

From: [Nicholas Caleb, J.D., LL.M.](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Center for Sustainable Economy - COVID Resolution - Item #381 - Suggested Amedments
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:45:37 AM
Attachments: [Center for Sustainable Economy - COVID Resolution - Suggested Amendments.docx](#)

Greetings,
Attached, please find suggested amendments to Item #381, the COVID response resolution.
Best,

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WHEREAS, just-in-time economic models led to shortages of important goods and commodities at the onset of the COVID crisis which led to more preventable infections and deaths; and

WHEREAS, decades of underinvestment in the public sector, privatization of essential services, and austerity budgets left government less able to respond to the COVID crisis in an effective manner; and

WHEREAS, workers who due to the nature of their jobs, their job locations, as well as climate change related stresses such as heat and smoke are at a greater risk of physical stresses and dangerous exposures that might make them more vulnerable to COVID-19, for example diesel equipment operators, asphalt paving workers, agricultural workers, and fire fighters.

WHEREAS, a 2019 regional study from Portland State University found that as many as 38,000 people experienced homelessness in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties in 2017, a number that includes unhoused people not counted in Point-in-Time studies such as people living doubled up with friends or family — couch surfing or temporarily staying at someone's residence — due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

WHEREAS, through this recovery, communities in Portland will continue to face compounding and long-term risks to health and wellbeing from economic hardship, climate change impacts, and seismic vulnerability, particularly in fence-line communities to fossil fuel and chemical transport and storage facilities, and the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the COVID-19 response shall seek to bolster, expand, and better compensate workers in the “care economy”, low carbon and community resilience activities in childcare, early childhood education, disability and long-term care, elder care, health care, and other essential labor (whether paid or unpaid) that ensures the health and well-being of our community, higher-quality of life for the majority of Portland's residents, and improved resilience to disasters and crises in our city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City shall recognize that job security and living wages are a key part of community and economic resiliency, and work to strengthen vulnerable workers

thorough standards and laws to protect such workers, increase union membership, and provide whistleblower protections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these efforts will endeavor to lay a foundation for a municipal Green New Deal to provide good, living-wage jobs in low carbon and clean energy fields, through partnership and planning with communities, unions, and other workers 'rights organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Portland City Council delegates authority to the Office of Equity and Human Rights to hold bureaus accountable to components of the City of Portland Equity Toolkit for COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Efforts and subsequent guidance that prioritizes Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, [unhoused residents], and other historically oppressed communities. Bureaus will provide quarterly progress reports to the Office of Equity and Human Rights. The Office of Equity and Human Rights will provide an annual report to City Council.