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TriMet moves Transit Police funds to community-based services

👤 KOIN 6 News 📅 Wednesday, June 17, 2020



The agency cited the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson and Ahmaud Arbery as a reason to make changes to its operations. <https://wallit.io/users>

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TriMet announced Wednesday it is reducing existing police contracts by six positions and redirecting additional funds totaling \$1.8 million to community-based public safety approaches.

The agency cited the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson and Ahmaud Arbery as a reason to make changes to its operations.

TriMet said in order for it to keep its promise of being "safe and equitable for all," it would need to undergo a series of immediate, short-term actions to the way it handles the safety of commuters. It also is implementing long-term considerations as part of this year's budget process. The agency said it will initiate three efforts to inform a reimagined public safety approach:



- Conduct community-wide listening sessions to gather feedback from riders, front-line employees and community members on the best approaches to providing security on the transit system that is free from bias.

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- Establish a panel of local and national experts to advise TriMet on national best practices for transit security, equity and community engagement in safety and security.
- Pilot new non-police response resources, such as mobile crisis intervention teams for mental and behavioral health issues.

"We condemn acts of hate — be they deliberate or veiled, explicit, or indirect," said TriMet General Manager Doug Kelsey in a release. "We hold fast to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. TriMet's core value is the safety of all our riders and employees. That includes being safe from racial bias." (https://wallit.io/users)

On June 9, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler pledged the city would divert \$12 million from the police bureau and other city departments to directly support communities of color. The move would defund three police units including its transit division.

KOIN 6 News is a news partner of the Portland Tribune. You can find their story here.

(<https://www.koin.com/news/civic-affairs/trimet-moves-transit-police-funds-to-community-based-services/>)



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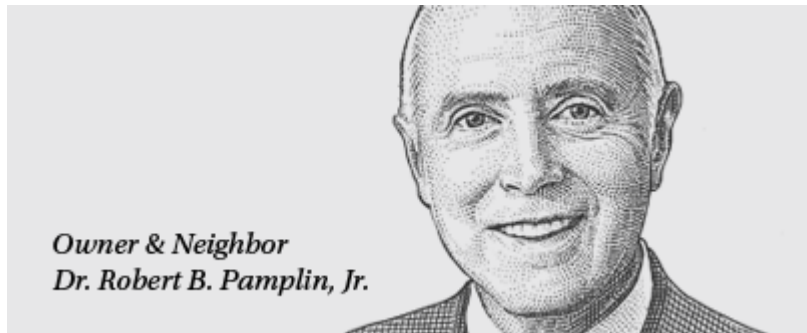
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