



February 22, 2023 Council Agenda

5701

City Hall – 1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204

In accordance with Portland City Code and state law, City Council will hold hybrid public meetings, which provides for both virtual and in-person attendance. Members of council will elect to attend remotely by video and teleconference, or in-person. The City has made several avenues available for the public to listen to the audio broadcast of this meeting, including the City's YouTube Channel, [eGov PDX](#), the [Open Signal website](#), and Xfinity Channel 30 and 330.

Questions may be directed to councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 9:30 am

Session Status: Recessed

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Council convened at 9:43 a.m.

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Anne Milligan, Deputy City Attorney; Christina Thomas, Acting Council Clerk

Item 152 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and on a Y-5 roll call, the balance of the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Council recessed at 11:46 a.m. and reconvened at 11:58 a.m.

Council recessed at 12:20 p.m.

Communications

144

[Request of Chris Reid to address Council regarding SW Capitol Hwy Rose Lane Project effect on Hillsdale](#)
(Communication)

Document number: 144-2023

Disposition: Placed on File

145

[Request of Meka Webb to address Council regarding a nuisance building](#) (Communication)

Document number: 145-2023

Disposition: Placed on File

146

[Request of Sherry Dahlen to address Council regarding North Portland Safe Rest Village and housing property](#)
(Communication)

Document number: 146-2023

Disposition: Placed on File

147

[Request of David Marco to address Council regarding repair and replacement of items at Fields Park in the Pearl District Neighborhood](#) (Communication)

Document number: 147-2023

Disposition: Placed on File

148

[Request of Jena Cho Kain to address Council regarding climate and participatory budgeting Charter amendment](#)
(Communication)

Document number: 148-2023

Disposition: Placed on File

Time Certain

149

[Appoint members to the Planning Commission](#) (Report)

Document number: 149-2023

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Planning and Sustainability (BPS)

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 30 minutes

Disposition: Confirmed As Amended

Motion to amend the report to remove Steve Lee from the list of Planning Commissioners appointed today:

Moved by Rubio and seconded by Ryan. (Y-5)

Motion to accept the report as amended: Moved by Wheeler and seconded by Rubio.

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

150

[Amend Vehicles and Traffic Code and direct the Portland Bureau of Transportation to adopt Administrative Rules to create a process for the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the public right-of-way \(add Code Sections 16.20.290 and 16.90.111\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191187

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Time certain: 10:15 am

Time requested: 30 minutes

Disposition: Passed to second reading as amended

Motion to amend Exhibit B with an updated version of the final report from PBOT: Moved by Mapps and seconded by Rubio. (Y-5)

Passed to second reading as amended March 1, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

151

[Declare intent to initiate local improvement district formation proceedings to construct street improvements west of NW 83rd Pl in the NW Reed Dr Local Improvement District \(C-10073\)](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37611

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Time certain: 10:45 am

Time requested: 20 minutes

Disposition: Adopted

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Consent Agenda

152

[*Pay settlement of Jacob Johnson bodily injury lawsuit for \\$13,750 involving the Portland Police Bureau](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191184

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services; Risk Management

Disposition: Passed

Item 152 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

153

[Assess property for system development charge contracts, private plumbing loan contracts, and safety net loan deferral contracts \(Z0850, K0192, T0209, W0078, Z1212, K0193, T0210, Z0851, W0079, P0171, P0172\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191175

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue Division

Second reading agenda item 136.

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

154

[Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer or designee to negotiate and execute one or more lease agreements for laboratory space for Cryptosporidium genotyping to support the Water Bureau Bilateral Compliance Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191176

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Facilities; Management and Finance

Second reading agenda item 137.

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

155

[Extend contract with PPC Solutions, Inc. to December 31, 2023 and increase not to exceed amount to \\$1,136,588 for Police Bureau vehicle storage facility security services \(amend Contract 31001227\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191185

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Police

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading March 1, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

156

[*Amend approved application under the Multiple-Unit Limited Tax Exemption Program under the Inclusionary Housing Program for Woodstock Apartments located at 5515 SE Woodstock Blvd to decrease the number of restricted units \(amend Ordinance 190760\)](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191177

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

157

[*Approve application under the Multiple-Unit Limited Tax Exemption Program under the Inclusionary Housing Program for 14-Glenwood located at 6680 SE 14th Ave](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191178

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

158

[*Approve application under the Multiple-Unit Limited Tax Exemption Program under the Inclusionary Housing Program for Clinton Jade Apartments located at 8958 SE Clinton St](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191179

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

159

[*Approve application under the Multiple-Unit Limited Tax Exemption Program under the Inclusionary Housing Program for Graham Apartments located at 325 W/ NE Graham St](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191180

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Housing Bureau

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

160

[*Authorize Continuing Control Agreement with TriMet to operate and maintain the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project in the City right-of-way](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191181

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

161

[*Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement with TriMet for maintenance of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191182

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Regular Agenda

162

[Accept bid of \\$1,774,800 from James W Fowler Co. for the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Channel Wash Water Line Replacement Project \(Procurement Report - ITB 00001985\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 162-2023

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services

Time requested: 15 minutes

Disposition: Accepted - Prepare Contract

Motion to accept the report: Moved by Mapps and seconded by Wheeler.

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

163

[*Authorize grant application for \\$15 million from the United States Department of Transportation to fund local streets at Broadway Corridor](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191183

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Prosper Portland

Time requested: 20 minutes

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:00 pm

Session Status: Adjourned

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez
Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Ken McGair, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

Council adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Time Certain

164

[Refer Charter amendment to voters to establish Transparency Advocate in Office of the Auditor at the May 16, 2023 Special District Election](#) (Resolution)

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

Time certain: 2:00 pm

Time requested: 1 hour

Disposition: Tabled

Motion to lay the Auditor's resolution on the table: Moved by Ryan and seconded by Rubio. (Y-5)

Suspension of the Rules

165

[Promoting Government Transparency](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37612

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Disposition: Adopted

Motion to suspend the rules to allow immediate consideration of a substitute resolution: Moved by Gonzalez and seconded by Mapps. (Y-5)

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

**Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
February 22, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.**

Name	Agenda Item
Mayor Ted Wheeler	
Christina Thomas	
Commissioner Carmen Rubio	
Commissioner Dan Ryan	
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez	
Commissioner Mingus Mapps	
Anne Milligan	
Chris Reid	144
Sherry Dahlen	146
David Marco	147
Jena Cho Kain	148
Patricia Diefenderfer	149
Mary-Rain O'Meara	149
Steph Routh	149
Erica Thompson	149
Michael Alexander	149
Brittany Brock	149
Donnie Oliveira	149
Art Pearce	150
Jacob Sherman	150
Shannon Walton-Clark	150
Victoria Paykar	150
Anik Shrestha	150
Cory Bullis	150
Andrew Aebi	151
Jennifer Burrell	151
Brad Herner	151
Todd Dance	151
Kathleen Brenes-Morua	162
Steven Szigethy	163
Sarah Harpole	163
Marc Poris	152

**Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
February 22, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.**

Name	Agenda Item
Mayor Ted Wheeler	
Keelan McClymont	
Commissioner Carmen Rubio	
Commissioner Dan Ryan	
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez	
Commissioner Mingus Mapps	
Ken McGair	
Simone Rede	164
Bryan Lewis	164
Kristen Denius	164
Ginger McCall	164
LaVonne Griffin-Valade	164
Michael Mills	164
Jude al-Ghazal Stone	164
Kate Titus	164
Debbie Kaye	164
K. Rambo	164
JAMES POSEY	164
Kai MCMURTRY	164
Emily Harris	164
Stephanie Stewart	164
Ashley Henry	164
Mary Peveto	164
Alyssa Vitale	164
Benjamin	164

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

February 22, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

This file was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised city Council broadcast and should not be considered a verbatim transcript. The official vote counts, motions, and names of speakers are included in the official minutes.

00:05:12.000 --> 00:05:22.000

Okay. All right. Good morning, everybody. This is the Wednesday, February 20, s morning session at Portland City Council.

00:05:22.000 --> 00:05:29.000

Good luck. Good morning. Rubio. Here, Brian here, Gonzalez, here maps! Here, Wheeler, here!

00:05:29.000 --> 00:05:39.000

Welcome to the Portland City Council. City Council is holding hybrid public meetings with in-person attendance.

00:05:39.000 --> 00:05:51.000

In addition to electronic attendance. If you wish to testify before council in person, or virtually, you must sign up in advance by visiting the council agenda on the council clerks. Web Page at Portland, Gov.

00:05:51.000 --> 00:05:55.000

Slash, agenda. You may sign up for communications.

00:05:55.000 --> 00:06:06.000

To briefly speak about any subject. You may also sign up for public testimony on resolutions, reports on the first readings of ordinances, written testimony may be submitted at CC.

00:06:06.000 --> 00:06:10.000

Testimony at Portland, Oregon, Gov. Your testimony should address the matter being considered at the time when testifying, please state your name for the record.

00:06:10.000 --> 00:06:27.000

Your address is not necessary. Please disclose, if you are a lobbyist, if you are representing an organization, please identify it for testifiers, joining virtually, please unmute yourself.

00:06:27.000 --> 00:06:36.000

Once the council clerk calls your name. The presiding officer preserves order and decoration during city council meetings, so that everyone can feel welcome.

00:06:36.000 --> 00:06:42.000

Comfortable, respected, and safe. The presiding officer determines the length of testimony.

00:06:42.000 --> 00:06:47.000

Individuals generally have 3 min to testify, unless otherwise stated.

00:06:47.000 --> 00:07:01.000

A timer will indicate when your time is done, disruptive conduct, such as shouting, refuse to conclude your testimony when your time is up, or interrupting other testimony or counsel, deliberations will not be allowed.

00:07:01.000 --> 00:07:07.000

If there are disruptions, a warning will be given that further disruption may result in the person being ejected for the remainder of the meeting.

00:07:07.000 --> 00:07:13.000

After being ejected, a person who fails to leave the meeting is subject to a rest for trespass.

00:07:13.000 --> 00:07:19.000

Additionally, Council may take a short recess and reconvene virtually.

00:07:19.000 --> 00:07:23.000

Thank you very much. First up is communications. First, individual, please. I.

00:07:23.000 --> 00:07:24.000

1, 4 4 requested Chris Reed to address council regarding Southwest Capitol Highway. Rosalind.

00:07:24.000 --> 00:07:34.000

Project Effect on Hillsdale. Good morning, good morning, you, for being here.

