

## **Summary of Mayor's fall budget priorities**

*Equity, COVID, violence prevention, environment top the list*

Investments in equity, COVID recovery, violence prevention and environmental stewardship top Mayor Ted Wheeler's list of budget priorities for the City's annual fall spending review.

### **Equity**

#### *Community Reinvestment Initiative*

The Mayor seeks to use \$3 million from the Police Bureau for a community-led process empowering Black Portlanders to reinvest in public safety. About \$1.9 million will come from cannabis taxes previously dedicated to police. About \$1.5 million will come from one-time funds. The balance will be used to help staff, support and report on the work. We will work with Reimagine Oregon and other community partners to design this process.

#### *LGBTQIA+ Policy Analyst*

A new Office of Equity and Human Rights position will help every bureau provide equal opportunity for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and remove barriers faced by LGBTQIA+ people. The position will be supported with about \$125,000 in ongoing revenue.

#### *Increased Capacity for the Office of Equity and Human Rights*

Three new positions will provide more training for employees, data analysis to ensure progress on equity goals, and increase accessibility for all City facilities and programs. This request also includes support for two AmeriCorps VISTA interns who will focus on Black male achievement. Finally, the Mayor seeks to direct bureaus to jointly fund a fourth position focused on civil rights investigations and trainings. Combined, the requests require \$430,000 in ongoing funds.

#### *Improving Tribal Relations*

The Mayor is asking the Council to approve a tribal relations position to provide support for the existing tribal liaison's highly successful work. The position requires \$130,000 in ongoing funds.

### **COVID-19 Recovery**

#### *Housing Stability and Safe Sleep Options*

The Mayor has prioritized renter and homeowner stability, and the safety of people experiencing homelessness, since the pandemic began. In his proposal, \$3.6 million in federal funds is allocated for several hundred additional shelter beds through the cold and rainy winter months, and \$1.4 million will support rent assistance to help people stay in their homes.

Two important programs to help people experiencing homelessness stay healthy and safe are funded with federal money that expires at the end of this calendar year: three outdoor camps serving about 100 people each; and 100 port-a-potties places throughout the community. The Mayor proposes to use unspent funds from the Portland Street Response, on a one-time basis, to continue these services through the end of this fiscal year. This allocation is \$2.1 million in total.

### *Sustaining the COVID-19 Emergency Coordination Center*

The Mayor is asking to City Council to approve continued support for operation of the COVID Emergency Coordination Center with a one-time allocation of \$290,000 to match FEMA funds supporting operations at the ECC.

### *Garbage and Litter Pick-Up*

COVID health guidelines are changing how we live and work, and have affected how we are managing shared public spaces. That's why the Mayor is asking the Council to approve an additional \$800,000 for garbage and litter collection and to support the work of the Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program. The Mayor is requesting \$650,000 in one-time funds and an additional \$150,000 from reallocations within the existing budget.

Additionally, the Mayor proposes \$77,000 in one-time dollars to extend our contract and continue our partnership with SOLVE for Keep it Pretty, Rose City cleanup events. This level of funding will allow SOLVE to expand their events and increase engagement in underserved neighborhoods, especially East Portland. This investment will fund the agreement through the end of 2021.

### *Downtown Retail Activation*

By shifting \$200,000 from the City's spectator venues fund, the Mayor seeks to invest \$150,000 with Travel Portland, which is working closely with an array of partners including the Old Town Community Association, Portland Business Alliance, public agencies, and other community partners to raise the profile of businesses that are open downtown. The Mayor also will ask the City Council provide \$50,000 for Prosper Portland's work to activate downtown neighborhoods.

### *Maintaining the Viability of City-Owned Performing Arts Venues*

To protect public health, City-owned arts venues operated by Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts are closed, and limited virtual events don't generate sufficient revenue to cover their operating costs.. To ensure they are ready and able to quickly reopen when conditions allow, the Mayor is asking the City Council for an investment of \$1.6 million to maintain minimal staffing and maintenance.

## **Violence Prevention**

### *Enhancing the Public Health Response to Gun Violence*

The Mayor is asking the City Council to approve two new positions for Office of Violence Prevention. One will provide support to the office's existing staff to increase their capacity and effectiveness. The other will focus on coordinating programs designed to foster existing and grow new community partnerships to prevent violence before it occurs. The Mayor seeks \$271,000 in ongoing funds to support this vital work.

## **Environmental Stewardship**

### *FEMA Floodplain Update*

The National Flood Insurance Program, managed by FEMA, requires that local floodplain management comply with Endangered Species Act protections for wild salmon and steelhead. The City is working on a multi-year project to keep local certification to maintain flood insurance

protection for Portland residents and businesses. The Mayor seeks \$260,000 in one-time funds to meet a critical FEMA deadline, stay in compliance, and continue important community engagement about the future of floodplain management and flood protection.

*Columbia River Levee Reconstruction*

Portland is part of a group called Levee Ready Columbia that is working to bring the Columbia River's local system of flood control levees, 27 miles in total, up to the federal government's standard to ensure local residents and business owners qualify for affordable flood insurance. Setting aside \$315,000 on an ongoing basis ensures Portland continues to meet its obligations.

*Dark Skies*

The Portland Dark Skies Project will reduce light pollution in Portland, reducing negative health impacts to humans and negative impacts on wildlife, reducing energy waste, and bringing back the night sky. Last year, Council directed the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to develop recommendations to get us there. In his proposal, Mayor Wheeler directs the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to develop a budget proposal to fund an important piece of the solution, Code updates, for Council's consideration as soon as practicable and no later than the Spring FY 2021-22 Supplemental Budget Process.

*Willamette River Superfund Clean-up*

The City is partnering with the EPA and others to make sure the cleanup of Portland Harbor is moving forward and led by community values and organizations. \$1 million in one-time resources will ensure the City meets its obligations.