

Right to search: Consent searches are ‘a common tool’

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often when we are looking at electronic data or when searching someone's house. It's also our practice to inform people verbally of their right to refuse a search if that is the case."

Consent searches are "a common tool in a police officer's repertoire," said Michael Selvaggio, a lobbyist for the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs. "As such they have, in fact, resulted in a number of harmful or dangerous individuals, substances and weapons being taken off the street."

Selvaggio said the requirement would result in criminal cases being overturned and additional litigation over convictions.

Kimberly McCullough, legislative director for ACLU of Oregon, said there is no judicially defined standard of proof for officers to initiate a consent search during a traffic stop. That means that consent searches can "effectively facilitate racial profiling and other types of profiling," McCullough said.

"The ACLU is concerned that what may often be purportedly consensual searches may, in many cases, actually be coercive to individuals who either don't understand the implications of consent, or that they have a right to refuse a search, or that feel intimidated into consenting," McCullough said.

Frederick's proposal was considered for inclusion in a higher profile omnibus racial

profiling bill crafted by a Department of Justice task force, but was omitted due to law enforcement opposition.

Similar laws have been passed in Rhode Island and in municipalities around the nation, said McCullough of the ACLU of Oregon.

"Some of the members of the community that I deal with there is a sense of being under siege, and it's not just the kind of thing that you hear headlines about in terms of any sort of use of force but also sort of drip, drip, drip of harassment or concerns of not (feeling) they're not being treated fairly," Frederick said.

Another bill by Frederick aims to reduce the use of traffic citation quotas in law enforcement.



Portland Tribune
Oregon state Rep. Law Frederick speaks in 2015. He has sponsored a bill that would require police officers to advise people of their right to refuse a search during a traffic stop.

Wright: Seaside 'is home for me now'

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Wright, a Seaside homeowner for nearly five years, is also a member of the Budget Committee and president of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society's board of directors.

He was the former chief financial officer of Columbia Grain International, a company he served with for 35 years before his retirement.

Three other contenders—Norman Brown, John Chapman and George Stacey—also interviewed for the Ward 1 seat.

"We went through four local community citizens who were brave enough to put their names into consideration by council," Barber said. "The problem was, when we were done, we wanted to add four more seats to council. They were all highly qualified."

Councilors Tita Montero, Randy Frank, Dana Phillips and Mayor Barber voted for Wright. Seth Morrissey voted for Stacey. Horning was absent.

"This was a tough, tough decision, to have such four incredible candidates come before us," Phillips said. "All of you did such an incredible job interviewing. I would hope some of you would step up to the Planning Commission."

'I have an affinity for the history of Seaside.'

Steve Wright

planning commissioner who was voted in to fill the remaining two years of Mayor Jay Barber's unexpired council term

Frank said, "For Steve, maybe we should consider a stipulation for incoming councilors that they work to fill vacancies on the committees and boards in their first year," Frank added.

After the meeting, Barber said Wright's regular attendance at council meetings was a big factor in his decision.

"We felt like he would be the least difficult to up-ramp," Barber said. "His kind of style of leadership and function really fit well with the rest of the council. He's a finance guy, too. None of us on the board have that particular skill set."

Wright said his priorities include housing, tsunami preparation and placing a focus on the city's past.

"I have an affinity for the history of Seaside," Wright said. "All those things can come together and I can make Seaside an even better place to live. I just love it. This is home for me now."

Wright will be sworn in at the first council meeting in March.

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