Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sent: To: Subject: David Nordstrom <dInordstrom@gmail.com> Saturday, March 11, 2017 11:34 AM Wheeler, Mayor; Moore-Love, Karla Council meeting protests

11 March 2017

Portland Mayor and City Council Members,

My sympathy for the rude interruptions of your open meetings by a very few protesters. I hope you can find a way to conduct public business in future without disturbance. Of course we have freedom of speech, but it is not unlimited. A famous legal decision ruled against yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater, for example. Like all city residents, the protesters have many ways to speak freely without insulting you or preventing you from doing official duties. People can make appointments with city elected officials or staff to express concerns and ask questions. Alternatively, they can write letters to these same parties. Standing and yelling at council meetings as long as they can until being forcibly removed by police is inappropriate. Do the protestors think their views have more validity than those of others? Ours is a democratic republic in which representatives are chosen and authorized to govern. The protestors at your meetings seem to want to govern without being elected. An even greater concern is that their conduct may further erode public trust and respect for government institutions, in this case the Offices of Portland Mayor and Council. If holding these positions requires being insulted at public meetings instead of addressing our infrastructure, transportation, health and safety, and other issues, then who in future will seek election to these offices? Perhaps you can attach a 2-week ban from attendance at council meetings for any person who is removed.

188280

Sincerely,

David Nordstrom 5820 SE Insley St Portland OR 97206

Agenda Item 231

TESTIMONY

REGULAR AGENDA

RULES OF CONDUCT, EJECTION AND EXCLUSION

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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Date 03-08-17

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Agenda Item 231

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NAME (PRINT)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)	Email <i>(Optional)</i>
Phillip Chachka		
JOE WALS		
MARY SIPE		
Daniel Salomon		
Andrew Olshin	3728 NJ Thuman St. DXOR 57210	Andrew. Olshine comasy.net
Mini German Vessir Sponberg		comcasy.net
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Date 03-08-17

Testimony of Portland Copwatch on Council proposal to exclude "disruptive," "dangerous" or "threatening" persons for 30-60 days

March 8, 2017

188280

Mayor Wheeler and members of City Council

(1. Testimony of Dan Handelman)

We at Portland Copwatch are here to oppose your proposal to exclude people from City Hall for longer than one day at a time. Judge Simon's ruling in the case of Joe Walsh was very clear: You can only exclude a person on the day they cause disruption.

We're talking as a group that has come before Council too many times to count in the course of our 25 years as an organization, and a group which has for better or worse made efforts to follow the City's protocols at all of those meetings.

What would make more sense is a two-part approach, one of which we think you will find easier than the other.

First, you can expand the "communications" section of Council meetings, either on an ongoing basis, based on increased community interest, or for special meetings from time to time. Council could, like Multnomah County, allow people to sign up on the day of a Council meeting to address whatever issue they see fit, rather than being required to turn in their names to the Council Clerk 6 (or more) days in advance. When a large crowd shows up Council could ask how many people wish to speak and divide up a certain block of time to hear them out. And/or Council could set up a special session just to hear from people about what is creating community concerns. This last type of meeting could be a specially set, well publicized community forum to allow the public to air their concerns.

In any of these scenarios, it's more likely than not that less of Council's time will be taken up by the public comment than is taken up by repeatedly calling the Council into recess, clearing the chambers, and putting City Hall on lockdown.

The second approach is more simple on the one hand but more unlikely on the other, which is: meet the demands of the protests. Release information about Quanice Hayes' death at the hands of the PPB. Create a culture of accountability. Work collectively to find a new location for Right 2 Dream Too rather than hoping they'll go away if you just wait out some arbitrary deadlines. If you can't actually take action to make these things happen, do a better job of expressing your support for justice, equality and freedom than you are currently doing. Who knows, if justice is achieved, maybe there would be no more disruptions.

Additionally, we're concerned about the language in the proposed ordinance which gives power to Portland Police and security guards to determine what is "disruptive," "dangerous" or even "threatening" behavior. At most, the meeting's chairperson should be directing law enforcement regarding ejections in these cases, not leaving it to officer discretion. I brought a rubber mallet to a hearing on the DOJ Agreement to prove a rhetorical point (the Agreement is like using a rubber mallet to hammer in a nail), which could have been misconstrued by law enforcement as a weapon.

