to demand governmental action to curb climate change, students say the Sept. 20 rally isn't a youth climate strike, and instead invites a broader audience to take part this time.

"Last year was a youth climate strike, specifically geared toward beginning outreach," Wilson High School junior Jaden Winn said Wednesday. "We want to have adults there (this time) walking out of their jobs. ...We want this to be the largest climate strike in history. Last climate strike, we really tried as much as possible to shut down the system."

This time around, the young people say they're partnering with 350PDX, a Portland-based climate justice organization that has also held rallies and demonstrations to denounce the fossil fuel industry.

To drive the message home, students sent a letter to the superintendent of Portland Public Schools announcing plans for the strike, and included a list of demands from school administrators to accommodate students' day of action.

"We will be marching again on September 20th to stand up for the future that we deserve," the letter states. "It is clear that youth have a unique perspective on the issue of climate justice, which is why it is so important for us to be taking strong action."

Among the demands made to PPS:

- Allow student outreach about the climate strike in schools;
- Ensure that students who choose to participate aren't penalized for missing school;
- Provide classroom lessons on the climate crisis and strike for all students on the days leading up to the Sept. 20 strike and the day of, as well as reaching out to local transit agency TriMet to coordinate extra buses on routes leading to Portland City Hall.

Portland Public Schools students also approached the school board on Aug. 27 after sending the letter.

"We're really involving the adults and our school district, demanding their support," Winn noted.

They asked for a district response by Sept. 5, but Winn said PPS Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero asked for an extension, given the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Still, Winn and his peers are optimistic about their plans.

As planned, the teens will leave school to gather at Portland City Hall around 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 20 for a rally in Terry Schunk Plaza. From there, they'll cross the Hawthorne Bridge and walk toward OMSI at the Eastbank Esplanade, where a "family friendly" climate mobilization festival is planned with speakers, workshops and demonstrations.

Willamette Week

City of Portland Considering Hiring a Union-Busting Law Firm to Help Negotiate Police Contract

*By Nigel Jaquiss
September 5, 2019*

The Bullard law firm has proposed a strategy to deal with simmering frustrations over police conduct.

The city of Portland is considering a proposal from a surprising source for what promises to be contentious contract negotiations with the Portland Police Association next year.

On June 6, Richard Alli, Jr., a partner at the Bullard Law firm, presented city commissioners with a 17-page proposal for how his firm could help the city achieve "transformational change" at the bargaining table

Alli said in the memo his firm's advice would cost the city \$250,000 to \$350,000 but would pay big dividends, likely leading to an impasse at the bargaining table but a victory in the winner-take-all "interest arbitration" Oregon law relies on to settle contract disputes.

Bullard has carved out a position as perhaps Portland's go-to law firm for employers seeking to avoid unionization or defeat unions in negotiations.

Bullard, for instance, represents Fred Meyer, which along with other grocers is in bitter negotiations with 20,000 United Food and Commercial Workers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The firm's founder, Garry Bullard, represented Portland in police negotiations in the 1970s.

But organized labor, a strong source of support for City Council candidates, looks dimly on the Bullard firm now.

Felisa Hagins, a lobbyist for Service Employees International Union Local 49, says her union has frequently encountered Bullard in its organizing efforts.

"Bullard is a competent law firm, but they have a terrible track record of treating workers poorly," Hagins says.

In his written proposal to the city, Alli suggested the city pursue a strategy of gaining concessions on work rules and discipline by in effect buying those concessions with compensation increases.

"We recommend that the City pursue transformational revisions to non-economic components of the PPA contract only if it commits sufficient resources to ensure that the economic terms of the contract are not a significant source of conflict," Alli wrote. (Alli declined to comment, saying his communications with the city are confidential.)

Three years ago, the city agreed to a 9 percent pay increase for officers over three years, in what was seen as a generous settlement in exchange for some concessions around what's called the "48-hour rule," a bargained amount of time that officers involved in shootings were allowed before they had to speak to investigators.

Critics of the police, including then NAACP of Portland executive director and now-city Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, said the city gave too much and got too little in those negotiations.

In an op-ed in *The Oregonian*, Hardesty called the 2016 contract "another smack in the face of community members" and a "pretend reform package."

Tim Becker, a spokesman for Mayor Ted Wheeler, who is also the police commissioner, says Hardesty solicited Bullard memo. Hardesty was out of town on Thursday and could not immediately be reached for comment.

Becker says the council is still evaluating whether or not to hire the firm.

"No decision has been made," Becker says.

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer Wants Federal Government to Help First-Time Homeowners Return to Redlined Neighborhoods in Portland

By Sophie Peel
September 5, 2019

"Some people may look at these things and say, 'they're not within our capacity, they're too ambitious.' But the cost of inaction is far greater," Blumenauer said.

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) debuted a federal housing proposal at a Sept. 5 press conference alongside Portland housing advocates and elected officials.

Blumenauer said the core of his plan is an effort to reverse the federal government's historic failure to provide adequate affordable housing for people nationwide, and said that the federal government "needs to get back in the game, or in some cases, to finally get in the game. We need a reset."

All the panel members agreed: local governments and groups are trying hard to remedy homelessness and increase housing, but the federal government is resisting—and has been for decades.

"The [country] has never recognized that housing like food and healthcare, is a fundamental human right. In one of the wealthiest nations on earth, we'll have over a half million people tonight who [will] sleep without a home," Blumenauer said.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who is the commissioner in charge of the Portland Housing Bureau, was not invited to the event.

