

G4S Testimony

Print Name	Address + Zip Code	Email optional
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Jamie Partridge	5530 NE 7th Ave #9 97211	jamie.partridge@gmail.com
John Shuck	15393 NW ANDALUSIA AVE PORTLAND, OR 97229	shuckjohna@gmail.com
Olivia Katbi Smith	2717 SE 15 th Ave 97202	
Laura Muth	5311 SW Corbett Ave #4 97239	
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Mary Priem	110 SE 12 ^{9th} Ave PDX 97233	mkpriem@yahoo.com
Curtis Bell	1508 NW Aspen Ave PDX 97210	
John	G4S	Portland's Resistance

PORTLAND,

LET'S CUT

OUR

TIES

WITH



Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners -

My name is John Adams. I am a citizen of Portland, residing in inner SE. I address you as a representative of Portland Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, and the International League of Peoples' Struggle.

Myself and my fellow citizens condemn in the strongest possible terms the proposed \$10,000,000.00 (ten million dollar) contract renewal for a "security" firm with as abysmal a human rights record as G4S. This company profits off human misery and suffering, and by no means should our city continue to reward their unconscionable behavior. True respect for our citizens and residents means refusing to put profits above people, and this contract extension would place our dear city squarely in opposition to human rights in a direct, material way.

This contract extension also places the city's actions in direct violation of our own Sustainable Procurement Policies adopted in Dec. 2018, which specifies that "respect for... human rights" shall be a guiding policy in how this city spends our tax dollars.

The cancellation clause in the RFP for this solicitation allows you to "revise, modify and cancel" the RFP which gives the city the power to reject all private parties' bids and either include ethical behavior in the evaluation process for such a crucial function of this budget in terms of interfacing with and providing critical services to the people of Portland. The words "ethical behavior" appear nowhere in the entirety of the 78-page RFP.

Or, if you felt inclined to be truly responsible, you could also cancel the RFP completely and simply make the security officers public employees with full benefits and accountability, without granting a massive monetary reward to such an awfully abusive and inhumane company as G4S.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely hope you do the right thing.

- John Adams, PCHRP, ILPS, Portland Citizen

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler & Portland City Council:

We are deeply concerned that Zenith Energy's expansion contradicts the City of Portland's stated opposition to increased oil train traffic by adding rail unloading infrastructure that will facilitate more frequent Tar Sands Crude oil shipments through Portland.

Allowing Zenith to handle up to 2 trains per week, each a mile long, with up to 100 cars loaded with Tar Sands Crude oil containing concentrations of flammable, toxic compounds are a threat to public health and the environmental safety of our community. Oil trains transport materials marked with a **"Toxic Inhalation Hazard"** warning, pose a severe risk to our people, waterways, land and air, all of which will be contaminated in the event of a spill, blast, earthquake or other natural or man-made disaster.

In accordance with the City of Portland's policy of opposing oil trains, and the City's banning of new fossil fuel infrastructure, we urge the City of Portland to...

- *Issue an immediate stop work order on Zenith Energy's operations, construction, and expansion. There should be no further work at the Zenith facility until a full health and safety review is conducted and public hearing occurs where representatives from Zenith will meet with Portland residents and local government officials to hear their concerns.*
- *Deny any upcoming permits, appeals, and exemptions for Zenith's facility.*
- *Place an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure in the City of Portland.*

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Endorsed by: 350PDX, Center for Sustainable Economy, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Columbia Riverkeeper, Neighbors for Clean Air, SW HOPE, Sustainable Energy and Economy Network, Sunrise PDX, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Portland Youth Climate Council, Stop Fracked Gas/PDX, Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Climate Reality Project: Portland Chapter, First Unitarian Portland

Deadline to return: July 1st.

Return Petition by mail or in person to: 350pdx, 1820 NE 21st, Portland OR 97212



“ I depend on the wage I earn to support my family and without this wage I would not be able to support myself. We are dedicated to serving the City of Portland. We have a great team of officers who support each other and the wages and benefits we have help attract capable and quality officers. If there is a change in contractors, it could put our team dynamic at risk. This team is what allows us to provide a quality service and help keep these buildings safe and secure. **I hope the City invests in a responsible union contractor to guarantee good jobs for front line security officers.**

—Shane Mayfield

“ **I like my coworkers, I like working with City staff and what our contract does for worker like us.** G4S has always had great people working for City Hall.

