

Good Morning. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you. My name is David Newman. I am here today to ask your help in keeping me from going to prison for exercising my constitutional right to free speech. I am Portland resident, a nurse practitioner, small business owner, and member of Havurah Shalom, a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation. I am speaking to you today as a private citizen. I am also a member of Jewish Voice for Peace and a supporter of the nonviolent boycott, divestment and sanction movement. However, I am not here today to try to persuade you of the merits of B.D.S., or to talk to you about the Israeli oppression of the Palestinians. We can leave those discussions for another day. What I am here to speak to you about is about my constitutional right to participate in a boycott of Israel if I choose to do so. Boycotts are a form of collective action that allows ordinary people to make their voices heard. In this country we have a long tradition of boycotts being used to effect progressive change. In the 1960s they were used successfully in the Civil Rights movement to overturn Jim Crow laws and by the United Farm Workers to win concessions from growers. More recently boycotts have been used to protest the States of Arizona and North Carolina when they passed laws targeting immigrants and transgender people. The right to boycott is a form of free speech protected by both the United States and the Oregon Constitutions. The United States Supreme Court, in the landmark 1982 case, NAACP vs Clayborne Hardware affirmed that boycotts are a protected form of free speech. If the Israel anti-boycott Act becomes the law of the land my right to participate in a boycott of Israel and my right to encourage others to participate in such a boycott will become illegal. Violators could face up to 20 years in prison. This is not just **my** opinion; it is the opinion of the ACLU and other civil rights experts who have looked carefully at the proposed legislation. If the Israel anti-boycott Act becomes law, I and many other Portlanders could be arrested and prosecuted for merely exercising our right to free speech. This proposed law is meant to intimidate those who seek to pressure Israel into doing the right thing. That is its sole purpose, intimidation. It would have a chilling effect on nonviolent forms of direct action. Many Portlanders support BDS. Faith leaders, PSU students and many of our neighbors are currently boycotting the State of Israel and have encouraged others to do so. I am sure none of you would want to see the spectacle of Portlanders prosecuted for exercising their first amendment rights. That would be shameful and would make our city complicit in the undermining of our basic freedoms. As the public voice of our city I respectfully ask you to formalize your opposition to this appalling piece of legislation by passing a resolution condemning it. Thank you for considering this request.

**Parsons, Susan**

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**From:** David Newman <davnew2@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 5:09 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** I would like a slot to speak to the City Council

Hello,

My name is David Newman. I am a Portland resident. I would like a slot to speak to the City Council on 1/10/2018. I will be speaking on behalf of Occupation Free Portland

Thank you,

David Newman  
503-804-5701

Request of David Newman to address Council regarding Occupation-Free Portland (Communication)

JAN 10 2018

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 02 2018

**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		