

The Oregonian

Portland police investigate possible bias-related assault on Lyft driver

*By Lizzie Acker
September 9, 2019*

Updated: 2:41 p.m.

A Lyft driver was assaulted Friday, and the suspect during the incident made reference to the driver's gender identity, the Portland Police Bureau said Monday. Police are investigating the incident as a bias crime.

According to a news release, the Portland Police Bureau responded to a report of an assault at 10 p.m. near Southwest 18th Avenue and Salmon Street.

A male passenger had assaulted a Lyft driver, officials said, and the driver suffered injuries that weren't life threatening.

Bias crimes are defined as "any criminal act that targets a victim based on the suspect's perception of the victim's race, color, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or national origin," police said.

In a follow-up email, Portland Police Bureau spokesperson Lt. Tina Jones said the victim was not treated for injuries.

"Safety is fundamental to Lyft," the rides-share company said in a statement Monday. "What the driver described is frightening, and the rider's access to Lyft has been permanently removed. We responded immediately and have been in close contact with the driver since the incident to offer our support. We have reached out to the authorities and will continue to help in anyway we can."

The Portland Tribune

Your City Hall: New Portland campaign funding rules in place

*By Jim Redden
September 10, 2019*

The goals are to require more transparency in campaign-related advertising; to provide easier contributions to political action committees; and to allow candidates who do not solicit large contributions to better compete against more traditionally funded campaigns.

WHAT IS HAPPENING? The 2020 city elections will be conducted under new campaign finance disclosure and contribution requirements approved by Portland voters, along with a new public campaign financing program approved by the City Council.

The goals are to require more transparency in campaign-related advertising; to provide easier contributions to political action committees; and to allow candidates who do not solicit large contributions to better compete against more traditionally funded campaigns.

The City Auditor's Office announced the new disclosure rules went into effect Wednesday, Sept. 4. City candidates are eligible to qualify for the public campaign finance program on Thursday, Sept. 12, the first day they can file for office for the May 2020 primary election.

WHAT ARE THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS? The requirements were approved by Portland voters in the November 2018 election. Although some provisions of the measure are being challenged in court, the following ones have been approved:

- Timely disclosure of financing for certain elections communications that advocate for or against a city candidate. All now must include information on any committee providing the ad, including names of individuals or other entities contributing to the committee and their dominant backers. The communications include printed, billboard, website, email, video, TV, phone, radio and streaming audio communications.
- Independent expenditure registration. Entities making more than \$750 in independent expenditures to support or oppose city candidates now must register with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office as a political committee or independent expenditure filer and provide certain disclosures.
- Payroll deduction for political contributions. Public and private employers in Portland now must allow employees to donate to political committees through payroll deduction if they allow similar post-tax deductions for other purposes.

HOW DOES THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM WORK? The council approved the Open and Accountable Elections program in December 2016. It did not go into effect until this upcoming election.

To qualify for the public matching dollars, candidates for mayor will have to raise at least \$5,000 in total from 500 individuals. Candidates for commissioner or auditor would have to raise at least \$2,500 in total from 250 people.

In exchange for agreeing to limit individual contributions to \$250 or less and abiding by other fundraising limits, qualified candidates will receive a 6-to-1 match for campaign contributions of \$50 or less.

Candidates are not required to participate in the program, so the 2020 election likely will include a mix of traditional and publicly funded office-seekers.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE? The city auditor has posted the rules for the voter-approved requirements at portlandoregon.gov/auditor/79656. The Open and Accountable Elections program has its own city website at portlandoregon.gov/oea. It includes the current list of city candidates applying for the program.

Willamette Week

Former Political Science Professor Mingus Mapps to Challenge City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

*By Rachel Monahan
September 9, 2019*

Mapps is a believer in Portland's neighborhood associations. He previously worked for the Office of Community and Civic Life.

Mingus Mapps, 51, a former political science professor and a former employee of the Office of Community and Civic Life, is running for Portland City Council against Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

"Portlanders need a change, and they need a choice," says Mapps, "I love Chloe in many, many ways. She's an inspiration. Frankly, she's been an inspiration to me. I don't think I would have the courage to do this if I didn't see a fellow single parent have the courage to throw her hat in the ring."

But their disagreements begin with neighborhood associations, he says. Eudaly has embarked on a code change, which she says is aimed at making the city's public engagement more inclusive, but that critics say is aimed at weakening the neighborhoods.