—Ralph Davis



“ While at my time with G4S, I've enjoyed working with the team of officers who work and service City Hall. Everyone who I work with is out to help and support each other. Most of my co-workers have prior experience in the military which is invaluable experience that allows you to do the work at a higher standard. **I believe the City should do the right thing and guarantee good jobs for front line security officers.**

—David Dummer



SAFETY. SECURITY. INVESTING IN GOOD JOBS.

The front-line security officers who work hard every day keeping the City of Portland offices and properties safe and secure are counting on City leaders to invest in good jobs. Jobs that offer stability, a fair wage, access to affordable healthcare and provide officers a voice on the job. Good jobs help attract and retain officers which reduces turnover, increases stability, and means increased security for City staff.

CHOOSING UNION CONTRACTORS MEANS INVESTING IN GOOD JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

We are asking you to invest in a union security provider and support the recommendation from procurement staff to award the security contract to G4S USA Security Services.



seiu49.org • 503.236.4949
3536 Southeast 26th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: John Shuck <shuckjohna@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 8:04 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Jo Ann Hardesty; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Fritz
Cc: Rod Such
Subject: Testimony Against G4S Contract
Attachments: G4S.docx

Dear Portland City Commissioners,

Hearing that the mayor has forbidden public testimony on the use of public tax dollars regarding the contract between the City of Portland and the security firm G4S, I am sending the testimony I was prepared to give in writing. Not being allowed to speak on this contract is a grave injustice.

Sincerely,

John Shuck, Minister
Southminster Presbyterian Church
12250 SW Denney Road
Beaverton, Oregon 97008
503-644-2073
www.southmin.org
[Progressive Spirit](#)
[Beloved Community](#)
shuckjohna@gmail.com

This is from the website, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign regarding the security company G4S, the same company contracted with the city of Portland.

G4S is a British-Danish private security company that provides services and equipment to Israeli prisons, checkpoints, the Apartheid Wall and the Israeli police. G4S provides security systems and other services for major Israeli prisons which hold Palestinian political prisoners from occupied Palestinian territory inside Israel. This is in contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits the transfer of prisoners from occupied territory into the territory of the occupier. G4S also provides equipment for prisons and detention facilities in the occupied West Bank, at which human rights organizations have documented systematic torture and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including child prisoners. G4S provides equipment and services to Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank that form part of the route of Israel's illegal Wall and to the terminals isolating the occupied and besieged territory of Gaza. G4S has also signed contracts for equipment and services for the West Bank Israeli Police headquarters and to private businesses based in illegal Israeli settlements.

The city of Portland contracts with, G4S, a security firm that tortures human beings. For the City of Portland to rationalize this by appealing to cost savings or by saying that what G4S does to Palestinians is not our problem, then the city of Portland assists and enables these human rights violations. Portland needs to resist those who abuse others, not cooperate with them.

Testimony from Rev. John Shuck,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) minister,
Member Presbytery of the Cascades

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jamie Partridge <jamie.partridge1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:27 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Reject G4S security contract

Good morning Commissioners, my name is Jamie Partridge. I am a member of Portland Jobs with Justice and Portland Democratic Socialists of America. I urge you revise the RFP for City security to evaluate companies on the basis of ethical behavior. You should end up rejecting G4S as the City security contractor because of their ethically awful behavior toward immigrants, refugees and Palestinians.

As an organizer and advocate for human rights and workers rights, I urge you to contract with a unionized company for City security. G4S is not the only unionized company...Allied Universal and Securitas, both unionized companies with a clean human rights record, have applied for this contract.

The cancellation clause in the RFP gives the city the right to “revise, modify or cancel” the RFP. You should do the right thing. The Sanctuary City thing. Cancel the RFP, instruct the Procurement Committee to conduct a second RFP, making clear that ethical behavior includes union recognition and good faith bargaining for workers’ rights.

Portland has an obligation to send a message to a company like G4S...if you work for ICE, the Border Patrol or the Israeli occupation, you cannot work for us.

