

The Oregonian

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is running for 2nd term

By Everton Bailey Jr.

10/11/2019

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced Friday that he is running for reelection.

In a letter on his campaign website, Wheeler touted what he said were milestone achievements in addressing homelessness, green energy, climate change and policing in the city during his current term. And he said he is ready to continue to lead Portland.

“The work is not yet done, and I’m asking for your help in continuing to get us there,” the letter said. “We’re strongest when we work together as one vibrant, powerful, engaged community. So I’m here, and I’m ready to keep going for these next four years.”

He plans to officially kick off his campaign Monday. Wheeler was in Denmark this week for a conference of mayors, other politicians and dignitaries from around the world focused on climate change.

The campaign letter is the most public indication Wheeler has given that he is already running for a second term. He filed with the Secretary of State’s campaign finance office on Sept. 26, declaring his reelection plans.

If Wheeler were to win, he would be the first mayor to serve more than one term since Vera Katz, who left after four terms in at the end of 2004. Mayors Tom Potter, Sam Adams and Charlie Hales all opted not to run again.

Wheeler was elected Portland mayor in 2016 after being Oregon state treasurer since 2010. He was chair of the Multnomah County Commission before that.

Thus far, only neighborhood organizer and activist Sarah Iannarone has officially filed with the city for the 2020 Mayor’s race as of Friday, according to the city’s website.

Iannarone was one of Wheeler’s opponents during Portland’s 2016 mayoral race.

Four additional candidates have also officially filed with the state campaign finance office to run for Portland mayor.

They include Teressa Raiford, also an activist and the lead organizer of nonprofit Don’t Shoot PDX, has announced a run for Portland mayor, and Ozzie Gonzalez, an architect and TriMet board member.

AT&T says customers wrongly hit with Portland Clean Energy fee will get refunds

By Everton Bailey Jr.
10/11/2019

Updated at 7:39 p.m.

AT&T said Friday it will give refunds to customers wrongly charged a fee in the name of Portland's 1% clean energy tax on large businesses.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Friday morning that AT&T had collected the fee from its customers even though the new tax does not apply to the phone provider. Willamette Week first reported on the charges in August.

The company wouldn't say how many people will be refunded, when it will occur or how much money has been collected. As of January, large companies have to pay a 1% surcharge on their retail sales in Portland. The tax is meant to help raise funds for clean energy projects, energy-saving retrofits for low-income homeowners and renters, green infrastructure and the creation of living-wage green energy jobs.

City officials said companies subject to the tax can raise prices or pass along surcharges to customers, but utility companies like AT&T are among a category of businesses – utilities – that are exempt from the business tax. AT&T charged its Portland customers a surcharge anyway.

“The city only recently notified us that we are exempt from the tax,” AT&T said a statement provided Friday. “We will be issuing refunds to our customers.”

The city said it told AT&T in September that the company wasn't subject to the tax but didn't know if the utility planned to stop collecting it from customers.

It's not clear how much the fee was.

One Oregonian/OregonLive employee, for example, reported being charged 23 cents in April, 7 cents in May and 5 cents every month after until September. Each of those charges was listed as a Portland clean energy surcharge.

A class action lawsuit was filed Friday afternoon against AT&T in Multnomah County Circuit Court alleging unlawful trade practices and unjust enrichment due to the charges.

The suit, filed by Lewis & Clark history professor Elliott Young, said AT&T violated Oregon's unlawful trade practices act and that wrongly charged customers are due \$200 in penalties and interest as required by law.

“In an effort to profit and to obtain an unfair advantage over its competitors, AT&T misled thousands of Oregon customers into paying unlawful five cent surcharges that AT&T was not

permitted to collect,” the lawsuit said. “AT&T only said it would refund the money it wrongfully collect from Oregon customers after AT&T got caught.”

Portland-based attorney Michael Fuller is representing Young in the lawsuit.

[\[READ THE LAWSUIT\]](#)

Some businesses still bristling at having to pay Portland’s clean energy tax

By Everton Bailey Jr.

10/11/2019

Nearly a year after a voter-approved tax on large Portland retailers was implemented in order to pay for clean energy projects and jobs, some businesses continue to dispute if they should be subject to the tax.

