

567

To: Portland City Council
From: Donna L Cohen MLIS MEd
Subject: Fairness in housing
Date: May 31, 2017

In a country where, more and more, people are separated by socio-economic status, I would like to see Portland welcoming to everyone and providing housing to all income groups in all parts of the city.

I grew up in Boston. I appreciate historic architecture. But, it shouldn't override the essential need for housing. I believe that sometimes use of historic designation is - consciously or not - a method to eliminate some neighborhoods from sharing in solutions for affordable housing.

We know that lower-income kids who go to school in mixed income neighborhoods do better; better than simply efforts that improve schools in a disadvantaged neighborhood.

From Time Magazine: "Wealthy Selfies: How Being Rich Increases Narcissism"

<http://healthland.time.com/2013/08/20/wealthy-selfies-how-being-rich-increases-narcissism/print/>

"The wealthier participants were also more likely to agree with statements like 'I honestly feel I'm just more deserving than other people' and place themselves higher on a self-assessed 'class ladder'."

NPR recently had a segment called "Section 8 Vouchers Help The Poor — But Only If Housing Is Available" <http://www.npr.org/2017/05/10/527660512/section-8-vouchers-help-the-poor-but-only-if-housing-is-available>

"But Congress had bigger plans when it created the nearly \$20 billion program in the 1970s. The voucher was designed to be a ticket out of poverty— allowing families to use it wherever they want. With a portable voucher, families can move to places with jobs, good schools and low crime."

"Yet, in Dallas, [Texas] about 60 percent of people who get vouchers are unable to use them." Part of the problem is this:

"Developer Terri Anderson says she ran into problems ... when trying to build an apartment complex, with 13 units set aside specifically for voucher holders... 'The city actually called a public hearing for our property and about 250 angry residents showed up,' she says. 'Our superintendent has been threatened, issued a criminal trespass warning. Police officers blocked our entrance.'"

"Nicole Humphrey, who lives a couple miles away from Anderson's development, says she's opposed to the project... 'In this neighborhood, most of us are stay-at-home moms with young kids,' she says. 'The lifestyle that goes with Section 8 is usually

working, single moms or people who are struggling to keep their heads above water. I feel so bad saying that,' she adds. 'It's just not people who are the same class as us.'"

"When asked if others who did not have the same opportunities as her could live in her neighborhood, she says: 'The problem with that is I hear a lot of ... Oh we haven't been given this or that, or we haven't been afforded things you have been afforded.'"

The person who wants to deprive someone of an opportunity complains about people who feel deprived of opportunities!

It is incumbent upon Portland to develop affordable housing in every part of the city.

Citizen Activism 101 - Making Change Happen

Want to improve life for yourself and your neighbors?
Successful advocacy. Choosing battles. Who makes
the rules? Getting heard. "Tracking" legislation.

SUN. JUNE 4 1:30-3:00 HILLSBORO PL [BROOKWOOD] HILLSBORO
SAT. JUNE 17 1:00-2:30 WILSONVILLE PL WILSONVILLE
SUN. JUNE 18 1:00-2:30 HILLSDALE BRANCH MCL PDX
SUN. AUGUST 6 2:00-3:30 MCMINNVILLE PL MCMINNVILLE

Donna L Cohen, MEd, MLIS *Teacher and Librarian*

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

We are overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news
sources and other media. Learn to distinguish truth from
fiction using real world examples of political ads, news
headlines, and other types of information in a "what do you
see here? format. & How to find accurate information.

SAT. JUNE 10 12:30 CORVALLIS-BENTON CNTY. LIBRARY
645 NW MONROE AVE CORVALLIS

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For more information, citizen@civicthinker.net
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Section 8 Vouchers Help The Poor — But Only If Housing Is Available

May 10, 2017 4:35 PM ET Heard on [All Things Considered](#) LAURA SULLIVAN and MEG ANDERSON

<http://www.npr.org/2017/05/10/527660512/section-8-vouchers-help-the-poor-but-only-if-housing-is-available>

Farryn Giles and her 6-year-old son Isaiah have been living in a crumbling apartment building with her ex-husband, who's letting her stay for a couple months. Pigeons have infested the walls of the courtyard. Before she lived here, she was sleeping on and off in her car.

