

Davis, Meghaan

From: Elijah Cetas <er.cetas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Davis, Meghaan
Subject: Re: Registering for next available morning testimony slot

Great! Thank you Meghaan. Yes, I will still be discussing the proposed drone testing facility in St. Johns, it's social and environmental impacts, and the community's opposition to it.

Best,
Elijah

On Oct 1, 2020, at 10:14 AM, Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Yes, council starts at 9:30, will your topic still be proposed drone testing facility in St. Johns on N. Bradford st? I am putting you on the calendar for the 14th.

Thank you –

Meghaan Davis
OSS II | [Office of the City Auditor](#)
The City of Portland, Oregon
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
Portland, OR 97204-1987
T: (503) 823.0918
Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Elijah Cetas <er.cetas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 8:36 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Re: Registering for next available morning testimony slot

Hi Meghaan,
Apologies for my slow reply. I would like to sign up to testify for the 14th. A few other neighbors and community members would like to sign up for the 21st. They will be emailing you shortly. Are those dates still available? And I'd just like to confirm the meeting will be at 9:30 AM as it was pre-pandemic. Thank you so much,
Elijah Cetas

On Sep 25, 2020, at 3:47 PM, Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Elijah,

The next available dates we have for communications is 10/14/2020 in which commissioner Fritz will be absent. We have 10/21/2020 and 10/28/2020. Would you like any of those dates?

Thank you –

Meghaan Davis
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T: (503) 823.0918
Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:44 PM
To: Elijah Cetas <er.cetas@gmail.com>; Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: McClymont, Keelan <Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: Registering for next available morning testimony slot

Hello Elijah,

I'm forwarding your request to my colleague Meghaan Davis who will be able to assist you with signing up to speak to Council.

Thank you Meghaan,
Karla
<image001.png>
Karla Moore-Love
Acting Council Clerk
503.823.4086
Working Remotely

From: Elijah Cetas <er.cetas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>; Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Registering for next available morning testimony slot

Hi Karla,
I'd like to register for a morning testimony. Can you tell me when the next available slot is?
My testimony will be on a proposed drone testing facility in St. Johns on N. Bradford st.
Many thanks,
Elijah Cetas

Request of Elijah Cetas to address Council regarding proposed drone testing facility
in St Johns on N Bradford St (Communication)

October 14, 2020

Placed on File

Filed 10/6/2020

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

Keelan
By McClymont Deputy

Digitally signed by Keelan
McClymont
Date: 2020.10.06 10:57:29
-07'00'

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		

Good Morning Commissioners,

My name is Elijah Cetas. I'm an organizer with a group called Just Climate, and a founding member of the Braided River Campaign, a new coalition of residents and advocates working to advance a new community vision for a climate-resilient, working waterfront at the Portland harbor.

I'm here today to comment in opposition to a proposed development by a company called Skyward, a drone manufacturer and subsidiary of Verizon Wireless, which is now attempting to build a 5g drone testing facility in the St. John's Neighborhood, along the river and adjacent to Cathedral Park.

The N Bradford location is zoned Heavy Industrial, with a Prime Industrial and Greenway River Industrial overlay. The Port of Portland purchased the site in 2007 to hold for a Toyota Yard expansion, but it has remained vacant since. The site is one of the few remaining open industrial lands on the river, and it holds enormous potential for community use, for clean energy and climate resiliency projects, for ecological restoration, and for blue-collar job creation - in other words for the kinds of projects our City has committed to support as part of its overall climate justice priorities.

Skyward is proposing to fly its drones over the river by claiming they are 'River Dependent' industry, and require this site because "drone testing over public roadways, parks, or similarly congested/occupiable areas are not suitable due to potential safety issue".

Yet this site neighbors one of the busiest stretches of river for recreation and community activities. Every week, hundreds of boats, kayaks, canoes, access the Willamette via Cathedral Park. Indigenous residents hold water ceremonies there, houseless and housed residents live along its shores and neighborhoods, and peregrine falcons, eagles, and osprey make their nests beneath the St. John's bridge.

Over this stretch of public water, Skyward proposes to test commercial drones that could exceed 55lbs in weight, would create enormous noise pollution, infringe on neighborhood privacy, and recklessly endanger wildlife and community members.

Residents were not made aware of this project until shortly before the public comment period ended last month. Despite this, numerous comments were submitted, the Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association wrote a letter in opposition, and more than 400 people have signed a petition saying 'No'.¹

North Portlanders are disproportionately burdened by environmental injustices - with exposure to some of the worst air quality in the nation, higher rates of asthma and infant mortality, as well as proximity to the Portland Harbor Superfund site, one

¹ <https://www.change.org/p/no-corporate-drone-facility-in-north-portland>

of the most toxic sites in the nation. North and NW Portlanders are already in the catastrophic blast zone of oil trains and tank farms housed along the river, as well as the liquefaction zone which would see cataclysmic destruction if a major earthquake were to occur.

