Statement regarding mayor and law enforcement

POSTED ON: JANUARY 21, 2026 - 8:31AM

The city has received a number of inquires regarding the comments made at the last council meeting regarding the Mayor and law enforcement. This information is provided to provide a factual basis for those comments, and is intended to satisfy those inquiries providing factual documentation regarding the events which occurred, in compliance with ORS 192.345(3).

What was the incident?

On Wednesday Oct 15th, the Mayor stated that she took a citizen past the 'do not trespass' signs of a public facility to explore what the citizen claimed was unlawful dumping of material. This was unlawful trespassing - elected officials do not enjoy unlimited access to city owned utility facilities without escort. Had anyone been injured the city could have been subject to a civil claim which may not have been covered by insurance since it was an illegal act, potentially putting significant financial burden on taxpayers.

Subsequently, on Oct 16th, the Mayor called the Department of Environmental Quality to report a potential violation. They directed her to call the Oregon State Police, who then directed her to the local Lincoln County Sheriff Deputy. The deputy conducted an investigation, and concluded that no law seems to have been broken by the city. The reports from the LCSO follows:

10/16/2025 14:50:20	L223: Called comp. She says the city manager is having contractors dump road waste on city property, and that it is a DEQ violation. I advised that generally DEQ handles thier own investigations into those sort of complaints, as it is a civil issue that local LE generally does not investigate. Comp said she was told by DEQ to contact us. I advised that if the city manager gave a company permission to dump dirt, asphalt, and road debris on city property, that LCSO would not be charging anyone with a local crime. I advised I could do the same as her, and notify DEQ, but as far as "illegal dumping" ORS would not apply if the business doing the dumping had permission from the land owner.	Brawdy	Garrett
10/16/2025 14:22:11	ONGOING ISSUE FOR PAST YR	Crosby	Harmony
10/16/2025 14:21:51	WAS INFORMED DUMP TRUCKS NEAR RAVINE YESTERDAY	Crosby	Harmony
10/16/2025 14:21:32	PASSED THE FENCE THAT STATES "PRIVATE PROP" AT THE VERY NORTH END OF BALL BV....FOLLOW THE DIRT RD TO THE RIGHT LEADING TO A RAVINE...S HAS DUMPED DIRT AND DEBRIS INTO RAVINE	Crosby	Harmony
10/16/2025 14:17:59	C IS MAYOR OF WALDPORT	Crosby	Harmony

On Oct 16th 2025, the mayor attended a council workshop in which a detailed accounting of the easements was given by the city planner and city attorney. At no time was a 'general public easement' on the property the mayor describes discussed, nor does one exist.

On Oct 21st, the city was apprised by a citizen of a group trespassing on this restricted city property, bypassing the city's no trespassing signs. LCSO was called and asked to investigate. During this interview, the information was entered into the report:

10/21/2025 14:09:30	Body cam used.	dorsey	abigail
10/21/2025 13:57:07	I contacted Mayor Lambert and she advised she contacted the Protect Oregon Watershed's org. at the direction of DEQ to inspect or evaluate the dumping that is going on on the city property below township 13. Lambert told me she has been in contact with DEQ, OSP, and Dep. Brawdy regarding the possible enviromental issues. Lambert told me from she understands the municipal property has a public easement and the no trespassing sign on the gate at the end of Ball Blvd is not lawful. I spoke with Dep. Brawdy and he advised he spoke with Lambert about this last week when she called about the DEQ complaint and Lambert told him that she told the Protect Oregon Watershed Org that there was an easement. At this time there is no PC for trespass based on a city official (Lambert) advising the org. there was an easement. NFA at this time.	dorsey	abigail
10/21/2025 13:35:33	L232: OUT A[redacted] C4	McCartt	Alexandra
10/21/2025 13:28:13	I contacted Theresa Carter a[redacted] who advised she was one of the subjects who went through the gate along with individuals from "Protect Oregon Watershed's" to inspect the dumping area where the city is having fill dirt dumped by dump trucks. Carter advised that Mayor Lambert contacted the organization and asked them to to check the dumpsite to see if was an enviromental hazard to Lint Slough as there is a small stream behind Ball Blvd that runs downhill through the dump site and ultimately drains into Lint Slough. Carter told me she believed Mayor Lambert gave permission for the organization to inspect it.	dorsey	abigail
10/21/2025 13:11:55	Narrative added from associated Call #: 7279 - C4	McCartt	Alexandra
10/21/2025 12:45:05	Occurred approx 30 minutes ago. Comp lives a[redacted] Waldport. He heard voices in the street, 4-5 subjects with 2 dogs walking towards the city gate, and then walked past the gate down onto the city property, about 30-40 minutes later they returned and walked up to a neighbors house (Theresa Carter a[redacted]) and then a dump truck came from S Crestline on the gravel road down to dump the gravel where its supposed to be dumped. A female in her 30's with a cowboy hat ran down past the gate again, comp assumed she was going down to take pictures of the dump truck. Comp advised her that she was trespassing and he was asked by the public works director to notify if unauthorized people were going to past the gate. Comp believes the group that went down past the gate is part of the group that is trying to find enviromental issues with the dump trucks dumping the fill dirt, and they were down there trying to find enviromental issued to complain about. Comp advised the subjects had left the area.	dorsey	abigail

