



October 20, 2021 Council Agenda

5631

Please note, City Hall is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Under Portland City Code and state law, the City Council is holding this meeting electronically. All members of council are attending remotely by video and teleconference, and the City has made several avenues available for the public to listen to the audio broadcast of this meeting. The meeting is available to the public on the City's YouTube Channel, eGov PDX, www.portlandoregon.gov/video and Channel 30.

The public may provide written testimony to Council by emailing the Council Clerk at cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov.

The Council is taking these steps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to limit in-person contact and promote social distancing. The pandemic is an emergency that threatens the public health, safety and welfare which requires us to meet remotely by electronic communications. Thank you all for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we manage through this difficult situation to do the City's business.

Email the Council Clerk at councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov with any questions.

Meeting Records

Disposition Agenda

Audio Recordings

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:30 am

Session Status: Adjourned

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Naomi Sheffield, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

The Consent Agenda was adopted on a Y-4 roll call.

Council adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Communications

751

[Request of Dr. Harry Bray to address Council regarding campers and illegal activities near Gateway community medical buildings](#) (Communication)

Document number: 751-2021

Disposition: Placed on File

752

[Request of Dr. Elizabeth O'Neill to address Council regarding campers and illegal activities near Gateway community medical buildings](#) (Communication)

Document number: 752-2021

Disposition: Placed on File

753

[Request of Sonia Bouchard to address Council regarding campers and illegal activities near Gateway community medical buildings](#) (Communication)

Document number: 753-2021

Disposition: Placed on File

754

[Request of Dr. Rima Chamie to address Council regarding campers and illegal activities near Gateway community medical buildings](#) (Communication)

Document number: 754-2021

Disposition: Placed on File

Consent Agenda

755

[*Amend Intergovernmental Agreement with Portland Public Schools to extend term and increase compensation to the City for compliance and other services related to the Workforce Training and Hiring Program \(amend Contract No. 3006338\)](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 190581

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

756

[*Create a new non-represented classification of Medical Assistant and establish a compensation range for this classification](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 190582

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Human Resources; Management and Finance

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

757

[*Settlement of Simeneh Woldesenbet property damage and bodily injury claim for the sum of \\$27,319 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Water Bureau](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 190583

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services; Risk Management

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

758

[*Approve application under the Multiple-Unit Limited Tax Exemption Program under the Inclusionary Housing Program for The Kennedy located at 2111 N Rosa Parks Way](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 190584

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Regular Agenda

759

[Appoint Heather Lyons and Peg Malloy to the Portland Housing Advisory Commission for terms to expire September 2023](#) (Report)

Document number: 759-2021

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Confirmed

Motion to accept the report: Moved by Ryan and seconded by Hardesty.

Votes: Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

760

[*Pay settlement of Francis Gehman lawsuit in the sum of \\$15,000 involving the Portland Housing Bureau](#)
(Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 190588

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Referred to Commissioner of Public Works

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Closed caption file of Portland City Council meeting

This file was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised city council broadcast and should not be considered a verbatim transcript. The official vote counts for council action are provided in the official minutes.

Key: ***** means unidentified speaker.

October 20, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Wheeler: Good morning everybody. This is October 20th. Morning session of the Portland city council. Please call the roll.

Clerk: (roll call).

Wheeler: Commissioner Rubio is absent because she is out in the field doing the work of the council and we appreciate that. The city council is holding this meeting electronically. All members are attending remotely and there are several avenues available to list tone the broad cast. The council is taking these steps as a result of the covid 19 pandemic and need to limit personal contact and promote physical distancing. The pandemic threatens the health and safety and welfare and requires us to meet by electronic communications. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we manage through these challenging circumstances to conduct the city's business.

Naomi Sheffield: To participate in council meetings, you may sign up in advance for communications to briefly speak on any subject. The published council agenda contains information about how and when you may sign up for testimony while the city is holding electronic meetings. Your testimony should address the matter being addressed at the time. Please disclose if you are a lobbyist. If you are representing an organization, please identify it. Individuals generally have three minute it testify unless otherwise stated. Disruptive conduct such as shouting or interrupt willing other's testimony will

not be allowed. A warning will be given that further disruption will result in a person being placed on hold. Please be aware that all council meetings will be recorded.

