



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

DATE: January 12, 2021
TO: Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
FROM: Ted Wheeler, Mayor
RE: Bureau and Liaison Assignments

As I look ahead to 2021, I am very excited to work with you and with our new colleagues on behalf of our community.

Portlanders expect and deserve for their City leaders to develop and advance a shared agenda that is reflective of their values. Our unique form of government presents an opportunity to leverage our collective authority, platform, and leadership to make real progress, quickly, on shared goals. As we have discussed, I look forward to working with you and our colleagues to take advantage of this opportunity.

I have shared that livability, homelessness, and safety are top priorities for me. Thank you for sharing your feedback, and for talking with me about your interests and priorities. I am grateful for your partnership in this important work, and for your leadership with the following bureaus and liaison responsibilities:

- Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Portland Fire & Rescue
- Office of Community and Civic Live
- Fire & Police Disability & Retirement
- Portland Mall Management, Inc.
- Portland Aerial Tram Board
- Portland Streetcar, Inc.
- Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Regional Disaster Police Organization (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Fair & Moral Claims Committee (with Commissioner Mapps)
- The Gateway Center

As Commissioner-in-Charge of these bureaus, and liaison to these key pieces of work, I ask that you include the following on your lists of priorities, and partner with me on items, noted below, that will require our collective attention and leadership to be successful:

- O’Bryant Square re-opening: For several years, O’Bryant Square has been fenced off and inaccessible to immediate neighbors and visitors to downtown. PBOT, Portland Parks & Recreation, the Portland Parks Foundation, and community stakeholders have been loosely coordinated in the work to stabilize the block, bring the fence down, reopen the space, and move toward a long-term vision. There are a number of complexities which have slowed the work: restrictions associated with the property, the multi-bureau coordination required to advance the capital work, scarcity of resources. I ask that you partner with Commissioner Rubio to ensure that PPR and PBOT work closely together to advance the project and move quickly toward an interim solution to bring the fence down.
- Permitting: During the COVID-caused recession, as we work to provide creative, nimble permitting services to ensure that we move into recovery quickly and sustainably – and protect and preserve the small and local businesses that make Portland special – I have asked Bureau of Development Services Commissioner Ryan to work with Director Esau, other permitting bureaus, and me to develop and propose emergency steps to speed up permit approval across all categories. My goal is to ensure that as we build back Portland’s economy, we are supporting its unique aspects (for example, food carts) and the entrepreneurs who are its heart and soul. In your capacity as Transportation Commissioner, I ask you to ensure that PBOT leadership participates fully and constructively in this conversation. And I ask that you continue to seek innovative solutions to the public health restrictions which have hampered our local retail industry – safe outdoor dining, festival streets, food cart pods, and others.
- Portland Street Response: I am grateful for your commitment to Portland Street Response. I ask that in your continued role as Commissioner-in-Charge of Portland Fire & Rescue, and chief sponsor of the new program, you find ways to move more quickly toward implementation. In particular, I ask that you consider creative staffing models which may be more cost-effective and faster to establish, including the peer-led approach that originally attracted both of us to this model.
- Continued progress at PBOT: PBOT Director Chris Warner and his team, in partnership with former Commissioner Eudaly, have introduced exciting programs and initiatives. I ask that you continue to support Rose Lanes, Central City in Motion, transit access and affordability, and other work to bring more and better transportation options to Portlanders citywide.
- Community Safety Transition Director: You and I strongly support this position and the work to transition our public safety system to a community safety system tailored to our

community's needs. I expect that all of Council will continue to prioritize this work, and that we will collectively support the successful candidate as they lead us through the complexities of this change management effort. In all our public safety work, I am grateful for the leadership and perspective you bring to the Council.

- Office of Community and Civic Life: I ask that you work with Chief Administrative Officer Tom Rinehart, me, and our Council colleagues to explore, identify, and pursue strategies to realign or reassign bureau functions as appropriate to ensure consistency, efficiency, and effectiveness in the City's response to community needs. I appreciate the contributions of the bureau's graffiti abatement program to address ongoing vandalism and damage to our neighborhood and downtown storefronts. It is vitally important that the bureau continues to provide these services. I understand the program budget is limited but that the bureau is projected to significantly underspend its overall budget in the current fiscal year. I ask to you ensure that the bureau continues to provide this important service through the remainder of this fiscal year, and in turn I commit to proposing additional funds as needed in my Proposed Budget. I ask also that you continue to support Director Rhee's leadership role in the launch and successful implementation of the City's new and exciting partnership with Reimagine Oregon. This partnership will bring meaningful, ongoing resources to community and allow community to decide where they are best spent. I thank you for your support of this new investment in the Fall 2020 budget process, and for your continued prioritization of the relationship with Reimagine Oregon and the work.
- Small bureau alignment and efficiency: CAO Rinehart has worked with me on a review of many of the City's small bureaus and has identified options to save money and streamline our operations through restructuring and in some cases consolidation. I ask that you meet with CAO Rinehart for a briefing on this work as it relates to OCT, and that you partner with him and with Commissioner Rubio and me to expeditiously implement the consensus proposal he has developed. Of course, I am happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about this approach before it is implemented.

Again, I am deeply grateful for your service on the Council, and look forward to being your partner through the next several years of critical work.