00:07:34.000 --> 00:07:40.000

Yeah. My name is Chris. Read. I manage commercial property in Hillsdale.

00:07:40.000 --> 00:07:45.000

I come to you today to give counsel and update on the Capitol highway, Rose Lane project.

00:07:45.000 --> 00:07:55.000

In recent testimonies I have shared numerous and ongoing negative effects, that the Rosalind project has had on the Hillstill community in the Hillsdale business district.

00:07:55.000 --> 00:08:04.000

Today I come with a message of appreciation. First, I'd like to thank you, Mayor Wheeler, for assigning Commissioner Maps to oversee Pbot.

00:08:04.000 --> 00:08:09.000

A lot of negative happened in the past couple years throughout the city, due to the Rose Lane projects.

00:08:09.000 --> 00:08:12.000

After meeting Commissioner Maps and his team. I have great confidence.

00:08:12.000 --> 00:08:22.000

They will find a solution that will help remove the negativity, and that has surrounded Hill's deal to installation of the project.

00:08:22.000 --> 00:08:25.000

Mary Wheeler. Thank you. Second, I'd like to thank you.

00:08:25.000 --> 00:08:40.000

Commissioner Maps and your team, Katie Meyer, Chief of Staff, and Shannon Carney, Senior policy advisor for meeting with us in Hillsdale, to recap the issues of the Rosale Project issues that the Rosane project has inflicted on the Hillsdale community

00:08:40.000 --> 00:08:56.000

and the Hillsdale businesses in our walkabout you were able to see firsthand examples of the congested and diverted traffic issues we've shared with the City commissioners, Commissioner members, team and trimet Commissioner Maps, thank you.

00:08:56.000 --> 00:08:57.000

It was reassuring to have learned of Commissioner Maps and his staff member.

00:08:57.000 --> 00:09:06.000

Katie's experience and small business experience with small business and business districts.

00:09:06.000 --> 00:09:14.000

We are very pleased to have a listening Commissioner and his team actively working to find a solution to the problems caused by capital highway.

00:09:14.000 --> 00:09:22.000

Roslane Project, we look forward to hearing the next steps to resolve the traffic issues and hardships the Hillsdale businesses are experiencing.

00:09:22.000 --> 00:09:25.000

Thank you very much.

00:09:25.000 --> 00:09:33.000

Thank you. Commissioner Maps. Chris, I just want to thank you for coming in today and being so generous with your praise again.

00:09:33.000 --> 00:09:38.000

If my office does anything good, it is completely because of the staff of the people who surround me.

00:09:38.000 --> 00:09:41.000

I also want you to know that we do take the concerns that you've raised about this project. Seriously.

00:09:41.000 --> 00:09:52.000

We're looking into it, Shaneen should be getting back to you to keep you updated, and how our thinking is evolving. Thank you.

00:09:52.000 --> 00:09:56.000

Thank you.

00:09:56.000 --> 00:10:05.000

Next individual, please. I don't. 1 4 file, requested Mika Webb to address council regarding a nuisance building, and they let us know they're canceling their request.

00:10:05.000 --> 00:10:16.000

Thanks, Christine. Next individual, 1, 4, 6, request of Sherry Dalin to address counsel regarding North Portland safe rest, village and housing property.

00:10:16.000 --> 00:10:20.000

Good morning!

00:10:20.000 --> 00:10:27.000

Come on up, take it time, and if you can just state your name for the record once you're seeking, thank you.

00:10:27.000 --> 00:10:31.000

My name is Sheri.

00:10:31.000 --> 00:10:36.000

And I come to you frustrated today.

00:10:36.000 --> 00:10:46.000

Own property that is, directly next to the safe Risk village.

00:10:46.000 --> 00:10:53.000

I used to live in the property. I lived in the property for 41 years.

00:10:53.000 --> 00:11:08.000

The last time I was here was on August the 20 s, 2,017, when the Water Bureau changed the property ownership to the Housing Bureau, and I spoke then and asked for a couple of things.

00:11:08.000 --> 00:11:13.000

One was that you kept the property up.

00:11:13.000 --> 00:11:29.000

You haven't kept the property up, I'm told I'm told I lived it, that there are criminal activities that go on on the property, and I would like some kind of guarantee.

00:11:29.000 --> 00:11:38.000

That with the safe rest village going in notice. I haven't said, don't put it in my neighborhood, I'm saying.

00:11:38.000 --> 00:11:53.000

Can we get some kind of guarantee? Possibly a community benefits agreement that that neighborhood will be protected since 2,017?

00:11:53.000 --> 00:11:59.000

The Housing bureau gave us Bobby Daniels, who was great.

00:11:59.000 --> 00:12:11.000

He came out. He was a community person. He brought the goats to the area he brought Northwest Enforcement to the area, who, I believe you're all still paying for.

00:12:11.000 --> 00:12:20.000

But they do nothing but walk around the property with their hands tied, as do the police.

00:12:20.000 --> 00:12:26.000

We've heard that there might have been a lawsuit between the Housing bureau and the police bureau.

00:12:26.000 --> 00:12:34.000

This doesn't help communities. This doesn't help the communities feel safe.

00:12:34.000 --> 00:12:41.000

Since 2,017 we've had fires in the field, and I'm not talking about cooking fires.

00:12:41.000 --> 00:13:00.000

I'm talking about trees going up, and Porta Potties going up in September, 300 feet from my house, that my daughter went out and put out with a fire extinguisher at 6 30 in the morning, because her neighbors called us to tell us the field was on fire we watched stone cars

00:13:00.000 --> 00:13:08.000

we had screaming people. We've had people defecating and pornographic pictures, taking.

00:13:08.000 --> 00:13:16.000

I've had you yell at people in the middle of the night to get off of my property, and, as I said, I don't live there anymore.

00:13:16.000 --> 00:13:24.000

But my renters have had the same issues. They wanted me to hire a security guard for them.

00:13:24.000 --> 00:13:35.000

They wanted me to put in cameras for them. How can this city be so toned down?

00:13:35.000 --> 00:13:39.000

I hear you're going to vote on putting electrical outlets.

00:13:39.000 --> 00:13:46.000

Along 205, the people along 205 need the campers and the tents gone.

00:13:46.000 --> 00:13:57.000

People need to sleep at night they can't sleep at night when people are dismantling vehicles for the money.

00:13:57.000 --> 00:14:09.000

They can't sleep at night, so they get up, and then they become targets, and as one of my friends says, I'm at my limits, I know I've been there.

00:14:09.000 --> 00:14:16.000

I live in Vancouver, which the economist yesterday, I believe, mentioned on the news.

00:14:16.000 --> 00:14:21.000

That a lot of businesses are going north, and I know why.

00:14:21.000 --> 00:14:29.000

Cause you were all tone deaf. The guy from arbor Lodge talked to you about the Varn.

00:14:29.000 --> 00:14:44.000

On Lombard and Denver, and the day after that you went out and talked about revitalizing southeast Portland, and having a reset because the people that are walking to work need to feel safe.

00:14:44.000 --> 00:14:49.000

So are the people living in their houses? Okay? Yeah, I would really appreciate something when coming out and talking to us.

00:14:49.000 --> 00:14:56.000

We've had people scheduled to talk to the Neighborhood Association, and they don't show up.

00:14:56.000 --> 00:15:03.000

I don't understand, alright, so let me start.

00:15:03.000 --> 00:15:09.000

And then I might turn this over to Commissioner Ryan on the actual mandate of the safe West Village.

00:15:09.000 --> 00:15:18.000

As you mentioned, some issues where, first of all, I'm not aware of any lawsuit between least burrow and the housing girl.

00:15:18.000 --> 00:15:24.000

It's not to say there isn't something there, but it hasn't been.

00:15:24.000 --> 00:15:31.000

Be aware of that definitely available to anybody. So I think that may be more that in reality just.

00:15:31.000 --> 00:15:40.000

That's why I thank you. The police do not have their as the police commissioner, I can assure you.

00:15:40.000 --> 00:15:44.000

They are empowered to enforce any and all laws, in the city of Paris.

00:15:44.000 --> 00:15:50.000

A police officer says their hands are tied. Please get a vaginal so that I can help.

00:15:50.000 --> 00:15:59.000

Inform them about what they're obligation is that their hands were not tied they're not being responsive.

00:15:59.000 --> 00:16:04.000

And most of our officers are extremely responsible to get lots and lots of people calling my office.

00:16:04.000 --> 00:16:11.000

Emailing me, texting me, saying, Hey, I? In fact, they got one just yesterday.

00:16:11.000 --> 00:16:20.000

Positive interaction with our officers. So if you're not getting that, let me know, because I meet with the Chief pretty much every other day.

00:16:20.000 --> 00:16:32.000

And would love to know that if there's something a little more positively reversible one with regard to, I.

00:16:32.000 --> 00:16:37.000

205. We are not doing anything structurally on. I.

00:16:37.000 --> 00:16:44.000

205, or any other. O dot public. We have no jurisdiction to do anything in terms of infrastructure.

00:16:44.000 --> 00:16:59.000

We are, however, engaged in very aggressive program to keep those public libraries clean, removing problematic camps, and it has been work on.

00:16:59.000 --> 00:17:15.000

But we need more resources from the State. I'm personally in conversations with the Governor as well as with the legislative body team, receive amount of funding coming to to keep those public right away.

00:17:15.000 --> 00:17:19.000

I agree with you. And everybody is reallyly with you.

00:17:19.000 --> 00:17:21.000

That there's a lot of improvement we've been making good progress.

00:17:21.000 --> 00:17:27.000

With the resources we have just on.

00:17:27.000 --> 00:17:32.000

That conversation is ongoing. I'll turn this over to.

00:17:32.000 --> 00:17:41.000

But with regard to the actual management of the camp cause, I think there's some confusion as to what our role is and what other people's roles are.

00:17:41.000 --> 00:17:45.000

Commissioner yeah. First of all, sherry. Thanks for being here.

00:17:45.000 --> 00:17:46.000

And I was out there last Thursday I've been there frequently about. I don't know.

00:17:46.000 --> 00:17:53.000

I've been out there a lot, and as you know, it's been a mess for a long time.

00:17:53.000 --> 00:17:54.000

You know, there's been a lot of people that have. That's where they.

00:17:54.000 --> 00:17:59.000

That's where they've chosen to live.