[This story is part of an investigation produced in partnership with the [PBS series Frontline](#):

[WATCH: Poverty, Politics and Profit](#)]

But Giles, 26, says she recently felt like she hit the jackpot. She was awarded a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, which will pay the difference between her rent and what she can afford. But there's a catch: She has to find a landlord willing to take it before it expires in 90 days. Nationally, most voucher holders are able to use them, but in hot rental markets like Dallas, it's not always easy.

"It took me six years to get my voucher but I got it," she says. "You can best believe I'm going to utilize it." More than 2 million families now use vouchers to keep from becoming homeless. It's the government's largest program to help low-income families pay their rent. Usually, the tenant pays up to 30 percent of their income in rent and a local public housing agency makes up the difference.

But Congress had bigger plans when it created the nearly \$20 billion program in the 1970s. The voucher was designed to be a ticket out of poverty—allowing families to use it wherever they want. With a portable voucher, families can move to places with jobs, good schools and low crime.

So far, however, the program has not always lived up to that promise, especially when it comes to women with children. Among voucher holders, [a 2016 government study](#) found fewer than 13 percent of female-headed households with children were able to move to areas with higher opportunity.

Giles is trying to beat those odds. She found a new online customer service job paying \$11.50 an hour. It's a big break for her. But it's an hour and a half bus ride away. She says she hoped the voucher would help her and her son find a place near the job in one of Dallas' northern and wealthier suburbs.

"Hello, goals, ambition," she says, excited about the idea of finding a quiet place to raise her son.

C'Artis Harris, 34, another voucher holder searching for a place in Dallas, also sees her voucher as a chance to make a new life. "I can get a house or an apartment and it will be affordable for me and my children," she says. "I don't have to depend on people. I don't have to go into abusive relationships. I don't have to sleep in my van. I don't have to have my kids going from school to school. They can know this is ours. We don't have to keep moving."

A few months into her search, Giles had called hundreds of apartment complexes, many of them near her new job in the northern suburbs.

"I've been to Oak Cliff, I've been to south Dallas, I've been to Pleasant Grove," she says. "I've been way down south. Nobody wants my voucher."

Giles and Harris are not alone in their struggle. **In Dallas, about 60 percent of people who get vouchers are unable to use them, according to MaryAnn Russ, the former CEO of the Dallas Housing Authority. While Dallas' rate is worse than most, the challenge is similar in other cities where rents are high and the market is tight:** Sometimes vouchers don't cover the rent or landlords prefer tenants without them. Nationwide, upscale suburbs — like McKinney and Frisco, just north of Dallas — have not always welcomed voucher holders.

Developer Terri Anderson says she ran into problems in McKinney and Frisco when trying to build an apartment complex, with 13 units set aside specifically for voucher holders, on the line between McKinney and Frisco.

"The city actually called a public hearing for our property and about 250 angry residents showed up," she says. "Our superintendent has been threatened, issued a criminal trespass warning. Police officers blocked our entrance."

Anderson says she believes she knows why: "It's a concerted effort to shut down development of a property they do not want in their neighborhood."

Frisco city officials say they support affordable housing and her project. They also say Anderson has not followed the city's building requirements. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is now investigating whether McKinney and Frisco violated the federal fair housing law.

Nicole Humphrey, who lives a couple miles away from Anderson's development, says she's opposed to the project. The and other neighbors have said they worry about traffic and school overcrowding. But Humphrey says she has other concerns.

"In this neighborhood, most of us are stay-at-home moms with young kids," she says. "The lifestyle that goes with Section 8 is usually working, single moms or people who are struggling to keep their heads above water."

"I feel so bad saying that," she adds. "It's just not people who are the same class as us."

When asked if others who did not have the same opportunities as her could live in her neighborhood, she says: "The problem with that is I hear a lot of the unfair of: 'Oh we haven't been given this or that, or we haven't been afforded things you have been afforded.' I don't look at multi-millionaires and think, 'Why don't I have a yacht?'"

Humphrey says the issue for her is not about race. She says her neighborhood — with rows of tidy new houses and with well-cut lawns — is diverse. The real concern, she says, is that the voucher holders won't fit in or they won't understand her life.