At issue is the city’s categorization of some businesses as large retailers, a label that makes them subject to pay a 1 percent surcharge on revenue from retail sales in Portland. Under the terms of the voter-approved measure, those are businesses with at least \$1 billion in annual revenue nationwide and at least \$500,000 in yearly Portland sales.

Voters approved the initiative in November 2018. The tax went into effect January 1. Utilities, credit unions and co-ops are exempt, as are the sales of health care services, most groceries, medicine and prescription drugs.

Some businesses that fall outside of the exemption rules contend they are not large retailers, either. In recent months, representatives of construction and waste management companies have contacted the city regarding the matter.

The Portland Business Alliance said it’s been advocating since last fall for the city to implement a more narrow definition of which types of businesses are categorized as large retailers and for the definition to be more in line “with the precise statements of the measure’s authors.”

“We continue to work with advocates and City Hall to align the clean energy surcharge with what voters were told it would be,” Andrew Hoan, the group’s president and CEO, said in a statement. “These conversations are ongoing, and we hope to conclude this work with an outcome that does not competitively disadvantage Portland businesses, while also supporting the goals of the fund.”

Amy Lewin, a Portland Business Alliance spokesperson, declined to specify what types of businesses the group is seeking to have excluded from the tax.

The city estimates the surcharge could generate \$54 million to \$71 million a year. The proceeds will be deposited into the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund and distributed as grants to nonprofit groups. The first round of grant funding — \$7 million — is estimated to begin

in summer 2020. A nine-person committee of community members, five of whom were appointed by the Portland City Council on Sept. 25, will be in charge of recommending which projects get funded.

The city said it can't provide a list of companies required to pay the tax or of which ones have paid so far, saying whether tax returns have been filed or how much in sales they reflect is protected financial information. He said the city estimates 500 to 1,000 companies are subject to the surcharge and the city has collected about \$11 million thus far.

Tim Becker, a Mayor's Office spokesperson, said he would not comment on the business alliance's assertions because "the development of the initiative remains in process."

Dan Drinkward, vice president of Portland-based Hoffman Construction, said he and other firms have been trying for months to get the city to reconsider their companies as being subject to the tax. Their stance is the city shouldn't categorize construction companies that fit the revenue criteria as large retailers.

The industry standard for construction contractor contracts call for the client to add the 1 percent tax to its total costs, Drinkward said. OHSU, for example, has told Hoffman and other firms to add the 1 percent tax to their project budget costs.

"It would increase the costs of our projects and force schools, hospitals and other clients to either increase budgets or reduce the scope," Drinkward said.

He said he believes it could impact future construction in Portland.

"Small-scale development will continue to be done by smaller contractors, but I think the surcharge would be a significant factor on whether large-scale development happens here or somewhere else."

The Portland Haulers Association, which represents the city's residential solid waste and recycling collection services, sent a memo to the Portland City Council in July asking that none of their members be categorized as large retailers.

Three of 11 residential franchisees are large publicly traded companies with at least \$1 billion in sales and thus subject to the surcharge. The other eight are small family-owned local firms and aren't. To cover the 1% tax on the three big haulers, the city raised all residential customers' solid waste and recycling bills an average of 20 cents per month beginning in July. At this point, all 11 hauling companies collect the 20 cent monthly, haulers association president Vallerie Hill said.

Hill said the 20 cent increase may not cover all the fees owed by the three affected haulers and it's unclear what the companies not subject to the tax are supposed to do with the extra funds they collect.

"Exemption would eliminate inequities, discrepancies and confusion for the haulers," Hill wrote.

“More importantly, it would create clarity for customers by establishing rates that reflect the cost of the service customers are receiving from curbside waste removal and recycling.”

Hill, owner of Gruetter Sanitary Service, told The Oregonian/OregonLive on Thursday that association members “are complying with the rules relating to the clean energy surcharge and will continue to do so unless something changes.”

Becker said the mayor’s office has given no formal response to the association’s memo.

Portland voters put a 1% tax on large retailers – but some consumers are paying it too

By Everton Bailey Jr.

10/11/2019

Updated at 12:59 p.m.