The ordinance indicates that Council is concerned that some people are not coming to hearings because they feel intimidated by people who interrupt. The climate being created by Council's actions and this ordinance are leading to people fearing that speaking against a City policy will get them arrested, which is chilling to the First Amendment. We urge you to rethink your strategy here.

(2. Testimony of Regina Hannon)

Because some of you are new you may not know our history: Portland Copwatch is a project of Peace and Justice Works. We started in 1992 as the "People Overseeing Police Study Group" but after networking with Berkeley Copwatch, the first Copwatch organization, decided to change our name. Copwatch is a movement, not a franchise.

We explain this to make sure you understand our next comments carefully in context: Mr Kif Davis is not a member of Portland Copwatch. Multnomah County Copwatch did not grow out of our organization. We may share similar goals but we do not engage in the same tactics.

That said, paraphrasing Pastor Bonheoffer— if nobody is there to speak up for Mr. Davis, there will be nobody left to speak for the rest of us if Council starts down this path. The very idea that a City Hall staff person pursued— and was able to acquire— a restraining order which over-rides Mr. Davis' First Amendment right to redress grievances with his government is an outrage. It may seem like a clever work-around of Judge Simon's ruling, but it's just another in a long line of assaults on public participation in public process.

Who's to say someone doesn't find members of Portland Copwatch "threatening" or "disruptive?" You may have seen me over the last 13 years as a member of Portland Copwatch raise my voice both figuratively and literally, and I don't want to end up being excluded because my passion makes someone feel afraid. This could be true for anyone in this room, or anyone watching this on TV who wants to come down here.

And this is, make no mistake about it, ultimately about class. If this room were flooded with people who wanted you to keep homeless people out from in front of their businesses, you wouldn't exclude them. But the reality is those people pay lobbyists who are able to get meetings with members of Council, unlike most of the people you're planning to exclude with this ordinance.

(3. Testimony of Philip Cacka)

The Council also has to reverse the trend of holding more meetings out of the public eye. In addition to exclusion of the public from committees meeting to deliberate about important issues like police oversight, the Council itself keeps shutting out the public by ending discussion as items are hurried though, sometimes with multiple amendments that have not been vetted through community comment. This happened with the Auditor's charter amendment and, most significantly, with the Police Association contract. That was the first time we can ever remember the Council sequestering itself into a separate room from the public, leaving an elite few to be present for the live train wreck. At the time, attorney Jack Orchard commented to the Portland Tribune that such remote legislative action violated the spirit if not the letter of public open meetings laws.

Our group tried to comply with the Council's rules during that fiasco, and while testifying about whether a contract to purchase a bridge inspection crane was subjected to the same Council efforts as the PPA contract, we were shut down and asked to leave Chambers— even though we did not violate any of your stated rules. This is just another example of why the ordinance before you is too subjective and should not even be considered.

A few weeks ago Council held a very important appeal hearing for the Citizen Review Committee while City Hall was on lockdown. Two of us were able to attend, but some of our members and other community activists whom we'd told about the hearing had to watch by remote in the Portland Building. At least one person from another organization decided not to come downtown when they heard City Hall was closed. This is outrageous behavior for a supposedly open and transparent government.

Council then deliberated and voted, but once done with the process dealing with an anonymous officer's possible violations of policy, didn't entertain public comment. Between the CRC hearing and the PPA contract it's clear that the Council will not apply this ordinance in a content-neutral way as it asserts, but rather will shut out the public on sensitive matters— especially police issues.

Although the ordinance implies an excluded person may send in written testimony, that is hardly a fair option to appearing in person. Council doesn't always read everything submitted to them in writing, rarely asks follow up questions over email, and can't get nuances from vocal inflections by looking at written words.

In summary— open up the meetings for more input, don't criminalize speech and shut it down. You'll only lead to a cycle of more unrest as you are perceived as telling your subjects to go and eat cake.

TERRY PARKER P.O. BOX 13503 PORTLAND, OREGON 97213-0503

Subject: Testimony to the Portland City Council on establishing rules of conduct, ejection, and exclusion procedures for city council meetings and on city property, March 6,2017

About a year ago one of Senator Wyden's town hall meetings at PCC Southeast was shout down when Black Lives Matter showed up, first beating on the windows from the outside, and then coming inside shouting their demands while marching up and down the isles between the rows of chairs.

