

Port of Vancouver USA
Board of Commissioners Meeting

JULY 28, 2026



Open Forum

To provide virtual oral comment during the board meeting, you must register no later than 12:00 p.m. Monday, July 27, 2026, by emailing povcommissioners@portvanusa.com



Action Items



Action Item E-1

Approve Public Works Contract for Bid 26-34:
Subaru Parking Expansion Project





Unfinished Business



New Business



CEO Report



CEO Report H-1

Future Leaders Intern Update



Summer Internship 2026

Nicholas Marty









Port of Vancouver USA

THE PORT OF / *Possibility*



Port of Vancouver USA

My Summer at the Port

Economic Development Internship | Future Leaders Project

Elias Tekletsion Presentation to the Board of Commissioners · July 28, 2026



Elias Tekletsion

Economic Development Intern

About Me



Rising senior at WSU Vancouver

Political Science major, graduating May 2027



Born & raised in Vancouver

Union High School graduate with deep roots in this community



Son of Ethiopian immigrants

My parents came to Vancouver in 1999 and built their lives here



Where I'm headed

Pursuing a career in economic and foreign policy

My Role This Summer

Economic Development Department

Led by Mike Bomar

Reporting to Gigi Harker-Olguin

Working directly on Terminal 1 public market and community initiatives

MY MANDATE

Learn the Port and its operations and use that understanding to analyze the Port's growing community impact.



Representing the Port at STEM Industry Day, Ridgefield Middle School

Research & Benchmarking

Building the knowledge base for Terminal 1's public market



Tenant Research

- Who our vendors are and what they provide
- Holistic viability review: years in operation, online and social media presence



Market Benchmarking

- Studied comparable markets, including the Port of Kalama and Pike Place Market
- Identified what makes public markets thrive over time

KEY INSIGHT

Local vendors matter. People come to public markets to feel connected to their community, that connection should shape who fills Terminal 1.

From Research to Practice:

The Vendor Screening Questionnaire



Business Information

Who the vendor is and how they operate



Products & Sourcing

What they sell and where it comes from



Viability & Experience

Track record and readiness to succeed



Market Fit & Customer Experience

How they'll contribute to the market's character



Community Access & Equity

Ensuring the market reflects and serves all of Vancouver

STATUS

Drafted

Now shaping what the Port asks of consultants as Terminal 1's public market takes form.

Out in the Community

Visiting the people and programs supported by the Port's Community Fund



Vancouver Ballet Folklórico

Celebrating traditional Mexican dance and art in our community



Hudson's Bay HS Construction Trades

Helping students step directly into the trades after graduation



Latinos Unidos y Floreciendo

A community garden growing food, connection, and belonging

WHAT STUCK WITH ME

Robert Elliot, who leads the Hudson's Bay trades program; I've never met anyone more driven and excited about their work. His love for his students, and his gratitude for the Port's support, was unforgettable.

Learning Beyond the Office



Terminal tour aboard the USNS Watkins
with Terminal Superintendent Kenny Davis



On the water with Port tenant Tidewater



WEDA Legislative Retreat with Executive
Director Suzanne Dale Estey



Visit with the Mexican Consulate



It's About the People

When I asked CEO Julianna Marler what she was most proud of, I expected to hear about becoming CEO, or landing a major tenant. Instead, she said: ***the amazing group of people at the Port.***

After a summer here, I understand exactly what she meant.

Gigi Harker-Olguin

My supervisor: intelligent, patient, and deeply passionate about her work and this community.

Mark Tauscher

Senior Environmental Specialist balancing tenant needs with the Port's environmental goals, with a commitment that's genuinely inspiring.

Thank you. This program let me grow professionally while discovering the community I've lived in my entire life, and I'm grateful for every bit of it.

CEO Report



Commissioners Reports



Upcoming Events

Next Commission Meeting

- Regular Commission Meeting - Tuesday, August 11, 9:30 a.m.

Community Events

- Final Vancouver Waterfront Concert Series - Thursday, July 30th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Come to the waterfront and enjoy an eclectic mix of music from around the world! Free.
- Cornhole Tournament - Saturday, August 1st from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Esther Short Park. Grab a partner and register as a two-person team for our Cornhole Tournament! Free but registration required.
- National Night Out - Tuesday, August 4th at parks across Vancouver. Start times vary. The port will be at the Fircrest Neighborhood beginning at 6:00 p.m. This family friendly evening is all about connection, fun, safety, and partnership. Free.
- Clark County Fair 2026 - Friday, August 7th - Sunday, August 16th. With concerts, carnival rides, and classic fair food, you don't want to miss this event! See website for hours and ticket pricing.
- Family Fun Day - Saturday, August 8th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Grant House lawn. As a part of the Family and Cultural Connections series, join this free community event and enjoy games, arts, crafts, face painting, and live entertainment. Free.



Communicating with the Commission

- Share your thoughts during Open Forum, the public comment period for all regularly scheduled commission meetings.
- Email the commissioners at povcommissioners@portvanusa.com
- Speak to the commissioners by calling the port office at 360-693-3611 for specific contact information.
- Mail your comments to:
POV Board of Commissioners
3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660
- For more information, visit the port's website: www.portvanusa.com



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