"People see that I'm upper middle class, that I'm a woman who stays at home, who is kept by her husband, and instantly there's no clout. My opinion doesn't matter," she says. "They look at me and think, 'She has never experienced a problem we're having.'"

Humphrey acknowledges that as much as she fears voucher holders will stereotype her, she says she knows she is also stereotyping them.

"I don't know that we will ever come to a solution as a culture in America in general," she says. "There's always going to be someone with less, because the fair world doesn't exist and where does that line lie?"

Giles knows exactly where the line lies. It's between north and south Dallas.

Sitting on a bench on a 15-minute break from her customer service job, Giles says she thinks she knows how some people up north see her.

"I think that they think we are lazy, and worthless and getting over," she says. "Even though we're financially less capable, we still love our children the same. We still work just as hard, if not harder."

Giles says after three months of trying, she was unable to get anyone to take her voucher. She turned it back in and recently moved with her son out of the apartment where she was staying with her ex-husband and into a public housing complex in Dallas. She has since left her job in the northern suburb.

"Section 8 is not any type of simplification for our lives," she says, crying. "It's not easier. Society hasn't really grown the way people think that it has. And that's how I feel about that. It can't all have a happy ending I suppose."

Harris, who is still looking for a place to use her voucher, has been staying with a friend. "Maybe it's meant for me to live in the 'hood," Harris says. "But I don't want to."

Wealthy Selfies: How Being Rich Increases Narcissism

By Maia Szalavitz @maiasz Aug. 20, 2013

<http://healthland.time.com/2013/08/20/wealthy-selfies-how-being-rich-increases-narcissism/print/>

The rich really are different — and, apparently more self-absorbed, according to the latest research. That goes against the conventional wisdom that the more people have, the more they appreciate their obligations to give back to others. Recent studies show, for example, that wealthier people are more likely to cut people off in traffic and to behave unethically in simulated business and charity scenarios. Earlier this year, statistics on charitable giving revealed that while the wealthy donate about 1.3% of their income to charity, the poorest actually give more than twice as much as a proportion of their earnings — 3.2%.

“There’s this idea that the more you have, the less entitled and more grateful you feel; and the less you have, the more you feel you deserve. That’s not what we find,” says author Paul Piff, a psychologist at the University of California, Berkeley. “This seems to be the opposite of noblesse oblige.”

(MORE: Why the Rich Are Less Ethical: They See Greed as Good)

In five different experiments involving several hundred undergraduates and 100 adults recruited from online communities, the **researchers found higher levels of both narcissism and entitlement among those of higher income and social class.**

The study, which was published in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, showed that when asked to visually depict themselves as circles, with size indicating relative importance, richer people picked larger circles for themselves and smaller ones for others. Another experiment found that they also looked in the mirror more frequently.

The wealthier participants were also more likely to agree with statements like “I honestly feel I’m just more deserving than other people” and place themselves higher on a self-assessed “class ladder” that indicated increasing levels of income, education and job prestige.

But which came first — did gaining wealth increase self-aggrandizement? Were self-infatuated people more likely to seek and then gain riches? Or, alternatively do narcissistic people feel especially entitled to rank themselves higher than their actual incomes and education levels justify, therefore creating a misleading connection between wealth and narcissism?

To explore that relationship further, the researchers also asked the college students in one experiment to report the educational attainment and annual income of their parents. Those with more highly educated and wealthier parents remained higher in their self-reported entitlement and narcissistic characteristics. “That would suggest that it’s not just [that] people who feel entitled are more likely to become wealthy,” says Piff. Wealth, in other words, may breed narcissistic tendencies — and wealthy people justify their excess by convincing themselves that they are more deserving of it.

“The strength of the study is that it uses multiple methods for measuring narcissism and entitlement and social class and multiple populations, and that can really increase our confidence in the results,” says Jean Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University and author of *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement*, who was not associated with the research.

The findings therefore do not suggest that narcissists have some sort of financial or professional advantage. She says, “This paper should not be read as saying that narcissists are more successful because we know from lots of other studies that that’s not true. People say we have to be that way because it’s so competitive, but it doesn’t actually help you compete.”