00:17:59.000 --> 00:18:13.000

And here's some new developments of late, and when we get the and I know that we've had a lot of neighborhood association meeting contact and the team has met with people from the Neighborhood Association, we'll have someone for my staff meet with you.

00:18:13.000 --> 00:18:14.000

So you can be in that loop. And I know specifically they gave flyers to where you live.

00:18:14.000 --> 00:18:20.000

And I think college students are living in your place. Now. Yeah.

00:18:20.000 --> 00:18:27.000

So they maybe they're a drop of communication. Let's make sure we get your email and Dary and Jones is here, and he'll connect with you right afterwards.

00:18:27.000 --> 00:18:35.000

So a lot of fences are growing up. One went up around the apartments that the brick apartments, because they needed that security and safety.

00:18:35.000 --> 00:18:51.000

So we put that up. We put another one up where the goats currently the goats are in the place where the Safe Rest Village is going to start being built and so we're moving the goats to the north no, to the west, and so that offense just went up so the goats are being

00:18:51.000 --> 00:18:58.000

moved in, the construction begins, there's a good neighbor agreement that we have resourced, and it's it's a draft.

00:18:58.000 --> 00:19:00.000

They're always a draft until it's all signed and I know you're looking at me like this.

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So that's why you're gonna talk to Darren.

00:19:04.000 --> 00:19:08.000

You'll find out the communication that's going on between the Neighborhood Association people and the Safe Rest Village team, and we're working on that good neighbor agreement just like the other ones. They're actually good.

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And they're resourced. And they're coordinated with people from the city and the county.

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Both the city and the county have had to really get humble and look at past good neighbor agreements that weren't always good.

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But we're on that. We're accountable to you, and we have been with all of the villages that we have open.

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There's 4 that are open with active, good neighbor agreements.

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So we look forward to making sure that that's a part of this equation.

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The truth is, the outreach workers are their frequently working with those that are unhoused, and are living in tents in that area.

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And we're doing our best to get them into shelters if they'd like that.

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That area, and they have been. If you notice the area north of Lombard has been cleared out for some time.

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But what that did is. Then more people moved right to the area between bombard and Bamba.

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If you will, we also it took a while, but we got the fence up that stopped the vehicles coming in.

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I think that was about a year ago. So since I've had this position, it's been one challenge after another.

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I'm so sorry that it's taken so long.

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I'm happy to say that this construction will begin soon, and we'll be able to announce a provider hopefully as well.

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And once that's announced, then they will be in contact with the good, with the neighbors as well.

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So there's hope on the horizon. Yeah. And we'll Darren Jones is.

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Wave your hand, Darian. That's Darian. Please meet with sherry, so we can make sure that she's in the communication loop along with the other leaders in the University Park neighborhood.

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We have your email. Is there something?

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Yeah, definitely, I had to sign up for this. So somebody's got it.

00:20:55.000 --> 00:21:06.000

We'll share it. Yeah. Oh, yeah. Sure. I just want to thank you for coming today.

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And I know that Portlanders many are feeling a sense of lawlessness right now that feel under siege.

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So we hear you, I can tell you that there's broad commitment on the city council to address it very, very directly that we support law enforcement, that we clean up our city and it's it's a long road ahead, but thank you for coming we were testifying just know that people are here, and

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we're working on this every day at it. So thank you for speaking up.

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And please continue to do so. Thank you, you said you were out there last Thursday.

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I would really appreciate it if someone would take the time to come.

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Stand on one of our porches and look out at it, instead of looking at it from the homeless point of view.

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Look at it from the homeowner's point of view, because it's different.

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That's fair. Yeah. The reason the fence is up is because I did.

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Meet someone in the apartments. That was 6 months ago, probably, and it was really helpful.

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Yeah, to be in there. It's their yard looking out to have a conversation, because the parking down there got untenable.

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Yes, and my understanding is, there's not going to be a parking lot for the people that not live there, but work there.

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Even so, we have a long way to go. I believe. Yeah, the construction plans are actually really decent.

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I think it'll help when you, when you actually communicate with the Safe Rest Village team and see what we have someone picked out to run it.

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It's it can't be announced publicly yet, but we're working on that.

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The county is in charge of the the that announcement, and we're coordinating that with them we will, we will have that information when it's ready when it's confirmed.

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Thanks, Sharon!

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Next quest of David Marco to address council regarding repair and replacement of items that Fields Park in the Pearl district neighborhood.

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Good morning. How are you today? Good! How are you? Alright?

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I'm gonna read my statement cause I can't remember what.

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Alright, good morning, Marya Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners.

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I appreciate the time given me to discuss the emails.

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I recently sent to a few of you regarding the Fields Park.

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I sent an email to Commissioners, Rubio and Ryan, as well as to Mayor Wheeler, in my emails, I remarked on several issues that many of the neighborhoods residents share with me about the condition of the Park.

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I resided at the Con conconrominiums, and I sit on the board of directors I'm here representing residents at the encore as well as neighboring buildings, residence.

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I'm not here to repeat what I stayed in my emails, but to offer an action plan to help each other determine if we repairs replacement of the Fields Park assets are needed.

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I propose that Park personnel meets semi annually during the spring and fall, with a few residents of the Pearl district to do a walk around the park to examine, identify, and discover any issues that are realized.

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We could also use the time to discuss issues about PET rules being disregarded by PET owners and come up with a plan to put to be put towards for consideration any changes that can be implemented to resolve this problem I look forward to your response to my action.

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Plan or any other action plan that you can offer to the Pryl neighbourhoods, residents.

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Welcome. Thank you, David. We'll make sure that we get a walk around.

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Plan okay? All right but parks, yeah, you have my emails.

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And I like to offer. This is reminding the emails are, and for you to, if at all, wanna read them again.

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Thank you all.

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Next division. I don't want 3, requested Jenna Chocaine to address Council regarding climate and participatory budgeting charter Amendment.

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Good morning!

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Clock myself.

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Thank you.

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Dear city Council members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the climate, provisions, and in support of participatory budgeting my name is Jennifer Chocane, and I have volunteered with 350 Pdx, as well as the Portland People's Metro

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coalition. I've worked as a health care manager, Yoga teacher and a community volunteer over the past 20 years.

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The city is, is at a precipice of a huge transitional period.

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The voters made clear that structural changes to elections and form of government are desired.

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The City Council is charged with implementing the will of the voters in good faith, timeliness, and effective and efficient implementation.

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What I have for you today are ways that I hope can be upheld in doing this as well as addressing the recommendations of the Charter Commission to the City Council that should not be ignored, but that can provide an opportunity to reestablish trust and good goodwill with Portland

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resident numerous testimony during the Charter Review process revealed the deep desire of Portland residents to address the climate crisis.

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Community groups and individuals, including youth and seniors, testified on the urgency of the climate crisis, made evident through the extreme weather events that exacerbate existing problems, such as houselessness and communities affected by covid-nineteen and the deep desire to phase out fossil

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fuel, the desire to not have not only a name only, but a climate commitment, one that is actionable and accountable.

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The city council has an opportunity not to ignore public feedback.

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One of the ways to begin to build trust with the community is to not keep asking for community feedback and then ignoring the recommendations waste, engaged that are not extracted and exploitative is key to building dialogue and in formulating solutions to which communities who are impacted are

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key. I have 4 recommendations that I believe can be critical to your success.

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The first is implementing an actionable and accountable climate commitment, and to take the recommendations by the City Charter Commission.

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But to go further. The work of 350 Pdx.

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Sunrise and peace provided specific language that can help unify the Bureaus, and to have the city take the lead, to regulate waste and move towards reducing emissions and moving towards renewable economy and protection of the city's natural resources, the second, is to create an office of the

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transparency, advocate, and ensure that the city and has the funding, visibility and staffing to demonstrate that the city is moving beyond systems of inequity, that have been baked into its founding and desires accountability and is willing to be transparent with the

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public. The third is to take the city charter recommendations to enhance public engagement at city meetings and ensure that the process used are not draining to people in communities.

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The fourth is to propose a participatory budgeting amendment directly to the city chart that provides a mechanism for its residents to play a key role in decision, making processes within the parameters of the participatory budgeting process.

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And just as a note, I'd like to say that at the State level there are numerous house and Senate bills that are currently as a part of this legislative session that demonstrates that the collective future of our State and of our cities are in the minds of many

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constituents and representatives across the State. I guess the question that I would ask is that will Portland continue to drag its feet and outdated and self-interested silos, or respond to this historical moment with political courage?

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For the city council members to all. Go first, and choosing to address the climate, crisis and willingness to collaborate and bring to the table community members who hold a lot of the solutions that we need and not create barriers to the very solutions that you seek thank you thank you thank you

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so much!

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You concludes communications, for today. Yes, ma'am, you know, if any items been pulled up.

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Yes, we've received a request to pull. Item 152 to his is off on the remainder of the consent.

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Agenda is all the role. Hi sign agenda is adopted to the first time.

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Certain item, please. Item number 1, 4, 9, appoint members to the Planning Commission.

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Colleagues. Today, we're going to a point and welcome new members planning Information Commission that addresses our future growth land use plans and advises city council on land use planning and zoning.

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Such. This is a very important commission. As mayor and Commissioner of Finance and Administration.

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I request your confirmation to a plank the following 2 year.

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Terms, by Co. Alexander Raid. Lennon, Jesh.

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Patel, Michael Council and Ui Speedback, the following individuals for four-year terms, Mary Randomera, Erica Thompson, Steph.

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For 4 year counts, because this is a new commission for staggering terms initially, so that we can ensure long-term continuity.

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I want to thank you all for your consideration. I'm going to turn this over to Commissioner Rubio, who is the Commissioner in charge of the Bureau.

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In planning and sustainability to share her thoughts on the new candidates, and work with the planning commission. Judiciary.

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Rubio. Thank you, Mayor. I want to share just a few comments about the planning commission and our goals in working with the Commission.

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We're excited to welcome 8 new Commissioners, and I want to thank you all for your willingness to serve our city and the planning commission.

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These volunteer members join us with expertise in a range of areas from land use and planning, architecture and design conservation, natural resources and community development and land use law.

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The Commission's role is to make recommendations to us.

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City, council on Portland's long-range goals and plans, land use and planning policies, and ensure sustainability.

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Practices are integrated into land-use planning. Making these recommendations, the Commission considers the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the city in an integrated fashion.

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The Commission has specific responsibility for guiding, developing, maintaining, and updating the city's comprehensive plan and zoning code.

