



# MAYOR ADAMS TERM IN REVIEW

## MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

In addition to the policy changes we've made working to [create jobs](#) and [increase trade](#), transform [education](#), making the city a [safer](#), more [creative](#), easier to [travel](#) in, and more [livable place](#), the Mayor is the commissioner-in-charge of the administration of the City. That means he oversees its budgeting, all matters of finances, human resources, regulation of businesses and more. With leadership from the [Office of Management & Finance](#), we've implemented significant reforms in these areas over the last four years. Highlights include:

### **Budgeting during the recession and beyond**

- ◆ For the last four years, we have weathered the worst recession since the 1930s by taking aggressive action to stay ahead of revenue shortfalls. The Mayor's proposed budgets focused on [basic needs in 2009](#), began [investing in a more equitable economic recovery in 2010](#), helped Portlanders hardest hit by the recession and targeted job creation and education investments [in 2011](#). [By 2012, we took additional steps](#) toward fulfilling the Portland Plan's goals of a more prosperous, healthy, educated and equitable community.
- ◆ Cumulatively, we have cut \$36 million in ongoing costs from the City's General Fund budget, allowing us to bring costs in line with projected revenue. This also allowed City Council to reprioritize City services

and add about \$10.3 million in important new programs such as mental health services, housing services, and the Office of Equity. PBOT, BDS, and PDC have also taken cuts to deal with their revenue shortfalls.

- ◆ Importantly, even during this recession and unlike other cities in the U.S., Portland has protected its Aaa bond rating by not touching reserve funds.
- ◆ We've implemented a budget process that is more strategic--aligning with the [Portland Plan's](#) 25-year goals, [employing citywide mapping for geoequity in budgets](#) and we have laid the groundwork for smart, multi-jurisdictional budgeting in public safety, transportation and more.
- ◆ During the Recession, we have also been able to find one-time resources to fund high priority services such as the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, economic development programs to help the city emerge even stronger from the recession, wise investments in public safety, and assistance to our public schools to ensure that Portland children continue to get a quality education.
- ◆ Looking forward, Mayor Adams continues to lay the groundwork for Mayor-Elect Hales' budget process in 2013-2014 [by helping mitigate the financial impacts of the City's settlement with the Department of Justice](#) and creating partnership with

Multnomah County as the City's [budget is impacted by the new Multnomah County Library District](#).

### **Making Portland City government more effective and equitable for workers and local or small businesses**

- ◆ In 2011, Mayor Sam Adams, with the co-sponsorship of every member of Portland City Council, brought forward and [unanimously passed transgender-inclusive healthcare for City of Portland employees](#).
  - ◆ In 2012, Council [passed the Mayor's Responsible Banking Resolution and changes to the City's Investment Policy](#) which increased transparency, created more flexibility to invest in smaller financial institutions including credit unions and aimed to increase competition for the City's banking services.
  - ◆ In 2012, we launched the City's first Business Tax Amnesty program, which netted over \$1 million in new one-time revenue for the City and County, and [created a new stream of ongoing revenue](#).
  - ◆ Building on the [work of business license fee reform](#) from Mayor Adams' days as a commissioner, early in the administration, the Mayor:
    - ◆ Made the [change from a paid-in-advance license fee to an after the fact tax](#), which resulted in approximately \$8 million in one-time credits to existing businesses and less initial financial burden to new businesses.
    - ◆ [Led the code change to treat Venture Capital firms in a manner aligned with the treatment of Mutual Funds](#).
    - ◆ Proposed increasing the Owner's Compensation Deduction by \$2,000 (bumping it up to \$90,500), funded with the new ongoing revenues from the Amnesty program. Council approved this increase, which was co-sponsored by Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish, in early December.
    - ◆ In early 2012, the Revenue Bureau released a study of the economic and working conditions of Portland's taxicab drivers, finding that the effective average hourly income of Portland taxi drivers is \$6.22, more than \$2 below the Oregon minimum wage. Driver wages are not supplemented with health care or retirement benefits, paid vacation or sick leave, and many drivers work long hours, 12 to 14 hours per day, 6 to 7 days per week. [In response, the Mayor directed the bureau to make recommendations to improve the working conditions for taxi drivers, the business climate for the industry in the City, and address issues of equity](#). In November, Council heard those recommendations, and approved the creation of a new driver-owned taxi company, Union Cab, as well as a slate of reforms to improve the industry for all parties.
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