Twenge also notes that there is a difference between narcissistic traits, as measured in this study, and clinical narcissistic-personality disorder. The disorder is actually more common among the poor rather than the rich, according to other studies. That’s probably because at its most extreme, narcissism destroys relationships both in the home and workplace — and therefore, is more likely to lead to unemployment and poverty, not success.

It's also important to recognize that "entitlement is a facet of narcissism," says Twenge. "And [it's the] one most associated with high social class. It's the idea that you deserve special treatment and that things will come to you without working hard."

The results come as no surprise to Madeline Levine, a California psychologist and author of *Teach Your Children Well*, who has long treated affluent teens in her practice. "Their sense of entitlement is overpowering," she says, describing a teenage patient who stomped in furious and feeling deprived because he was stuck driving his mother's "mom-car Lexus" rather than being given his own BMW.

"The narcissist doesn't suffer the most, it's the people around them that do," Levine says. "How parents tolerate this kind of entitlement in their kids is kind of mind-boggling," she adds, noting that the boy got his BMW.

Manipulating the sense of entitlement, however, may provide a way to influence narcissism. In the final experiment in the paper, the researchers found that having participants who listed three benefits of seeing others as equals eliminated class differences in narcissism, while simply listing three daily activities did not. "When we make people feel less entitled, [they are] less narcissistic," says Piff. Twenge also notes that telling narcissistic people that someone else shares the same birthday or has similar fingerprints reduces their aggression toward those they see as more like themselves.

How long those results last or whether they translate into significant differences in behavior isn't clear. Psychologists emphasize, however, that being able to see the world from other people's perspectives — empathy — is critical to fighting narcissism.

In the meantime, the connection between wealth and entitlement could have troubling social implications. "You have this bifurcation of rich and poor," says Levine. "The rich are increasingly entitled, and since they set the cultural tone for advertising and all those kinds of things, I think there's a pervasive sense of entitlement."

That could perpetuate a deepening lack of empathy that could fuel narcissistic tendencies.

"You could imagine negative attitudes toward wealth redistribution as a result of entitlement," says Piff. "The more severe inequality becomes, the more entitled people may feel and the less likely to share those resources they become." The wealthier certain segments of society become, then, the more vulnerable communities may be to selfish tendencies — and the less charity the least among us can expect.

Maia Szalavitz @maiasz

Maia Szalavitz is a neuroscience journalist for TIME.com

Szalavitz's latest book is *Born for Love: Why Empathy Is Essential — and Endangered*. It is co-written with Dr. Bruce Perry, a leading expert in the neuroscience of child trauma and recovery.

"The most important political office is that of the private citizen." Justice Louis Brandeis

Civics for Adults Workshops: Enhancing Civic Knowledge / Inspiring Political Engagement



The goal of all workshops is to provide information typically hidden behind the headline-grabbing, background noise of our lives. Our democracy is strengthened when citizens have accurate civic knowledge.

"Donna brought a balanced, informed set of discussion points and fact-checking sources on voting, taxes, citizenship, and other topics that sometime turn politics from polite conversation to heated argument. Sarah Jesudason, Tualatin PL [while at Tigard PL]"

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

We are overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news sources and other media. Learn to distinguish truth from fiction using critical thinking strategies. The work-

shop uses real world examples of political ads, news headlines, logical fallacies, graphs / charts, the effect of word choice in messaging, statistical data and other types of information in a “what do you see here? / what is missing?” type of format.

The last part is about finding accurate information. The goal is to help people become their own “factchecker”.

"It's good to question assertions of any kind, especially timely in this election year. I liked Donna's examples of real ads and how we need to be mentally vigilant."

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

Want to improve life for yourself and your neighbors or have a concern about local, state or federal laws? Learn about strategies for change, and more: Examples of successful advocacy; Brief historical perspective; Choosing your battles; What matters to *you*?; Who makes the rules?; Getting heard: tools for change; "Tracking" civic/political issues

State legislature is in session. What is going on and how to make your mark.

Thanks so much for hosting this!! I think that this sort of event is perfectly in line with the spirit of public libraries, and I think we need ya'll now more than ever.

We would love more talks like this one about citizen advocacy.

Donna was fabulous. Engaging speaker and shared some really useful knowledge.

