



Portland Building Follow-up:

City missed requirement to disburse about \$1 million in grants to help meet Portland Building equity goals

Purpose

Council allocated \$1 million of the renovation budget for community benefits to support the City's equity and inclusion goals and objectives.

Requirements

Community benefits "to be dispersed in phases through the life of the [Portland Building] project... And the Chief Administrative Officer will report back regularly to the Council on activities and results."



Findings

City had no plan as of December 2018 to ensure about \$1 million would be disbursed by the completion of renovation.

No report to Council about the status of these activities or results since 2016.



Community Impact

City missed a strategic opportunity to use community benefits to help meet its stated equity goals for the Portland Building and address historic inequities in construction.

Despite available funds and interested applicants, the City did not award any of the competitive grants scheduled for October 2018 because of a change in direction from the Mayor's Office. The City did not communicate with applicants about status or the reason why awards were not made.

About \$360,000 of available funds are from water and sewer ratepayers and it is unclear how future grantmaking will remain accountable to these restricted sources.



Recommendations

Report to Council and inform applicants of the City's grantmaking status.

Remove ratepayer funds from community benefits budget if not reasonably related to water and sewer services.