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Further, the recently adopted Code amendments reflect the future Planning Commission's commitment to centering climate and equity in consideration of the land, use plans and policies, and as we look ahead, the Planning Commission will be a continued partner in our work as a city particularly relating to the integration of

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land use policies and equity goals. So before I pass this on to Bps staff for the presentation, I'd like to introduce an amendment one of our chosen appointees has withdrawn from the candidate pool.

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So I moved to remove Stephen Lee from the list of planning commissioners appointed it today.

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I give a second second any further discussion, just pull the roll on the tribal bye, Brian Gonzalez.

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All right. Maps! Hi! Wheeler! That's an amendment.

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Thank you. Colleagues, I'll now turn it over to Patricia Diefen.

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Der forer, chief planner for Bbbs, who will introduce and provide a brief background on each of the 8 appointees.

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Thank you so much. Good morning. Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners, Patricia Diefen, Derfer Bureau planning and sustainability for the record.

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I'm gonna go ahead and share screen to share the presentation.

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Okay, can we see that? All right? Very good. Alright, thank you.

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So as noted by the mayor and Commissioner Rubio.

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This item before you is appointments to the new newly created Planning commission just by way of some background, you may recall that very recently on January 20 fifth of this year the City Council adopted code amendments to create the new planning Commission it established this new nine-member

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planning commission with a land use and planning focus. And the appointments, of course, are before you today with the goal of standing up.

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This new commission by March first of this year, and having their first meeting on March fourteenth, there was a robust recruitment process to identify the appointees, and they represent a variety of backgrounds and experience.

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Both professional expertise and lived experience. So gonna go ahead and give a brief overview of each of the appointees.

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First is Mr. Michael Alexander. Mr. Alexander is a graduate of Lewis University in Roomeville, Illinois, and Bryn Mauer College, graduate school of social work and Social research in Pennsylvania.

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Prior to assuming the leadership role of the Urban League of Portland in 2,012 he served in executive roles at Regent's Blue Cross, blue shields of Oregon.

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Magellan behalf, human affairs, international and Aetna, including 4 years as vice president and executive director of the Etna Foundation.

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He currently sits on boards of the Albina Vision Trust as chair of the Black United Fund, also Chair and the Blue Cross, blue shield of Oregon and the Wells Fargo Community Boards.

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Next appointee is Mr. Wade Lang. Mr. Lang is a native Portlander, who graduated from Psu, and has managed and developed real estate in Portland and throughout the West Coast.

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Mr. Lang was a founding member of the Lloyd Eco.

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District served as chair of the Lloyd Community Association, and served on the city's north northeast Quadrant for the 2,035 comprehensive plan, as well as on a number of different advisory groups, both for the Portland development Commission and the Bureau

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of development services looking to the planning Commission wait as excited to help set a direction for future prosperity of our city.

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The next appointee is Miss Mary Raine O'meara, who is the senior Director of Community Development at Central City Concern.

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She brings a passion for leading and facilitating community development, outreach and engagement in her work and volunteering with master planning and public housing development initiatives, working with residents of public housing and neighborhood members, to gather input and vision for community revitalization the next

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appointee is Mr. Nkesh Patel. Mr.

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Patel is a land use and development attorney at Dun Carney, Llp.

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Mr. Patel assists clients in a variety of development, projects from affordable housing, mixed use, commercial and community developments in high density.

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City centers to renewable energy projects in rural areas. Mr.

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Patel has served as a law clerk at the Us.

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Senate Finance Committee in Washington, DC. And as an honors attorney for the city of Portland as a Portland native and a first generation Oregonian. Mr.

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Patel is passionate about the future of local real estate development and wellbeing of community.

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Mr. Michael Pouncil is the next appointee. Mr.

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Counsel is an environmental resource management and policy specialist, and since 2,016 he has served as the chair of the Willamette River, clean up a Portland harbor Citizens Advisory Committee, Mr.

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Counsel organizes, outreach through forums to inform private and public government stakeholders, to collaborate on investing and collaborating on remediation work for the Portland Harbor Super Fund and developing a River Educational Center at Green Acre echo Industrial

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Park. He holds a bachelor of science in environmental studies and a minor in geographic information systems from Portland State University.

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Next to Point T is missed. Ms. Stephanie Ralph, Stephanie.

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Ralph was the former and first executive director of Oregon Walks, and the former communications and marketing manager for the community Cycling Center, Ms.

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Ralph has been a member of numerous Portland boards and committees, including the jade district Policy and Equity Committee.

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The Oregon Department of Transportation Region, one Area Commission on Transportation and the Bureau of Transportation, the Portland Bureau of Transportation Budget Advisory Committee. This Ralph was the most recent former chair of the Planning and Sustainability, Commission.

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Next is Mr. Eli Spivak, Mr. Spivak is the founder of Orange Spot, Llc.

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With a mission to pioneer new models of community-oriented, affordable green housing developments in Portland, and has managed the finance and construction of over 250 units of affordable housing through community-based nonprofit organizations Mr.

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Spivak was a Loeb fellowship in advanced environmental studies at Hartford University, Graduate School of Design, and has a Master's degree in urban and regional planning from Portland State University and a Physics degree from Swarthmore College.

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He was also on the Sustainability Commission, and was served as chair from 2,019 to 2,021.

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And finally, we have Ms. Erica Thompson, Miss Thompson is an architect at Hatterby.

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Edie, architects as Thompson's perspective is shaped by a broad range of career and volunteer experiences that go beyond our architecture with common threads of these experiences being a commitment to environmental stewardship and a strong belief in building more equitable and just communities, her

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work. Experience includes commercial mixed use housing and nonprofit projects, and she has previous experience in energy efficiency. Consulting Ms.

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Thompson has a master of architecture from the University of Oregon, and was also on the planning and Sustainability commission, and served as the vice chair for that commission in 2,020.

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So that concludes a staff's presentation. Actually one.

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Oh, yeah, thank you. So we do have a pardon me.

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Sorry about that. We do have 2 of the Commissioner of the appointees who are here to speak that'd like to make a few remarks, so if I could invite them to the table.

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The Commissioner, the appointees are Steph Ralph and Mary Raine.

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Olmira. Great, thank you.

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Awesome thanks for being here.

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If you can. How to state your name for your record. Good morning, Commissioner and Mayors.

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My name is Mary Rain O'meara, and thank you so much for this opportunity to serve on the newly formed planning commission.

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I'm hopeful that my experience as a nonprofit affordable housing developer and operator of affordable housing here in Portland can help guide priorities on the Commission to maximize housing creation and access throughout our city I look forward to participating in review of our existing

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land use policies and working in collaboratively with other commissioners around creative ideas to revitalize our neighborhoods.

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Our neighborhoods and help our city thrive. Thank you to Commissioner Rubio, and thank you to the staff of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

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I look forward to working with you all. Thank you. Good to meet you.

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Good morning, Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Rubio and Commissioner's Consoles, Maps, and Ryan.

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My name is Steph Rouse, and I speak on behalf going to be quick, because we got a lot of living to do.

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I speak on behalf of myself, Erica Thompson and Eli Spivak, to say that we are deeply honored and privileged to not just be part of an intentional dissolution, but

part of a new beginning with some amazing credentials, and talented and thoughtful other planning

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commissioners. We love this city, and apparently our love language is inclusive of the not limited to noodling on title 33.

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In the following comments, don't speak to you, they are my words alone.

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If they do, it was absolutely a joint effort, and one of the things, as we were talking about the purpose of the new planning commission over the last several months was, can a planning commission actually advance racial justice?

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And who has, who has done so in the nation, because zoning and land use have been used in the past for exclusion, for Detroit winners and losers.

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And that is our history of racist planning in Portland as can be evidenced in bureau planning and sustainability's document, and titled the History of Racist planning at Portland is extant on Bps's website and so I'm looking forward to

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changing that narrative, and being part of hard work to have those difficult conversations, and to move our city forward to a shared prosperity, and we are also

very excited and I'm a broken record on this, but really excited to be a partner to be supportive of the sustainability commission as

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it is for me. Thank you very much. Appreciate most. Thank you.

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I noticed. We also have Erica and Michael online.

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Eric, why don't you go ahead?

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Sure. Yes, thank you so much. I just wanted to share quickly a word of gratitude.

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I'm really thankful for the work of Staff and Commissioner Rubio to create a planning commission that is as effective and engaged as possible on issues of land use policy.

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I'm coming to the position with a lot of excitement to be part of this process of standing up the new Commission, because really our work is just starting and there's a lot that we can continue to do to refine our norms.

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And day-to-day operations, on the planning Commission to be collaborative and to be inclusive when with each other, with you all, with the city staff and with the community.

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So. And lastly, I'll just welcome the new commissioners really excited to be working with all of you.

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Thanks, Erica, good morning.

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Morning. All. Thank you very much. I also want to acknowledge how privileged I feel to have the opportunity to work with such a distinguished group of leaders and and influences in this work.

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I believe that we have the opportunity now to define the pathway to the history of what we want to be as a community going forward, and there's no way to go to a new direction on an old road.

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Hmm!

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So we're paving a new road, and I welcome the opportunity to listen and to learn, and hopefully to continue.

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Well, thank you, Michael, as always, you've served in many capacities.

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Well, thank you.

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Is there anybody else online who'd like to say a few words? I can't see everybody.

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Great. Well, thank you all. We'll go to public testimony.

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We have one individual signed up Brittany Brock.

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Welcome!

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Hi! Good morning. I wanna thank everyone for being here today, and those who just spoke. My name is Brittany.

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My pronouns are she her? I would like to respectfully ask for more information on each of the candidates presented today, based off of the descriptions provided I see a lot of the experts and experience which is great, but what I do not see is a committee made up of people whose lives, might be directly impacted

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by the decisions they make. My belief is that the Government is for the people, not businesses.

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The government is to improve people's quality of life, not improve their livelihood.

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I saw this firsthand when I lived in Belgium.

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So this is not unimaginable to me. With this in mind, if we actually want solutions to the problems plagued in Portland, we need new experts and experience.

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We need lived experience, we need the people whose lives are most impacted by the solutions created.

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When we center marginalized voices, we are also centering the ones most affected by these decisions.

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Due to this. They know what is best for their own lives.

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I respectfully ask, can you please ask your committee this for me, and please resubmit your answers.

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How many relies solely on public transportation?

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How many live in affordable housing, how many have personally gone through an eviction as a tenant?

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How many have interacted with the police damning up for civil rights?

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How many have accessibility issues in the way the city is currently designed.

