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The **Hortland Observer** 

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What's on your list today?

## City Hall Shake Up

## Second bureau director dismissed

Paul Scarlett, Portland's director of the Bureau of Development Services for the last 12 years, told his department employees on Monday he was resigning. The announcement came after he was asked to step down by Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

Eudaly, a former bookstore owner, ran on a grassroots housing reform platform promising to shake things up at City Hall.

Scarlett is the fourth person in the last few months to be given notice by Eudaly since taking office in January. Scarlett, as the head of the city department which issues permits for property and land development, has seen his share of adversity during his tenure.

In 2008 during the housing cri-



Paul Scarlett

sis, his staff was severely reduced and as the real estate bubble rebounded the department struggled without enough personnel as a result. In the last year, employee and customer surveys reflected negatively on the bureau. Scarlett is the second bureau director to be dismissed by Eudaly. Amalia Alarcon de Morris, the former director of the Office of Neighborhood In-



Chloe Eudaly

volvement was let go in March. Scarlett will receive a \$183,000 severance package.

In his email announcing his leave, Scarlett said: "I leave knowing we have made great strides in the work we do and I am confident the bureau and its employees will continue to play an important, relevant and necessary role in the development of this beautiful city."



A KOIN-TV photo shows the large bulge and crack found Tuesday on a 10-story office building in downtown Portland Tuesday.

## Building Collapse Scare Downtown

Streets were closed and TriMet service was suspended in a two-block section of downtown Portland on Tuesday when a 10-story commercial building threatened to collapse.

The Fifth Avenue Building at 1400 S.W. Fifth Ave. hosts a FedEx shipping center, Ebay's regional offices, a 24-Hour Fitness gym, offices for OHSU and a Kindercare children's day care. The building, which was constructed in 1951 as the state of Oregon's main Portland office, was evacuated following a 911 call made by one of the office employees who works there.

A spokesman for Portland Fire & Rescue later said that an initial assessment by city engineers has led officials to believe that the damage is on the building's façade, and is not an imminent structural concern. No injuries were reported relating to the incident. The building was closed until further notice, and the cause of the large bulge and crack along the structure's eastern face was still under investigation.