I loved this presentation! Donna had a lot of information and provided a lot of resources.

The Influence of the Constitution on Political Conversation

By looking back at the creation of the Constitution we puncture some myths and develop a broader perspective on its significance – perspective that helps us evaluate current political events more thoughtfully.

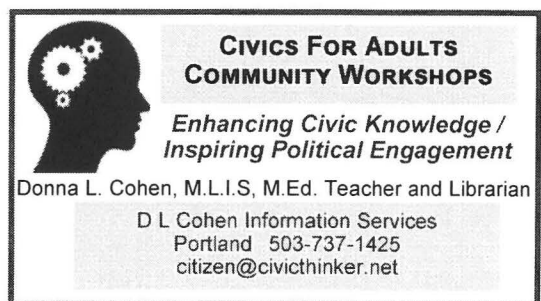
"Amazing what was done [the creation of the Constitution] and what issues still remain."

"Good level of history and contemporary political ideas, their evolution and relevance to today."

Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing

This is a unique workshop covering 20 topics related to our electoral systems and presenting specific ideas for bi-partisan civic/political engagement. Topics:

Voting as Constitutional right(?), Voter Rights, Voter Fraud, Voter Registration, Voter Turnout, Felon voting, Instant Runoff Elections, Redistricting, Superdelegates, Electoral College, National Popular



Vote, Campaign Financing, SuperPACS and 501(c)4s, Contribution Limits, Dark Money, Disclosure, Elected Officials Time Spent Fundraising, Public attitudes about Money in Politics, Oregon's Campaign Finance Database, Public Financing of Elections

"Thanks for all the great information... It was empowering."

"This talk was very informational and gave me some ideas of how to make a difference starting locally."

<https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/>

Summer 2017



The other speaker will have to send in their own request. Include name, address, phone number, date they wish to speak (May 31), and topic.

Regards,
Karla

<image002.png>Karla Moore-Love |Council Clerk
City of Portland |Office of the City Auditor
1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 130
Portland OR 97204-1900

email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov
Testimony Email: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov
phone: 503.823.4086
Clerk's Webpage: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

From: D Cohen [<mailto:dcohen@hevanet.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:47 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: 'Kathy Glanville' <kathy.glanville@gmail.com>
Subject: Communications slot

Hi Karla,

How are you?

I would like to come to Council on the 12th, if possible, to speak about "density and Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association's request for Historic status".

Someone else would like to come, too, so if that is not possible the 12th, how about the following week, the 19th?

Thank you,
Donna

Donna L Cohen, MEd, MLIS
Portland, Oregon
503-737-1425
citizen@civicthinker.net

Civics for Adults Workshops: To Enhance Civic Knowledge and Inspire Political Engagement
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/>

3

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kathy Glanville <kathy.glanville@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 6:01 PM
To: D Cohen
Cc: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Re: Communications slot

Hi Donna and Karla,

Unfortunately I will be out of town on the 31st. Thank you for letting us know what times were available.

Kathy

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2017, at 5:00 PM, D Cohen <dcohen@hevanet.com> wrote:

Hi,

Yes, let's go with the 31st. [Kathy, you need to email Karla asap, if you want to join me.]

I guess the only thing you don't have for me right now is address: 8443 N Bliss St. PDX [St Johns]

Thanks, and hang in there with the commotion. Sounds stressful!

Donna

Donna L Cohen, MEd, MLIS
Portland, Oregon
503-737-1425
citizen@civicthinker.net

Civics for Adults Workshops: To Enhance Civic Knowledge and Inspire Political Engagement
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/>

From: Moore-Love, Karla [<mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 3:25 PM
To: D Cohen <dcohen@hevanet.com>
Cc: 'Kathy Glanville' <kathy.glanville@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Communications slot

Hello Donna,

I have been well, thank you for asking. Hope you are doing good too.

Unfortunately, the next available date to speak to the Council is not until May 31st. There are two spots left but I would have to know by tomorrow if you are interested in taking them.

Request of Donna Cohen to address Council regarding density and
East Moreland Neighborhood Association's request for Historic status
(Communication)

MAY 31 2017
PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 23 2017

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*
Deputy

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