1st Claim: DEQ told her her to contact Protect Oregon Watershed.

False: The city contacted DEQ, as in prior dealings, we have never head of DEQ directing someone to contact a third-party environmental advocacy agency. After speaking with multiple people at DEQ, the city received multiple responses, essentially stating that DEQ does not advise people to do as the mayor suggests as they generally conduct their own interview.

Subject: Road projects and beneficial uses
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 1:04:29 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: HEINTZ James * DEQ
To: Dann Cutter

Hello Dann,

As we discussed on the phone, referring an elected official to a 3rd party advocacy group is not an official DEQ practice and I do not have record of such an event. If you can determine the name of the staff that made the recommendation, DEQ can investigate further. Here

and:

Subject: RE: DEQ referral question?
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 at 5:34:31 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: JOHNSON Laura J * DEQ
To: Dann Cutter
Attachments: image001.png

Hi, Dann-

I talked with some DEQ folks internally who work in western region (where Waldport is located) and I am not aware of any recommendation that came from DEQ to Waldport's mayor to bring in an outside organization to address a concern. I did learn that James Heintz was in contact with the city and sent some information to you – did you receive that?

Upon further investigation by the city, it was determined that Protect Oregon Watershed is an organization started in 2023, whose president is Tianne Rios (Oregon Business registry 2182915-99). Ms. Rios has previously been under investigation by the city for fraudulent activities related to her actions with various non-profits.

2nd Claim: The Mayor told the Council and public at the November 13th meeting that Deputy Dorsey told her it was public property.

"I didn't tell the police officer anything other than that there's an illegal dumping happening," Lambert said.

"I have an interview with you and Deputy (Abby) Dorsey that says that you were specifically told by DEQ to bring in Protect Oregon Watersheds," Cutter said. "So are you saying that the deputy is lying."

Lambert said she did not lie, but that DEQ said there was nothing stopping the watershed group from inspecting the fill to determine if there was a violation. And that while there are no trespassing signs barring entrance to the property, Lambert said Dorsey told her it was public property.

False: The city inquired as to the Body Camera audio from the interview with the Mayor and Deputy (now Sgt) Dorsey. In that audio, provided here, the mayor clearly states to Deputy Dorsey that she was told by Officer Severson of the OSP, that the 'signage was not right and that access was allowed'. This contradicts her statement to the council and public. OSP has denied this conversation took place with the Mayor. At no point does Deputy Dorsey tell her its public property.

3rd Claim: Mayor Lambert told Deputy Dorsey (above) during the LCSO investigation that State Trooper Severson told her it was public access and that signage was not right.

False: Statements from Lt. Vertner of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on December 4th, 2025:

"I do believe based upon our investigation and information at this time Heidi Lambert was untruthful or misrepresented how or why she gave permission to others regarding access to public property that was clearly posted no trespassing."

"Based upon our investigation we know Trooper Severson did not have a known conversation with Heidi Lambert."