

**PORTLAND TRANSITION TEAM
PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT**

Date range January 1st – January 31st, 2024

From January 1st through January 31st, the Portland Transition Team received a total of **13** public comments through our online comment form, via email and verbal public comment. **0** out of the **13** comments were submitted on behalf community-based organization(s). To date, we’ve received **2,634** public comments during the transition of Portland's city government.

Raw public comments received during January 1st through January 31st. Attachments are included at the end of the report.

Raw Public Comments
<p>When will the next upcoming tour of the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant be offered. I'd like our teenage children to be educated with this opportunity.</p>
<p>Dear _____,</p> <p>I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the updated organizational structure.</p> <p>One of the things that still needs to be accomplished as the charter reform rolls out is a stronger and more coordinated way of addressing climate change. There are climate, environment, and sustainability related issues in each of the proposed service areas. I’m glad to see that these are spread out across the city’s priorities and projects.</p> <p>Two ways I would like to see the organizational structure prioritize climate are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create a new Climate Officer role in the City Administrator’s office. This would be a new position. The Chief Sustainability Officer needs to continue in the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability. A new Climate Officer would be able to have a bird’s eye view of all the service areas and bureaus. Having a Climate Officer would enable a more cohesive approach to climate action, implement the Climate Emergency Workplan, and acquire outside funding to meet the City’s climate and environmental goals.2. Work on a natural resources plan by September 2024, including 1) a facilitator to guide the process, 2) a robust public engagement process, 3) determining sources of funding, and 4) coordinating within existing bureaus and service areas to most comprehensively address ecosystem functioning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and aid public wellbeing. <p>Thank you for ensuring Portland’s new structure will focus on addressing climate change, environmental concerns, and equity.</p>

Sincerely,

Thank you. I listened to yesterday's Outreach and Engagement subcommittee. I very much appreciate staff's effort to address my questions that come in the form of comments and in writing last month. Again, I do very much appreciate staff's efforts there. I want to thank Terry Harris and other subcommittee members for driving the issues I identified forward with a motion in yesterday's meeting. It didn't pass and I think that is unfortunate. I did hear everything on this topic in the meeting. First off, I want to say that the goals of getting outreach to underserved communities is extremely important. It's part of the charter mandates. It's what Portlanders want and there aren't that many organizations that can do that. I understand all that, but you are going to have a 501(c)(3), non-profit, that is also a Political Action Committee. Unless I misunderstand something, it will be the same staff members dividing their time between the two funds. They will go out there and do Get Out the Vote outreach work, simultaneously providing this nonpartisan outreach and engagement, while also advocating for their partisan position on candidates. It's really going to get a negative reaction from the city. I think you really need to rethink this. I will end my comments by saying that by listening to staff yesterday there were a couple of things that were not correct. The PAC is not currently formulated to do political work in 2024, but I think it can change that at any time. And specifically, Portland United for Change organized a rally against two city commissioners that were simply holding a work session in July 2022. So that sounds like it's in contradiction to its Oregon filed PAC mission is. They were trying to disrupt a city work session on modest amendments to the charter reform. Is this the organization that you want to have do city outreach on Get Out the Vote? Thank you.

My comments today are personal even though I am an employee of _____ and I volunteer with a political action committee. As I have testified to this committee previously, I am very concerned about the contracting process for voter outreach. After hearing the commission's conversations and other public testimony in past meetings, in particular the subcommittee meeting yesterday, I have grown even more concerned. I don't think the City understands the bad optics voter outreach contracts are going to have with a large percent of Portland Voters who didn't vote for charter reform. Many who voted against it specifically disliked the idea of ranked choice voting, not necessarily myself but I know a lot of people did. So, to hear that at least one organization has fundraised to push a yes on the charter reform in 2022 is going to get a bunch of money to "teach a bunch of underserved communities how to vote" while technically legal, sounds bad where you say it out loud. Once again, I am asking the commission if the city office of Community and Civic Life is playing a role in ensuring that all avenues of outreach are exhausted. I can put my email in the chat again, I have submitted when I signed up, but I have asked these questions before, so I am repeating myself. But I am again going to remind you that the original charter commission paid a lot of money to get a little over 1,000 residents to respond to a survey. You will forgive me for not trusting outsourcing as a good use of taxpayer dollars. I will also remind you that all voters in Portland need educational outreach to be taught how the new voting system works, not just underserved communities. One mailer to each household is really not sufficient, particularly when compared to how much is being spent on specific communities. In doing all of this, we need to be seeing targeted metrics and this commission should be planning on receiving very regular updates about how many people were reached each week. Particularly to see trends on what methods were found to be working better than others. I did miss

