

# NEWS

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## 503-946-8428 UNINVITED GUEST

Should Paul Phillips get three minutes once a week to address City Council?

BY IAN DEMSKY [idemsky@wwweek.com](mailto:idemsky@wwweek.com)

Wearing an orange and yellow backpack over a checked flannel shirt, Paul Phillips led his guide dog, Charger, to the stately table at the center of Portland's City Council chambers.

This summer morning, Phillips was one of five people who signed up to address the council during the 15-minute public comment period that opens each weekly meeting. The June visit was his 14th this year, meaning he's addressed more than half the council's Wednesday meetings.

When he'd signed up to speak a week earlier, Phillips, 52, wrote that he intended to use his allotted three minutes to talk about "Reverse Polish Logic." Before he could begin, Mayor Tom Potter said, "I'm not sure what you're going to say, but we don't allow bigoted remarks in this chamber."

"Any what?"

"Bigoted. Are you familiar with that phrase?"

"Not totally, but I don't think I'll make any reference to it, though," said Phillips, who is among a handful of "frequent flyers"—folks who sign up to speak each week, often addressing issues well beyond the city's purview.

Last week, Potter introduced a new rule that would limit Phillips—along with everyone else—to one appearance per month. The idea is that people like Phillips are not only boring commissioners with oft-repeated and odd diatribes, they're preventing people with more pressing concerns from being heard.

The council is expected to pass the new rule Aug. 16, with Potter getting support from Commissioners Randy Leonard, Dan Saltzman and Erik Sten.

Former council candidate Amanda Fritz supports the limit, writing to city officials that she repeatedly sought time on the agenda last spring to talk about public campaign financing, "but all the spots for three weeks were already tied up by folks who use them repeatedly." Auditor Gary Blackmer says someone is turned away almost every week.

Commissioner Sam Adams says Potter's measure is a solution in search of a problem, citing figures that two-thirds of the council meetings in 2005 had open slots. (The number's closer to one-third this year.) He says the changes would make Portland's public-comment rules more restrictive than in "conservative" cities such as Lubbock, Texas, and Provo, Utah.

"I'm uncomfortable putting city government in the position of limiting what is the people's soapbox in our electronic town square," Adams says. He proposed a compromise: If all five slots were full and a newcomer wanted to speak, they'd get priority. Painting the Portland Building hot pink might have gone over better.

Back on June 21, Phillips rambled about the Pope, then read aloud from a *Willamette Week* story about shady doctors, wasting 14 precious seconds trying to remember the word "pedophilia." He read to the commissioners with the aid of a \$3 yellow magnifying glass-



PAUL PHILLIPS WALKS his guide dog, Charger, a 6-year-old Labrador-Dalmatian mix, in his Southwest Portland neighborhood.

compass-thermometer-whistle, which he holds inches in front of his 20/400-vision eyes.

"I hope that I pronounced his name properly," Phillips said of *WW* reporter Nigel Jaquiss. "He was the same gentleman who wrote about Neil Goldsmith [sic]. He won a Pulitzer Surpri-, uh, Prize."

Abruptly he stopped, turning to Potter, "This isn't billigatory is it?"

When the electronic tone sounded to mark the end of his three minutes, Phillips still hadn't arrived at his point but vowed to pick up the next time.

The question before the council now is whether next time should be a week later or a month.

By his own admission, Phillips doesn't have much to do. He sits real close to his 52-inch TV and watches action and adventure DVDs. He takes Charger for walks at all hours.

His life story is a bit hard to follow at times. Born one of six legally blind children to well-sighted parents in Pendleton, Ore., Phillips hasn't worked in 25 years since injuring his arms in a Lewiston, Idaho, hospital laundry. He claims he once turned himself in to the police along with a satchel of marijuana in order to get someone to listen to the problems he was having collecting disability benefits.

"I couldn't get any other legal representation," he says.

Nor is Phillips really able to articulate what has kept him coming back before the City Council week after week or what he thinks he's been accomplishing.

"At least I get my idea across," he says.

Don't expect to see him addressing the council anytime soon. After last week's council meeting, he took his name off the agenda for Wednesday, Aug. 9.

