

HALES, from page 4

management and good use of the dollars we have and then go out there and be the salesperson for whatever we have to do for new revenue about a year from now.

I.B.: *How's the biking community going to fare?*

C.H.: Just as people are going to have to be patient with the structures of this budget, people are going to have to be patient with the rebuilding of transportation. We are not going to be building a lot of new stuff while we are doubling down on maintenance. But when we are there and on a sustainable path, then we are going to continue to be a leading city where you can take transit, walk, or ride a bike safely around the city.

I.B.: *I'm not sure many understand the pressure it must take both physically and mentally to run a city. How do you internalize the work you do day-in and day-out?*

C.H.: I genuinely love this city. I'm one of those people that came here by choice a long time ago. I've seen Portland blossom over the years. I'm really in love with this city.

I feel that I am in the right place at the right time. I've had a career of being both in the public and private sector. I feel I bring all that experience to the job. I'm a parent, so I understand schools, I understand kids. As a person, I think that is good grounding. I've learned a lot about managing people over the past 10 years, so I feel I am a better manager than I ever was before.

So I get up every day very excited about coming to work. I do wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning thinking about the budget or worrying about things occasionally. But fortunately, I think I am able to pace myself and not have the job eat me alive. I think that's always the danger.

I try to exercise three to four days a week and occasionally have a night with my wife where we are just sitting at home reading a book. I think you have to carve out a little life for yourself outside of the work you do.

I.B.: *In four years, what will you have hoped to accomplish as Mayor of Portland?*

C.H.: In four years, I hope we have turned the corner on public education in this state, and therefore in this city. We've got to have that.

I think the economy is going to rebuild. There will be more and better jobs. There will be more manufacturing jobs because that part of our city is actually growing. So there is going to be hands-on, real work to do and I think

that is vital in this city. Then I think the neighborhood business environment is going to do well. It's already pretty good, but I think it will get better.

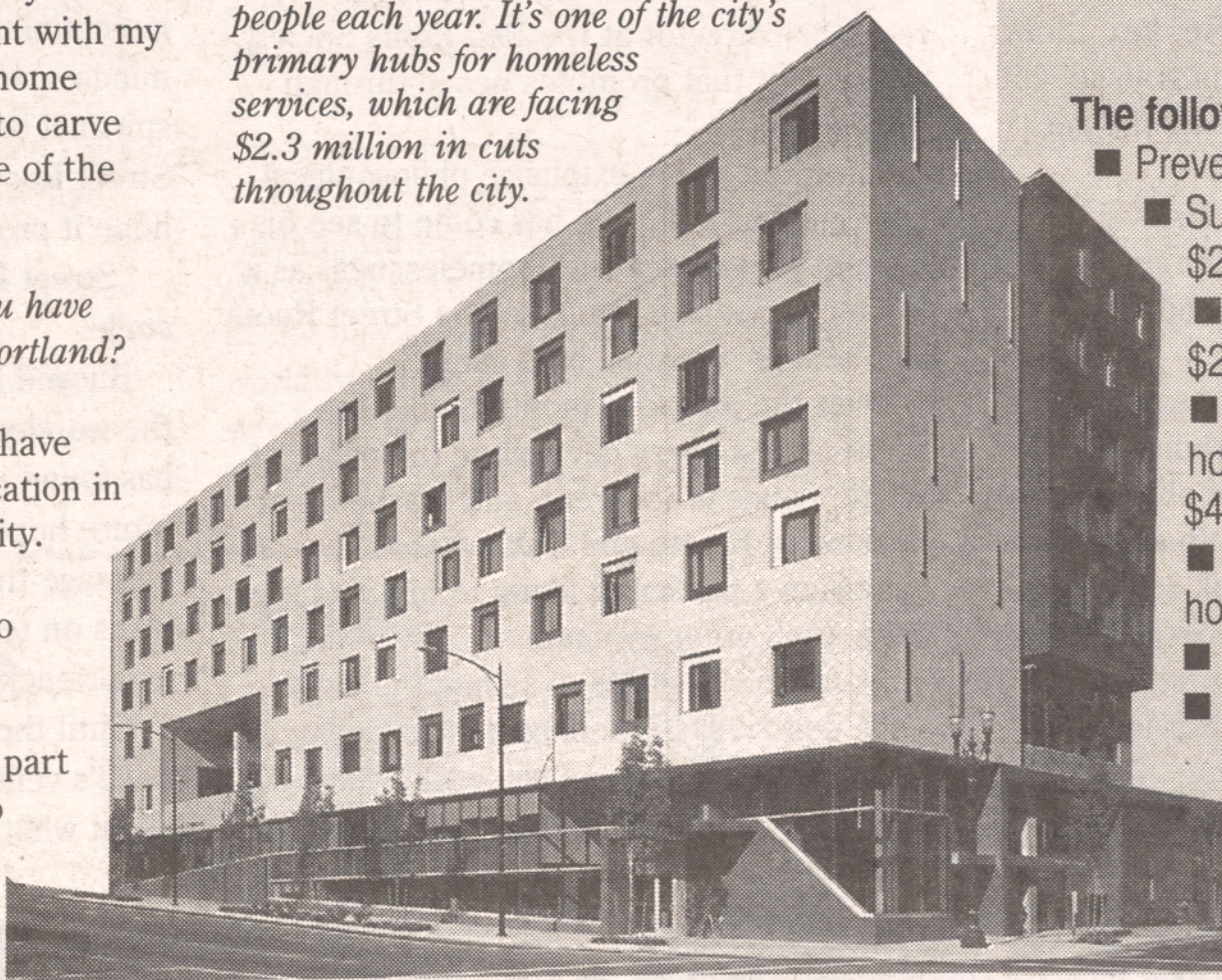
The other thing I hope we see after four years is real substantial improvement in the neighborhoods that have been underserved — the neighborhoods where you don't have a park, or where you can't walk on the sidewalk to school. East Portland, in particular, and other parts of the city that got annexed into the city late and where we haven't made investments in our basic public services. I think we are going to be making progress there and people will be saying, "Oh, you know, I can see that maybe five or 10 years from now this neighborhood is going to be different." That's a 20-year solution.