one or two of your meetings, but is there an update on a previous question I posed on money being spent on outreach to Portland voters who reside in Washington and Clackamas counties? Because there are voters there that are not Portland residents. I ask these questions because, for instance I recently watched a Metro PBOT project meeting on 82 Avenue, and I was flabbergasted to learn that they were ok moving forward on a vote when only 6 committee members from one neighborhood responded to their outreach efforts. It turns out the organization they hired to do this work didn't even notify the neighborhood or business associations. While I know there is a controversy in the city about diversity in these groups they should not be excluded from these conversations. It's a fallacy to assume that all members of underserved communities are served by these community organizations that are supposed to represent them. We need to go beyond these nonprofit organizations to do true outreach on the ground in neighborhoods in all types of gathering spaces. I am once again asking; will these organizations be barred from endorsing and backing specific city council candidates and any of their sister arm organizations? In general, these people have backup nonprofits to work around pesky rules like that. It is horrifying to me to think that the same groups that are teaching people how to vote are influencing them on who to vote for at the same time, on the taxpayer dollars. Are you going to work with any partners who did not lobby for a yes vote on Measure 26-228? Thank you.

GTAC/Transition,

During Jennifer Chang's presentation (see cover page attachment) [Figure 1], she mentioned that a copy of the full plan/document would be provided to GTAC; I believe via link. I am requesting the URL as well or that the document is posted to the Transition website (both ideally).

Secondly, with respect to the proposed letter to Council to beef up Council staffing I offer the following thoughts:

1. I believe it is incumbent on GTAC to propose what they want, why with quantification and rationale. Using "similar to peer cities" is an insufficient description/quantification and justification of need. In other words, what will the different incremental position(s) by type do and what is the basis for the number being requested.
2. I have been suggesting for months that the roles/responsibilities between the Executive and Legislative branches needed to be defined. Seems to me that is, in part, a prerequisite for what GTAC is requesting; particularly if I understand what Terry Harris has commented previously.
3. There is not a lot of time and the "budget crunch" appears very tight. Therefore, not having a work product in your back pocket, something to socialize, etc. will put GTAC and the proposal at a disadvantage as the budget process is running on its OWN schedule and track; at it needs to.

4. I have previously provided my thoughts to GTAC/Transition on this topic.

5. Lastly, perfection will not happen day one. Processes, staffing, etc. can be refined and improved over time based on experience. The same level of justification for more will be needed now or later; so focus on point 1 as I believe it will be a mistake to say add X because peer cities, on average, have X.

Last, to cover all bases, wanted to make sure (regardless of the proposed letter) that the staffing level for Council as reviewed by CAO Jordan with Council is being budgeted in full. I sort of thought I heard that but there were no slides, etc. to confirm. Net, it is critical that AT A MINIMUM that staffing complement is being covered - consider it a "floor" depending on whatever happens with the proposed letter to Council.

Regards,

Force Portland police to turn on the \$10 million body cameras.

Hello - In the Mayor's second budget memo (link below) <https://www.portland.gov/cbo/2024-2025-budget/documents/fy-2024-25-mayors-budget-memo-2/download>

there is information on charter transition costs. (see italicized text below). I am writing to request a copy of the technical guidance memo as described in the yellow highlighted portion of the italicized text below.

Charter Transition Costs As we continue to implement charter changes, CBO will release a technical guidance memo that will provide additional detail about how these costs will be budgeted and funded. This guidance will be based on the service area assessment reports that are due on December 29th to the Charter Transition Team.

My impression from information provided at the special December GTAC meeting focused on budget matters was that this technical guidance would have been available by now. However, I do not see it added to the CBO's budget preparation webpage and do not see it added to GTAC related webpages. Hence, I am making this email request.

I am also sending this request to the Transition comment email address since I also suggest that this technical guidance memo be provided ASAP to the GTAC given concerns they, appropriately, have raised about adequate budgeting for the new form of government.

If this technical guidance memo is not yet completed, when will it be done?

Thanks for your prompt attention to this request. Thanks for all your work on what is definitely an improved budget development process.

I strongly urge adoption of policy option 1 in 15.04.050. An appropriate balance between the role of the administrative and legislative branches of Portland government is achieved by allowing, with a supermajority vote of at least nine councilors, the reduction or termination of the duration of an emergency.

An onboarding priority for new elected officials should be highlighting the continuation of the housing emergency declaration in 15.04.060 and, in particular, its longer term duration options compared to provisions in 15.04.050.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Emergency Code proposal. Comments on proposed Title 15 Emergency Code.