Drone technology is not neutral. The implications of 5g drone testing for surveillance, militarization, and automation of good paying industrial jobs needs to be considered, just as this Council considered, and ultimately rejected, facial recognition technology.

On its website and in public statements, Skyward celebrates pushing past current regulations and laws governing its industry.² They advertise drone technology with thermal heat visualization, drones that will eliminate expenditures by removing human elements, and drones that will one day fly on their own throughout the nation's airspace.

If you've ever stood beneath a drone, heard its high pitched buzz in an otherwise quiet place, or felt the hairs on your neck stand on end as it surveys above you, you will know that Skyward's glitzy techno vision conceals a much more disturbing reality for the people its projects impact.

There is a place for drones. But the working class neighborhood of St. Johns is not that place, and it's your job as our representatives to make that clear. I urge you to oppose this project with a letter to the Port of Portland, and to direct your bureaus to deny all permits, starting with an open permit application to widen and develop the Bradford St road.

Thank you, 

Elijah Cetas

(he/him/his)

Elijah@JustClimate.net

² <https://www.verizon.com/about/news/hans-vestberg-keynotes-2019-consumer-electronics-show> and <https://skyward.io/how-5g-connectivity-could-power-tomorrows-drone-operations/>



September 10, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

City Planner Shawn Burgett

RE: LU 20-142770 GW - Cathedral Park Aviation Development Center

Dear Shawn,

The Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association (“CPNA”) writes in opposition of the Cathedral Park Aviation Development Center, LU 20-142770 GW (“ADC West Development”).

The Cathedral Park Neighborhood (the “Neighborhood”) is a small neighborhood beneath the St. Johns Bridge, and bordered by the Willamette River and the University Park and St. Johns neighborhoods. The Neighborhood’s residents, in addition to those throughout Portland, Vancouver, and beyond, have a long history of active recreational use of the bordering Willamette River. Boaters, paddleboarders, kayakers, fishers, and swimmers occupy and enjoy this public river. In addition to the river’s recreational users, we also must keep in mind the many individuals who are currently experiencing houselessness who are occupying the Willamette River.

The CPNA and the Neighborhood share a significant concern about the safety and wellbeing of the river’s occupants should the ADC West Development be allowed to develop on the proposed site and operate over the river, or any other publicly occupiable land. The ADC West Development, themselves, state clearly in their Land Use Application that “Drone testing over public roadways, parks, or similarly congested/occupiable areas are not suitable due to potential safety issue”. The CPNA fails to understand how the ADC West Development can plainly state such a safety concern yet propose to conduct daily tests over what is undeniably a publicly occupiable area such as the Willamette. We implore the City to consider the safety hazards posed by ADC West Development’s drone testing to the river’s occupants and what the

result would be should one or more individuals experience injury or death from a falling drone. Drones which range in size and can exceed 40 pounds.

While safety concerns are at the top of our minds, we also find significant concern with ADC West Development's stance that they are a 'River Dependent' organization. The CPNA fails to understand how an organization, who has existed for years and been extremely successful in Hillsboro, is now all of a sudden river dependent. We find it extremely convenient that the organization is now insisting their river dependence only once they are attempting to develop a site on the river. We find that even their own confidence in their river dependence is betrayed by their attempt to have the City designate the site as "not having river frontage" during their Early Assistance meeting with the City (page 60 of the LUR document or page 5 of the EA document). The ADC West Development suggested to the Neighborhood that the long linear nature of the Willamette River helps with testing the drones yet stated that the average drone flight time is only 11 minutes round trip. The CPNA fails to see how these shorter flight test times constitute any requirement or dependence on the river, especially compared to a larger swath of private land elsewhere that can be fully controlled and poses no safety concerns to the City's residents. We request that the City strongly consider the convenience of this assertion of the organization's newfound river dependence and how this betrays the intent of the City's zoning code requirements for the site. By allowing such an organization to develop on this site, it is denying the future development by an organization that truly requires river dependence. Not just one that finds it convenient in the moment.

In short, the Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association requests that you please oppose the Cathedral Park Aviation Development Center, LU 20-142770 GW, and support the safety of the river's occupants as well as the intent of the zoning code.

Very Best Regards,

Steven Capoccia
Land-Use Chair, Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association

How 5G Connectivity Could Power Tomorrow's Drone Operations

Skyward and Verizon are ready for connected drone operations today. We've developed a new internet of things service plan for aerial devices called Airborne LTE Operations, or ALO. ALO enables drones and other aircraft to send command-and-control and payload data over Verizon's 4G LTE network.

[Read More](#)

