

New Leader for Port of Portland

Gov. appoints Cuprill-Comas to commission

Gov. Kate Brown has appointed Alice Cuprill-Comas as president of the Port of Portland Commission.

Cuprill-Comas is senior vice president and general counsel for Oregon Health & Science University, and she replaces Jim Carter who just completed an eight-year term as Commission President, and who agreed to remain as a commissioner until his replacement was selected.

"I sincerely appreciate Jim Carter's years of service, and welcome Alice Cuprill-Comas to the Port of Portland Commission,"

Brown said, when she made the announcement last week. "The Port Commission plays a key role in propelling statewide economic prosperity, and Alice's visionary leadership will help ensure our marine ports and air terminals continue to meet the needs of Oregonians in the competitive, global economy."

Before joining OHSU in November 2012, Cuprill-Comas was in private practice for more than 15 years, most recently as a partner at Ater Wynne in Portland. She has also served as general counsel to Prometheus Energy Company, an alternative fuels company with international operations headquartered in Seattle. Originally from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Cuprill-Comas earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with honors from



Alice Cuprill-Comas

the University of Texas in Austin in 1992, and a Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark in Portland in 1994.

"It's an honor to lead the Port Commission at a time when the organization is facing so many exciting opportunities," Cuprill-Comas said. "From a major airport expansion, to Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup and our marine future, these are complex issues that can make a difference in quality of life for families in our region."

"On behalf of all of us at the Port of Portland, we thank Jim Carter for his tremendous leadership over the years," said Curtis Robinhold, Port executive director. "Jim presided over important opportunities for the Port with a thoughtful approach and keen

guidance that benefits the thousands of people who rely on our airports, marine terminals and business parks every day."

The nine-member Port Commission sets Port policy during its monthly meetings. At least two commissioners must each live in one of the three counties in the Port district (Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties). The remaining members may live in any part of the state. Commissioners are unpaid volunteers who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. They serve four-year terms and can be reappointed. Commission presidents are selected by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Commission appoints the Port's executive director.



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The Week in Review

Oregon Healthcare Enrollment Record

Even with President Trump's shortened open-enrollment period, officials reported last week that over 156,000 Oregonians have signed up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act and the federal provider Healthcare.gov, marking the highest total in state history.

Activist Daughter Dies

The daughter of a New York man whose death during an attempted arrest for selling cigarettes helped spark the "Black Lives Matter" movement against police brutality, died on Saturday. Erica Garner, 27, suffered a heart attack triggered by an asthma attack, family members said. She became an activist against police brutality after the July 2014 death of her father, Eric Garner.



Lower Utility Rates to Offset Tax Relief Sought

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon reported last week that it is receiving applications from regulated electric and natural gas utilities to pass on savings to Oregon customers due to the recently passed tax reform law. Utility companies routinely pass on tax costs to customers and officials will make sure

any savings on taxes are passed on to ratepayers, officials said.

Manslaughter Charged Reversed

A manslaughter conviction was thrown out last week for a man convicted of fatally shooting his gay cousin in a Gresham parking lot back in 2013. The Oregon Court of Appeals said Brandon Hickman, 32, was improperly questioned by police detectives and made incriminating statements that should not have been allowed during his 2015 trial.



Legal Pot Begins with New Year in California

The arrival of the New Year in California brought with it legalization of marijuana, a much-anticipated change that comes two decades after the state was the first to allow pot for medical use. The nation's most populous state joins a growing list of other states, including Oregon, where so-called recreational marijuana is permitted even though the federal government continues to classify pot as a controlled substance, like heroin and LSD.

Dangerous Deep Freeze in East, South

Millions of Americans woke up Tuesday in a dangerous deep freeze. Wind chills in most of the country are plunging far below normal -- all the way down to south Texas, where it felt like minus 10 degrees in Amarillo. At least five deaths, including two in Milwaukee and three in Chicago, are being blamed on the cold.

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