



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland

**DATE:** January 12, 2021  
**TO:** Mingus Mapps, Commissioner  
**FROM:** Ted Wheeler, Mayor  
**RE:** Bureau and Liaison Assignments

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As I look ahead to 2021, I am very excited to welcome you to the Council, and excited to work with you 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:

- Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC)
- Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)
- Portland Water Bureau (PWB)
- Bureau of Hydroelectric Power
- Travel Portland
- Portland Film Office
- Visitor Development Fund Board (with Mayor Wheeler)
- Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission
- BOEC User Board
- Fair & Moral Claims Committee (with Commissioner Hardesty)

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:

- Community Safety Transition Director: 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. I look forward to your leadership and perspective as Commissioner-in-Charge of BOEC, a key element of the City's public safety system.
- 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 that we 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 Commissioner of the City's two utility bureaus, I ask you to ensure that BES and PWB leadership participates fully and constructively in this conversation.
- Public space management: Shared community spaces should be safe, welcoming, and accessible to all. This includes rights of way as well as natural areas and other public spaces. I will continue to work with Commissioner Ryan, the Office of Management and Finance, and the Joint Office of Homeless Services to ensure that homeless camp management prioritizes outreach and public health. I ask that BES and PWB continue to be partners in this compassionate and coordinated City approach.
- BES/Portland Parks & Recreation partnership: Commissioner Nick Fish advocated for PPR and BES to be assigned together to leverage their overlapping missions, values, and programs and bring greater alignment to their work. During his time as Commissioner-in-Charge of these bureaus, he worked hard to develop and advance a shared agenda, particularly around natural area management and the bureaus' separate but related tree programming. I ask that you partner with Commissioner Rubio to ensure this coordination continues to mature.
- Portland Street Response: I have asked Commissioner Hardesty, in her continued role as Commissioner-in-Charge of Portland Fire & Rescue and chief sponsor of the Portland Street Response program, to move more quickly toward implementation. I ask that you, as BOEC Commissioner, continue to support the work to bring this program online.
- General utility bureau priorities: PWB Director Gabe Solmer and BES Director Mike Jordan enjoy a strong, productive partnership which allows the utilities to coordinate closely on budget development. I ask that you ensure the continuity of this partnership, with a focus on rate affordability and on creative solutions to support Portland residents

and businesses through the worst of COVID's economic impacts. Additionally, I ask that you continue to support the bureaus' efforts to increase contracting equity and opportunity; they face unique challenges as they seek to expand the diversity of their contracting partners, and your leadership will be necessary to ensure continued progress. Lastly, I ask that you continue to keep future generations in mind as the bureaus develop and implement their capital programs; Council has prioritized on intergenerational equity as a consideration in decisions about capital spending, and it has helped us make informed, thoughtful choices about our utility infrastructure.

- General BOEC priorities: I have asked BOEC and the Police Bureau to develop strategies to improve call response time. I ask that you ensure BOEC continues to prioritize this goal, and continues to partner with the Police Bureau on efficient, effective, near-term solutions. As with all public safety bureaus, the demands on BOEC employees are unique and challenging. I ask that you work with Director Cozzie to ensure that BOEC is an inclusive, supportive environment for its employees.

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