

Presentation to City Council, July 27, 2011

Thank you, Council members, for letting me speak today about Last Thursday (LT), and my special thanks to Commissioner Fritz for being the Commissioner most publicly engaged with LT issues. As part of your engagement with LT, Commissioner Fritz, you attended a public meeting of the Executive Board of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods on July 7th. During the last fifteen minutes of that meeting, neighbors in the audience asked you some of the hard questions we've been asking each other in our community for years: why doesn't LT more directly benefit the people who live here? Why doesn't LT employ neighborhood youth? Why doesn't it benefit some worthy local nonprofit? Why won't the City do more to stop the lawlessness associated with LT? Why won't the city regulate LT like any other large community event? Is it really because the city fears an anarchist backlash? Or is the city's inaction and indifference to this event's full regulatory compliance grounded in racism? Is it ultimately about white privilege? If LT involved 15,000 rowdy African-Americans taking over fifteen blocks of a major city street that ran through four different white neighborhoods, would the city's response be so complacent? During the questioning, an Executive Board member noted the adamant opposition of Friends of Last Thursday (FoLT) to compliance with city permits (e.g. the City's community event street closure permit requirements). To this comment, Commissioner Fritz, you responded:

“If FoLT can fix LT with orderliness, with rule-following, and with money-raising without permits, I say more power to them. It's not particularly important to me. If FoLT wants to do it in a different way and is able to successfully do it, why would we care?”

I've come here this morning to give my answer to your question: we should care. I think Commissioner Fritz that you, the City Council, all of us, should very much care as to whether FoLT must comply with the same permit processes that are required of all other community events in our city. Why? Because by allowing FoLT to organize a permitless LT, the city would be singling out for discriminatory treatment the traditionally African-American neighborhoods surrounding LT. Community event permits are designed to foster neighborhood notice and involvement. By allowing FoLT to bypass these permit processes, the City would be unfairly cutting the community out from the very processes that were meant to safeguard it. The city would never do this to any other neighborhood. But more importantly, decades of past indignities have been visited upon the traditionally Black neighborhoods of Portland, decades of shameful inequities. It would seem unthinkable for the city to casually ignore the demands that these communities be treated equally. Therefore, I respectfully request that each member of this Council carefully and sensitively ponders the meaning of the word “we” when asking the question, “Why would we care?”

Thank you,

Rick Sills  
5036 NE 10<sup>th</sup>  
Portland, OR 97211

**From:** "Scott, Andrew" <Andrew.Scott@portlandoregon.gov>  
**To:** 'L davis' <lweezi@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** "Ball, Kelly" <Kelly.Ball@portlandoregon.gov>; "Wanner, Kezia" <Kezia.Wanner@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2011 5:27 PM  
**Subject:** Last Thursday Costs

Mr. Sills --

Attached is a spreadsheet that lays out many of the City costs for Last Thursday. There is a summary tab at the front, and multiple tabs for each bureau as well. A few points that give context to the numbers:

- The information we have provided is by fiscal year, since that is how the City tracks its expenditures. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th.
- There were FY 08-09 City costs for Last Thursday; however, the City was not specifically tracking those costs at that time, so we are not able to provide them with any detail. We do know that Council appropriated \$31,500 to PBOT for Last Thursday in the spring of 2008.
- With regards to the staffing costs, we have provided the costs for staff who are directly involved with Last Thursday, as you requested. It is important to note, however, that many of these are not "additional" City costs. Some staff who are working on Last Thursday are doing so as part of their normal job in the City (neighborhood facilitation, for example) as they would for any event or issue.
- In your request you asked for the cost of re-routing TriMet services, but the City does not track or have access to those costs, if there are any.
- You asked about specific appropriations for Last Thursday in FY 11-12; there are no separate funds set aside in FY 11-12 to offset bureau costs.
- We have not yet received a response from BDS regarding any noise control officer overtime. I don't believe BDS is tracking Last Thursday costs separately, and in fact there may not be any overtime at all. I will send along that information if/when I receive it.

Thank you again for your patience on this request. It took a considerable amount of staff time -- more than I initially expected -- to pull together all the pieces of information from all the various bureaus.

Other Attachments (31 KB)

1. [Bureau Last Thursday cost summary 1.xls](#)

[Download](#)

FY 2008-09 FY 2009-10 FY 2010-11

Police Overtime	-	16,187.00	49,382.62
ONI Staff Time	-	12,500.00	20,425.00
PBOT Staff time	-	7,972.97	3,164.46
BDS - Noise Control Ofc time	-	-	-
Staff Time total:	-	36,659.97	72,972.08
Police - Private Security Services	-	-	6,494.00
ONI - Private Security Services	-	-	4,080.00
PBOT - Private Security Services	-	-	-
Security Services total:	-	-	10,574.00
Police Portable toilets	-	-	2,235.00
ONI- Portable toilets	-	-	1,585.94
PBOT- Portable toilets	-	-	-
Mayor's Office - Portable toilets	-	6,120.00	-
Porta-potty total:	-	6,120.00	3,820.94
ONI - Event coordination (contract)	-	-	6,237.68
Event Coordination total:	-	-	6,237.68
PBOT - Traffic control - flagging	-	19,555.00	10,126.60
PBOT - Barricades	-	175.00	2,816.40
Traffic Control total:	-	19,730.00	12,943.00
ONI - Miscellaneous Exp	-	-	828.00
PBOT - Miscellaneous Exp	-	117.36	1,992.75
Miscellaneous Expenditures total:	-	117.36	2,820.75
All Bureau Total:	-	62,627.33	109,368.45

**Jennings, Gayla**

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**From:** L davis [lweezi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** Jennings, Gayla  
**Subject:** To reserve 3 min.s to speak to City Council on Wed. AM, 7/27/11

Dear Gayla,

I called you at (503) 823-3560 this morning. Per your instructions, by this email I respectfully request that you reserve for me a 3-minute slot of time to address the Portland City Council on Wednesday morning, 7/27/2011.

My name, address, and the other information you requested follows:

Rick Sills  
5036 N.E. 10th  
Portland, OR 97211  
Phn.: (503) 282-0695

I would like to speak to the City Council about issues associated with Last Thursday on N.E. Alberta. As a native Portlander, I have lived in the King neighborhood for many years and am directly impacted by Last Thursday. I'd like to address issues related to the Last Thursday event itself as well as to the City's responses, at various levels, to Last Thursday.

Thank you again for your kind assistance. I hope to hear from you soon.

Rick Sills

Request of Rick Sills to address Council regarding Last Thursday on NE Alberta  
(Communication)

JUL 27 2011

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed JUL 22 2011

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		