Late last year I came downtown to testify at an afternoon council session only to find City Hall full of protesters and the doors locked. I have also been in this chamber when protesters disrupted council proceedings. Where is the ACLU when it comes to protecting the rights of others? In all three cases my right to free speech was selfishly violated by a unruly mob of protesters

If I were to park my car in the bike lane out here on Madison Street during the evening rush hour to protest gas tax dollars being used to fund bicycle infrastructure instead of the bicyclists being justly taxed to pay for it, I would probably be ticketed or arrested and have my car towed. There needs to be consequences for the disorderly conduct of protesters when they block streets, disrupt public meetings and at times are a threat to others whom disagree with the reason for the protest.

In Washington, DC, both Congressman Blumenauer and Senator Merkley are having tantrums and exhibiting child like behavior. Tweets like "resist" are only fueling the mayhem and chaos in our streets, and even inciting rioting and fostering hate towards the other side. People who live, work and/or just come downtown to attend city council meetings need to feel safe.

Personally I am getting tired of one-sided politics and plans attempting to dictate lifestyles - including travel mode and even what we eat. We're assessed a tax to have art in our schools, yet the art of coming together with compromise in government has been lost. People have the right to protest, but it must be done in a manner that does not take away or negatively impact the rights and free speech of others; and not be a threat to people who may disagree with the protesters stance.

With all this hostility, the city must continue to function. I fully support establishing rules of conduct, ejection, and exclusion procedures for city council meetings and on city property. It is a matter of protecting everybody's rights!

Respectively submitted,

Terry Parker Northeast Portland

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sent:	Sarah Einowski <sarah.einowski@tonkon.com> Tuesday, March 07, 2017 5:26 PM</sarah.einowski@tonkon.com>
То:	Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc:	jcarson@aclu-or.org; Mat dos Santos (MdosSantos@aclu-or.org)
Subject:	ACLU Testimony in Opposition to Agenda Item 231 [IWOV-PDX.FID950236]
Attachments:	2017-03-08 Testimony of the ACLU of Oregon.pdf

Good Evening-

Please find the written testimony of the ACLU of Oregon in opposition to Agenda Item 231, scheduled to be discussed at the March 8th City Council meeting. I will be present a condensed version of the attached at tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you, Sarah

Sarah Einowski | Tonkon Torp LLP

1600 Pioneer Tower | 888 SW Fifth Avenue Portland, Oregon 97204 503.802.5738 | FAX 503.274.8779 sarah.einowski@tonkon.com | www.tonkon.com

This message may contain confidential communications and privileged information. If you received this message in error, please delete it and notify me promptly.



Testimony of the ACLU of Oregon In Opposition to Agenda Item 231 – Amend Code Chapters 3.02, 3.15, and 5.38, add Code Chapter 3.18 Portland City Council March 8, 2017

The ACLU of Oregon is here today to urge you not to pass this ordinance at all, and—at the very least—not to pass this ordinance as written.

We understand the problem you are facing, and do not mean to make light of the tensions the City faces. We understand that you believe you need to "clamp down" on the interruptions and, as the Mayor's spokesperson said "change the culture of City Hall." The City's impulse to do something—and do it quickly—is shown by the fact that the City is considering the ordinance on an "emergency" basis, and dispensing with the normal process, including a second reading.

However, we urge restraint here. Slow down. The proposed ordinance is an overreaction. And it is unconstitutional.

The City Council <u>already has</u> the tools it needs to deal with disruptions during Council Meetings. *Walsh v. Enge*, 154 F. Supp. 3d 1113, 1118 (D. Or. 2015) ("A presiding officer may remove a disruptive individual from any particular meeting, and a sufficiently disruptive person may even be prosecuted for such conduct if public law permits."). A person who actually disrupts a City Council meeting may be ejected from the meeting in a way that keeps faith with both the U.S. Constitution and the Oregon Constitution. For instance, if someone is repeatedly shouting over others, or disrupting a meeting to the point that no business can be conducted, or engaging in physically dangerous behavior, then the City may lawfully remove them from that meeting.

But anything more than that likely violates the United States and Oregon Constitutions.