"I'm not going back there with them acting like that," he says. "We don't want you here—that's what it seemed like the mayor was saying." *ww*

## WINNERS & LOSERS

Cheers for hot air, jeers for pot smo

### WINNERS

**1** Take heart, **Wal-Mart foes**, and let Portland suburbanites show you the way. Opponents of the mega-store notched a win Monday in Beaverton when the City Council rejected the big-box planned for the Cedar Mill area. And in Gresham, a citizens group has appealed Wal-Mart's designs for that fair city.

**2** **Partisan politics** (and lawmakers spouting hot air from both parties' extremes) is safe for the moment. An initiative aimed at electing more moderate D's and R's to the Oregon Legislature by opening up party primaries failed to collect enough signatures to appear on the state ballot.

**3** **Hillsboro** will soon be famous for more than its Silicon Forest and good Mexican food. Last Saturday, the city made the Guinness Book of World Records for, you guessed it, the "**Biggest Crowd Wearing Balloon Hats.**" A throng of 1,874 donned inflatable headwear, shattering the previous record of 1,491 set two years ago by those fun lovers in Singapore.

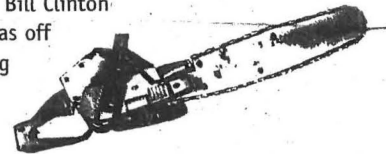


### LOSERS

**1** **Portland's wi-fi cloud** is getting off to a slooow start. *The Oregonian* reports that PGE and MetroFi, the city's wireless contractor, can't agree yet on what rates the utility will charge MetroFi. Meanwhile, the city says it also can't use wi-fi to gather parking-meter data as hoped.

**2** **Stoners**, stay paranoid about the Man bogarting your stash. An initiative to make pot offenses the "lowest priority" for law enforcement in Portland failed to gather enough valid signatures for the November ballot. No word yet on how many "Mary Janes" appeared on signature pages.

**3** The only thing louder than **enviros'** wail at the Bush administration was the growl of chain saws in the Siskiyou National Forest. The felling of trees this week in the forest's federally protected roadless areas marked the first time that's happened since Bill Clinton placed such areas off limits to logging in the final days of his presidency.



**4** Just when recent player moves made it seem safe to be a **Trail Blazer fan** again, along comes killjoy owner Paul Allen's announcement that plans to sell the team are off. Ticked? Then don't buy tickets until the buffoonish billionaire sells the team to somebody with an actual plan.

**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION REQUEST  
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM**

Council Meeting Date: 4/26/17

Today's Date MARCH 8/17

Name INJURED, AND, PISSEDOFF

Address 1212 S.W CLAY apt 217

Telephone 503-224-9954 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for the request:

POLISH LOGIC part #2

Injured and Pissedoff  
(signed)

- Give your request in writing to the Council Clerk's office to schedule a date for your Communication. Use this form or email the information to the Council Clerk at the email address below.
- You will be placed on the Wednesday official Council Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting. Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

***Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.***

**Contact Information:**

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Portland, OR 97204-1900  
(503) 823-4086

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Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov



## Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair

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Portland, Oregon 97214

Phone: (503) 988-3308

Email: [mult.chair@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:mult.chair@co.multnomah.or.us)

January 16, 2007

Mr. Paul Phillips  
1212 SW Clay, #217  
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Mr. Phillips,

Thank you for taking time to testified before the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners regarding the unfortunate situation of your dog being attacked by another dog.

My office has been in contact with the County Animal Services department which issued a Notice of Infraction for Failure to Comply with Level 2 Potentially Dangerous Dog restrictions as of December 31, 2006 to Ms. Gallardo about her dog "Pinto."

The law states that "Pinto" was classified as a Potentially Dangerous Dog and in accordance to ORS 169.352 *Interfering with assistance, search and rescue or therapy animal*, the animal must be leashed and muzzled when outside a secure enclosure. Failure to comply with these restrictions will result in additional enforcement actions and fines, and may be the basis for criminal sanctions. If you witness any additional violations of the County Code, please contact Officer Luckey at the Multnomah County Animal Shelter 503.988.7387 to make a report.

Thank you again for your testimony and for bringing this issue to my attention.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler  
Multnomah County Chair

TW/rr

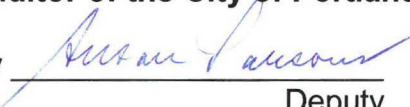
cc: Officer Luckey  
Multnomah County Animal Shelter  
Lorenzo Poe

Request of Injured to address Council regarding Polish logic part 2  
(Communication)

APR 26 2017  
PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 18 2017

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By   
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		