

Support for Resolution to create commission re City Code Chapter 3.96

July 18 2018

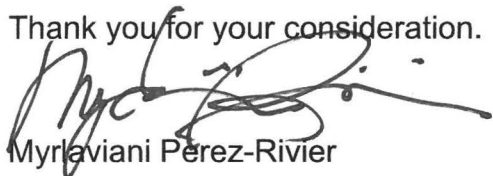
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Our community values diversity and a sense of community--in fact these principles guide our interpersonal relationships and social networks. We contend the contexts which foster a sense a community and diversity are not mutually inclusive rather, sometimes the inevitable tension both demands and intrinsically compels us to reach for radical acceptance where we have not been before or, because we are rooted in a fundamental philosophy of inclusiveness, we simply go with the flow; respond to situations by coming to understand what the needs are in the given moment and then to take action--to get creative, innovative--whatever that moment needs--whatever that person needs in that moment.

In our view it comes down to building trust. One way to start building trustful relationships is to recognize who is in our greater community. Disabled people, including Disabled People of Color, are in the community building cohesive social networks across Disability lines and deconstructing particularly unhelpful silos. Now we are ready to build and realize a more cohesive Portland. We believe and feel being recognized by our local government will foster more respect and dignity for intersectional identities and lives. We believe and are developing a community that is merely not segregated but rather one that is truly integrated. We believe the renaming indicates a reconceptualizing of the public sphere and appreciate both the vision and wisdom to convene a body of Portlanders to assess and update City Code Chapter 3.96.

We respectfully request Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Eudaly, Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Fish and foremost, our highly respected Mayor Ted Wheeler, without hesitation and with full commitment, to pass this resolution so the Office of Community and Civic Life bureau may convene a commission to review and update City Code Chapter 3.96.

Thank you for your consideration.



Myrlaviani Pérez-Rivier

Let-It-Pour POC-Led Cross Disability Community Group

From: Jennings, Gayla
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: FW: Written submission testimony re: July 18, 2pm Agenda item on ONI Name change

Hello, Council Clerk,

This testimony was received by Auditor Hull Caballero for what appears to be this Wednesday's afternoon time certain agenda items 771 and 772. I'm not sure if you received a separate email from Chuck – my apologies if this a duplicate.

Thank you!

Gayla Jennings
Deputy Auditor | Office of the City Auditor City of Portland, Oregon Phone (503) 823-3560

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Duffy [mailto:charles.p.duffy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 4:03 PM
To: Wheeler, Mayor <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Eudaly <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Fish <nick@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Saltzman <dan@portlandoregon.gov>; City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>; allan@nwexaminer.com
Subject: Written submission testimony re: July 18, 2pm Agenda item on ONI Name change

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Council Members,

I have been a resident of Northwest Portland since 1975 and have always been involved in my neighborhood in a variety of ways including times on the NWDA board when I once served along side former Mayor Vera Katz.

I wish to make this one simple point regarding this proposed name change.

Although I support the concept of a committee to review the functions and obligations of the current ONI office, I would hope you would defer passing this requested name change as an Emergency measure.

These are my reasons:

1. There certainly and clearly is no emergency, nor is one actually stated as required. By its own admission ONI has said that this has been the result of numerous changes to the office's obligations over the years. There is no emergency. There is time to get a new name correct and supported by the whole community.
2. To change its name and then explore a committee in effect to set out what its statutory duties are, is to say the least, putting the cart before the horse. Obviously the sensible thing to do is to defer and wait until the committee does its work and produces a report. Then the proper name for those duties should be clear. Names matter. Let's get it right.

So please, do not pass this name change as a false emergency ordinance. Do it right and wait for the code amendments and result of the committee.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Chuck Duffy
Northwest Portland

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Roger Leachman <rogerleachman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 8:36 PM
To: Commissioner Fritz; Fish, Nick; Commissioner Saltzman; Commissioner Eudaly; Wheeler, Mayor; City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero
Cc: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Testimony re ONI Re-branding et al
Attachments: email to council 18 July 2018.odt

I attach testimony re 771 & 772 on Council 18 July 2018 agenda.

