

January 15, 2020

Agenda item 28: Request of Dee White to address Council regarding the Water Bureau continues to drown us in debt, half-truths and treatment controversy. (Communication)

My name is Dee White.

Portland Water Bureau continues to drown us in debt, in half-truths, and in water treatment controversy.

As of today, the water bureau is over \$690 million dollars in debt. The interest on this debt this year alone will cost ratepayers \$60 million.

You've already spent or committed to spending 2/3's of this debt, primarily to pay for three infrastructure projects approved under the false pretense of complying with an archaic EPA rule.

First there's the cracked Powell Butte reservoir. This fatally flawed project cost three times more than a similarly sized tank built in Seattle.

Second, there's Kelly Butte, a storage tank not needed to meet a declining demand; neighboring cities have left or are committed to leaving Portland water by 2026.

Third, the WA Park historic reservoirs demolition where costs tripled, when geotechnical issues surfaced in a report that was released after the city voted to proceed.

And now today, when we have a serious affordable housing and living crisis, the water bureau is feasting their eyes on building a top-of-the-line filtration plant providing no health benefit.

Confusing the public, both the water commissioners and public health experts agree we have no "human health" problem in our protected Bull Run watershed. Even the Water bureau says, "*customers do not need to take any additional precautions.*"

The council and the public just learned the cost of this mega filtration project has now doubled because pipes were omitted.

The Cascade Policy Institute says, "These are not accidents or mistakes. This is intentional malfeasance by the bureaucracy."

Why would you trust the Portland Water Bureau after their deception and 300% cost escalation at Washington Park? Why would you allow them to come back and say oh, now, the filtration plant could cost up to \$1.2 billion dollars, over double the estimate you approved and are advancing?

On behalf of an exponentially growing number of concerned citizens, including the Bull Run Water Guardians, I am requesting that you go back and convene an independent panel to look at going back to the UV option, like the majority of the other unfiltered water utilities are using.

Seattle built UV and Ozone treatment for 1/8 of the cost of this trophy filtration plant. Ratepayers deserve a renewed conversation and reconsideration of UV treatment and NOT the most expensive filtration alternative.

From: [Dee White](#)
To: [McClymont, Keelan](#)
Subject: RE: communication request
Date: Friday, December 27, 2019 2:43:57 PM

Hi Keelan,

Happy Holidays, I hope you are enjoying! I am scheduled for Jan 15 communication. Here is the subject:

Portland Water Bureau continues to drown us in debt, half-truths, and treatment controversy

Thank you!

Dee White

From: McClymont, Keelan [mailto:Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: communication request

Hi Dee,

Thank you for your request for a Communications spot. You are confirmed for a spot on the January 15th Portland City Council agenda. Communications are the first item on the official agenda and we start at 9:30 a.m. You will have three minutes to speak but you may also submit written material, please provide seven copies.

Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our community members. It is not customary, but Council members may choose to ask you clarifying questions or make comments.

Council takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd floor, Council Chambers.

Please let me know if you are not able to keep this appointment.

Thanks,

Keelan McClymont

Assistant Council Clerk | City of Portland
(503) 823-4085
she/her pronouns

From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 12:54 PM
To: McClymont, Keelan <Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: communication request

Sorry for the empty email previously☺ Can you please sign me up for Jan 15, 2020? Subject: Portland Water Bureau's continuing failure to provide safe, affordable drinking water.

Thank you
Dee White

From: McClymont, Keelan [<mailto:Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: communication request

Hi Dee,
There are available Communication spots on January 15, January 22 and January 29. Currently, there are no absences scheduled for these dates.

Keelan McClymont
Assistant Council Clerk | City of Portland
(503) 823-4085
she/her pronouns

From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 11:58 AM
To: McClymont, Keelan <Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: communication request

Hi Keelan,
Please let me know available dates for January communications that are available.

Thank you,
Dee White

From: McClymont, Keelan [<mailto:Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: communication request

Hello Dee,
Communications spots for November and December are filled up. I'm happy to put you on the waitlist for either or both months. January will open for scheduling on November 1st.

Keelan McClymont
Assistant Council Clerk | City of Portland
(503) 823-4085
she/her pronouns

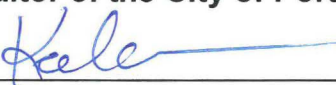
From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>

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continues to drown us in debt, half-truths, and treatment controversy
(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		