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Who, on this community has ever spent more than a night on this street, who has lived on the streets of Portland.

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In this committee. We all live here, but who survives on the streets of Portland on this committee, because the reality of the situation is the solution set forth by the Portland City government appears to completely lack empathy, and we, as citizens, do not like to see this we see it, failure, to center

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and care about the most vulnerable and marginalized in this city, with the solutions currently set forth, the very voices that should be centered most because they have been screaming the solutions for years.

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It is easy to have blind spots in our life, and that is okay.

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It is not okay. When these blind spots lead to unnecessary deaths in our city, these decisions loudly display the dangerous things about our unconscious biases, because people are going to continue to die here in the streets of Portland just now at a higher rate.

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These are our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones, and your citizens.

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I want you to understand. I see, how these are barriers to getting these voices centered.

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So in the meantime we partners were more creative and imaginable solutions.

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If we can't center marginalized voices, can we at least have leaders with some basic imagination and empathy?

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This is a excluding the people that just talked. I will say, because I went that to be shown in the solutions of my governments, and they imagine what it is like to be in smoke, heat, noise, and harassment.

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Can they imagine what it's like to not have access to a bathroom?

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Can they imagine what it's like to never be looked in the eyes or no other reason than appearing a materially poor to your fellow Portland neighbors?

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Can they imagine the impacts trauma has on the brain and the person.

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Can they imagine the impact, substance, abuse, disorder has on the person and the lives of the self and the individuals and their loved ones?

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Because I don't want experts or job experience. I want new creative solutions.

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Okay. That was 3 min.

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All right. Thank you, Britney, and you were perfect in your timing.

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Let me just react in this way. First of all, thank you for for your comments.

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I don't agree with all of them, but I appreciate all of them. Number 2.

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These commissions are the heart and soul of our local government.

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And what's special about them is that anybody can apply to beyond them.

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In fact, there are many, many open slots on dozens of our citizen commissions in the city of Portland, and we welcome the direct engagement of people from all walks of life, and so, if you or others, that you feel are underrepresented in the voice here, at city Hall would like

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to step forward and offer your service. As these individuals have, I would welcome that next of all I'd like to just say, I actually think this commission was pretty well balanced.

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Commissioner Rubio. As I looked at the resumes, I do not see that it was biased towards business interests.

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I saw a lot of people who are engaged in community activities a lot of people who've served the community in various capacities.

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I know some of these folks personally, most I've never met before, but based on their resumes.

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I can tell. They obviously care enough about the community that they're willing to step forward and do.

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It is a very difficult technical time consuming job that gets paid exactly nothing for the privilege other than helping to shape the future of this city.

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And so I would just say that in response to your comments, that this is a representative government up here at the rostrum, that on the commissions it's direct engagement government, and we include anybody who wants to be included in those opportunities, you or anybody else are most certainly welcome to apply.

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Can I ask a follow-up question, though real, quick, I don't know if that's allowed.

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I've never done this before.

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I my my better, my better judgment tells me no, Brittany, but since I just can't help myself, go ahead.

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I guess the thing is, I understand there's all of these experts.

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But I'm telling you like the solutions on the ground level for citizens like me, my neighbors and friends they seem very unempathetic they seem like they're not centering these voices.

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I really believe that like, for example, I know last week you had a hard week with taking away tents from people from street response that, hey?

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Centering people without houses already. So how is that centering Portland's most vulnerable in these solutions?

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All right. Well, this almost sounds like a conversation. We should have over a beer, because what we do up here is we actually balance competing interests.

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And if you were in council just a few minutes ago, this council was excoriated by a citizen who made, I thought, some really good points, saying we were too soft on

some of these issues that we were too far the other way are too far towards the compassion not far enough towards what she wanted to see

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and we, of course, have lots of people come in on the other side of the issue.

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The challenge for local government. Here, as elsewhere in the United States right now, is balancing these various competing interests we're trying to be both compassionate and effective in terms of helping our city to be thriving and prosperous and a good place to live and work and we're

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all. So that's that's the great challenge of government.

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And what may seem lacking in compassion from your perspective, may seem like an appropriate response from somebody else, and vice versa.

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That's that's just the reality of local politics today.

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Okay, I will say, the the I'm talking about.

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It's a little. It's a little messy.

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And I like literally, it's not myself like these are other political theories that, as a citizens, as groups like, we can all listen and read and model.

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I'm just saying like governments don't have to balance this way.

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They can also really center the marginalized people. And by helping those first and putting those first on the engine instead of trying to balance both interests, we actually can solve both problems.

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Well, I believe we do that and so you're not.

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This isn't, gonna you know. I'm sorry my colleagues are looking at me like, how long is this?

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Gonna go, and I have endless and boundless energy to discuss this, because it's a really important issue.

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I will just say, personally, I believe we do center vulnerable populations, and there is something I'd like to send you.

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I think we do. We have Britney's email address.

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I'll send it to you later this week. I'd like to send it to you, because I think it illustrates my thoughts on this to a greater degree, and you would see that we are trying to center compassion and lived experience particularly on the homeless front, which I think is what you

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reference. One last question, what is the book? Because I'm looking always looking for good books?

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Could you remind me? What?

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Yes, please, please. This is the what every politician should read the human condition by head our rent, because it outlined.

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Yes.

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You've read.

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I have heard of it. I have not read that particular book, but it just went on the reading list.

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Good.

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You should read it, or at least please read for Essex on Moral Philosophy.

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We'll do. Thank you, Brittany, appreciate it.

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Thank you. Thank you.

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Yeah. Welcome back. Thank you, Mayor Daniel Lavera, Director Bps.

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For the record relevant point to what the public testimony just shared is we came to you with the intent to seat 9 commissioners for reasons that are totally appropriate, and we are only bringing 8 names.

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So we will have one vacancy to fill, and we'll take all the feedback that we got today, and consideration.

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So that'll be coming to you all later this spring, and the last thing we acknowledge is, although this is the first step of the new planning commission.

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GPS is embarking on a new journey for the climate and sustainability commission.

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So, as you all know, we took action this this January to stamp the new planning commission with acknowledging that we had a sustainability commission to get up and running as well.

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So next month we will be launching that working group made up of city staff and our community partners to think up what the structure is going to look like.

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The span of control will be obviously a key consideration, but that'll be the next step.

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We just hired our new Chief Sustainability Officer, Vivian Satterfield.

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So she's on on board as of this month, and up and running will be leading that process.

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So look forward to working with your staff on the development of that new commission as well. Thank you.

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Terrific. I will accept a motion to accept the report as amended.

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Second, we have a second from Commissioner Rubio. Any further discussion, seeing none, please call the roll on the report.

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Yeah, I just wanna say I'm so thrilled with the combined wisdom and unique experiences and perspectives of these commission appointees.

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I had the opportunity to meet with each each one of you, and I can already tell that it will be some great delivery conversations on this new commission.

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So to our commissioners. Thank you for your willingness to serve our city.

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The planning Commission has and will continue to play a vital and consequential role in our city, and this takes on an even deeper importance during this housing crisis.

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And we're really honored to have each one of you.

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We know that you have full plates. So we are. We are very appreciative of the time that you're giving back to the city, to Eli Steph and Erica. I just want to say thank you so much for your years of service to Portland, I'm so grateful to each of

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you for continuing your leadership and thoughtful contributions in this next phase of the planning commission.

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We're already excited to tackle the important work ahead and then finally, Patricia, Sandra, Julie, and Dawny.

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Thank you so much for all the work behind the scenes.

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To get to this point and for all the hours you put in in thoughtful conversations, you put in such thorough work, and this stellar commission reflects that work so very happy to vote.

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I right? Yes, thank you, Patricia and Donny, for this presentation.

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Thank you to all of you who showed up to testify and to be in person.

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You can tell. That means you're very enthusiastic about this appointment.

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I actually think it's a very balanced with life experience, and also with the different sectors.

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It's very important that we have government, of course, with nonprofit consultants, is what I heard, and very important to have private sector.

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Those who are doing building and developing in the city, so enjoy the creative tension that you have in the room.

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If you don't have tension, I don't believe you're having good meetings.

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That's what should happen. I vote I Gonzales, just want to thank everyone for agreeing to serve. It takes time.

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It's a commitment. Really appreciate the commitment to the city let's get some housing, bill.

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I vote I maps I'd like to thank these volunteers for agreeing to serve on this important committee.

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I vote I really great work. I want to thank the team here.

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Commissioner Rubio, you and your staff as well, and most especially everybody who has stepped forward and is willing to serve.

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I vote either of courts accepted as amended. Next item, also times certain, 1, 5 0, and then vehicles and traffic code, and direct the Portland Bureau of Transportation to adopt administrative rules to create a process for the Installation of Electric vehicle chargers in the

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public right-of-way. This is the first reading of a non-emergency Ordinance Commissioner Maps. Thank you, Mr.

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Mayor before we get to today's presentation. I'd like to make a motion to replace Exhibit B.

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With an updated version of Pbots final report. The updated version of this report includes more background information on the process Pbot used to develop these code changes, including the research data analysis and stakeholder engagement that helped shape this project colleagues.

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May I get a second second commission? Rubio seconds any further discussion on the amendment?

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Since it's not substantive technical.

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Please call the role preview. Hi, Brian, Hi Gonzalez, hi!

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Max Hi Wheeler. All right. The amendments on the table.

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Thank you, colleagues, for supporting that amendment.

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The ordinance before us today comes from Pbot.

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This item amends citcode to enable the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the public right of way, as she may recall last November.

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This council directed Peabody to develop these code updates by the end of February the twentieth, 23.

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Today. Pbot delivers those updates. This ordinance is important because it contributes to at least 3 of this Council's goals.

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First, this ordinance is important, because it will help us reach our climate goals we should all remember that transportation contributes to about 40% of all the carbon emissions Portland puts into the air.

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This ordinance gives our citizens some tools we will need to keep that carbon out of our air.

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This ordinance is important for a second reason, this ordinance represents a promise kept.

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In our climate, emergency work plan. This council pledged to quote, make it easier to use Evs.

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If you can't charge at home today with this ordinance, this council keeps that promise.

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Finally, this ordinance before us today is important because it advances equity, by laying out a plan to build out electric vehicle, infrastructure and byoc and low-income Nhs now, colleagues before I turned it.

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Over to Staff for a presentation. I want to take a moment to praise Pbot and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability for the work they have done on several transportation decarbonization projects, including the ordinance before Us.

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Today. And of course, the ev-ready code project that Bps brought to us last month.