City council meetings are limited public forums. *Norse v. City of Santa Cruz*, 629 F.3d 966, 975 (9th Cir. 2010) ("[T]he entire city council meeting held in public is a limited public forum.") (citing *White v. City of Norwalk*, 900 F.2d 1421, 1425 (9th Cir.1990)). The City can impose time, place and manner restrictions, so long as they are viewpoint neutral (an expansion of the normal rule for traditional public forums, where restrictions must be content-neutral). *Norse*, 629 F.3d at 975 ("A [city] council can regulate not only the time, place, and manner of speech in a limited public forum, but also the content of speech—as long as content-based regulations are viewpoint neutral and enforced that way.").

Thus, the City does have the authority to impose rules under which its meetings must be conducted—within constitutional limits. *See City of Madison Joint Sch. Dist. No. 8 v.*

Wis. Employment Relations Comm'n, 429 U.S. 167, 175 n. 8 (1976) ("Plainly, public bodies may confine their meetings to specified subject matter."); *Jones v. Heyman*, 888 F.2d 1328, 1333 (11th Cir. 1989) ("To deny the presiding officer the authority to regulate irrelevant debate and disruptive behavior at a public meeting . . . would cause such meetings to drag on interminably, and deny others the opportunity to voice their opinions."); *Wright v. Anthony*, 733 F.2d 575, 577 (8th Cir. 1984) (time limitations on a citizens' right to speak at public hearings served significant governmental interests in conserving time and in ensuring that other citizens have an opportunity to speak, and was not unreasonable).

But a government cannot bar communicative acts—even those that are offensive or annoying—based on the mere <u>fear</u> of disruption in reaction to those acts. Both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court have clearly established this. *Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 508 (1969) ("[I]n our system, undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough to overcome the right to freedom of expression."). *Cf. Sammartano v. First Judicial Dist. Court*, 303 F.3d 959, 968 (9th Cir. 2002), *abrogated on other grounds by Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7 (2008) (ban on clothing with biker symbols was unreasonable even in a nonpublic forum absent evidence such clothing was particularly likely to be disruptive or intimidating).

For example, a person cannot be lawfully removed when the only disruption results from the reaction to their conduct or comments. People have the right to express unpopular, even offensive ideas. The government cannot bar communicative acts—even those that are offensive or annoying—based on the mere <u>fear</u> of disruption in reaction to those acts.

The ACLU is also concerned about this proposed ordinance because prospective exclusions, such as those provided for in paragraphs (D) and (E) of the ordinance, are unconstitutional. The federal court here in Portland has already decided that very issue. In *Walsh v. Enge*, Judge Michael Simon ruled that even if a person has been repeatedly ejected for disrupting Portland City Council meetings; the City cannot exclude the person from future meetings. Judge Simon's opinion is very clear on this. He wrote:

"[N]o matter how many meetings of a city council a person disrupts, he or she does not forfeit or lose the future ability to exercise constitutional rights and may not be prospectively barred from attending future meetings. Our democratic republic is not so fragile, and our First Amendment is not so weak."

Walsh, 154 F. Supp. 3d at 1118. The Court went on to emphasize this point, stating that "[w]hat the government may not do is prospectively exclude individuals from future public meetings merely because they have been disruptive in the past." *Id.* at 1119. We believe that although the City may remove a person that has actually caused a genuine disruption for the duration of that meeting, the City simply cannot prospectively ban City residents from attending City Council meetings.

Other provisions of the proposed ordinance also pose constitutional violations because they are overbroad and burden substantial amounts of protected speech. Here are several aspects of the proposed ordinance that we believe are unconstitutional:

