

Portland, Oregon
Insufficient city management:
Real estate developers
want constant traffic.

*These observations and opinions are
the result of months of investigation.*

*Corrections or suggestions for improvement
are happily accepted.*

by Michael Jennings, **Futurepower**®, Inc.

History More than a year ago, when I learned that the Portland City government wanted to evict 2 very successful tenants from a building owned by the city government, I decided to do some research. I discovered that the city government had threatened eviction every year for 8 years. There were many other details that indicated a lack of good management.

Now, the Portland City government has said that there will be a renovation of the parking structure at 10th and SW Yamhill beginning in January, 2018.

The government has hired a contractor for \$1.2 million, FFA Architecture and Interiors, to do initial design. I would be very happy to see evidence that the contractor is competent, but I have found only evidence of lack of competence.

I have no opinion about whether renovation is a good idea. I'm only saying that there is insufficient management.

No response from city managers I have sent my reports of the lack of sensible management to more than 40 people in the Portland City government. In more than a year I've gotten no response.

Portland has 2 governments. When I try to understand the operation of the Portland City government, I arrive at the conclusion that there are really two governments. On the surface are the mayor and City Council. Their purpose is to make it look to the public as though Portland has a city government that considers the needs of its residents.

And sometimes that actually happens. It seems to me, for example, that Mayor Wheeler is more sensibly engaged than the previous 5 mayors.

However, to me, it seems that the real underlying government is the PDC, the Portland Development Commission, that recently renamed itself [Prosper Portland](#). It seems to me that the real intent of the Portland City government is helping real estate developers make money.

No longer livable. I think that a good quick way of explaining Portland City management is to say that Portland is no longer a livable city. Now there are constant traffic jams and that has caused a lot more pollution.

It is apparent that real estate developers want constant traffic jams. Real estate developers want what's bad for everyone else. And in Portland they've been allowed to have that.

Real estate developers make more money if the traffic is terrible. That's because the jobs are concentrated downtown and people are willing to pay more for a place to live if it's close to their job. People don't like to spend large parts of their lives driving to and from work. A half-hour drive to work and a half-hour drive from work is 240 hours each year. That's the equivalent of 6 extra work weeks of doing something unpleasant and sometimes dangerous

Allowing real estate developers to have unhealthy control is extraordinarily destructive to U.S. society.

It seems to me that the Portland City government should allow no more increased concentration of businesses and residents until the many problems with traffic can be resolved.

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The author of this article is writing a book about how people use their brains. Management of government is an important area of research. Some of the problems: 1) Often citizens are not allowed to know most of the details of how their governments are managed. 2) Also, people are elected who don't have the mental ability to deal logically with the enormous challenges of managing a government. 3) Elections in the U.S. require spending huge amounts of money given by people who hope to have hidden influence. 4) Elections focus on manipulation of voters; voters aren't given full details.

Release version 1, internal version 5,

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

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