



OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
RENE GONZALEZ

Portland City Commissioner Rene Gonzalez orders discretionary spending curtailment for Portland Fire Bureau

Due to high overtime costs in the Portland Fire Bureau, Portland City Commissioner Rene Gonzalez has issued a request for a spending curtailment for the Bureau, which will impact its discretionary spending and hiring.

He offered the following statement today on his decision:

At my direction, the Fire Bureau has begun a comprehensive review of their policies, procedures, and spending. As part of that picture, Fire is spending too much on overtime (approaching \$25 million in the fiscal year) because “straight time” staffing is insufficient.

In response to this financial reality, and in consultation with our office, Portland Fire has taken the following, immediate actions to not overspend its budget:

- A spending curtailment on Bureau-related materials and services through the end of June. Any unplanned, discretionary, or non-routine spending must be approved by Fire leadership in consultation with my office.
- The Bureau will not lease, purchase, or replace parts of its service fleet without prior approval from top Fire leadership in consultation with my office, and hiring will be immediately frozen. No new recruitments will be launched in the immediate future until Bureau finances are stabilized.

Fire Chief Sara Boone issued an agency-wide memo, dated February 6, reflecting these decisions.

Our goal is for this curtailment to last only as long as necessary. In the city’s coming budget cycle, I will be an advocate for Portland Fire to receive adequate funds to fill this shortfall and fully maintain its frontline services.

###