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: aldercatherine@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 8:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Here is my testimony on G4S
Attachments: Statement to Commissioners - May 22, 2019 copy 2.pdf

Good morning. I am Rev. Catherine Alder, pastor in the United Church of Christ.

Today I am asking you to take the high moral and ethical ground, to have courage with clarity.

We are a Sanctuary City and that comes with values.

We ask you to care that refugee children are traumatized at our U.S. border by G4S ripping them from their families. We ask you to care that G4S trains Israeli police who stand by as radical settlers break into and steal Palestinian children's homes. The police arrest Palestinian children, torture them, profile their parents, oppress them with surveillance. How much are 49 dead gay people worth to you who were in the Pulse Nightclub in Florida and were shot to death by a G4S worker? G4S ignored the signs. How about the planes landing at the Portland Airport with a G4S worker shining the light in the cockpit?

This company participates in horrendous human rights abuses on our border and in Israel and does not adequately evaluate those they hire. It is not morally right to contract with them.

Here are 2 options:

You are comfortable with the G4S guards in this building. So, give up the G4S contract, hire the workers as City employees.

Another option: Do the review again looking at the ethical and human rights abuses of this company.

You have heard what cannot be unheard. You have been warned about G4S.

You cannot morally say, "I do not want to hear it. I am comfortable."
What? What?

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: Randolph Splitter <rsplitter@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:35 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Randolph Splitter
Subject: [User Approved] Security firm for Portland

As many religious and social justice leaders have said, G4S has a long history of human rights abuses around the world, including its involvement with the Israeli military and with ICE. If Portland is a sanctuary city, we shouldn't choose a firm that has mistreated immigrants and asylum seekers. Portland's procurement policies include a concern for ethical behavior, but this was apparently not taken into consideration in the recent decision to select G4S.

In-sourcing the city's security needs has been considered more expensive than outsourcing it, but this rests on faulty economics. For one thing, it ignores the costs of human rights abuses (around the world, on our southern border, and potentially in our city). In addition, it fails to consider what the appropriate pay for security officers should be: if G4S is underpaying its workers, the city should do better. If it isn't, the city can match the pay scale and save money by not paying a middleman.

Finally, the recent decision not to allow public testimony on this matter is shockingly anti-democratic.

Sincerely,

Randolph Splitter
Portland 97210

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: Yasmin Ibarra <yasmini@seiu49.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:35 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: 5.22 testimony
Attachments: SEIU 49 Testimony to Council 5-22-19.pdf

Hello,

I'd like to submit written testimony for tomorrow's agenda item 466, on the Professional Security Officer Services. Thank you.

Yasmin Ibarra (She/Hers)
Political Organizer | SEIU Local 49
mobile: 503.816.4559
website:seiu49.org
address: 3536 SE 26th Ave, Portland, OR 97202

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Testimony to Portland City Council
Provided by Yasmin Ibarra
Political Organizer, SEIU Local 49
3536 SE 26th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

May 22nd, 2019

RE: SEIU Local 49 testimony to Portland City Council, Resolution No. 466

Good morning Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Yasmin Ibarra and I am the Political Organizer for the Service Employees International Union, Local 49. Our union has about 15,000 members in Oregon and southwest Washington, including hundreds of security officers in Portland and thousands more in other industries.

The City's primary security contract is on the agenda today, and I am here to ask that you accept Procurement's report and approve the contract award to G4S.

The City of Portland is a tough and nuanced place to secure. Our local G4S officers have worked hard to keep people safe in City buildings, including during moments of intense conflict, and they have done so while building and maintaining community relationships.

The G4S officers who protect the City's people and buildings live and work in our community, they take pride in their work, and their jobs matter.

It was only a few years ago, before winning their union, that many Portland security officers were paid close to minimum wage, with few benefits, and no protections against unfair treatment on the job.

It took years of hard work for officers from G4S and other security companies to organize, convince their employers to recognize their union, and bargain fair contracts that include protections for wages, benefits, and respect on the job. These improvements not only benefit G4S officers and their families. The City has also benefited over the years from the increased stability of a unionized security workforce.