Wheeler: First up is council communications.

Clerk: The first request is by Dr. Bray to address council recording campers and illegal activities near gateway community medical buildings.

Wheeler: Good morning.

Dr. Harry Bray: On behalf of the three speakers coming behind me, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today and thanks to all of you for your service to our city. My name is Dr. Harry Bray. I'm a physician at Gateway. We provide a comprehensive array of health care services and have done for many years. Unfortunately over the last decade or so and particularly over the last 18 months we've seen a profound deterioration in the conditions around our building. My fellow speakers will be providing more information about that behind me. We're here this morning to specifically ask the city to prioritize relocation of campers and the houseless to a supportive and sheltering environment. To reestablish safety and security and cleanliness so our patients, staff, and medical assistants can feel safe and secure in our environment. Over the last year and a half we've made a lot of efforts ourselves establishing a coalition with Providence with the East Portland Police Department to do as much as we can. Providence has promoted a better outcome with reach out. We have fencing and security. We are unable to make things better and need your help. One of my colleagues will have a specific list of asks. My group, the Oregon Clinic established our building here in Gateway in part because of our access to public transport. We were really proud of Portland to livability and public transport was part of that. Our patients especially vulnerable relatively poor East Side patients can access us easily. That has been threatened by the deterioration by people here in Gateway. Especially people here on foot feel unsafe especially compared to people with cars. It's more than health care. We're at a place of intersection here at Gateway. Trains and

buses, it feels like gateway is the heart of the east side. Where public transport and health care come together. We really ask for help in cleaning up and helping the campers and homeless around us to feel more comfortable themselves. Thank you very much.

Wheeler: Thank you. Appreciate it. We'll look forward to the rest of the presentation as well. Next individual. Item 752.

Clerk: Request of Dr. O'Neill to address council regarding campers and illegal activities near gateway community medical buildings.

Wheeler: Good morning doctor. Are you unmuted?

Dr. Elizabeth O'Neill: Thank you. Good morning mayor. Good morning commissioners. Thank you for having us and for your public service to Portland. I'm Dr. O'Neil. We are a mission driven organization. We are called to serve all patients especially the poor and vulnerable. We are dedicated to our community and our patients. In order to provide high quality care for our community. We need the city to provide safe environments for people to live in the city. We come to ask for your support and collaboration. This is an urgent situation. I have worked at our clinic for the 18 years. It's only in the last year that i have stopped taking the max to work. It's not due to the pandemic but due to safety. Most of our patients walk or rely on transportation. They feel equally unsafe. Tents spilling into the streets. Active drug injections and drug sales in broad daylight. Nudity and erratic behavior. This is not a safe environment. For our clients where driving is not an option. We need your help to reestablish a healing environment in our neighborhood where patients can safely access the health care they deserve and employees are safe coming to work. We have two immediate asks. First, resources. We all know that people need a safe place to live. Please support grass roots initiatives that address the immediate need of the houseless. Grass roots such as we shine. The better outcomes through bridges so better outcomes can continue to provide support to the houseless until they are safely transitioned. Second, ongoing enforcement. A radius around the

villages once they are created. Removal of tents blocking pathways to our clinic. Clean up of the feces and drug needles that our patients and their children see. Active drug deals and drug use. To ensure quality health care including the poor and the vulnerable, housed, and houseless with the dignity they deserve, we need your immediate partnership. Thank you for this opportunity.

Wheeler: Thank you. Next individual please. Item 753.

Clerk: Request of Sonia Bouchard to address council regarding campers and illegal activities near gateway community medical buildings.

Wheeler: Good morning.