GTAC/Transition Team,

1. Agree with Joe Hertzberg comment that GTAC needs to provide a rationale for additional staffing levels it may recommend/advocate. As I have commented previously, "Transition" (staff/GTAC) needs to articulate the anticipated roles and responsibilities of Council vs Executive and Committees. See June 12, 2023 email.
2. Future Council + District Operations
 - a. Agree with comments on slide 10 re # committees, district representation and chair/vice-chair representation.
 - b. However, I'm conflicted on the proposed committees (scope) on slide 11.
 - i. Independent of any other considerations, the ones proposed seem conceptually good. However, the devil is in the details.
 - ii. I have suggested all things being equal, it would be advantageous in the beginning to have as much alignment between the service areas/DCA's and Council Committees.
 - iii. I agree with Joe Hertzberg that there are two key roles (legislative and oversight) for the Council/Committees. I see advantages in work product from bubbling up from committees because everyone can't be a subject matter expert. When doing oversight, it's helpful to have committee members with "institutional memory" to hold staff accountable.

- iv. The figure below [Figure 2] is an attempt to highlight the tension between the two perspectives. The left column represents the approved organization structure and the right the proposed committees with the right most column my best (partial) guess of intended portion of the org structure. It's not perfect, but Transition/GTAC should go through a disciplined thought process to understanding the implications of recommendations it might make on this subject.
- a. Re slide 12 (input to committees):
 - v. The comments on this slide relate to public input/testimony. I suggest this needs to be answered in the context of the kinds of activity committees will manage, how initiated and/or supported by staff, etc. This would be a follow-on to answering how the two branches work together.
 - vi. In some cities, their economic development committee reviews and approves deals for full council approval, the transportation and infrastructure committee reviews and approves major contracts for full council approval, etc. How all of the work and that which is more time sensitive is handled needs to be considered.
 - vii. What and how public and written comment is handled and directed to a committee vs council/council members needs to be considered. For example, when policies and programs are in "development" whose managing the process? In many cities, it's the administrative side and there may be advisory committees running in parallel where input is collected and assessed and periodic reviews with Council/committees. I asked this question to highlight the need to define roles/responsibilities. Without this a lot else will be speculative.
- c. Observation: A well-functioning new government requires each branch to function well and with each other. Might be helpful to develop a list of attributes of what "well functioning" means to consider when assessing options. Cost-effective is one attribute which is relevant to above comments.
- 3. Agree with slide 14 (Community Input: Council Operations) observation about committees enhancing policy and budget development (see 2.c.iii). However, I don't believe I have seen discussion on the phases of the proposed annual budget process and the points of committee and council involvement. Some observations:
 - d. Top level priority setting (programs, major projects, strategy goals, etc), then in the context of financial constraints, could benefit early on from Committee and Council involvement – how? Relative roles?
 - e. Obviously review of the Mayor's proposed budget, when available, by both Committee and Council. Unclear of intermediate reviews; e.g., comparable to initial bureau [now service area] budgets, will occur.
- 4. Re "Onboarding"
 - f. Totally agree need to capitalize on the interim between the election and swearing-in. The more dedicated time the better. Agree the Mayor and Auditor should participate as well.
 - g. While I agree they need to do some "goal setting" for themselves, I also believe they need to be grounded in:

- viii. Contextual realities Portland (as a city) faces; e.g., financial, economic/demographic, etc. trends). Manage expectations; including anticipate budget constraints already being articulated.
- ix. Background context for any major matters that require earlier action on the part of the Council (if any)
- h. I suppose only the new Council (sometime after Jan 2, 2025) can institute new codes and processes. I previously commented that the recent Code 3.02 changes are insufficient for a well functioning new government on Jan 2, 2025 or very soon thereafter. We should aim for a proposal to SOCIALIZE with the new Council prior to their swearing in. It can be improved as needed over time. Get them thinking about something.

Regards,

Hello,

Several questions:

- 1) Interested in beginning to advocate for the District 1 commissioner's office to be placed in Historic Parkrose. (92nd to 122nd Sandy blvd) Who should I reach out to to start the conversation?
- 2) If a couple of the neighborhood associations in Outer NE Portland were to organize a transition education gathering, how much lead time would be needed?
- 3) If the same NA's tried to put together a District 1 candidate forum, would the transition team be able to assist with that or would that be the NA's responsibility?

Best,

Several of the Youtube videos on <https://www.portland.gov/transition/portland-transition-election-code/ranked-choice-voting> appear to no longer be available.

Can you clarify the public we information. I want to know if the candidates MUST live in the districts. I do not want them to live outside the boundaries and I want them removed when they leave, if they move after appointment or election.

