

From: [Mh Kincaid](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Subject: Reserve a public testimony spot on Council agenda
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:51:54 PM

Hi, Karla,

I apologize because I don't remember the name of the woman who handled scheduling public testimony spots the last time I requested one....so pass me on to whoever.

I would like to reserve a spot when all 4 Council members have said they would be present, if that is possible. It would just be me. I have no clue of availability but it would be best for my schedule to be after the first of March.

I would be telling the Council about Outstanding Special District Program award given to Multnomah County Drainage District and Cascadia Health by the [Special Districts Association of Oregon](#) (SDAO) for the organizations joint efforts to address safety and infrastructure issues through a Houseless Outreach & Coordination Pilot Project.

Hope all is well with you.

Thank you,

Maryhelen

Request of Maryhelen Kincaid to address Council regarding the Outstanding Special District Program award (Communication)

April 8, 2020

Placed on File

Filed 3/31/2020

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

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By McClymont Deputy

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McClymont
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3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		

April 8, 2020

Maryhelen Kincaid testimony

Thank you for taking the time to hear this testimony. During this difficult time of pandemic and economic hardship I wanted to provide you with some good news, of a project that I have been associated with through my participation as a board supervisor for the Peninsula #2 Drainage District, one of 4 Multnomah County Drainage Districts. I am very impressed with this work of two organizations to finding a solution to a difficult program and working together that I wanted to share the recognition they received for it with you.

On February 8, 2020 the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) recognized the Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare with an Outstanding Special District Program award for the organizations' joint efforts to address safety and infrastructure issues through a Houseless Outreach & Coordination Pilot Project. The SDAO's Awards Program recognizes innovative accomplishments by organizations that improve safety, public information and involvement in their communities.

With limited places to live, communities in the Portland-metropolitan area have resorted to camping along the Lower Columbia River and in areas protected by a series of federally authorized levee and water conveyance systems extending from North Portland to Troutdale. This increased activity has made it difficult for field employees to perform regular maintenance work, and in some instances, has caused unintentional damage to the levee system – posing greater flood risks for unhoused communities, thousands of residents, businesses, and some of the region's most vital resources including the Columbia South Shore Well Field, and the Portland International Airport. In order to address these issues, MCDD and Cascadia formed a collaborative partnership and launched the Houseless Outreach & Coordination Pilot Project in 2019.

Through targeted outreach, education, and engagement, the project addresses safety concerns and minimizes damage to flood risk-reduction systems with the added benefit of providing education and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as serving as a line of communication to vulnerable communities in low-lying areas during high water events. The program provides the ability for MCDD field crews to work closely with trained social service professionals on the ground and allows MCDD to perform their core job functions while also gaining greater awareness of the conditions of people who are unhoused in the community. In addition to working with social services, the project also incorporates ongoing collaboration with other regional service organizations, law enforcement, government agencies, property owners, and the general public. The project has developed a unique technological approach to communicating between organizations and providing live data. "The Collector App" allows for easy transfer of data between MCDD Cascadia Behavioral Health and other partners. Information such as such as flood control systems impacted, safety concerns, camp locations, estimated number of people, language barriers and willingness to cooperate, are easily shared.

The project met its goal of improved safety and operations for MCDD and its systems, and expanded education and access to healthcare and housing services for individuals experiencing homelessness. With a total of 250 hours of outreach, MCDD and Cascadia made 148 contacts, provided education and information to 88 individuals, and enrolled nearly 20% of the individuals contacted in services over a period of six months. Additionally, in partnership with District staff, the program ensured the safety of approximately 50 individuals by prompting an evacuation from a low-lying peninsula during a high-water event in April 2019.

It is especially impressive for you to know this project was solely funded by the 4 drainage districts. The one-year operating costs were \$7,500. If you only attribute the funding to the 17 people enrolled in services that is \$441/per person. The drainage district boards have included funding for the project in their budget for 2020/2021. Project efficiencies and collaboration provided services to a population of people not served by other programs. My hope is that when we get through this current crisis, "we" can work with the City to find additional funding to provide additional collaborative services. I have worked for over 3 years to create safe parking utilizing vacant City property – a site on Sunderland adjacent to Dignity Village – and I will continue that quest, but there are more urgent needs in the community that require attention right now.

The Houseless Outreach & Coordination Pilot Project represents the benefits of a partnership among public and non-profit sectors. The collaboration between MCDD and Cascadia prioritizes compassion and human connection, and allows a service-first approach in order to avoid traumatic experiences that often occur with the presence of law enforcement and regulatory entities. Looking forward, MCDD and Cascadia will continue their work to develop strategies and plans that improve efficiency and safety in field operations, as well as health and housing outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.

These efforts are worthy of recognition and that is why I am bringing it to your attention today.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maryhelen Kincaid". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with some loops and flourishes characteristic of cursive handwriting.