



August 18, 2023

Portland Parks & Recreation  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 858  
Portland, Oregon 97204

## RESPONSE LETTER

To: City Ombudsman Jennifer Croft

We appreciate the diligent investigation outlined in your report. The report highlights improvements that can be made in Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) vessel seizure procedure. We recognize the value of the findings and have committed to addressing concerns, with some improvements already implemented. Upon careful review of the recommendations, we are taking the following steps:

1. **Communication:** We have contacted all boat owners whose vessels were destroyed and informed them of their right to file claims with Risk Management.
2. **Procedure Enhancement:** Establish a comprehensive procedure aligned with ORS 830.908 to 830.948, covering pre-seizure, seizure, and post-seizure/disposal steps, ensuring compliance with state law and City Code.
3. **Outreach and Documentation:** Continue to engage individuals living on vessels in a humane and fair manner. This will include providing timely and accurate information about the seizure process, maintaining a searchable inventory of removed personal property, and collaborating with homeless outreach social service organizations to ensure affected individuals receive support.
4. **Procurement and Oversight:** Adhere to City procurement rules when engaging contractors for boat tows. Implement stringent oversight measures to ensure compliance with all legal requirements. Maintain thorough documentation of all aspects of the towing process, including notices, correspondence, photographs, and invoices.

### Administration

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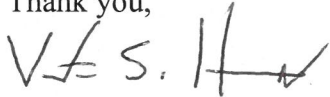
PORTLANDPARKS.ORG  
Commissioner Dan Ryan  
Director Adena Long



5. **Enhanced Recordkeeping:** Maintain an accurate and accessible recordkeeping system, ensuring transparency and procedural adherence in all boat towing activities.
6. **Public Safety Partner Collaboration and Safety Measures:** PP&R will continue to use de-escalation best practices and use support of public safety partners only as necessary when security risks are identified or in the case of emergencies.

Portland Parks & Recreation is committed to implementing the actions outlined above. We also recognize the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration with your office to ensure our progress is aligned with the best interests of our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicente S. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

**Vicente S. Harrison**

Health, Safety, and Emergency Manager  
Portland Parks & Recreation