Blumenauer staff tell WW that Wheeler's absence "was not an intentional move in any way."

Two of the focuses in Blumenauer's plan are reversing current housing discrimination practices and decreasing homelessness by increasing affordable housing and protecting tenants from evictions.

Multiple panel members touched on Portland's history of aggressive housing discrimination. Multnomah County Board Chair Deborah Kafoury said minorities in Portland have suffered through discriminatory housing policies for decades.

One of those practices was government redlining during the 1930's—where officials isolated what neighborhoods were deemed “best” and what neighborhoods they deemed “hazardous.” The communities that were marked as “hazardous,” lenders avoided granting home loans to residents. This kept most residents as non-homeowners. Many of the neighborhoods redlined were made up of mostly minority populations.

“In Multnomah County, people of color are more likely to lose their housing. People of color have been denied the opportunities for housing wealth that have sustained white Portlanders,” Kafoury said. “And people of color continue to face discrimination and barriers in the private housing market.”

One of Blumenauer's proposals is to create a new restorative justice loan program that enables first-time homebuyers to afford a home in formerly redlined or segregated neighborhoods, like the Albina neighborhood in North Portland.

“We should commit to housing programs that reflects the repudiation of our racist and discriminatory past while remedying past harms,” Blumenauer said.

Nkenge Harmon-Johnson, director of the Urban League of Portland, said housing discrimination isn't “ancient history”—and that the policies that enable housing discrimination based on veteran's status, income, race and sexual orientation are still being sustained locally.

“For decades, the federal government created policies that lead to the dearth of opportunity for black homeowners,” Harmon-Johnson said. “It was as simple as federally-backed racism that foreclosed so very many Portlanders from being able to live their piece of the American dream.”

Studies have shown that health and education outcomes are often partially determined by someone's zip code. This is also true in Portland, said Harmon-Johnson. She said outcomes are “tied to where Portlanders live. Too many of our neighbors have been denied the ability to even try and build their dreams.”

The plan also proposes that Congress should rescind policies that allow landlords to evict renters for a single crime and also strike down a policy that allows landlords to kick out entire families if one member commits a crime.

Board Chair Kafoury said that over 20,000 people in the county who are collecting disability checks, which “top out at \$771 a month,” are not able to afford even the cheapest rent available within city boundaries.

Blumenauer's plan outlines doubling the federal homeless assistance funding and expand the legal services available to evicted tenants to fight against evictions.

“The easiest way to prevent homelessness is staying in the home,” said Blumenauer. “And people who have access to legal services are often able to protect their rights and stay in their homes.”

Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who has championed tenant protections in the city, said that the “worst of human nature is at the root of this crisis: greed, exploitation, neglect, racism, and other forms of discrimination.”

“It’s the government’s job to protect our rights, but for decades our [government] has abdicated its duty to ensure that this most basic, essential right and need is secured for millions of Americans,” Eudaly said.

The Skanner

Local Black Professionals Featured at ‘Navigating the Workplace’ Mixer

September 5, 2019

Navigating the Workplace, the 4th Simple X Mixer will be held Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at New Relic, 111 SW 5th Ave. #2700 in Portland.

Guests, Chief Danielle Outlaw, Chief Sara Boone, Deputy Chief Jamal Fox, and Chief Serilda Summers-McGee will share their personal and professional experience on navigating the workplace. They were chosen because they have each made incredible strides in their careers and have unique origin stories. Attendees will be able to network with city leaders and other business professionals and entrepreneurs.

There is limited seating and registration is required. Tickets are “name your own price” on Eventbrite. Food and beverages will be provided.

The goal of host Simple X is to leverage intimate conversations with leaders and entrepreneurs in order to spark stimulating conversations and create a space for collaboration.

About the guest speakers:

Chief Danielle Outlaw was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Portland Police Bureau on October 2, 2017. She began her career with the Oakland Police Department as an Oakland Police Explorer. As she rose through the ranks to Deputy Chief, she worked in various assignments throughout the Oakland Police Department, including Patrol, Community Services, the Office of Chief of Police, the Criminal Investigation Division, Internal Affairs and the Office of Inspector General

Chief Sara Boone’s career with PF&R began in 1995. She became a lieutenant in 2002, after placing first on the promotional list and then became a Captain in 2006 assigned at several Stations plus Training Academy and BHQ. In 2014, Boone promoted to Battalion Chief, served as Safety Chief, appointed Deputy Chief of Logistics and currently the Division Chief of Medical Services and Training.

Chief Jamal Fox comes with a background in local government, most recently serving as the Property & Business Development Manager for Portland Parks & Recreation. Fox was elected to the Greensboro City Council in North Carolina representing District 2, at the age of 25. He was later re-elected, serving until 2017 before moving to Portland to be with his family. Prior to being elected Greensboro City Council, Fox worked for the City of Greensboro in the City Manager’s Office and the Department of Planning and Community Development. He is also a former North Carolina A&T State University Political Science Adjunct Professor and High School Social Studies/Teen Leadership Teacher.

Chief Serilda Summers-McGee has been the Chief Human Resources Officer since December 2017. She has more than 15 years of progressive experience in human capital management with expertise in a broad range of HR disciplines. Her career started in higher education, holding

positions in admissions, financial aid and serving as the Assistant Dean of residence life at Reed College from 2006 - 2010. Serilda then became the executive director at Partners in Diversity in 2011, an affiliate of the Portland Business Alliance. Working with HR departments in companies throughout the Portland region on strategies to recruit and retain executives of color.