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316-2022

Communication

Request of Lisbeth Marquez-Delgado to address Council regarding Youth Voice, Youth Participatory Budgeting

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication: Youth Voice, Youth Participatory Budgeting

Agenda Items

316 Communications in [April 27-28, 2022 Council Agenda](#)

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Requested Agenda Type

Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

April 27, 2022

From: [Lisbeth Marquez](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony 4/27
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 4:54:01 PM
Attachments: [Portland City Council 4_27.pdf](#)

Hello,

I would like to provide a written version of my testimony. I am scheduled to speak tomorrow at the Portland City Council meeting tomorrow at 9:30am. I have attached my testimony to this email.

Thank you,
Lisbeth Marquez-Delgado

Mayor Wheeler & Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97204

April 27, 2022

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

My name is Lisbeth Marquez-Delgado, and I am serving on the youth consultant committee for Youth Voice Youth Vote Participatory Budgeting also known as YV² PB. As a youth consultant, I request the Portland City Council Members to dedicate **\$2 million** of its ARPA funds to the YV² PB project to fund a second participatory budgeting cycle in 2023-2024.

I have lived in Southeast Portland, specifically in the David Douglas School District, my entire life. I see the diversity in my community and know that with it comes better ideas to move us forward, but needs a platform to do so.

In my current role as a college access mentor at David Douglas High School, my former high school, I serve youth by offering them support to achieve their professional and educational goals. From my direct experience working with students, I understand that youth have the potential to become leaders who strive to make a positive impact. Students have told me that they feel motivated to do something to help after the pandemic which has brought hardship within our communities. Yet, they face the barrier that they do not possess adequate guidance to seek out and take on leadership roles.

Through YV² PB, youth are provided support and resources to allow us to flourish as leaders in our communities. We will be empowered as we collaborate with other youth leaders, as well as make meaningful connections within school systems and the local government that we do not otherwise have access to. This is a valuable experience for us to understand how government policy and non-profits work. Additionally, civic engagement is not always something that can be taught, but something that needs to be experienced. This program provides a clear path for Portland youth to become involved within the local community.

I believe the Portland City Council should fund this project because it is crucial for us to amplify community members' voices. It is important that everyone has an input on what changes they want to see and put them into action. Doing so in a collaborative environment will strengthen our community and cultivate relationships between us and our elected leaders.

This will benefit Portland's future generations because current systems of government exclude youth from the process even though youth are often the most impacted by decisions. With YV² PB we are ensuring we are creating a lasting cycle of leadership development among youth. This project will prepare us for future roles in which we can hold power.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me and to consider what I have to say.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LMD' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisbeth Marquez-Delgado
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