The commitment of G4S officers to the safety and security of the City of Portland, and the high quality of their work, came through loud and clear when City staff recently evaluated bids by four security companies for this service contract. The second-place bidder was a non-union company that we believe, if it had won the bid, could have threatened the job-quality standards that officers have worked so hard to raise.

Accepting the recommendation to renew the G4S contract means these officers keep their jobs, wages, benefits and seniority, fostering fairness on the job in a way that is consistent with Portland values. For these reasons, we urge you to vote yes on the G4S contract.

1-800-955-3352
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@SEIU49
TWITTER

SEIU LOCAL 49
FACEBOOK

WWW.SEIU49.ORG

We understand the concerns raised by community members about G4S' operations elsewhere in the world, and we support the concept of developing human rights standards as one tool for evaluating future proposals for service contracts.

One essential element of human rights is worker rights. Procurement Services has done some good work in developing tools to evaluate service providers' commitment to respecting their workers, including language regarding job quality written into this Request for Proposals (RFP). We continue to believe, however, that those standards need to be strengthened and made more enforceable. This is something we are actively discussing with Procurement Services. In addition to voting yes on the G4S contract, we reiterate our request for your support for our joint efforts to create Best Value Contracting standards that are strong and enforceable, to ensure that vendors in multiple industries are creating good jobs for Portlanders, in line with Portland values of equity and economic sustainability.

Thank you.

Yasmin Ibarra
Political Organizer
Service Employees International Union, Local 49

466

McClymont, Keelan

From: Rod Such <rodsuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: No G4S

The cancellation clause in the RFP gives the city the right to “revise, modify or cancel” the RFP. And that’s what we encourage you to do today. Please revise the RFP to reflect the requirement for ethical behavior. In December the City Council adopted Guiding Principles for its new Sustainable Procurement Policy. Guiding Principle # 7 calls for companies contracting with the city to exhibit “ethical behavior,” which is defined in part as “respect for human rights.” However, the RFP did not call for an evaluation of ethical behavior. As a result, a company that has a long history of not displaying ethical behavior rose to the top.

When you instruct the Procurement Committee to conduct a second RFP, you should make it clear that a company that respects workers’ rights to organize a union exhibits ethical behavior in doing so. Two other unionized security companies bid on this contract. Neither contracts with ICE or the U.S. Border Patrol or is complicit in maintaining Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

Portland is not an island entire to itself. What we do here impacts human rights in the rest of the country and the rest of the world. Or as Martin Luther King, Jr., put it: “**Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.** We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

A Sanctuary City has an obligation to send a message to a company like G4S. That message is if you work for ICE, the Border Patrol, and the Israeli occupation, you cannot work for us.

46p

McClymont, Keelan

From: Curtis Bell <curt.c.bell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony regarding contract with G4S
Attachments: 2019-05-22 Testimony before the City Council re G4S.docx

I attach my testimony objecting to the awarding of the city's contract to G4S.

Curtis Bell

Testimony before the Portland City Council regarding the renewal of a contract for Security Services with G4S.

May 22, 2019

My name is Curtis Bell. I am a member of First Unitarian Church here in Portland and President of Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, a national organization of Unitarians that work for Palestinian human rights.

G4S has long been the target of international human rights campaigns because of their complicity in the abuses of Palestinian men, women and children in Israeli prisons, detention centers and interrogation centers. G4S has run the security systems in these facilities where many of the Palestinians are held without charges and where human rights organizations have documented the systematic use of torture. G4S has also provided the security systems for illegal Israeli settlements and checkpoints in the West Bank.

Two or three years ago G4S sold most of its prison business in Israel to an Israeli firm but it continues to have a half interest in the Israeli National Police Academy where Israeli police, border police and prison security personnel are trained. Thus, its complicity in the abusive practices of the Israeli security systems continues.

As you know several hundred thousand members of US police forces have received training in Israel in the kinds of militarized policing used by Israel in maintaining its domination over the Palestinian population. This is not community policing that serves the public, but rather a policing that is aimed at maintaining oppression of one ethnic group by another ethnic group. This is not the kind of policing that we should have in Portland and we should not be supporting a corporation that is complicit in training for such reprehensible forms of policing.

McClymont, Keelan

From: Laura Muth <lmuth7590@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: G4S contract

My name is Laura Muth, and I am writing to urge the Council to vote against renewing its contract with G4S.