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It is great to see our bureaus work together like this.

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They are modeling the kind of collaboration and innovation we hope to see in our next form of government.

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I'm very proud of the work that you've done, and I want to thank Commissioner Rubio and her team for their partnership.

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And now I have the great privilege of introducing 2 staff members from Pbot, who will tell us more about this project.

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Today we have art pierce Peabody Planning, or Peabody Planning and Projects group director and Jacob Sherman Peabody, New mobility program manager, welcome art and Jacob.

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Thank you. I think we'll bring up the presentation.

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So very pleased to be with you here today to give an update on what is really an ongoing journey, of seeing how we can further electrify our transportation system in collaboration, in partnership with other sectors as we are working to decarbonize with as much haste and

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speed as we can. Next slide.

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So a quick overview. We have a specific council action around amendments to Title 16.

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But we're giving a little bit of context around transportation, decarbonization, electric vehicles more generally, and how this citywide framework will fit together over the course of the next slide and maybe one more.

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As well. There we go, as is, I think, top of mind for everyone.

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But really in particular should be, you know, transportation is over 40% of our carbon emissions, and is the sector that is most stubbornly resisting change.

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Despite many efforts, we have seen transportation emissions rise 3% since 1,990.

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So we are. We are off track, and we really need to change this trajectory fast with decisive action across the transportation sector and with industry partners.

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Next slide. This important need is recently recognized at the Federal level.

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So that the Us. National blueprint for transportation decarbonization centered around electrification as one of the key strategies to get us to where we need to go and comes with funding at the Federal and State level to supplement the the local actions that we are here to talk to you about

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today, including 7 and a half 1 billion dollars for Ev charging@thenationallevelaswellaso.specific funding stream for an Ev.

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Charging along their state high. So changes to this code that we're bringing forward today helps position.

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The city of Portland and Pbot to be a key partner in that decarbonization next slide.

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Important to remember. You know we are in a climate crisis, and there has been a series of actions coming before you that has helped us to surround the electrification-specific solution set as Pbot.

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We are continuing to center our work around transportation, justice and focusing in on a series of key moves, focusing in on planning and building a transportation system that allows people to be less reliant on driving and on the use of the automobile focusing in on programs that help people

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reduce their vehicle. Miles traveled on a daily basis, including programs that help lift up those possibilities.

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Transit programs alike, and then clean fuels and clean vehicles, including fleet modifications that help us round out that strategy and including the ready access for electric vehicles.

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Next slide, a number of actions are already over underway.

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Just recently as Commissioner Maps highlighted the multifamily electric charging pilot that is coming this way in the modifications to the city code.

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We've been working on small fixes, such as cord cover, pilots to allow somebody to charge out on the street and maintain accessibility we're working with Trimet and with our own Portland streetcar to continue to further electrified transportation.

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Our bike town is what was one of the first in the nation to be all electric as well, and then on the bottom left. You'll see a pilot that we've been doing already with Pge to look at pull-mounted charging systems.

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Now I'll pass it over to Jacob, who's going to do a little bit of a deeper dive on electric vehicles?

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Thanks, great thanks, art! Good morning, Mayor Wheeler. Commissioners for the record man and shaken Sherman. I'm about to newmobility program manager.

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My team and I work on transportation technology innovation spanning from things like e-cooters to electric vehicles, to level set for you, and as well as members of the public, want to provide a little bit of background around electric vehicles.

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If we could advance to the next slide. Unlike vehicles with internal combustion engines, electric vehicles fuel up in different ways and rely on different infrastructure, there's 3 different kinds of plugs and speeds for electric vehicle charging

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from solutions like level one charging which you could do at your home with an extension cord right now to DC.

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Fast charging on the right-hand side of the image, which is really expensive, but provides a rapid charge for people looking to get around.

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They could fill up their vehicle in just 20 to 30 min.

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We're focused today on level 2 charging, which is kind of represented here in the in the middle.

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This is actually well suited for people to charge both at home, at work as well as in public environments.

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Someone could fill up their vehicle. In about 4 to 8 h, and the cost of level 2 charging is significantly less than that of things like the electric Avenue, DC.

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Fast charging that you'll see on the right, and I just said some of that.

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So we can actually advance again. Here's some examples of what level 2 charging in the right way back.

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It shows the cost differentials between 2 and 3. Thank you.

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I need this one on one course. So great. Yeah, so this again talks about some of those different use cases, talks about some of the different power needs.

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So again, level one relying on 110 volts, level 2 anywhere between 208 and 240 volts, and then DC.

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Fast charging, which is pretty energy intensive, and that is actually part of the significant driver on the cost of those kinds of Ev chargers.

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This is mostly the kinds of Ev chargers that are going to be built out on the interstate highway system, using the funding from President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law.

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There's no dollar amount. There's no dollar amount level.

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2 charger could run in the right of way, could run between 10 to \$20,000 per installation, whereas DC.

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Fast charger would probably be in the realm of a quarter 1 million dollars or.

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Next slide. So here's some examples of what like level 2 charging in the public right-of-way.

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Looks like, as art mentioned, the image in the lower right is an ongoing pilot that we've done with Portland.

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General Electric, who's been a great partner of ours in this work in Southeast Portland.

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This is a pole, mounted charger in the lower left you could see an image from Kansas City Missouri, where, on the left hand side of that image, you could see an Ev charger curbside, and for comparison you can also see a parking meter on the right hand side so you could

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just kind of see how the physical space is very equivalent.

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There next slide. You know. Think it's important to also note that the cost of electric vehicles is coming down.

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There have been a number of both Federal as well as State incentives to support adoption of electric vehicles, I think, for members of the public.

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It's important to note. There's both State and Federal incentives.

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Oregon has a standard rebate of \$2,500 for the purchaser.

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Lease of a new electric vehicle, and for people who are income qualified, that incentive could be as much as \$5,000.

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On top of that. There's also Federal tax credits through the Inflation reduction act that could be up to \$7,500, depending on whether or not the specific vehicle you're looking to purchase meets those requirements. This example.

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Here on this slide compares the cost to 2 similar vehicles.

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An electric vehicle from 2,016, as well as a internal combustion vehicle from 2,016, and you could see how both the State and Federal incentives stack up to actually make an electric vehicle less expensive than its alternative and then it's worth

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noting on top of that that electric vehicles have lower maintenance costs lower fuel costs, lower fuel costs.

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And then, of course, there's air quality benefits on top.

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Next slide.

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It's also important to note that even though the electrical grid is not based on a 100% renewable energy research from the union of concerned scientists and others really show that electric vehicles can reduce emissions today, even though the grid still relies on some fossil

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fuels. So kind of net net when compared to internal combustion.

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Engine vehicles. Ev's kind of in the Pacific Northwest, as well as the mountain West on average, are getting about 102 miles per gallon compared to a standard sedan which might be getting somewhere in the realm of 30 to 35 miles per gallon today over time we know

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that the utilities in Oregon are going to be moving to 100% clean electricity that's been mandated by the State to be achieved through by 2,040.

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And then I think our local government action has also asked the utilities to accelerate that, and to try and move that up by 10 years to 2,030.

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So electric vehicles help us will help us meet our climate goals.

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Of course, I think from the Bureau of Transportation, it's important to note that options like walking biking, scooting, taking transit might have even lower emission

profiles than electric vehicles, and might also help us make better progress on some of our safety goals but for people who might not be

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able to take advantage of some of the options I just mentioned.

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Electric vehicles present a good option for people that need to continue to drive next slide.

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We've received a lot of questions about this question of how many chargers do we need in this city?

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The Oregon Department of Transportation last year released its transportation electrification infrastructure needs assessment where they modeled out a suite of different scenarios and using the most conservative scenario which is the scenario you see presented on this slide the answer is simple we need about

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30% more chargers right now, or in 2,025 than we currently have, and that demand is expected to increase substantially over time and again, this is also the most conservative scenario.

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The medium case, and most aggressive case. These numbers grow significantly more next slide and next slide.

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Thank you, which takes us to our project. The Ev. Charging in the right-of-way project.

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This is really focused on making sure access to evening charging is provided.

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An equitable manner. Currently, about one-third of the public charges in the city are located in the central city.

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There's very few chargers located near multi-unit dwellings in other parts of the city, particularly as you move further north or move further east.

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We see our role as filling market gaps and making sure that Eb charging is distributed equitably in order to make sure that areas that currently don't have access will have access and making sure that areas that have high concentration of multi-unit dwellings and residents who can't charge at

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home because they don't have a driveway or garage, have access.

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And many of these areas again, further to the north and further to the east, are areas that are likely to continue relying on personal vehicles for some time, since they lack frequent access to transit and safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

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Of course we're working really hard to solve those problems.

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But those problems, solutions to those problems also take time I think it's also important to note for counsel that from the Oregon Department of Energy Electric vehicles are registered in every census tract in the city of Portland, with the exception of Swan Island where nobody lives

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and that the State of Oregon, tied in 2,022 for the number 2 most sold electric vehicles in the United States, second to only California, and tied with other West Coast neighbors of Washington and Hawaii, next slide so in under served areas, There's a real

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chicken and egg problem. And that's what this intervention took today is really focused on, as you can see in the lower right hand corner, in areas that have few public ev chargers.

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There is a lack of public charging which makes it difficult for some members of our community to purchase electric vehicles which makes it difficult for there to be demand for charge, and that is challenging because we have no clear city policy on public ev charging to date.

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We're focused on providing an intervention in that upper right hand corner in order to kind of create a more virtuous cycle.

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Next slide. So Peabody, charging in the right-of-way project, seeks to really provide clarity to the market through the code and administer rule, changes that we're bringing before you.

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We're looking to allow. Level 2 Ev chargers curbside and on polls as long as they meet a whole suite of different requirements.

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First, they must be located in one of the centers, which is a land use zoning designation through the comprehensive plan.

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These are places like gateway, Hollywood, St. John's, Lents, Montevilla, Woodstock, and more.

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They will need to be located on a local service street.

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We have a whole suite of health, life, safety, clearance requirements 5 feet from a driveway 5 feet from a fire hydrant, we're making sure that these are designed for

accessibility by all Portlanders keeping in mind Ada requirements and best practices that we've discussed with other cities as well as

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utilities, and then we'll have a suite of parking requirements to ensure.

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There's turnover and people are able to use these kind of overnight.

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We could advance to our last slide. So Pbots, you know, asking City Council to amend Title 16 to create an ev charging zone in a part of the Council.

