

NON-BELIEF ORDINANCE

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (PRINT)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)

Email (Optional)

✓ Maggie		
✓ Robert Aughenbaugh		
spoke ✓ Michele Wilson / HRC		wikamm@peck.org
✓ David Gray		
Dustin Hokland	4315 SE 15 th Ave Portland, OR 97202	ganon255@hotmail.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: K Schmitt <kspdx@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Dear City Council:

As a longtime Portland resident and activist in separation of church and state matters, I applaud the proposed change to city code, guaranteeing nonbelievers the same protections granted to religious people.

Nonbelievers need this protection. Contrary to popular belief, the Portland-Vancouver area has hundreds of Fundamentalist Christian churches whose mission is to bring us all to Jesus. Portland's reputation as an "unchurched" city has made us a target for out-of-state Fundamentalists who send missionaries to "plant" churches in our neighborhoods and predatory Good News Clubs in our elementary schools. Joey Gibson did not appear in a vacuum. He has plenty of local supporters like those in "Patriot Prayer."

Thank you for considering this issue.

Kathleen Schmitt

McClymont, Keelan

From: Robert Aughenbaugh <robert.aughenbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Do atheists and non-believers need protection from discrimination? Please consider this:

One recent poll found that 50 percent of Americans would not vote for a qualified atheist for president. A 2006 study found that 48% of respondents would not want their child to marry an atheist. In both studies, percentages of disapproval of atheists were above those for Muslims, African-Americans and homosexuals. Many of the respondents associated atheism with immorality, including criminal behavior.

The Boy Scouts, who finally allow gays, still don't allow atheists. A University of British Columbia study found that believers distrust atheists as much as they distrust rapists. The study also showed that atheists have lower employment prospects.

Atheism and lack of regular church attendance have been used by courts to deny custody to non-religious parents. The constitutions of seven US states still ban atheists from holding public office.

So discrimination against atheists and non-believers certainly exists.

I think in Portland we all agree that people should not be discriminated against based on their religious beliefs. Or their *lack of* religious beliefs. I don't think we want to leave this decision up to individual judges, and that we want to make it clear to those engaged in housing, employment and public accommodation that discrimination against non-believers is unacceptable.

The city code is not clear on this point, and that's why this simple change is needed.

Robert Aughenbaugh

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jeff Walenta <doublespeak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for item 120 on the February 13th agenda.

Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the civil rights code that would extend protections that are afforded to religions to non believers as well. I grew up in New Port Richey, Florida and was not raised in any particular religion. The area I lived in was very religious and over the years I lived there I experienced discrimination and have even lost Jobs for being an atheist. My experiences though pales in comparison to what some folks have gone through and there are plenty of instances of families disowning their children and forcing them onto the street just because of their lack of faith, discrimination against atheists is a real thing that happens all the time still in this country. Portland is a lot different then where I grew up, there is a large percentage of the population that is non religious or non practicing, the difference for me was night and day and I am happy to say that I haven't had a bad interaction here in the nearly 7 years I've lived here.

But whether my experience is the norm or not there is still a need to definitively extend the same sort of protections that religious folks enjoy to non believers. This is the right thing to do and enshrining this into law is communicating to the world what we stand for as a city. This sort of thing is not possible in a large part of the country it is up to us to be an example for other cities to follow. Even if the impact of this is minor I still believe it's the right thing to do and I urge you to vote in favor of this.

Thank you for you're time,

Jeff Walenta
Kenton neighborhood

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Richard Bayer <ricbayer@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: 'Support for Non-Belief Ordinance'

Dear City Council:

I am an atheist and live in Portland. Please extend religious civil rights protections to atheists and freethinkers by voting for the City Council Ordinance described here:
<https://ffrf.org/images/OrdinanceNon-BeliefFinal.pdf>

Thank you very much for supporting non-discrimination against me and others like me.

Sincerely,

Richard Bayer, MD

Richard Bayer
2351 NW Westover Rd, # 701
Portland, OR 97210-3783
email: bayer.portland@gmail.com
voice mail: 503-292-1035

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Becky Clark <bjclark@siderial.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Dear Council Members:

I am in support of the proposed change to the city ordinance regarding protecting nonbelievers from discrimination.

- The current code is unclear, opening the door for the courts to decide if nonbelievers are protected from discrimination in the same manner as those in a religion.
- Protection against discrimination is beneficial to Portland businesses and to all who live or do business in Portland.
- We are not asking for any special privileges. We are merely asking to be treated the same as those from a religion.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Clark

5035 N Depauw St

Portland, OR

503-735-9194

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Jim Snowden <jim.snowden@opsview.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Religious bias

Hello,

As I am unable to attend the Council meeting on February 13, I am writing to express my support for the non-belief ordinance for the City of Portland.

As a resident, small business owner, and non-believer living and working in Portland, I support protection for non-believers against discrimination, similar to the protections currently granted those in a religion.

Thank you for considering this important topic. It means so much to the non-belief community in Portland for us to be included in the city code governing the protected class of religion.

Sincerely,

Jim Snowden

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Stacy Laramie-Moss <brodgar2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Commissioner Fritz,

I want to thank you in your efforts to insure that people like myself, of no religious belief, are treated no differently than those of all religious faiths.