Hello, I sent this article (*Figure 3*) last week to Mayor Wheeler but never got an acknowledgment. What is the City Government doing to stop this exodus?



Figure 1

APPROVED ORGANIZATION CHART	PROPOSED COMMITTEES	ALIGNMENT WITH ORG CHART
Bud & Fin (All)	Comm Dev	Comm Dev Permitting & Dev Serv
City Ops (All)	Comm Dev	Comm Dev Prosper Portland, Spectator Venues
Comm Dev BPS	Comm Dev	Vib Comm Arts, Parks&Rec, Child Levy
Comm Dev HB	Comm Dev Sustain & Climate	Comm Dev BPS
Comm Dev Permitting & Dev Serv	Gov't Perf & Finance	Bud & Fin (All)
Comm Dev Prosper Portland, Spectator Venues	Gov't Perf & Finance	City Ops (All)
Pub Saf (All)	Gov't Perf & Finance	Mayor Mayor, Attorney
Vib Comm Arts, Parks&Rec, Child Levy	Gov't Perf & Finance	Auditor
Vib Comm Nat Area/Tree Mgmt	Gov't Perf & Finance	City Admin (All else)
Pub Works (All) BES, PBOT, Water	Housing & Homelessness	Comm Dev HB
Mayor Police	Pub Health & Pub Safety	Pub Saf (All)
Mayor Mayor, Attorney	Pub Health & Pub Safety	Mayor Police
Auditor	Pub Health & Pub Safety	City Admin Portland Solutions
City Admin Portland Solutions	Sustainability & Climate	City Admin Sustainability Officer
City Admin Sustainability Officer	Sustainability & Climate Comm Dev	Vib Comm Nat Area/Tree Mgmt
City Admin (All else)	Trans & Infrastructure	Pub Works (All) BES, PBOT, Water

Red indicated other elected positions

Red indicates alternative assignment

Figure 2

Inside Look Shows How Bid to Fight Store Theft Floundered

By Jeff Hansen

Target, H&M, and K&M all complained about crime in Portland, Ore., privately before announcing plans to close stores in the city in 2024.

The closures followed months—and in some cases years—of negotiations between company officials and the city over getting additional police patrols near their locations, improving response times and mounting homeless encampments, according to emails reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. Ultimately the companies said the city didn't provide enough support and they decided to relocate these locations, emails show.

The correspondence illustrates the heated-the-sense tensions between the public and private sectors over how to address retail crime. Retailers boost the city's economy, but limited resources hinder local leaders' ability to satisfy the demands of each company. Oregon's largest city has struggled with a rise in violent crimes, homelessness and a decline in its population.

Shoplifting cases in Portland were up 60% in the first half of 2023 when compared with the same period in 2022, according to a Journal analysis of city crime data. The increase in Portland's shoplifting rate over the period was well above the average among 91 cities studied by the Council on Criminal Justice, a think tank.

[Please return to page A1](#)

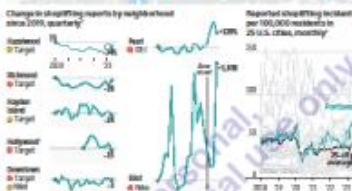
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Retailers' Theft Fight Fell Short

Continued from page 1
Retail associations said last year that elevated crime has hurt profits, and industry groups have called for greater collaboration with law enforcement. This month, the governor of California and New York called for new legislation to combat retail crime.

Portland leaders told the Journal that the crime didn't increase in a comparable way. "It's not as simple as saying, 'Retailers are being targeted and we're losing money,'" said Andrew Fitzpatrick, Portland's director of economic development. "It's a lot more complicated than just theft increase and a store closure." Fitzpatrick said that the city's crime data is more complicated than just theft increase and a store closure. "It's a lot more complicated than just theft increase and a store closure," Fitzpatrick said. "It's a lot more complicated than just theft increase and a store closure."



The large increase in theft cases during some areas... (Caption text is partially obscured by a watermark)

that will operationalize goods... (Text is partially obscured by a watermark)

In a Feb. 5, 2023, letter to the city, Nike said it temporarily closed the store in response to a rapid increase in theft. It offered to pay for on- or off-duty police officers to provide additional security, and asked that its request be considered by May 1.

About two weeks later, Mayor Ted Wheeler requested that the proposal be fast-tracked. The city was eager to help address retail theft.

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CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS
"Store Dark Thirty" was reworded for an Oct. 14 article on Saturday about Reginald Miller's theft. Miller incorrectly said that it was the clear for last picture.

NIKE
The block where Nike's first Portland store site registered a 7% increase in shoplifting reports in 2022 from 2021.

Figure 3