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Action is to direct us through our kind of bureaucratic rulemaking process.

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To begin to implement these new rule changes that will allow Ev charging to move forward will then work really closely with the private sector.

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Both our public, our our investor-owned utilities, as well as ev charging companies to negotiate the legal agreements, the permits, all of the implementation details, and then we could expect, perhaps, as late as this year, or early next year to actually start to see new chargers being built out in

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the city. The ordinance also directs us to come back and provide an update to counsel by next year on the on the progress of our work, and honestly, we hope to be back in front of you sooner than that we have some Federal grants out there that we're crossing our

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fingers on that. We're hoping for good news on her.

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So I think, with that like to thank a few colleagues who are sitting in the cheap seats behind us.

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My manager Kristen Hule, who's really helped navigate, and problem solve on this work for his vision and leadership.

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And then I'd be remiss to not thank my colleague, Hannah Morrison, who has really helped on the date, and without who this project wouldn't have gone so smoothly, so I'd like to open it up for questions from City Council thank you Commissioner maps sure I just have a

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quick clarification, clarifying question. So who's gonna buy the hardware that goes in the streets?

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Does this come out of Peabody's budget, or does this come out of some private sector space?

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So what Pbot is doing is we're setting up the rules for the private sector to make the investments, and they'll be responsible as they are with telephone polls and other things for owning operating and maintaining that equipment or just kind of setting the rules in the

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Framework where the market can do business. Great. Thank you, Commissioner.

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So couple of follow-up questions on that. How will this?

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There's separate work underway. With respect to Sting franchise agreements and scheduled how?

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How will that interplay with the work here? Yeah, that's a great question, Commissioner Gonzalez.

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We've been coordinating with the office of community technology on those issues.

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I think we'll probably continue to work on standardizing as we're moving forward Pbot has been raising the right-of-way, for you know, a long time now, so we have a lot of existing process and what we're really looking to do here is use existing process to have a

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new thing occur, and looking for those kind of standardization and streamlining opportunities wherever possible, so that we're not creating a new wheel.

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And, in fact, maybe we're making the wheel move with a little less friction.

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Got it. And this is maybe a mechanical question for Commissioner Maps.

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So we're there. We're adopting administrative roles.

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Tr. N. Eight. 8, and encroachment with respect to the encroachment, manual and Trn.

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1019 utility permits. Do we have copies of those I just wanted to be clear with the resolutions?

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Do I mean? It says that the Council is directing to the director to adopt those administrative rules.

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Do we have those rules in the packet? Those? Yeah, thank thanks.

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Commissioner Maps. So the Council action is about amendments to Title 16, and then is directing the agency to move forward with a rulemaking process.

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Okay, and we included an example of what the proposed rules would be in our final report that was adopted by friendly amendment on the floor.

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But we'll move forward with a public process on the rule-making.

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There. You're essentially just telling us to go do the work. Got it?

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So the resolution be, is it a direction to the director to go?

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Adopt those rules and engage in relating. Thank you, it's all for now, Commissioner Ruby, I thank you.

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And I just to comment and a question. So that map that you showed us of underserved areas is pretty compelling and I'm really happy to hear how you talked about prioritizing equity and access of equity and harder to reach out of marketplaces.

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Can you tell me about your thinking on that, and how you're going to go about it? Where you're going to start?

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Yeah, yeah, 2, 2 things I think to speak on one.

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First is where we're talking with other cities that are also looking at this and other cities.

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DC. Comes to example, have actually established a requirement where charging companies want to install.

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In a quote, unquote, more desirable neighborhood, there's some sort of ratio requirement where they might also have to provide equipment in another part of the city.

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So that's one of the things we're entertaining.

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Of course, that would be handled through rulemaking process and the private sector would be able to engage on that.

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The other thing, as art mentioned is, you know, we have a 3 and a half 1 million dollar Federal grant.

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That's outstanding right now. We're hoping to hear positive news any day.

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Now and we're really would be using that to accelerate implementation with a specific equity focus.

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President Biden, through the Justice, 40 initiative, is asking that all Federal funds try and provide at least 40% of the benefit to historically disadvantaged communities, and through that grant we have committed to meeting those benchmarks.

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So those are kind of 2 of the strategies that we're looking at here.

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Thank you.

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Pardon, Jacob, thanks for being here. Great report. Jacob.

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You really know this stuff. So I'm going to ask you some more open-ended questions.

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So probably in the 101. I missed this part.

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But just explain to people how you pay for it. So if you live in far North Portland, where there's really no infrastructure for this right now and then this suddenly comes in, and you plug it in.

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Are you like to put in your, you know card to be charged by one of our utilities?

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Is. That's what my little brains thinking right now.

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Thanks Commissioner Ryan, you know. I think if you currently live in a place that doesn't have electric vehicle charging how you pay for it is maybe having a drive across town to find a public charger and then probably paying some higher rates at some chargers now through i'd say the

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new program. I think most folks will probably be paying finding locations through an app.

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Most of this is kind of app based technology, and then are typically paying through credit cards attached to that and so you'd be paying.

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And who's collecting? It's not like Pbots parking fees.

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It's different, different ads. Yeah, in the city.

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At this point. We're not interested in kind of being the app provider, and that space there's multiple apps currently on the market.

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That would probably be facilitated. Okay, so how this works will continue to be a dialogue for people, teenagers.

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Also, I think anyone on this Dyess knows the competing interests that we have, especially when we put more infrastructure along our streets.

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You know you you sometimes it's the same lobby.

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There's everyone wants to accelerate electrification, and everyone wants more shade.

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Equity well, there's so there's rubs of the fact that I look at this, and I'm like, Oh, dear!

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How many tree conflicts will we have over this? So what kind of dialog are you having right now with the good people at the Parks Bureau?

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That focus on improving our tree canopy great! We've we've been having fantastic conversation with with your staff in the Urban Forestry Division.

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We're talking about coordinating with them on the rulemaking process for establishing what those rules are, understanding, what clearance requirements should be.

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I think, as you noted, there are significant demands on the right-of-way from pipes underneath to telephone poles to trees which we acknowledge in our report play a really important role in helping mitigate heat dome incidents as well as climate change so this is an area.

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We're going to continue to work together just as we've worked with Burea planning and sustainability really, closely on these policies, we're going to work closely with colleagues there.

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Maybe just one thing to add Peabody has over the last couple years LED initiative called Streets 2,035, and it's looking at how to balance those competing interests across private utilities and various public sector needs what I think is some key takeaways from that there are

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trade-offs, but with some advanced planning and thoughtfulness those trade-offs can be heavily reduced.

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So, thinking ahead about where we want these elements to be, and spacing the street, use out with some discretion rather than with a whole lot of elbows up, allows us for us to fit both in.

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So we're very optimistic about this. Yeah, buckle up.

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There'll be some trade-offs. Yeah, yeah, okay, we have any invited testimony on this item.

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Do I think I think we have 4 different invited testimony lined up.

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Okay, thank you, colleagues. If there are no further questions, I might suggest that we move on to invited testimony.

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I don't know what happens here. Are we online or in person?

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Okay. Great.

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And do they know who they are? Or are you gonna introduce them? Why don't you introduce them?

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And that'll reduce the confusion yeah, thanks, Mayor Wheeler.

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I'd like to, I think. First introduce Shannon from Fourth.

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Good morning, thanks. Jacob. Good morning, Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners.

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Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Shannon Walton Clark, and I'm a senior policy manager in lobbyist at Fourth.

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I use. David pronouns. I'm here to support the proposal to allow for the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the public right of way.

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For some background. Fourth was founded in 2,011. Here in Oregon.

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Our mission is to electrify transportation by bringing people together to create solutions that reduce pollution and barriers to access.

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We do that through programs and policies that increase access to charging access to cars and access to emerging modes like Ebikes lectures, school buses, and electric tractors, we believe that bringing new transportation technologies to traditionally underserved communities is critical to the success of the overall

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industry and will also maximize the economic and environmental benefits of these technologies.

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For all, in 2,017, fourth worked with the Oregon Legislature to pass the Oregon clean vehicle rebate program which Jacob mentioned.

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I will note Jacobs. Total number is off.

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Actually here in Oregon, you can stack both the standard rebate and the Chargehead rebate for total of \$7,500, so that cost comparison between those 2 use vehicles actually is much much lower on the electric vehicle side.

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We all understand, the importance of decarbonizing the transportation sector to mitigate climate change.

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But I want to emphasize the role of electrification here.

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This January, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Energy, jointly released to Historic Interagency Framework of Strategies and Actions to remove all Immissions from the Transportation Sector by

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2050, which was noted. The Us. National blueprint for transportation, decarbonization.

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This blueprint highlights that while strategies like designing communities to improve walkability and bike ability and improving efficiency of other transportation modes, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to clean fuel options is expected to drive the majority

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of emission reduction by 2025, more than 100 electric vehicle models will be available in the Us.

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According to a new report from the Environmental Defense Fund, this will range this wide range of new models along with tax credits from the Inflation Reduction act and rebate programs like organs, will make electric vehicles more affordable in immediate years to come however, without convenient and

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affordable charging options nearby. Many communities will still face barriers to access.

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Most folks who live in cities do not have access to a garage or driveway and the cost to install a private electric vehicle.

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Charger can cost up to thousands of dollars sufficient public charging infrastructure is essential to increase access to electric vehicles.

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A recent analysis by the Atlas public policy found that over 87 billion in tribune infrastructure investment will be needed in the United States over the next decade including 39 billion dollars for publicly accessible charging in the 23 5 report researchers from the

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goldman School of Public policy at the University of California, at Berkeley.

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Estimate that up to 25% of Ev drivers will rely completely on public charging infrastructure without public and private charging infrastructure.

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Investment historically, underserved communities may be excluded in the Ev adoption process, affordable, convenient and expensive charging as a way that we can make the shift Evs more equitable.

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For this reason, for strongly supports this proposal, we look forward to working in partnership with Pbot to build lasting program and policy models that significantly expand equitable access to electric transportation here in our community and beyond thank you for your consideration.

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Thank you. Next up. I'd like to invite Victoria from climate solutions.

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Hey? Good morning, Jacob, and good morning, Mayor Willer and Commissioners.

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My name is Victoria pay car, and I'm the Oregon Transportation Policy manager at climate Solutions.

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And we're regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

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And I'm here today to voice our support for Pv.