Terry Wiesner stared down at his Safeway grocery store receipt in confusion in mid-September after he noticed being charged an extra 3 cents for buying a package of \$2.99 napkins. The 3 cent charge was listed as a tax.

He called over a store attendant while still in the self-checkout line at the Southeast Woodstock Boulevard branch and asked about the charge. The worker pointed to a laminated sign nearby.

Portland instituted a voter-approved clean energy surcharge in January, imposing a 1 percent tax on paper products, wine, beer, household items and other products, the sign said. The surcharge began appearing on Safeway customers’ receipts on Sept. 9 and people should contact the City of Portland if they had any concerns, according to the notice.

“I didn’t remember voting for any kind of tax,” said Wiesner, 74. “I later learned that this was meant to be a tax on businesses, not the people. Frankly, it just made me angry. It wasn’t about the 3 cents, it’s about the spirit of this charge and how it’d been passed off to me.”

Portland city officials said both Safeway and Wiesner got it partly right. The tax is on the business, not the customer. But large retailers that are subject to the tax are free to raise prices or pass along surcharges of their own that appear on receipts as a cost of doing business.

In the 10 months since the business surcharge went into effect, some Portland residents have been finding extra charges on a few of their bills in the name of the clean energy surcharge – including at least one of which was imposed improperly.

Voters approved what was formally titled the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Initiative in November 2018 to help raise funds for clean energy projects, energy-saving retrofits for low-income homeowners and renters, green infrastructure and the creation of living-wage green energy jobs. Funds raised are meant to be prioritized to help under-served Portland populations, communities of color and low-income residents.

From Jan. 1, all large retailers have to pay a 1 percent surcharge on revenue from retail sales in Portland. Under the terms of the voter-approved measure, those are businesses with at least \$1 billion in annual national revenue and at least \$500,000 in yearly Portland sales.

Exempt are utilities, credit unions, co-ops and the sales of health care services, most groceries, medicine and drugs.

Despite the exemption for utilities, AT&T has been charging Portland customers since at least the spring, listing it on bills as a “Portland Clean Energy Surcharge.”

The AT&T surcharge was first reported by Willamette Week in August.

Tyler Wallace, Portland’s tax division manager, said city officials told AT&T representatives in September that as a utility company, they are exempt to the Portland tax. He didn’t know what recourse the city has if AT&T continues to charge customers.

“We have no information on if they’re going to continue to do that,” Wallace said. “But we have communicated to them that they aren’t subject to it.”

AT&T confirmed Friday that they were told the company is exempt from the tax and would be issuing refunds to customers. The company declined to provide anymore information, including when the refunds would be given or how much money was collected from customers.

Overall, the city estimates the surcharge could generate \$54 million to \$71 million a year. The proceeds will be deposited into the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund and distributed as grants to nonprofit groups. The first round of grant funding — \$7 million — is estimated to begin in summer 2020. A nine-person committee of community members, five of whom were appointed by the Portland City Council on Sept. 25, will be in charge of recommending which projects get funded.

On Sept. 10, the city adopted new business tax administrative rules that emphasize that paying the clean energy surcharge is the legal obligation of qualifying businesses, but they can pass along surcharges of their own to customers.

“A large retailer may separately itemize its [clean energy surcharge] obligations on its invoices to its customers to whatever extent it chooses,” the rule said. “A large retailer may describe [clean energy surcharge] on its invoices in whatever manner it chooses.”

It’s not immediately clear which businesses are subject to the surcharge, although Safeway, WinCo and other mega-retailers clearly are. Nor has anyone deduced or all the ways it is impacting sales to customers.

A representative from Albertsons’, which owns Safeway, did not respond to requests for comment. Safeway customers still appear to be getting charged extra for certain products, but it’s now listed on receipts as a surcharge, not a tax.

Josh Lehner, a senior economist with the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, compared the city's clean energy tax to Measure 97, a state business tax initiative that went before voters in 2016 that would have established a 2.5 percent tax on gross business sales that exceed \$25 million. It was voted down by Oregonians.

"There's always the question of who ultimately pays the tax," he said. "The business has to pay, but do they ultimately bear the burden, or do they raise prices or is the tax passed on to consumers? Anytime there is a new business tax that's always something that is weighed."

