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## Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish dead from stomach cancer

by KATU.com Staff  
Thursday, January 2nd 2020

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(KATU Graphic)

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish died from stomach cancer Thursday, according to his office.

He was 61 years old.

Spokeswoman Sonia Schmanski said in an email Fish died peacefully at his home surrounded by loved ones.

“The family wanted me to convey publicly their thanks for all the words of love and encouragement sent to Nick since his resignation,” she wrote in a statement.

Portland City Council. On Tuesday, **he announced he was resigning**, citing his illness had become more complicated.

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In a statement, Mayor Ted Wheeler said Fish made Portland better.

"Nick was a dear friend and a trusted public servant. He fiercely advocated for all Portlanders and always led with compassion, wit and intelligence," he said. "He was instrumental in shaping Portland for the better and I often sought his advice and guidance."

## Commissioner Nick Fish Talks About His Health

*City Commissioner Nick Fish talks about his cancer diagnosis during an October appearance on KATU's political show "Your Voice Your Vote." (KATU Video)*

Fish was in charge of Portland Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services. Before that he oversaw the housing and water bureaus.

He graduated from Harvard in 1981. He received a law degree from Northeastern University in 1986. He also worked as a legislative aide for Massachusetts U.S. Rep. Barney Frank.

He leaves behind his wife Patricia Schechter, a professor of history at Portland State University, and two children, Maria and Chapin.

### Reaction from the community:

#### Full Statement From Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler:

“ We are mourning the loss of Commissioner Nick Fish. All of us who knew Nick understood how much he cared about his family, the City and his team.

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... the community in helping ... for the ... and ...

“ We are especially thinking about his family and his team – as we continue to grieve his passing.

“ Nick was taken too early. He will be dearly missed.

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