- The City's attempt to define "disrupt" expands that term well beyond its • ordinary meaning, and renders the ordinance facially overbroad in violation of the First Amendment. On its face, the ordinance allows the presiding officer to silence any speaker based on a vaguely-defined breach of "decorum." Arguably, this would allow the presiding officer to eject speakers based on indecorous, but protected expression. See e.g., Cohen v. California, 403 U.S. 15, 18, 91 S. Ct. 1780, 1784, 29 L. Ed. 2d 284 (1971) (wearing jacket saying "Fuck the Draft" in court corridor was protected by First Amendment).It allows too much discretion and encompasses protected speech. Courts have invalidated similar ordinances before (for example, one restricting "insolent" speech at City Council meetings); see also Norse v. City of Santa Cruz, 629 F.3d 966, 979 (9th Cir. 2010) (en banc) (Kozinski, J., concurring); Acosta v. City of Costa Mesa, 718 F.3d 800, 815 (9th Cir. 2013) (concluding an ordinance that allowed ejection and exclusion for "insolent" behavior was facially invalid). Such stifling of speech is unconstitutional.
- The exception for constitutionally protected conduct in (C)(3) does NOT make the proposed ordinance constitutional. Due process requires the City to give notice as to what the ordinance forbids. "It is a fundamental tenet of due process that '[n]o one may be required at peril of life, liberty or property to speculate as to the meaning of penal statutes." United States v. Batchelder, 442 U.S. 114, 123 (1979) (quoting Lanzetta v. New Jersey, 306 U.S. 451, 453 (1939)). It is not sufficient to create an exception so ill-defined that one would have to be a constitutional scholar to understand its scope.
- And while the City may have the power to eject any person who engages in "dangerous or threatening" behavior, the ordinance must be clarified so that ejections only occur where physical harm is actually present or threatened. The ordinance currently defines "dangerous or threatening," as behavior that "a reasonable person, exposed to or experiencing such behavior <u>could</u> believe that the person was in imminent danger of physical harm from the behavior." Speech should not be curtailed based on what a reasonably person could imagine is physically dangerous or threatening. It must be that such a person would reasonably conclude that it <u>is</u> physically dangerous or threatening.

Finally, the ordinance also likely violates the Due Process clause.

• Ejection or exclusion for ill-defined concepts like "decorum" does not put the public on notice as to what exactly is unlawful. Allowing penalties for criminal trespass to enforce the restrictions exacerbates the due process violation. The ordinance makes conduct criminal without fair warning as to what is forbidden, which is results from undefined terms like "reasonably"

related to maintaining order and decorum" and is worsened by the exception for constitutional protected speech in paragraph (C)(3).

- Paragraph (G) improperly attempts to limit factual basis for review of ejections/exclusions to the audio and video record of the meeting and prohibits the presiding officer or any Council member from being compelled to testify. This is an unconstitutional denial of due process. Audio-video records may not always be available, and may be insufficient to make a determination. And additional evidence can provide context for the video record.
- As drafted the ordinance extends the power to eject too broadly beyond the presiding officer at a meeting, even extending it to security guards that are not City employees. The ACLU believes that if this ordinance is passed, the authority to eject needs to stay with the presiding officer or a few city-employed delegates.
- Finally, the opportunities to view meetings online and submit comments do not cure the constitutional problems here. The opportunities for participation in paragraph (I) are an inadequate substitute for participation in a live City Council meeting which is specifically protected right under Article I, section 26, of the Oregon Constitution.

I hope that my testimony here today, at the very least, encourages you to pause, take a moment, and to not pass such an ordinance under an emergency basis without the proper notice and comment period. This is too important of an issue at too critical of a time to pass without the proper forethought and insight. And remember that once you pass this into the City Code, it will last much longer than your term here. So although you may trust yourself to enforce the proposed ordinance in a constitutional way, it won't always be you exercising the broad discretion that this ordinance provides.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you not to adopt this proposed amendment.

Mat dos Santos Legal Director, ACLU of Oregon mdosSantos@aclu-or.org Sarah Einowski Cooperating Attorney sarah.einowski@tonkon.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Kristin Malone <kristinmalone@markowitzherbold.com> Tuesday, March 07, 2017 12:45 PM Moore-Love, Karla Comments on Council Agenda Item 231 - Set for March 8, 2017 Kristin Malone Comments on Agenda Item 231.pdf

Ms. Moore-Love,

Attached are my comments on tomorrow's agenda item 231, "Establish rules of conduct, ejection and exclusion procedures for City Council meetings and at City Property...". Due to a work conflict, I am unable to testify in person, but I hope you will pass this message on to Council.

1

Best,

Kristin Malone Chair, Citizen Review Committee

<u>Comments on Agenda Item 231</u> Kristin Malone, Chair, Citizen Review Committee

I write to express my concerns with the proposed amendments in the March 8 agenda item 231. While I support many of the objectives stated in Mayor Wheeler's proposed ordinance, my concern is that the language of new Section 3.02.060 does not provide clear guidance to city employees and volunteers who preside over what you have termed "City boards and commissions."

