

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL BULLETIN

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COUNCIL WELCOME

First, we want to thank you for taking the time to hear about how your City's elected leaders are finding ways every day to make Portland an even better place to raise a family, run a business and live the kind of life we in the Pacific Northwest are so proud of.

Your City Council is focused on the needs of every Portlander. We are committed to helping businesses start and grow. We are committed to making our streets safer and our roads better – for cars, buses and bicycles alike. And we are committed to ensuring that Portland stays a world leader in urban sustainability.

Through this bulletin, each Commissioner will share with you some of the great work they and their bureaus and city employees manage every day that helps make Portland a sustainable, livable City.

We are all proud to represent each and every Portlander and we thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Adams

Commissioner Nick Fish

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Commissioner Randy Leonard

Commissioner Dan Saltzman



CALL **503.823.4000**



Mayor Adams Accepts DEQ Stimulus Check



Mayor Sam Adams and Commissioner Nick Fish inaugurated the new Better Together food garden at City Hall on May 5, 2009. Photo by Steve Cohen.

MAYOR SAM ADAMS

On May 27, the City Council voted unanimously to approve my proposed budget. It was a budget crafted with the needs of Portlanders in mind, and in very tough times, it was a basic-needs budget. Cutting \$9 million from current service levels: that is what is required to balance the City's general fund budget. What was needed is a boost to housing assistance programs of 30%; an increase in assistance to small businesses of 27%; and, more funding for summer youth programs of 40%. We are balancing the budget and helping the worst off by funding those programs.

And, I'm focused on the economic needs of the city both now and in the long-term. That is why my office has been tirelessly focused on making sure the City is ready to compete for and put to work the millions of federal stimulus dollars coming our way this year, money that will fuel local business and create jobs. And, we're working with partners at the County and across the City to fund and manage more jobs for youth this summer.

At the same time, we've worked with a broad group of partners to craft a long-term economic development strategy, which the Council will be voting on this month. I invite you to visit my website, www.mayorsamadams.com, to learn more.

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*Nick at Reach Paint-and-Repair-A-Thon.
Picture courtesy of REACH CDC @ 2008*

COMMISSIONER NICK FISH

Although the economic climate continues to present us with historic challenges, I'm very encouraged by the attention to housing in the Mayor's budget. We are on schedule to launch a new Portland Housing Bureau that is innovative, efficient, and accountable. We are also pleased to be moving forward with the proposed Resource Access Center (RAC) that will assist in providing shelter, day access, job placement, and other services to people experiencing homelessness. For Portland Housing Bureau updates, including the upcoming announcement of the new Bureau Director, you can go to my [Housing Transition webpage](#).

I'm also lucky to serve as the city's Parks Commissioner and am working hard on several new [Parks Initiatives](#). You may have recently heard that over two dozen local businesses and individuals helped us save the 2009 Washington Park Summer Festival. You can find information on this festival and all the many other free and low-cost summer activities by going to the [Parks website](#) and clicking on "Free for All". I also encourage you to check out another new Parks website called [ParkScan](#). This new interactive tool lets community members communicate their concerns and ideas directly to their neighborhood park manager.



COMMISSIONER AMANDA FRITZ

Portland is a wonderful city because of our commitment to our neighborhoods and our environment. On those two matters, I'm proud to share that the City budget for the coming year fully funds two crucial offices that I have the honor of overseeing: The [Office of Human Relations](#); and the [Office of Neighborhood Involvement](#). Both offices allow us to ensure that Portlanders' voices are heard, both on the good and the bad.

And, we're also moving forward with another systemic approach – the health and productivity of our majestic, city-defining rivers. Mayor Adams fully funded my request for the Office of Healthy Working Rivers in his budget. That office, which will report to me, demonstrates how sustainability and planning go hand in hand, on land and in our waterways. To learn more, read [The Office of Healthy Working Rivers meeting notes](#) on my website.



*Amanda Volunteering at SOLV Down by
the Riverside Cleanup*

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*Development Services Center
at 1900 SW 4th Avenue.*



*Dan buys local at the
Portland Farmers Market*



*Dan at Red Robin, collecting tips
for Tip-A-Cop which benefits
the Special Olympics*

COMMISSIONER RANDY LEONARD

If you contacted the City in December to get a development permit, you could expect long delays and frustration. Previously, each of the city's five elected commissioners might have managed a piece of the permitting puzzle. Some applications traveled to eight bureaus scattered across several buildings. People complained: How can you encourage sustainable business when you make it so hard to get anything done?

Good point. In January, we decided to make it easier. If you go to the city for a permit later this summer, all the people you need to talk to will all be in the same place at 1900 SW 4th Avenue. You'll get the paperwork finished faster. All the city's permit functions now reside in one place. And, we will continue to monitor and evaluate the permitting process to ensure that businesses find it as easy and straightforward as possible to start a business or grow their business.

COMMISSIONER DAN SALTZMAN

I am fortunate to oversee a wide range of issues and contribute to the safety and sustainability of our great City. The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) provides Portland residents with water quality protection, watershed planning, wastewater collection and treatment, sewer installation and stormwater management. BES is continuing many of its signature projects this Summer, including the Big Pipe project, and Grey to Green, a systemic approach to manage stormwater runoff and keep our rivers and watersheds clean and healthy.

I also have the distinct honor of serving as Portland's Police Commissioner. Facing a tough budget climate, I worked closely with the Portland Police Bureau to develop a precinct-restructuring plan. The plan will save the Bureau more than \$3.5 million dollars, equivalent to 55 officer positions. Administrative and overhead savings from the plan will also allow 21 more officers on the streets. And, officers working closely with communities already will stay connected to those communities, preserving relationships, adhering to our community policing principles, and maintaining or improving response times.