Thank you for your public service and being the lead on this.

Stacy

Moore-Love, Karla

From: stacy and julie laramie-moss <laramoss2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 8:06 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Commissioner Fritz,

Thank you for attempting to add Non-Belief to the protection along with that afforded to religious people.

As a long time Portland resident, as well as a person that has no religious affiliation, my family and I would appreciate this tweak to the current law, which is too vague and needs clarification.

Sincerely,

Julie Laramie-Moss

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sonja Maglothin <s.maglothin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 10:18 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Hamilton Burns Hansma
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

To Portland City Council:

We, as an atheist family residing in Portland, applaud the proposed ordinance change to include non-believers in the city Civil Rights Code's definition of "religion."

As the Code currently stands, the law may be interpreted in such a way that leaves atheists, agnostics, and other non-religious people vulnerable to discrimination because of their lack of belief. In one of the least religious cities in the United States, one that prides itself on valuing equality and inclusion, this is unacceptable.

It is vital to note that with the proposed change to the ordinance, non-believers are only asking to receive the same rights as those who claim a religion - to not suffer discrimination based on our (lack of) belief.

We would like to enthusiastically express our gratitude to Freedom From Religion Foundation's Portland area chapter and the ACLU of Oregon for initiating this overdue clarification of Portland's Civil Rights Code, the office of Commissioner Amanda Fritz for proposing it, and Portland City Council for considering it. Thank you so much for your attention.

Sincerely,
Sonja Maglothin and Hamilton Hansma

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Sonja Maglothin 

Moore-Love, Karla

From: spike wadsworth <spikewads@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: city ordinance

Please protect nonbelievers also in the ordinance to be considered on Feb 13.

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Spike Wadsworth

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Caroline Miller <cmillerwriter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief ordinance

- Protection against discrimination is beneficial to Portland businesses and to all who live or do business in Portland.
- We are not asking for any special privileges. We are merely asking to be treated the same as those from a religion.
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- We are not asking for any special privileges. We are merely asking to be treated the same as those from a religion.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sarah Neill <sarahpdx14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 10:16 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Hello,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and other atheists and nonbelievers within Portland, Oregon. It is important to me that I am protected from discrimination in the same way that members of any religion. I was raised as a religious person, and I shouldn't have to fear for my safety or respect simply because my beliefs have changed throughout my life. I'm not asking for a special privilege; just to be treated the same as people who believe in god.

Especially in the city of Portland which is often considered a "liberal" city, all viewpoints should not only be heard and understood, but *protected*. As the current code is unclear, the City of Portland now has the opportunity to make the right decision here and protect people like me from discrimination on such an important basis. It would benefit all of us who live in Portland and who do business here.

Thank you for all you do!

Sarah Neill
Sarah Neill Photography
sarahinpx.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Marie Fisher <fismarie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Marie Fisher
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Hello,

As I am unable to attend the Council meeting on February 13, I am writing to express my support for the non-belief ordinance for the City of Portland.

As a resident, small business owner, and non-believer living and working in Portland, I support protection for non-believers against discrimination, similar to the protections currently granted those in a religion.

Thank you for considering this important topic. It means so much to the non-belief community in Portland for us to be included in the city code governing the protected class of religion.

Sincerely,
Marie Fisher
1314 NW Irving St, #302
Portland, OR 97209
fismarie@gmail.com

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jeff Wujek <wujekj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:40 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Ordinance to assure non-believers discrimination protection

City Counsel,

I am writing to show my support for the Portland ordinance to assure non-believers are protected against discrimination. We are not asking for any special privileges. We are merely asking to have the same discrimination protections granted to those in a religion.

Thank you,

Jeff Wujek

1245 SW 84th Ave.

Portland, OR 97225

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Heidi Yorkshire <hyorkshire@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Cheryl Kolbe
Subject: Supporting Non-Belief Ordinance

February 4, 2019

To our City Council:

As residents of Portland, we want to join the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the ACLU of Oregon in support of the non-belief ordinance being considered on February 13. Non-believers should have the same protections from discrimination as granted to believers in any religion. Since almost half of people in Portland and the surrounding suburbs self-identify as religiously unaffiliated, it makes sense that this group -- larger than any single religion -- should enjoy the same protections.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heidi Yorkshire and Joseph Anthony
3011 NW Rio Vista Terrace
Portland OR 97210

Moore-Love, Karla

From: karen moffat <kamoffat@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

This is to give strong support to this proposed city ordinance. As a life long resident of Portland or the Portland area I look forward to knowing Portland showed this leadership for human rights.

Karen Moffat

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Ryan Jensen <jensenr30@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:58 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Dear Portland public officials and their associate to whom this message may concern,

I want to voice my enthusiastic support of the Non-Belief Ordinance.

I believe people should be treated the same regardless of their religious practices/beliefs. The separation of church and state seems like a really great idea to me.

This ordinance would support the goal of keeping state and church separate. I believe it would be a good step forward for humanity. And after all, "equality of opportunity" is the name of the game, right?

Thanks for reading my opinion.

Ryan Jensen

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kenneth Dunham <kennethmdunham@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for Non-Belief Ordinance

Please take this Ordinance seriously it is important to many of us here in Portland thank you