I.B.: *What else?*

C.H.: What's strange about being mayor is that people really do feel that they can just come up to you on the street and strike up a conversation and tell you, "Hey, I want to tell you what matters to me." I love that about Portland. I was in the grocery store in my neighborhood last night with my wife, and we had three different conversations between the milk case and the check-out line.

I hope people always consider me approachable and that it's OK to buttonhole the mayor on a street corner and tell me what you think. I hope no one gets intimidated by me, or the office of mayor. I try to put people at ease and try to reduce that seeming barrier between the "very important person" and a citizen. Hey, I am a citizen who just volunteered for a job here. I try to act like a small-town mayor in a big city. So I hope people feel comfortable with taking advantage of that.

Below, the Bud Clark Commons houses Transition Projects' homeless and housing programs, including the city's winter shelter and short-term shelter that serves 700 people each year. It's one of the city's primary hubs for homeless services, which are facing \$2.3 million in cuts throughout the city.



On the block

Charlie Hales steps into the mayor's shoes with a big hole to fill — \$25 million, to be somewhat less than exact. That includes major — and in some cases unavoidable — cuts to the city's housing and homeless services championed by his predecessor, Sam Adams.

Hales directed all city bureaus to develop a budget proposal equal to 90 percent of their current General Fund budget. Bureaus also had the opportunity to submit "add packages" (see below) equal to the 10 percent General Fund reduction. The cuts could be brutal for people experiencing poverty.

The Portland Housing Bureau is facing a \$1 million cut from the city budget and an additional \$1.2 million cut from the federal government, totaling \$2.3 million.

The following programs and services have the potential to either be cut or eliminated:

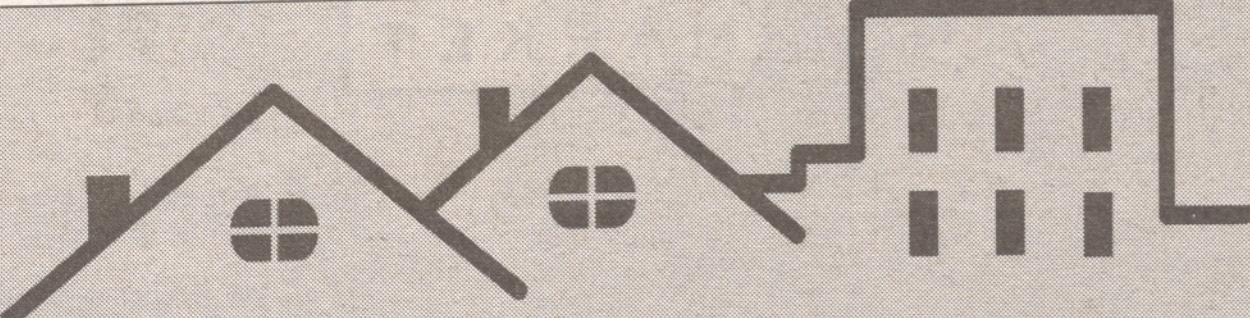
- Eliminate winter shelter at the Clark Center, a 90-bed shelter for men that serves 700 people annually
- Reduce youth and other shelter support by \$100,000
- Eliminate winter recuperative care, a program that works with people experiencing homelessness who are coming out of the hospital
- Reduce short-term rent assistance by nearly \$100,000
- Reduce mental health outreach, family rent assistance, and alcohol and drug treatment by \$200,000
- Eliminate programs at 211info and the Oregon Community Warehouse, including Housing Connections — \$215,000
- Reduce support to the Bud Clark Commons drop-in by \$27,000
- Cut Homebuyer education homeownership fairs by nearly \$50,000
- Reduce homeownership retention program by \$80,000
- Reduce the Rose City Resource funding by \$3,000 (The city currently gives Street Roots \$30,000 to produce the guide)

The bureau is requesting that the following programs included in the add-back package. This package includes \$1.1 million in funding that is at risk:

- Funding to keep the 90-bed men's Clark Center Shelter open
- Programs that provide winter recuperation care, winter shelter and the youth shelter
- Programs that support permanent housing outreach, placement, services and stabilization for vulnerable people. Programs include mental health outreach and housing placement, street outreach, housing placement and retention, Alcohol and Drug Free Communities, family rent assistance, Rose City Resource Guide, Rent Well, youth transitional housing, and Community Engagement Program.
- Programs that build the pipeline of potential homebuyers from communities of color and help homeowners retain their homes.

The following programs face permanent cuts at the housing bureau:

- Prevention: Reduce short term rent assistance, \$97,890
- Supportive Housing: Bud Clark Commons permanent supportive housing, \$27,000
- Supportive Housing: Reduce funding for Bridgeview by 5 percent, \$23,860
- Homeownership education and foreclosure prevention: Eliminate homebuyer retention program funding for citywide program expansion, \$46,609
- Homeownership education and foreclosure prevention: Eliminate homebuyer fairs, \$8,000
- Emergency Services: Reduce shelters by 5 percent, \$108,490
- Eliminate funding for Oregon Community Warehouse, \$23,500
- Eliminate funding for shared housing program, \$89,000
- Reduce Rent Well administration funding by 50 percent, \$33,273
- Eliminate support of Housing Connections website, \$30,000


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