

January 8, 2020

City of Portland, Council Communications
Chanda Evans, Participatory Budgeting Oregon-Volunteer

Good Morning. My name is Chanda Evans. Thank you for your time this morning. I would like to share with you my personal experience and involvement with Participatory Budgeting-PB in Councilman Brad Lander's District 39 in New York City. While it is impossible to compare Portland to NYC which fully supports PB, I can share with you my unique perspective as a former resident who actively engaged and participated in PB and the benefits of bringing PB to Portland.

PB can take many forms. It is unique to the residents that shape their communities, who are engaged, committed and support a constituent driven democracy. As a volunteer delegate on the Education Committee I worked with a small team of my fellow neighbors, lead by two experienced facilitators. We had an online presence and conducted community outreach in our neighborhood to generate ideas which were collected and sorted into committee. Some overlapped, some were rejected. The ideas generated by people were as varied as they were similar. One year the PB demand for air conditioning in NYC public schools was so great the Mayor said no more AC's on the PB ballot. "Too Hot to Learn" was the City's pledge to ensure all schools had AC by 2022. Grassroots democracy brought change through PB to the entire public school system in NYC. PB can also reveal what cities fail to fully fund and highlight basic community needs. PB is more than using discretionary money set aside to whatever the committees research and designate as ballot worthy, it is about building an inclusive and more equitable community. It is about bringing people together. It about listening and going to the people to look at their ideas and encourage their voice to be heard.

The PB process that was followed in NYC had a functional user-friendly formula. Money was allocated to participating districts by the City and the Councilperson set aside a specific amount for projects to be funded

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and completed. The projects were placed on a ballot. Residents as young as eleven voted. In my district, Councilman Lander set aside 1.5 million with additional money for expense projects. Originally, I became interested in PB because I had an idea for an educational project I wanted to fund. I did the research, created my model and looked to allies for support. While the project involved three specific schools it eventually resulted in a collaborative project between another committee and ours. Ultimately, it did not make the ballot. A new initiative was underway in 2017 by the NYC-DOE in School District 15 to create a more inclusive and diverse Middle School admissions process. We realized this project would be best after the diversity initiative took root. Sometimes ideas evolve, are retooled, placed on a ballot again, only to be funded in a different PB cycle.

PB is by no means perfect and the process may appear daunting. Portland has the unique opportunity to research and learn where the PB process is successful and thriving. What PB Oregon needs is a commitment from the leadership in Portland so PB can be launched. We can have democracy at the street level. This is an amazing opportunity to harness the youth into civic participation and create an entire generation of actively engaged residents who will be future voters. The youth involved in PB will be our future leaders and will encourage and advocate for residents to participate and vote in primaries, general elections, on ballot measures and PB. What is not feasible is to delay civic engagement and advocating for underserved and marginalized communities because Portland is weary of citizen democracy or might feel threatened. PB can certainly highlight the pitfalls of government underfunding or doubling down on commitments but it can also be a champion for progress, equity and inclusion in our community to bring people together, working to make Portland a model for other communities and promoting grassroots democracy. Portland can only benefit from PB. Thank you.

From: [Chanda Evans](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Cc: [Jim Labbe](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment Period Sign-up for January 2020
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019 2:05:33 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please accept this as my official request to speak in the previous slotted time for Mr. Jim Labbe scheduled for the Communications portion of the City Council Agenda on January 8, 2020.

Below you will find my details as requested.

Ms. Chanda Evans
3088 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97214
424-247-3265
January 8th, 2020- request to speak

Summary:

I will address the council per the request of PB Oregon, as a resident of Portland, Oregon regarding my experience on the topic of Participatory Budgeting, when I was a delegate on the Education Committee in District 39 in New York City. I will elaborate and explain how impactful my participation was in NYC and why it is important to bring this constituency driven democracy to Oregon and why the City of Portland should want to encourage civic engagement by endorsing and funding Participatory Budgeting.

If you require additional information or have questions please feel to contact me. I look forward to participating on January 8, 2020. Thank you.

Chanda Evans

On Dec 12, 2019, at 9:43 AM, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Jim,

No problem in you giving your spot to Chanda.

Chanda will have to send in her own request, including her name, address, phone, date she wishes to speak (January 8th), and topic.

Thank you,
Karla
<image005.jpg>
Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 823-4086

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

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From: Jim Labbe <jimlabbe1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 4:06 PM

To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: chanda evans <cit4globalequality@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Public Comment Period Sign-up for January 2020

Hi Karla

I am emailing to transfer my slot to testify during the Communications portion of the City Council Agenda on January 8 to Chanda Evans (cc:ed here).

The plan is for Chanda to speak on the topic of participatory budgeting as a independent citizen, but with this email I formally pass my opportunity off to her to use the time as she deems fit. If you have questions you can ask her.

Maybe just let me know if you have received this email and if there is anything else I need to pass along this opportunity to her without losing it for anyone.

Best,

Jim

On Nov 1, 2019, at 8:22 AM, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Good morning Jim,

I have signed you up for the Wednesday, January 8th Portland City Council meeting. **I just need your topic.**

Communications are the first item on the official agenda and we start at 9:30 a.m. You will have three minutes to address the Council but you may also submit written material, please provide seven copies.

Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our community members but does not always allow an opportunity for dialogue.

See you in January,

Karla

<image005.jpg>

Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 823-4086

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From: Jim Labbe <jjmlabbe1@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 12:01 AM

To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Public Comment Period Sign-up for January 2020

Greetings Karla,

Can you sign me up for a slot to speak to the City Council at the earliest possible date and time on January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th?

My contact info is:

Jim Labbe

Participatory Budgeting Oregon

6025 N. Vancouver Ave. Unit B

Portland, OR 97217

jlabb@pboregon.org

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Request of Chanda Evans to address Council regarding bringing participatory budgeting to Portland (Communication)

JAN 08 2020

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 30 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland
By *Keira*
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		