Oregon, Alaska, Delaware, Montana and New Hampshire are the only states with no general sales tax. Oregonians have voted no nine times since the 1930s on instituting a sales tax.

Wallace said the city can't provide a list of companies required to pay the tax or of which ones have paid so far, saying whether tax returns have been filed or how much in sales they reflect is protected financial information. He said the city estimates 500 to 1,000 companies are subject to the surcharge and the city has collected about \$11 million thus far.

"If they do itemize the surcharge on the receipt, that amount is included in retail sales," Wallace said. "Meaning, that it's treated as a price increase rather than as a tax being passed on to the customer. Some companies are doing this and some say they are absorbing the cost of the surcharge."

He said the city attorney's office was consulted when the administrative rule was drafted regarding a surcharge appearing on sale receipts. Tracy Reeve, the Portland city attorney, said she couldn't disclose any advice given because it's attorney-client privilege information.

Wallace said companies can list a surcharge however they wish on customer receipts, "but there shouldn't be an implication that the onus of the clean energy tax is on the customer. It's on the business."

For most businesses required to pay the tax on their 2019 sales, the first year's payment is due April 15, 2020, Wallace said. But many of them make estimated quarterly payments, so the city Revenue Division began collecting those in April. Most large businesses seek an extension, Wallace said, so their liability won't be known until they file their return in October of 2020.

He said the city doesn't yet have a solid system in place to determine which taxable businesses have retail sales.

"We have never had a reason to ask companies to separately report retail sales from non-retail sales," he said. The most common examples of non-retail sales he said would be if an item was manufactured or bought by one business and then resold to another.

"We have done a lot of analysis in order to make revenue estimates," Wallace said, "but we'll have much better information once we start getting tax returns from companies, which will separate out retail sales from non-retail sales."

The self-reported numbers would then be subject to audit, he said.

Wallace said he didn't know if any other exempt companies in addition to AT&T have billed customers in the name of the surcharge.

Wiesner, who didn't vote for clean energy community benefits initiative, said he's considering not shopping at Safeway altogether. He's been shopping at Fred Meyer, QFC and Bi-Mart for non-food items to avoid paying the surcharge.

Note: This story has been updated to reflect new information from AT&T.

The Portland Tribune

Your City Hall: Council to tweak bureau budgets

By Jim Redden

10/14/2019

Public campaign financing funds are included in twice-a-year city budget adjustment request to be considered Wednesday

WHAT IS HAPPENING? The City Council is scheduled to adjust the current budgets of numerous bureaus Wednesday, Oct. 16. The annual process is officially called the fall Budget Monitoring Process, or BuMP for short. A similar process happens every spring.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS? Under the law, the council must adopt a balanced budget before the start of every fiscal year, which always begins on July 1. That's typically a very public process, with multiple community forums and hearings. That's when the mayor and council usually propose creating new programs or, very rarely, end existing ones.

But the council does not always know exactly how much a program will need for the rest of the fiscal year, or whether changes in projected revenues might require budget alterations.

So it schedules budget adjustments every spring and fall to keep the budgets balanced and meet program goals. Most changes are largely internal and minor, although some are of public interest. They are included in a single ordinance prepared by the City Budget Office with multiple supporting documents. The council was briefed on them during a previous work session.

HOW MANY CHANGES WILL THE COUNCIL CONSIDER? According to the impact statement prepared by the CBO, the ordinance will adjust 51 funds for a net increase of \$223.6 million. There is a net increase of \$11 .3 million to general fund contingency accounts, resulting in a net increase of 36.5 new positions, including one new limited-term position and the

conversion of three limited-term positions to permanent.

Those changes of most interest to the public probably include:

- \$1,984,400 to fully fund the general fund portion of the \$24 million Portland Harbor Trust agreement with the state of Oregon to encourage other parties to draft their cleanup plans;
- \$250,000 for the Portland Housing Bureau to start work on an expanded Rental Registration System to track all rental properties in the city;
- \$950,000 in general funds for the new public Open & Accountable Elections campaign finance program to ensure sufficient funding for matching grants for eligible candidates;
- \$133,534 general fund for claims related to the large March 2019 water main break in Northeast Portland;
- \$120,000 for the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability for additional work related to the Anti-Displacement Action Plan intended to mitigate the gentrification expected to be caused by city housing plans that currently are in the works;
- \$1,205,291 for the Intergovernmental Agreement for the project intended to increase the safety of the aging Columbia River levee system.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE? The ordinance and documents are available at the agenda of this week's council meeting at the city's website at www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/26997. You also can attend the hearing or watch it on community TV or the same website.

