

WWW.individualsforjustice.com

www.ProgParty.org



IFJ



OPP

May 16, 2012

Good morning Mr. Mayor and members of the council: I am once again speaking for Individuals for Justice and the Oregon Progressive Party.

I come today to suggest a simple thing, the retirement of the Police Horses. It has come to our attention that you continue to support the police department efforts to use these wonderful animals in a way that places our citizens and the horses in danger. From videos that are available on the internet, (listed in my written submission) you can see for yourselves that soon there will be a tragedy that could have been stopped here today. I have given you links to see these videos and take positive action to stop this madness from continuing to happen. We want the police horses, all of them, to be honored with retirement to green pastures and enjoy the rest of their lives. We suggest this retirement to include working with children or veterans coming home from killing things in far away lands. The cost to keep these animals working to control crowds or intimidate the "Houseless" is about \$585,000 per year. The cost will eventually cause this council or the new members coming in next January to decide to stop this program, our concern is that if and when it does happen there will be little planning on what to do with these dedicated animals and we want lots of time to be spent in deciding where they will go. Many cities are now in the process of discontinuing these programs and have to make fast decisions on selling the horses and don't care where they are going--to us that would be another tragedy.

This is what Mounted Patrol Unit has on its web site:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/police/index.cfm?a=250328&c=29791>

These are actual street encounters using the horses as weapons:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR6Gos2phok>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m33tqgRuqnI>

<http://www.katu.com/news/Police-release-video-of-woman-getting-pepper-sprayed-Occupy-Portland-N17-134153333.html?m=y&smobile=y>

The Charter Commission started to work on the concept of not using animals to control crowds but was shut down before they could finish their good work:

"Should Portland Ban Cops From Using Horses and Pepper Spray to Bust Up Protests?

Both address the tactics police use to break up protests—methods that attained new notoriety amid the recent Occupy Portland protests." (more)

<http://blogtown.portlandmercury.com/BlogtownPDX/archives/2012/02/09/should-portland-ban-cops-from-using-horses-and-pepper-spray-to-bust-up-protests>

Human beings should not use animals as weapons, that is a worthy goal, to continue this program will ensure that somebody gets hurt.

Joe Walsh

Lonevet2008@comcast.net

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Portland, Oregon 97206

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Joe Walsh

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Portland, Oregon 97206

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

Council Meeting Date: 5-16-2012

Today's Date 4-25-2012

Name JOE WALSH

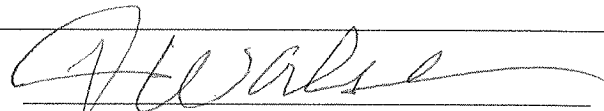
AUDITOR 04/25/12 PM12:17

Address 7348 SE Division

Telephone 503-946 8428 Email _____

Reason for the request:

ADDRESS Council - Police Horses


(signed)

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below.)
- You will be placed on the Wednesday Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken promptly 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.

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

Contact Information:

Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900

(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571

email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900

(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571

email: Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov


Request of Joe Walsh to address Council regarding police horses
(Communication)

MAY 16 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 11 2012

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		