There are many reasons to end Portland's relationship with G4S. The company has a longstanding, consistent pattern of flagrantly disregarding human rights in its activities around the world. In the UK, a refugee named Jimmy Mubenga died while in G4S custody. Witnesses reported repeatedly hearing Mubenga try to tell the guards holding him down "I can't breathe." The guards ignored his pleas, and Mubenga died as a result. G4S abuses in private prisons in South Africa have led to a major lawsuit against the company, which had a pattern of electrocuting prisoners and forcibly injecting them with antipsychotic drugs. In the past, G4S has run private prisons in Israel where Palestinian children were tortured, and it continues to contract with the Israeli police in Palestinian lands that the UN and the international community recognize as illegally occupied.

Here in the US, one of G4S's biggest clients is ICE. They provide the agency with transportation services for migrants in custody. As a self-proclaimed sanctuary city, Portland has an obligation to distance itself not only from agencies like ICE that are violently abusing migrants and asylum seekers, but also from companies that get rich off of that violence.

G4S has also proven itself unable to adequately screen its employees or act on reports of inappropriate behavior. In Orlando, G4S failed to respond to colleague's concerns about Omar Mateen, an employee, who was repeatedly reported to higher-ups for homophobic, sexist, racist, and xenophobic language and discussing violent impulses towards people from marginalized groups. Mateen went on to kill 49 people celebrating Pride at Pulse nightclub.

Here in Portland, a G4S employee was arrested for targeting aircraft with lasers, an action that risks blinding pilots and endangers everyone on board.

Some commissioners have argued for continuing the contract with G4S because it is unionized. I will remind you that two other union companies have bid on this contract this year, and neither of them have the same connections to ICE or to other widespread human rights abuses around the world.

The cancellation clause in the RFP gives the city the right to "revise, modify or cancel" the RFP. Please revise the RFP to reflect the requirement for ethical behavior. In December the City Council adopted Guiding Principles for its new Sustainable Procurement Policy. Guiding Principle # 7 calls for companies contracting with the city to exhibit "ethical behavior," which is defined in part as "respect for human rights." However, the RFP did not call for an evaluation of ethical behavior. As a result, a company that has a long history of not displaying ethical behavior rose to the top.

Portland has an opportunity to be a leader in ethical procurement, and to take a stand against private companies profiting on human misery. As a city, we often pride ourselves on being one of the most progressive places in the country. But maintaining that reputation requires continuing to work to improve our record on ethics and human rights, which sometimes requires making hard choices. The decision about this contract is one of those choices. Make the right one.

I urge the city council to NOT approve a 5-year, \$10 million contract with the security firm G4S. This private company has a long history of complicity in human rights violations in many countries as well as activities documented in the Portland metroarea .

For example, .when security guards complained that their supervisor at the Gresham Station shopping mall was instilling homophobic and Christian supremacist sentiments, G4S responded by firing the workers who filed the complaint. I have the link to that article in Willamette Week in my written testimony

<https://www.wweek.com/news/2015/10/20/lawsuit-says-gresham-security-guard-supervisor-wanted-to-defend-shopping-center-against-demons/>

Many residents of Portland are proud that we are a sanctuary city and wish to maintain that distinction. The spirit of Portland is that we are a welcoming city. Spending about \$10 million of taxpayer money on a contract with G4S is in contradiction to this spirit. G4S works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by transporting immigrant detainees. Also, G4S transports asylum seekers for the U.S. Border Patrol. These actions are not fitting for a Sanctuary City.

The United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church of the USA have also urged divestment from G4S since this company is known for its complicity in human rights violations and has refused to respond to complaints by both of these groups. These actions are also out of compliance with the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Does Portland want to do business with this abusive company? I have included a link here to the Presbyterian divestment document:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/MRTI-2018-GA-Long-Form-Proscription-Divestment-List-FINAL.pdf>

For these and other known human rights violations perpetrated by G4S, I am opposed to a contract with this "security" company. Portland will be less secure as a welcoming, tolerant city if this is approved. I do not wish any of my tax dollars to be spent on this!

Alice Shapiro
7426 SE 21st Ave
Portland, OR 97202