## The Portland Observer

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## **TriMet Executive Hired** New leader comes from Mayor's office

A high ranking African American in Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's office will be TriMet's new Chief Operating Officer.

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Maurice Henderson II was named to the post by TriMet's new General Manager Doug Kelsey last week.

Henderson is a former Assistant Director of the Portland Bureau of Transportation and will bring a background in strategy and innovation to TriMet, leading the agency's Transportation and Maintenance divisions, overseeing its Information Technology Division and providing leadership to the Safety and Security Division.

His top priority will be to ensure a commitment to policies and practices that demonstrate safety as the agency's fundamental value, officials said. Additional responsibilities include providing critical transportation and urban planning leadership, oversight of the deployment of capital projects and development and oversight of the TriMet business plan.

Henderson's starting salary is \$200,000 annually.

Prior to joining the mayor's office, Henderson worked closely



Maurice Henderson II

cluding efforts to help keep buses moving despite growing traffic congestion, while also enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety.

He fills the position vacated when Kelsey was promoted to General Manager by the TriMet Board of Directors in March.

Since coming to Portland in 2015, Henderson has overseen a number of the city's strategic opportunities and achievements including the creation and execution of a strategy for Mayor Wheeler's new administration including policy priorities and key performance metrics.

He led Portland to a top three finalist position in the U.S. Department of Transportation/Vulwith TriMet through PDOT, in- can Smart Cities Challenge, and

partnered with government, private and academic agencies to streamline coordination and promote efficiencies at various levels of government.

Wheeler credits him for leading the recruitment and creation of the most diverse staff serving the mayor office in the city's history; leading negotiations on behalf of the mayor and city for the employment contract of Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw; and leading the engagement with Legacy Health on behalf of the city and Prosper Portland to support the establishment of the Hill Block Project, a plan to develop a vacant block next to Emanuel Hospital in cooperation with the black community for which the block displaced decades earlier.

Prior to his work in Portland, Henderson served in a variety of top roles in the administrations of three Washington, D.C. mayors and worked as a top press aide to former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.

Henderson joins TriMet as the agency prepares to launch its largest expansion of bus service in agency history while pursuing new opportunities to enhance the customer experience.



MOTOYA NAKAMURA/MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Mulnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury announces the county is suing the Trump Administration over federal grants for teen pregnancy prevention being pulled. The lawsuit alleges the federal government is restricting funding for evidence-based forms of sexual education for youth in favor of abstinence-only education.

## **County Sues Trump Administration**

Suit filed for changes to federal sexual education grant requirements

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BY DANNY PETERSON/THE **PORTLAND OBSERVER** 

Mulnomah County is suing the Trump administration for restricting a teen sex education grant to apply to abstinence-only curriculum.

The suit, which was filed with the help of legal nonprofits Democracy Forward and Pacifi-

ca Law Group, alleges that the Trump administration's actions violated congressional requirements that the grants be issued to evidence-based sex education. The lawsuit will attempt to prevent the federal government from implementing the new guidelines.

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