Police cite 34 during Vision Zero mission on Lombard

By Pamplin Media Group

10/12/2019

Portland Police Bureau's Traffic Division focuses on city streets that are prone to crashes.

Portland Police Bureau officers hit the streets Friday during a targeted traffic enforcement mission on one of the city's deadliest roads.

Traffic Division officers staked out Northeast Lombard Street — also known as Portland Highway — from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Northeast 60th Avenue on Friday, Oct. 11.

According to a release, officers stopped 38 motorists — leading to 34 citations, three warnings and one arrest for allegedly driving under the influence of intoxicants.

"The officers took the opportunity to talk with community members about Vision Zero, the importance of safe driving habits, and proper equipment. Traffic safety education classes were offered when appropriate," according to the release.

Vision Zero is a city plan to eventually eliminate all traffic-related deaths in Portland, and Lombard is designated as a high-crash corridor as part of the plan. In September, a man walking on Lombard Street was killed by a driver who fled the scene. Police continue to investigate that death.

Wheeler will officially announce for reelection Monday

By Jim Redden

10/11/2019

Portland mayor had previously told the Portland Tribune he would announce for reelection after Labor Day

Mayor Ted Wheeler will announce for reelection on Monday, Oct. 14.

Wheeler will make the announcement at 6 p.m. at Uncorked Studios in Southwest Portland. His campaign said he will be joined by supporters, including Commissioner Nick Fish, State Representative Janelle Bynum, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson, Portland Business Alliance CEO Andrew Hoan, Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary Treasurer Willy Myers, and Uncorked Studios Founder and CEO Marcelino Alvarez.

Wheeler's campaign emailed a press release about the event to local media on Friday and asked that it be embargoed until 6 p.m. Monday. But it also posted a letter about his accomplishments on his campaign website, prompting some outlets to break the embargo, which said, "So I'm here, and I'm ready to keep going for these next four years."

Only one other candidate has filed for mayor with the City Auditors Office, neighborhood organizer and Wayfinding Academy faculty member Sarah Iannarone. Four other candidates have publicly declared for the office. They include Teressa Raiford and Ozzie Gonzalez, an architect and TriMet board member.

Wheeler previously told the Portland Tribune in May that he would announce for reelection after Labor Day. You can find that story [here](#).

Willamette Week

Portland Professor Files Lawsuit Over AT&T's Improper Billing of Customers for the Clean Energy Surcharge

AT&T is exempt from the new Clean Energy tax, but was charging customers for it.

By Rachel Monahan

10/11/2019

AT&T now faces a lawsuit over improperly billing customers for a tax that it does not have to pay.

The company has been collecting a small amount per month from Portland customers to cover the Clean Energy Fund surcharge, but the company is actually exempt from the measure passed by voters last year.

As *WW* first reported earlier this week, the company is considered a utility for the purposes of the Clean Energy Fund tax—and is therefore exempt from the 1 percent increase in the business license tax that applies to all retail companies with \$500,000 in revenue locally and \$1 billion nationally.

The money generated by the new tax is designated to go to sustainability projects, particularly in low income communities and communities of color.

The *Oregonian* first reported today that AT&T would refund local customers who have been charged for the tax.

But the class-action complaint, filed today in Multnomah Circuit Court, seeks to collect at least \$200 for each customer affected.

"AT&T only said it would refund the money it wrongfully collected from Oregon customers after AT&T got caught," states the lawsuit, filed by Lewis and Clark College professor Elliott Young. "AT&T still has not agreed to pay its customers the \$200 penalties and interest they are entitled to under Oregon law as result of AT&T's unlawful trade practices."

Attorney Michael Fuller, who is representing Young, says the penalty is a necessary disincentive.