Sonia Bouchard: Good morning. I'm the director of operations. I'm proud to say that the gateway community the Oregon clinic and providence see thousands of patients every year. Many of whom are elderly. I'd like to paint a picture for you. When our patients arrive our gateway offices, the first thing they see is garbage. RVs and tents blocking our sidewalks and discarded drug paraphernalia. Someone even attacked and damaged a car of a patient drive ining the parking lot to get to her appointment. I'd like to share with you some quotes from our patient surveys. The it's very revolting. A very unsafe area. I felt the need to walk quickly to and from my car when I was getting labs done at the Oregon clinic. I'm probably going to go switch doctors because I don't want to go back there again. My care inside the building was positive in every way. It was the outside that was very unnerving. The homeless camps outside are very upsetting. The physical environment has deteriorated to the point it doesn't feel safe. I recently helped a patient and transported that patient and pushing him in a wheelchair and could not safely make the transition because the sidewalks and ramps were blocked by campers. We cancel follow-up appointments due to safety concerns. Patients experience challenges accessing their medical providers because the sidewalks are blocked. We work immediately with non-profits to ask for help. This is unfair to our patients and staff. We and the community have a lot to lose. Risk to losing access to

health care in our community. We're bringing these concerns to you today because we need your help. Dr. Chamie is going to talk to you about what you can help with.

Wheeler: Colleagues do you want to raise your hands now. I colleagues definitely want to respond. Next individual please item 754.

Clerk: Request of dr. Rima Chamie to address council regarding campers and illegal activities near gateway community medical buildings.

Dr. Rima Chamie: The clinic serves more than 20,000 parents. 8,000 are children. We are committed to caring for the patients who live in the gateway community and create a healing environment in our clinic. The counter humanitarian crisis is heart breaking for health care providers and our patients. Last week i spent an hour with a woman crying who had not been to the clinic in a year. We found a gun, knives and needles on the premises. Young children and families coming in for our care are regularly exposed to unsafe disturbing conditions around the clinic as they enter. My concern is not that these families are inconvenienced. They are traumatized. Two critical programs I would like to highlight is we collaborated with north west. More than 1700 households were served by the community resource desk. Providence better outcomes through bridges or bob. The bob team provides street outreach. They helped transition some of the campers. Helping to have their cars fixed. The bob team had been increasing their presence but due to funding shortages will now be limited. We serve families and individuals that are currently experiencing houselessness. A young man with schizophrenia to get his injections each week. I believe appropriate city partnerships and investments can allow us to achieve our shared goals.

Wheeler: Thank you. Colleagues, I think I have these in the right order. I believe commissioner Hardesty you had your hand raised first followed by commissioner Mapps followed by commissioner Ryan.

Hardesty: I decided to wait until my colleagues speak.

Mapps: I want to take a moment to thank our guests who testified today. A lot of people think the river is the heart of the city. If you take a look at where people live in Portland, gateway is the population center of the city. You provide incredibly important services to our community. You're located at a really crucial nexus in our city and serve in particular folks of east Portland who I think historically have been under served. I want people in the medical field out there to know I have heard this. This is not the first time this issue has come before me. A couple of months ago when this council was making policy around houselessness issues. I pushed for an amendment that creates rules and boundaries about where people can camp in relationship to medical facilities. I know, I believe that Hucker has been out there to clean up. I'm disappointed to hear that has not solved all of your problems. I think it's particularly important that we are good partners here. Let's continue to work on the issues that you have raised. Including prioritizing relocating folks that are camping to the villages at gateway. Better outcomes through bridges, I'm not super familiar with that program. I look forward to learning more. I'll reach out and find out how we can be more helpful there. Greater enforcement and abate willing some of the negative impacts of camps. I think these are important and reasonable things that this council should be able to accomplish. Over the course of the next several weeks, we'll make some funding decisions over the course of the next fiscal year. We'll make your working conditions and neighborhood conditions safer in Portland. Thank you.

Wheeler: Thank you. Commissioner Hardesty did you want to go?

Hardesty: I want to thank all the testifiers this morning for your thoughtful presentation to the council. I want to say, a, gateway is my community. I live in gateway. I'm also a public transit user. I have had really frightening experiences recently riding public transit because people who were clearly suffering from mental health issues. What I know is that we have a humanitarian crisis on our street. The inequities that we've had prior to covid have been exposed more. Every community wants us to make people disappear.

