

ROBERT PATTERSON

REMARKS ON HOMELESSNESS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF PORTLAND

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30, 2019

IT HAS BEEN A MANTRA OF MINE LATELY THAT "HOMELESS PEOPLE SHOULD BE A PROTECTED CLASS." SUCH AN ASSERTION IS PREGNANT WITH LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, AND ADMITTEDLY PART OF IT'S APPEAL TO ME IS THE FAVOR IT MIGHT FIND WITH THE TRIAL LAWYER LOBBY THAT SEEMS TO STEER THE WHEEL OF MY PARTY FROM TIME TO TIME.

I REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT STATUTE RARELY OFFERS TOTAL SOLUTIONS.

TO BE SURE, SOME RIGHTS - THE RIGHTS TO VOTE AND TO REPRESENTATION - ARE ENDANGERED TO THE HOMELESS; IT ALSO HOWEVER OCCURS TO ME THAT PART AND PARCEL TO LIBERTY IS THE RIGHT TO DROP OUT, TO GO OFF THE GRID. THOREAU'S WALDEN WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SAME WERE IT CLOGGED WITH CENSUS TAKERS AND TAXMEN.

BUT THERE ARE TIMES - RARE AND MOMENTOUS TIMES - AT WHICH ONE MUST DEMAND WITH CLOSED FIST TO BE COUNTED, TO MATTER. TIMES AS IN SELMA AND STONEWALL. WE LIVE IN ONE OF THOSE TIMES TODAY.

THIS WHITE HOUSE WOULD STRIP AWAY THE VOICES OF UNDOCUMENTED CITIZENS IF IT COULD. IT WOULD SILENCE THE VOICES OF THE HOMELESS IF IT COULD. I IMPORE THIS COUNCIL NOT TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE TO THAT CRIME.

AS WE APPROACH THE 2020 CENSUS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTING EVERY SINGLE PORTLANDER. HANGING IN THE BALANCE IS THIS STATE'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL SEAT AND THE FUTURE OF FEDERAL FUNDING OWED TO THIS DESERVING COUNTY AND CITY.

ON ANOTHER LEVEL - A PERSONALLY MEANINGFUL LEVEL - THERE IS A MORE IMPORTANT REASON TO COUNT EVERY SINGLE PORTLANDER. AND THAT IS THE

SHEER DIGNITY DELIVERED WHEN LEADERS STOOP TO RECOGNIZE EVEN THE LOWLIEST AMONG THEM. COUNTING EVERYONE SAYS UNAMBIGUOUSLY THAT EVERYONE MATTERS. IT SAYS IT TO WASHINGTON, DC; TO SALEM; AND TO THE CORNER OF BROADWAY AND BURNSIDE. IT SAYS THAT THE UNDOCUMENTED WILL STILL BE GIVEN SANCTUARY. IT SAYS THAT THE UNSHELTERED WILL STILL BE GIVEN SOLACE. IT TAKES WHAT MANY DISMISS AS A REGRETTABLE OUTCOME AND TRANSFORMS IT INTO A BEGINNING FULL OF PROMISE.

THAT IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY INDEED; AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL NOT PASS IT UP.

THANK YOU.

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM

Council Meeting Date:

~~Feb. 13~~ Jan 30

Today's Date

12/14/18

Name

Robert Peterson

Address

Homeless

Telephone

N/A

Email

emeraldj@jch@gmail.com

Reason for the request:

To address council regarding
Homeless Bill of Rights

(Signed)

- Give your request in writing to the Council Clerk's office to schedule a date for your Communication. Use this form or email the information to the Council Clerk at the email address below.
- You will be placed on the Wednesday official Council Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting. Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

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Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086

email:

Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Assistant Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 130
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085

email:

Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

Request of Robert Patterson to address Council regarding Homeless Bill of Rights (Communication)

JAN 30 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 22 2019

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED
AS FOLLOWS:

	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		