

It was my honor to join leaders and friends in our city's Black community, talking about the path forward over the weekend. If we are serious about change, we must create more spaces for Black voices to be centered and elevated.

We must acknowledge the pervasive anti-blackness in our culture, identify the anti-blackness in every one of us, and eliminate it. That applies to our workplace, too. I want to speak directly to Black employees: Please take care of yourselves, your family and your community.

Please know that I am committed to your safety and your success.

I invite each and every one of you, as public servants, to join me in insisting that we never return to business as usual.

I'm committed to examining my privilege, doubling down on equity and ensuring that here at the City of Portland, when we lead, we lead with racial equity, always.

We need to hear – and own – difficult truths so we can build a better, more equitable Portland. Together, we will acknowledge Portland's history and write its future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wheeler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ted Wheeler