I'm using that very harsh term because I know that is not the intent. We have a humanitarian crisis. We have to use every tool in our toolbox to get through this humanitarian crisis that we have. One of the biggest missing pieces a lack of beds for people who need it who are suffering from mental health issues. When I talk to police officers on the street and they take a patient to Providence and two hours later they are back on the street because there are just three questions that are asked and if they answer right, they are back on the street. I don't want to pretend that we on the council today will solve this humanitarian crisis. We need the medical community to be just as innovative as we've been. We can put as much resources on the street as possible but if we can't get people in beds when they need them, we're spinning our wheels. We're putting them in jail or unsafe conditions. We need the medical community to really step up and help find beds for people who need them. It's a process. Thank you very much for your intentionality. Thank you for what you're doing to make it safe. I have always lived in big cities. I've always walked around at night and day. It's just as dangerous to ride a max train during the day as it is at night. We all have a roll. I'm going to do my part. We need the medical community to help us. That's the piece that we at the city can't do. We cannot provide beds. Help us do that.

Ryan: Thank you all of you who testified. I had the pleasure of meeting you. Sorry to hear nothing has improved at all. I want to acknowledge how smart it is that you're a consortium and clinic Providence all coming together. That's very powerful. I'll also pivot to one of the speakers acknowledge the safe rest villages. Thank you for acknowledging that. It's a step, it's action. I've had more attorneys tell me why we can't get something done. I'm on it. We need them. You also know that's an onramp to services. That's what we've been looking on the ground is services. How important to keep it safe and clean around the villages. That is what we have in the plan and what we're going to go deeper into more resources during the fall pump. I hope you'll be here to testify how poor that is. We can help locate you some land. If you are a group that has sixty services. We

didn't get here overnight. We're going to get out of this by partnering and together by solving this humanitarian crisis. We want your patients to go back. A lot of us use your services. We need you in the fabric of our community. Let's keep working together.

Thank you.

Wheeler: I also want to share my colleagues thanks to you for testifying. It's now 10:00 a.m. I've had five conversations so far this morning, this same suggest different parts of the city. This is not unique to gateway. I agree with you it's really bad in gateway. At a challenging time in our city and nations history. Your colleagues are stepping up in big ways during the time in covid. So many other issues you are dealing with. The last thing you need to deal with are what you described today. The homeless issues, feces, I understand the pressure because I share those pressures. This is going to take more than us articulating what the problem is. You've talked about mental health issues, substance abuse issues. Lack of shelter and housing. Now we have to have a clear idea to the action required to resolve this crisis. The way I look at it as follows. We need to agree on the goal. My stated goal has bp vee clear. I will also argue it's controversial. Interest should be no unsanctioned camps anywhere in Portland. I want to pair that is a compassionate goal. Our safety net system is a colossal failure. We're near dead last in the nation on substance abuse treatment. These are not accidental things. These are decisions we need as a state. We're starting to reap what we've sown. The result is what we see on our streets. People are there for a lot of rps. The comfort of housing, people have left they are jobs, others are addicts to drugs or alcohol. They are not getting the help or support they need. What I'm hearing from the community is twofold. Get rid of the camps. There will be resources in this full budget process that will help us get rid of those camps that rise to the criteria that we have established for removal based on public health, safety, environmental and other issues. Compassionate response like shelters. Connect people with whatever services they need to get off the streets. It's not just mental help and substance. There are women that are on the streets getting away

