

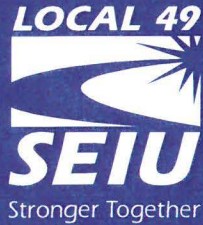
Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nicole Knudsen <nicolek@seiu49.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 8:10 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Hagins, Felisa
Subject: Testimony in support of Agenda item 608
Attachments: TESTIMONY - SEIU 49 in support of the proposed budget - 06.06.18.pdf

Hi Karla,

Please see attached testimony in support of the City's proposed budget for FY 2018-2019 and the increase to the business license tax, sent on behalf of SEIU Local 49 Political Director Felisa Hagins.

Thank you,
Nicole Knudsen
Strategic Researcher
Service Employees International Union, Local 49
Ph# 503-236-4949 x 254



Testimony to Portland City Council
Provided by Felisa Hagins
Political Director, SEIU Local 49
3536 SE 26th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

189017

June 6, 2018

RE: In support of the FY 2018-19 Adopted Budget and increase to the business license tax.

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Felisa Hagins and I am the Political Director for the Service Employees International Union, Local 49. SEIU Local 49 is an over 13,000-member union comprised of healthcare and property service workers, most of whom live in the metro area. Our mission as a union is to improve the quality of life for our members, their families, and dependents by achieving a higher standard of living by elevating their social conditions and by striving to create a more just society.

On behalf of our members, I am writing to voice support for the proposed City budget. Of particular importance to our members is the fact that this budget maintains and protects good union jobs *outside* of the City's direct employment. Providing sufficient funding for subcontracted union janitorial and security services is an important means of supporting the City's goals of affordability for working families.

We also applaud the City's bold vision in raising its business license tax from 2.2% to 2.6%, as the boost to the City's General Fund will have an important impact on the quality of life for all Portland residents.

SEIU Local 49 has a long history of fighting for livability, affordability, and for good jobs in our community. We have worked closely with coalition partners to advocate for more affordable housing, to end the ban on inclusionary zoning, have been staunch supporters of tenant protections in the legislature, and we have been vocal advocates of ensuring the City is living up to the values of equity espoused in the recently revised Comprehensive Plan.

We welcome the City's use of another tool, via this proposed budget, to protect Portland's working families and to move us towards a more equitable society. Portland's rapid growth has created a crisis of economic inequality that calls for bold action to keep Portland from following other west coast cities in becoming a playground for only the very rich. Maintaining adequate funding for subcontracted union jobs and ensuring that businesses are making a sufficient contribution towards vital City services are important components of a livable city where everyone has a fair shot.

Thank you.

Felisa Hagins
Political Director
Service Employees International Union, Local 49

1-800-955-3352
MAIN OFFICE

503-238-6692
FAX

3536 SE 26TH AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97202

@SEIU49
TWITTER

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FACEBOOK

WWW.SEIU49.ORG