"I think neighborhoods are part of the solution; I don't think they're part of our problem," Mapps tells WW. "I also have concerns about how Chloe manages the bureau. I don't see a culture of learning. I don't see a culture that frankly respect the workers or the people of Portland."

Mapps used to work for the office that Eudaly is in the process of changing. Mapps worked for six months at the Office of Community and Civic Life, which Eudaly oversees, until June, when he was fired. He says it happened a week after he was asked to discipline an employee for their body language: "I was asked to do unethical things and I declined."

Eudaly's chief of staff, Marshall Runkel, declined to comment on personnel issues.

Previously Mapps worked for Historic Parkrose, the neighborhood business association.

While in Parkrose, the effort by Mapps to work with the homeless in the neighborhood was the subject of a WW cover story.

Mapps grew up in California, but he was third member of the Mapps family to attend Reed College. (An uncle and aunt preceded him at Reed.)

"It was a story of African-Americans coming to Portland and finding some prosperity," he tells WW. "I see myself as part of that tradition. I appreciate Oregon for that because Oregon has been good to my family."

Mapps has a Ph.D. in political science from Cornell University and is a former professor at Bowdoin College and Brandeis University. He moved back to Portland eight years ago when his then-wife, also a poli-sci prof, got a job at Portland State University.

He's currently working to form a consulting firm to work on intergovernmental affairs and redistricting.

"I'm a dad of a 9-year-old and a 10-year-old boy," he says. "I'm concerned about the city they are going to inherit."

Portland Police Investigate Potential Hate Crime in the Assault of a Lyft Driver By a Passenger

*By Elise Herron
September 9, 2019*

“During the assault,” police said in a statement, “the suspect made comments related to the driver’s gender identity.”

Portland police are investigating the Aug. 6 assault of a ride-hailing company driver as a possible hate crime.

Officers said they responded to a report of a male ride-hailing passenger assaulting a driver at 10 pm near the area of Southwest 18th Avenue and Southwest Salmon Street.

"During the assault," police said in a statement, "the suspect made comments related to the driver's gender identity."

The driver sustained non-life threatening injuries and police are investigating the assault as a potentially bias-motivated crime.

Gender identity was added to the list of protected categories in bias crime investigations on July 15, when Senate Bill 577 passed the Oregon Legislature. The bill also removed the requirement that two or more people had to commit the bias crime in order to make it a felony under some circumstances.

Update, Sept. 9, 3 pm: Lyft says in a statement that the driver works for the company and that the suspect's account has been deactivated.

"Safety is fundamental to Lyft. What the driver described is frightening, and the rider's access to Lyft has been permanently removed," the company says. "We responded immediately and have been in close contact with the driver since the incident to offer our support. We have reached out to the authorities and will continue to help in anyway we can."

The Portland Mercury

Recently Fired Civic Life Staffer Mingus Mapps Joins Council Race Against Eudaly

*By Alex Zielinski
September 9, 2019*

Another critic of Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's proposed changes to Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life (OCCL) has joined the 2020 race for her seat.

Mingus Mapps is a former political science professor, former director of Historic Parkrose Business District, and has a PhD in government from Cornell University. Mapps' most recent job, however, was working for the City of Portland, running OCCL's neighborhood program (his email is still listed on the city webpage). The OCCL is one of several city departments that fall under Eudaly's purview.

Mapps was fired from the OCCL in June, after only six months on the job. Mapps told Willamette Week that he was fired after refusing to discipline an employee for their body language. That claim has not yet been confirmed by the city's human resources department.

His brief tenure at OCCL left Mapps with a negative opinion of how Eudaly runs the city bureau. In his WW interview, Mapps said he was specifically critical of Eudaly's interest in rewriting the city code that defines OCCL's purpose—a proposal that would extend the benefits the city offers neighborhood associations and business districts to other types of community groups. City Council is scheduled to vote on the code change in November.

Mapps is not the only candidate who's cited the proposed code change as a reason to challenge Eudaly. Software engineer Seth Woolley, who announced his campaign in August, called Eudaly's interest in allowing other groups recognition in city code "irrational." Woolley and Mapps join renewable energy consultant Jack Kerfoot and banker Kevin McKay in the race to unseat Eudaly.

Eudaly, who was elected to City Council in 2017, has said she intends to run for reelection.