domestic violence and continue to deal with violence on the streets. We have youth. I urged to slow down our fall budgeting process and work collaboratively that includes clean up and pair that up with the county's efforts around shelter and housing and other services we need to move to the streets and other humane services. We need to identify the goal. I stated mine. We need to agree on compassion. We have not agreed on what compassion is. It's not a compassionate response to let people live in these circumstances on our streets. Everybody else concerned about access to live and work and play in the community in which they choose to live and access parks and where they live. Providing resources like the safety resources. Pair that with community standards and expectations. It's a little different between Portland and Ohio. We live in the ninth circuit court district. We are subjected to different legal standards than others in the united states. One of these standards is Boise decision. We didn't just go in and tell people to get lost unless they are committing an environmental hazard. We have to offer alternative. We have to make sure that we bag and tag and keep the belongings. There's time and energy and process involved in all of this. I'm going on a little bit of a tangent here. We know the added pressures that you and your patients are under. I want you to have a larger context of what we have to be able to do that you have clearly identified as being urgent issues. I'm with you. I'll continue to work with my colleagues and other levels of governments. This is we scenario. This is our community. We all love it. We're all deeply concerned about the current state. I would ask you to you work with us. Let's put this thing back together again. Let's be clear on our goals and what a compassionate response is. Uphold our community standards and expectations and make this city work. You're not the only people that testify on this. We hear from a lot of people. A little bit of a rant I suppose. I want you to know how passionate I am about this. This is what I think about all day and frankly, all night. You'll have me to work on this issue. Next item. Consent agenda. Any items pulled off consent.

Clerk: We had no requests, mayor.

Wheeler: Please call the roll.

Clerk: (roll call).

Wheeler: Consent agenda is adopted. This is a report.

Item 759

Clerk: Appoint Heather Lyons and Peg Malloy for terms to expire September 2023.
Commissioner Ryan.

Ryan: Thank you. The Portland housing advisory commission is the city's primary public forum for strategy and resources. Members must take a housing approach rising above their interest and affiliations. I'm thankful for their willingness to serve and look forward to their insights as a housing commissioner. A brief presentation about why these recommendations are right for the city of Portland.

Shannon Callahan: I'm pleased to see you today to seek your council for two commissions. Heather is the director of housing. Heather's extensive experience with policies and programs including experience with casework and domestic shelters and violence and working with those recovering from addiction. She will be valuable to the housing bureau to help house those who are living on our streets or in our shelters currently. The founder and executive director a local lender providing education and financial services. His background provides making loans for business expansions and designing a gap financing program for special needs buildings. I would ask for your support for their appointment.

Hardesty: Would they like to say a couple of words since they are here?

Heather Lyons: I'm really pleased to be here and join the housing committee. The supportive housing I clearly have a passion for ensuring that highly impacted people have services to help recover and thrive. I'm a firm believer in affordable housing. I'm a big fan to the housing bureau and all the work they have done to ensure equity. Rate to return policy to experience a backlash of not being able to provide housing to black and

brown people in their communities. It's one of the many steps to take for those who experience housing insecurity.

Wheeler: Thank you heather. We really appreciate you stepping up, again. This is one of many times. Appreciate it.

Lyons: Thank you, mayor.

Wheeler: Colleagues any further comments. Very good with that. I'll entertain a motion to accept the report. Commissioner Ryan moves. Commissioner Hardesty seconds. Please call the roll.

Mapps: I would like to thank them for their service to the community. I vote aye.

Ryan: Great appointments. Good job. I vote aye.

Hardesty: Excellent recommendations commission per Ryan. Thank you so much heather you're going to bring so much to this work as well as your other new colleague. I'm very happy to vote aye.

Wheeler: This is one of the most important issues facing our commune pit and a lot of other west coast cities. Heather since you're here, thank god you're interested in doing this. We need the best minds in the community to work with our council and others to resolve this crisis. We have people in our community who are deeply deeply concerned about what they described as a humanitarian crisis and we know as a humanitarian crisis. Housing can be the key to all of this. Having someone with your experience coming in clear eyed knowing what you're getting into. I just can't tell you how much I personally appreciate it. Thanks to you. Thanks to peg. I'm very happy to support these appointments. Let us know if there's anything you need from us we can be helpful to you. Let us know how we can be better partners to you as well. The appointments are approved. Believe it or not the last item on our agenda today is an emergency ordinance.

Wheeler: Commissioner Ryan.

Ryan: We are pulling this back to our office.

Wheeler: That's it colleagues. You get some time back this morning. You are adjourned. Thank you.

At 10:15 a.m., Council adjourned.