I believe Section 3.02.060 should be recrafted with a focus on how it applies to both City Council and other boards and commissions. The current focus of Section 3.02.060 on City Council meetings gives short shrift to other public meetings. Sections A-I are specific to "Council," "Council Chambers," and the "Council Clerk." After this Council-oriented framework is spelled out, subsection J simply applies that framework to "any public meeting of a City board or commission" and entitles the Person-in-Charge to eject disruptive, dangerous, or threatening persons "by applying the provisions of this Section." This creates confusion, and the Section should be further refined before it is adopted.

For example,

- Do ejections from Council "apply to any public meeting of a City board or commission" in the sense that a person excluded from Council cannot attend a CRC meeting (or other public meeting) during the period of exclusion? Or is subsection J intended merely to state that persons-in-charge of board/commission meetings have the same exclusion authority as presiding officers in Council meetings?
- Do the 1- and 3-strike rules in subsection D apply across boards and commissions, or are members of the public to be excluded from each individual body separately? In other words, does this Section envision that a person could be excluded for 30 days if she is disruptive in two City Council meetings and one CRC meeting?
- If subsection J authorizes the CRC Chair to exclude threatening or disruptive persons on the same terms as Council, should the CRC Chair apply provisions A-I by mentally substituting all mentions of "Council" or "Council Chambers" in subsections A-I with "CRC" and "CRC meeting location"? With whom should boards and commissions replace the "Council Clerk" in subsection I?
- Would the exclusion rules apply even when the CRC (or other public body) meets in community locations off of City Property?

In sum, the proposed Section 3.02.060 may work well for Council, but might prove an unwieldy and imprecise tool for other boards and commissions. If the goal is to secure an actionable and legally sound framework for improving public participation in <u>all</u> City meetings, I would recommend a redraft that gives more thought to the impact on boards and commissions.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sent:	JOE WALSH <lonevet2008@comcast.net> Monday, March 06, 2017 11:19 AM</lonevet2008@comcast.net>
To:	Moore-Love, Karla
Cc:	Chaddock; roberto lavato; Commissioner Eudaly; Joe Anybody (via Twitter); joann hardesty; bernstein
Subject:	submission and notice about item #231

Please make this part of the official record, Opposition to taking away Amendments Rights:

Individuals For Justice with this notice is on record to oppose your intention to take away a fundamental right of a citizen to "…..petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This is the last part of Amendment 1.

We intend to sue in Federal Court as soon as you (Council members) vote on this item and want to go on record now because we fear that you may not allow us to testify on item 231 in part or in full. There are 17 supplemental pages in this ordinance and 3 minutes of rebuttal is consistent with the legal tactics of the trump gang. We object to that and this ordinance in its entirety; this should not stand!

We see that this ordinance violates the 1st, 8th and 14th Amendments of the United States. This notice is not meant to limit our ability to submit violations of law either under the US or the Oregon Constitutions.

There are a number of things you could do to alleviate the problems that you claim as disruptive behavior, one is to hold Town Hall Meetings. This would allow those who feel you are not responsive to us, the auditor has said that may be as high as 80% of the citizens do not feel they can effect change in our local government.

https://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditservices/article/619278

Mimi German sent you a list of things you could do to start the process of responding but you have ignored her attempts. Included in those was a request to come up with a city wide plan to deal with houseless human beings dying on our streets. What you are doing here is what most politicians do and that is to repress and not redress.

I will sign up and will speak if I am allowed but this notice is part of the record as coming from members of Individuals For Justice.

For Justice,Peace and *Laughter, Joe Walsh-Lone Vet Individuals for Justice http://individualsforjustice.com Proud member of Oregon Progressive Party, http://progparty.org/

War is failure, occupation a disgrace!

â€ÂœFunding these wars is killing our troopsâ€Â http://www.mfso.org/

* Why laughter?? Because without it I would have gone insane years ago.

An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching. Mohandas Gandhi

Molly Ivins, "It's like, duh. Just when you thought there wasn't a dime's worth of difference between the two parties, the Republicans go and prove you're wrong."

"I have no country to fight for; my country is the earth, and I am a citizen of the world." Eugene V. Debs

"So keep fighting for freedom and justice, beloveds..." -- Molly Ivins