"If you steal from a bank, you can't just refund the money you stole when you get caught and call it good," Fuller tells *WW*. "AT&T stole from Oregon customers, and Oregon law entitles customers who were assessed the unlawful surcharge to \$200 statutory damages, and punitive damages to punish AT&T and deter other corporations from charging illegal fees."

Mayor Ted Wheeler Makes It Official—He'll Run for a Second Term

Wheeler seeks to be the first two-term mayor since the late Vera Katz, who left office in 2005.

By Nigel Jaquiss
10/11/2019

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced today that he'll kick off his 2020 re-election campaign next week.

Wheeler is currently at a climate summit in Copenhagen but on Oct. 14, he'll launch his bid to become the first two-term mayor since the late Vera Katz, who left office in January 2005 after three terms.

A former state treasurer and before that, chairman of the Multnomah County Commission, Wheeler, 57, defeated former Multnomah County Commissioner Jules Bailey in the 2016 contest to replace former Mayor Charlie Hales.

Wheeler will be joined Monday by endorsers including City Commissioner Nick Fish, State Rep. Janelle Bynum, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson and Portland Business Alliance CEO Andrew Hoan.

Portland's Housing Crisis Would Be a Lot Worse If So Many 20- and 30- Somethings Weren't Living With Their Parents

New census data show that failure to launch is significantly reducing demand for housing.

By Nigel Jaquiss
10/10/2019, updated 10/13/2019

Oregon is fortunate that people from other states continue to move here. It helps expand our intellectual capital, our workforce and our tax base, among other benefits. In-migration has also added to a tight housing market—but new census data compiled by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis show that tightness could be a lot worse.

Over the past 15 years, however, the percentage of people who live with their parents or share homes with roommates is way up.

"Young adults are living at home longer, or living with roommates to a larger degree than a decade ago, let alone two decades ago," writes Josh Lehner, a state economist in a new analysis of census data.

"Within the Portland region this decline means there are nearly 28,000 fewer households today among the 25-44 year age group than there would be if household formation rates were the same as back in the mid-2000s. Across all age groups, the decline in household formation rates in the Portland region results in 36,000 fewer households on net. This is equal to 3 years of new construction, which is a massive number."

Here's a national [take on the same phenomenon](#), which is by no means limited to Oregon.

The Mercury

Mayor Wheeler Is Running for Re-election in 2020

By Alex Zielinski
10/11/2019

It's official: Mayor Ted Wheeler will be running for re-election in the May 2020 primary election.

"For the last four years, I've realized a dream of serving this wonderful community in the state and the city that has always been my home. My heart, my focus, the issues that are the most important to me—they're all right here," wrote Wheeler in a statement published on his campaign website. "We're strongest when we work together as one vibrant, powerful, engaged community.

So I'm here, and I'm ready to keep going for these next four years."

According to Amy Rathfelder, Wheeler's deputy campaign manager, he will formally kick off his campaign on Monday, October 14, at an evening event in Southeast Portland. The public event will be attended by several local leaders who support Wheeler's run, including City Commissioner Nick Fish, State Representative Janelle Bynum, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson, and Portland Business Alliance CEO Andrew Hoan.

If re-elected, Wheeler would be the first Portland mayor to serve a second term in 16 years.

In his statement, Wheeler lists several accomplishments he's made since entering office in 2017, like putting "strong, capable women in senior leadership positions," creating a new kind of unarmed police employee position, limiting plastic straws and utensils in restaurants, and spearheading trash clean-up programs.

One of his "proudest moments," Wheeler notes, is when he organized a large group of community leaders to speak out against white supremacy days before the Proud Boys, an alt-right extremist group, held a rally in downtown Portland.

"This is the kind of strength we can show when we join together and stand up for our values," he writes.

Wheeler, who first hinted at his decision to run in 2020 in a May interview with the *Portland Tribune*, currently has just over \$110,000 in his campaign war chest. According to the Secretary of State's campaign finance records, Wheeler's campaign hasn't received a donation since August.

Wheeler already has several opponents in the race, including police accountability advocate Teresa Raiford, progressive urban policy advocate Sarah Iannarone (who ran against Wheeler in 2016), environmental scientist Ozzie González, environmental lawyer Michael Burleson, and community activist Mark White.

Wheeler is currently in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he's attending the 2019 C40 World Mayors Summit.