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**Testimony re 771 & 772
Portland City Council 18 July 2018**

My name is Roger Leachman. I serve on the board of the Goose Hollow Foothills League, the board of NeighborsWest Northwest coalition, & on the ONI BAC. I speak here for myself as a citizen, although I will mention that all of you have received 3 letters over the past year & a half from GHFL on the unaddressed & unaccomplished reform of ONI --the most recent from last month. I voted for all of them.

When the Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA) changed its name to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) in 1995, it was after a substantive public process that was not “top down,” controlled & directed by the bureau, but representing affected parties, holding meetings, & seeking for wide public input.

There could hardly be a starker contrast with the behavior of the bureau these past months & leading up to the seeking of “emergency” action by City Council.

How is this an “emergency”? This is not a life threatening situation where any people will suffer from delay. Delay is in fact called for, because of the lack of public process.

I suggest that the “emergency” is to save embarrassment to the Director & Commissioner-in-charge because they spent \$25,000 of our tax monies (to a PR firm) to re-brand the bureau, then treated it as a fiat, a done deal --not even (it would appear) realizing or researching the fact that Council action would be required.

Let’s rehearse the history of the re-branding matter.

Only Felicia Williams, at a 2016 ONI BAC meeting raised & pushed for a name change. She said that the bureau should not want to be identified with neighborhoods (she then later played the board of the NeighborsWest Northwest (NWNW) coalition for rubes, saying they should push back against the idea of neighborhoods as “toxic,” omitting to tell them that it was *she herself* who pushed the narrative). Her reception at the BAC, however, was that this was a “very low” priority. And there it would have appeared to have died.

Why then resurrect an idea no one had bought into other than a coalition president who would shortly be ousted by her board?

I believe there are basically 2 reasons. The primary one is that the name of ONI was seen as toxic after the shortcomings & dereliction of duty documented in the November 2016 audit of the bureau (which I would say covered only the “tip of the iceberg” --agreeing with the expressed concern of a city employee at one of the Auditor’s 2017 meetings). So have the bureau take the approach of Blackwater, the mercenary group, which re-branded itself as “Xe”--hoping that people would not remember what went before under the old name.

The second is that, without *any kind of public process* as had happened in the past (e.g., 1995 --but various other times too) --hey, let’s change ONI’s functions. Because of course if you have to really involve concerned & affected parties in that, you are likely to hear things you’d rather not. This is also a way of distancing the bureau from the audit, so that you don’t actually have to address it & do anything about it. And the latter is what has happened, as I can testify from regular attendance at BAC & Coalition Directors & Chairs meetings. There’s a huge elephant in the room that nobody wants to see.

Yet another approach to distance yourself from something like the audit is to demonize someone else, to distract attention from what you are doing or not doing. Who better than the groups you were originally formed to serve, whom you see as problems for you, so you can minimize them. And this has gone on as well, as I & others have documented (& can document further).

In January an online survey was launched to gather suggestions for a re-branding. Funny thing, the most votes went to the existing name (personal disclosure: I voted for the current name). The second most went to Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA). There are the usual caustic ones, like Office of Everything Else, Office of Neighborhood Ignorement [sic], & others much worse I won't mention. However, to scroll through all of the 163 which the *Portland Mercury* (& good for them) posted online is salutary. It actually shows that people think & care. However the results were not what the bureau wanted, hence the out-sourcing at taxpayer expense.

One must ask, where was the emergency to go this route? Just as we ask, where is the emergency today?

It puts me in mind of the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*: "Sentence first –verdict afterwards." For us in Portland: Decisions first –processes afterwards.

Putting aside the black humor, it is a terribly serious & disturbing matter that the bureau supposedly charged with developing proper public process can't or won't do it themselves. How could they possibly tell anyone else how it should be done? Answer: they cannot.

You have the opportunity here to make it be done correctly –processes first, decisions afterwards.

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