

From: tREBBIE nICHOLSON <razzdog23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 3:10 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Breaking Bread Sam Sachs

Dear Members of City Council,

First of all I want to say how grateful I am for all you do day in and day out to make our city a better place. I am always in awe of how much you get done.

I just found out that tomorrow morning Sam Sachs will be speaking to all of you regarding Breaking Bread/ Breaking Barriers. I wanted to add my voice to his with regards to continuing your support of Breaking Bread.

About 15 years ago I saw a documentary about two women. One was a Palestinian and the other was an Israeli. Both women had lost their daughters to violence. The Israeli's daughter's was sitting in a cafe when the Palestinian woman's daughter detonated a suicide bomb killing herself and the Israeli woman's daughter. The filmmakers connected the two mothers by video so they could talk. Very quickly the talk disintegrated into yelling at each other and they stopped talking. It was a very painful thing to watch. The filmmakers idea was that somehow by bringing these two mothers together, one in Israel and one in The West Bank that they could set aside their differences and bond and forgive each other. After all they had both lost a daughter. In theory that kind of healing seemed possible. It was a noble idea. I wanted so much for it to work. However, it didn't work.

I thought about that documentary for years. I was always trying to understand why it didn't work. What I discovered was first of all these women had nothing in common except losing a daughter to war. They could not even share their pain because pain is personal. We can never truly understand another's pain. We can have compassion and caring for another's pain, but we cannot know it. The other thing that became apparent to me was they did not have a relationship. They were expected to talk about the worst thing that had ever happened to them in their lives, with a total stranger. They were expected to have instant intimacy based on the fact they both lost a daughter to war. Like I said a noble thought. They wanted it to work as much as the filmmakers did. They were willing to be vulnerable. It took a tremendous amount of courage on their part to try it. I have thought of them often over the years and I always say a prayer for them when I do.

I have learned over the years that love is everything and sometimes it is not enough. It is a paradox. Both things are true at the same time. It seems like love should be enough. And sometimes it is. Sometimes in the name of love great things happen. However sometimes you need more. You need intimacy, or trust or forgiveness, or greater honesty for love to work. Love is the greatest force there is and sometimes it can stand alone and sometimes you need more.

My husband and I started going to Breaking Bread dinners about a year ago. We met Sam Sachs at a PCCEP meeting. We have also been attending PCCEP meetings for the last year.

We started going to both with the intention of understanding and contributing to the healing of two situations that matter deeply to us. One being the hatred and mistrust of the police. We saw that first hand in several of the protests that we were at. And the second one being equally important to us was why was there excessive use of force and violence and racism that we have all seen over the past few years on cell phones and videos against people of color involving the police, and the use of excessive force by Portland Police. How do you go beyond the hate and blame? How do you heal the broken trust?

I believe one of the answers is by building relationships one conversation at a time. That to me is what happens at breaking bread dinners. It is a safe loving place to have a conversation and out of those conversations to build friendships where we then can start to talk about the heavy stuff. You cannot talk about your fears of each other or the broken trust without having the love and intimacy to hold those conversations. If you look at even in your own life your friendships, the significant ones, you didn't start off talking about the deep stuff like your fear of loss or being hurt. It took time to reveal yourself and to create the intimacy and trust. It took one conversation at a time. I believe it is the same with the healing that we are all looking for between the police and communities of color. People come to those dinners with their families and friends and an open heart. The police I have met equally so come with an open heart. Everyone who comes there has courage. They come and are willing to be changed by being together. That is an amazing thing. It starts with everyone holding hands and saying a silent prayer. When I look around the room and I see people from the community holding hands with the police who have hurt them in so many ways and the police being willing to be exposed for the sake of peace and healing, I am all but overwhelmed and am so grateful to be in the presence of such love. Nowhere have I seen such courage and fellowship. It transcends the divide between us. If our city is to be healed I mean really healed, not just because we are trying to be in compliance with the Department of Justice, we need Breaking Bread. We need to trust our police officers and our communities of color to come together and trust the love and courage they bring to each of these dinners. This is in my opinion the beginning of truth and reconciliation one conversation at a time.

I thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me me if you want to hear more about my conversations there. I would be happy to share anything I can about my personal experiences there.

Sincerely,
Trebbie Thomas

From: Samuel Sachs
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Testimony on Breaking Bread Breaking Barriers January 15th 2020
Date: Friday, November 1, 2019 9:28:39 AM

The City's email systems have identified this email as potentially suspicious. Please click responsibly and be cautious if asked to provide sensitive information.

I would like to present "Breaking Bread Breaking Barriers" at the January 15th City Council meeting.

<https://www.thenohatezone.com/police-community-dinners/>

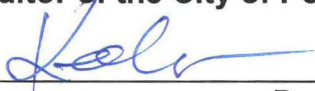
Sam Sachs
(503)933-4543
Founder
The No Hate Zone

Sent from my iPhone

Request of Sam Sachs to address Council regarding presenting "Breaking Bread Breaking Barriers" (Communication)

JAN 15 2020

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 07 2020
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland
By 
Deputy

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