

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** \* Authorize a grant agreement with OPAL Environmental Justice in an amount not to exceed \$17,500, to support the Bus Riders Unite Against Hate Project: Trained Experts in De-escalation (TEDs) on Portland's Transit System. (Ordinance)

**Contact name:** Michelle Rodriguez and Kari Koch

**Contact phone:** 503-823-4831 / 503-823-2294

**Presenter name:** N/A

### **Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

Founded in 2006 by and for people of color and low income, OPAL is the grassroots-driven hub at the center of Oregon's movement for Environmental Justice. OPAL develops community members' leadership skills and motivates them to act.

OPAL amplifies the voices of negatively-impacted individuals to address inequalities and under the Bus Riders Unite Program, those individuals will feel safer on Portland's public transit system. These riders want positive alternatives to the police for people especially on the transit system.

OPAL plans to recruit five Trained Experts in De-Escalation (TEDs) to participate as Rider Advocate Campaign organizers who will build a team of community members who can help keep our buses safe, and build a transit community that emphasizes safety for all transit riders.

Recent white supremacist violence in our community, and particularly on our transit system, compels OPAL to seek solutions that center the power of community, uplift the leadership of communities of color, and that protect those in our society who are most vulnerable to discrimination.

### **Financial and budgetary impacts:**

Funding for this grant is available in the FY2017-18 budget in the General Fund Special Appropriations. There is no new financial impact.

### **Community impacts and community involvement:**

OPAL's Bus Riders Unite Against Hate Project is committed to lifting the voices of transit dependent people and people whose voices are not commonly heard as well as making the transit system more accessible, safer, and of greater value to riders who need public transportation the most.

The project will build safety, community, and de-escalation of tense situations in Portland's public transportation system. In addition, the project will build a safety net for targets of white supremacist violence outside of the transit police department.

### **100% Renewable Goal:**

Not applicable

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet****Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.☒ **NO:** Skip this section

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund Center</b>	<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>Functional Area</b>	<b>Funded Program</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Sponsored Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>