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Charging in the right of weight code project. So with climate change already creating a norm for once in a generation, natural disasters to happen once they year, you are all aware of why we must do everything we can to reduce climate emissions transportation sector is not only an important sector to

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decarbonize because it makes up the lion's share of greenhouse gas emissions, but also because improving our transportation system can create a myriad of co benefits that can help address transportation inequities and based on our published research we know that we must work.

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To build electric fire transportation system without delay and car it with reducing vehicle.

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Miles traveled in order to achieve the biggest sol and climate benefits such as health and air, quality improvements, especially for low-income and bypark communities, for disabilities burdened by air pollution as well as reduced transportation, cost burden and address, the climate crisis so as you heard from

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jacob good news is the Oregon is tied, in second place, for leading the nation, and electric car sales, and it keeps growing, and we also have one of the best AV rebates programs in the nation, including in case rebate for low-income oregonians that want to get either

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renew or use Tvs, making them more affordable for everyone.

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Evs are not only great to reduce climate in air pollution, but also reduce transportation cost burden, especially for those with lower incomes when compared to combustion.

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Engine cars, and while this is good news, public charging infrastructure is still remains one of the biggest barriers for people who do not have access to home charging.

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And this is why supporting the Ev charging and the right of weight code project is a necessary step for the city to ensure.

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We are doing more to improve access for people who want to switch to electric vehicle, but don't have access to at home charging.

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And we saw that map where Ev charging is currently lacking. So ensuring, we are supporting charges in those communities, especially low income and bypark communities that have been left out of these events is very important.

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And we can also be certain that this project will be a success as it builds off and already successful tested pilot program by Pge in 2020.

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And lastly, I just wanted to say that there was conversation about how to as collect payment as well for these methods, and the Federal Government has released has released different standards for how to collect payment from any money that's being invested into charging infrastructure funded

01:33:01.000 --> 01:33:15.000

by the Federal Government and I definitely urge the city to look at those and make charging as the city to look at those and make charging as as acceptable as possible, and think about different options that don't rely on apps so that people who may not be may not have a

01:33:15.000 --> 01:33:29.000

smartphone can also just use their credit card may not have a smartphone, can also just use their credit card to get their payment charge, and that'.

01:33:29.000 --> 01:33:40.000

Thank you. Like to invite Anique from Portland. General Electric.

01:33:40.000 --> 01:33:41.000

Welcome!

01:33:41.000 --> 01:33:46.000

Hello, Mary! We are in commissioners. I'm a transportation specialist for Pg.

01:33:46.000 --> 01:33:53.000

Appreciate it well, after the insulation and charges in public right away.

01:33:53.000 --> 01:34:17.000

PGA has been a logic part of the city, and we have been collaborating on many great projects and pilots like our elected downtown in our cold marketing.

01:34:17.000 --> 01:34:18.000

Yeah.

01:34:18.000 --> 01:34:31.000

Hi! We understand that our clean energy feature depends both on reliable charging infrastructure and on decarbonizing our own electricity supply reduction gas emissions from power saved to our customers by twenty-third and 100% by 2040 year, ended operation.

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Our, whole life, environment, and are adding more and more generating facilities, like the rich.

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It was the first large scale, renewable energy, facility in the Us.

01:34:47.000 --> 01:34:57.000

Hey! G! As embrace the key partner in our customer strategy to electricity as a fuel, and we are making to work investments in infrastructure and launch new customer programs.

01:34:57.000 --> 01:35:03.000

They remove customer, picture driving, adoption and reduce the cost to serve the new.

01:35:03.000 --> 01:35:07.000

Us!

01:35:07.000 --> 01:35:23.000

Collaboration Pilot, which was accepted by the Oregon Public Utility Commission in October 2022. If you buy it on the T-shirters in the public right away, like the chargers that will be permitted as part of this proposal.

01:35:23.000 --> 01:35:34.000

Multi-unit dwellings. Those who ranch hard at home site this, as a main concern, and getting an Ev.

01:35:34.000 --> 01:35:45.000

And will be much more likely if they had access to until they pull them onto chargers in their neighborhood.

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Providing this access is important, ensuring equitable adoption.

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Those cannot charter at home or unable to enjoy the many benefits of including increased maintenance costs better air quality, and then can be crossing of electric.

01:36:07.000 --> 01:36:22.000

Public charges, on utility polls is first tested in South and Portland in 2020 that we've been approved will be incorporated will be incorporated or missile charging and collaboration program.

01:36:22.000 --> 01:36:38.000

Transportation Electrification Plan later this year, with Oregon.

01:36:38.000 --> 01:36:45.000

Okay. Which is one of the striking in concurrent maintenance.

01:36:45.000 --> 01:36:46.000

Oh, we would like to make sure that our concerns are in adjust in a way. Listen!

01:36:46.000 --> 01:36:55.000

Is he done, or do you just freeze up? No, it's not.

01:36:55.000 --> 01:36:58.000

Okay.

01:36:58.000 --> 01:36:59.000

An Ec. I think you're you're breaking up so we might.

01:36:59.000 --> 01:37:09.000

I think we've heard 90% of what you had to say, and we appreciate it.

01:37:09.000 --> 01:37:10.000

Alright!

01:37:10.000 --> 01:37:17.000

But we'll move on to the next person, because it's not possible for us to hear you. At this point we have one last person, Cory, from Flow Welcome Court.

01:37:17.000 --> 01:37:22.000

Good morning, Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners, and thank you, Jacob, for inviting me here to speak today.

01:37:22.000 --> 01:37:23.000

My name is Corey Bolis, and I'm a public affairs director at Flow Ev. Charging.

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We were founded in 2,009 in Quebec City, and we are an Ev.

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Charging station manufacturer and network operator to date.

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We've deployed over 80,000 charging stations across North America, and we're enabling more than 1 million charging sessions per month.

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We actually just announced a really major milestone for us as a company last year, in which we're opening our first, ever us.

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Facility in Michigan. I'm here today, also in support of Staff's proposal, one of flows specialties is curbside charging.

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Some of our most notable deployments are, we have 1,000 curbside chargers with the city of Montreal.

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We have 400 curbside chargers with the city of La, and we have a 120 with New York City you've heard a lot of comments today about the importance of equity and access as related to curbside charging in these were really the goals and focus of these

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deployments in those cities that I've mentioned, and you know, just as a side note on how those deployments have gone.

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Of all of flows, public, publicly available chargers.

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We actually see the highest rates of utilization on our curbside chargers.

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It really is a Testament to. If you build it, they will come ultimately, though planning and permitting curbside charging can be really, really tricky.

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It does require immense coordination between cities, utilities, charging providers, and of course, robust community engagement as well is super key, and those deployments were successful.

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The cities that I mentioned. They have been as successful as they are, because the cities were so proactive in working with us to bring charging to their jurisdiction, and that's ultimately what's important to companies like us.

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Is really looking to looking for cities, who want to be a partner in this effort.

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We like to say at flow. We're very much still on a scale up mode as a company.

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We only have so much time and resources to dedicate to charging deployment so proposals like what are before you today, as it relates to curbside charging, send a very clear market signal to us on.

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You know what cities want to really see this in their community?

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It's no longer a question of if it becomes a question of when, and it certainly makes it a lot easier for companies like us to dedicate the time and resources to work with your city to make these deployments.

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A reality, and ultimately curbside charging is still a pretty new concept across North America, and I would say, the you know the proposal before you today from Staff is, it's very innovative, and it's a leading example of how to create a clear framework for industry to work with and to do

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it in a streamlined fashion, so that we can hopefully, you know, make curbside charging, get those things deployed faster in your city.

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So this is a real opportunity for the city to continue to be a leader.

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Certainly on a topic that is still relatively new in the Ev charging space.

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So I'll just wrap up by saying that we're very supportive.

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We really look forward to working with the city to make curbside charging a reality, and for those reasons I respectfully urge your support support.

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The proposal.

01:40:47.000 --> 01:40:58.000

Thank you, Commissioner Maps. Sure, I just want to thank all the invited guests for sharing their perspectives today, and I feel like I should ask the clerk if we have any public testimonies.

01:40:58.000 --> 01:41:04.000

No one signed up. Okay, Mr. Mayor. Well, the staff do you have any else you'd like to share today?

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No, I don't have any other questions or comments.

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Thank you. Very good, colleagues. Anything else. Commissioner.

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Thanks again. Check up on this is our first reading, and I am supportive of it.

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But my job in the first reading, of course, is to ask questions.

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So we've talked about the difference between level 2 and level 3.

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But we didn't really factor in time as money. And so I did really.

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Quick arithmetic. If I made a mistake, you will correct me.

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But with the level 3 I decided to use it at the at the 30 min.

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That was the long one instead of 20, and the other one.

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It was between 4 and 8 h. Level 2, and that's 3 h, I mean, I cut it in half.

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So 6 h. Is that fair? Alright? So you can. Basically, you can charge one on level 3, and then it, why, you're charging.

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You can charge 12 at level 3 in the time it takes you to charge one level 2 was that factored into white level.

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The 2 was still the right decision thanks, Commissioner Ryan for the question.

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You know I think Pbot is interested in doing some planning and policy work around Level 3 charging, I think, in a in a world where we had to scope a project to get it over the finish line.

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That was why we focused on Level 2. I think another thing just in understanding DC, fast charging or level 3 is, you know, there are some there is some research and some concerns about the impact of fast charging on the life of a vehicle's battery, just like your cell phone if

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you're charging, I you know I'd have to get back to you on that. But I think it's tens of thousands of dollars.

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Yeah, so it think that's, you know, is part of the reason in terms of how a little bit of a slower charge will not degrade battery life as much.

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And then I think there's also been some research from some of the national labs that actually suggest level 2 charging can meet most probably not all of our needs.

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And that's why we were starting.

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Just be factoring.

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Yeah, I mean, I think those are gonna might be issues. We have to look at a little bit more thoroughly, you know, Oregon Department of Transportation through the N electric vehicle infrastructure program is mostly focused on fast charging.

01:43:21.000 --> 01:43:22.000

So we're also going to have more fast charging built out within the city.

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This policy is just really focused on level 2 for right now let me, I just wanna let my colleagues know why.

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Okay.

01:43:36.000 --> 01:43:44.000

Okay, I just there's a cynicism in it around 2,007.

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Excellent. Yes, you know, from the State of Oregon.

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Industry from the state, or.

01:43:51.000 --> 01:43:56.000

Yeah, it's now natural. Yes, is people you must get rid of.

01:43:56.000 --> 01:44:00.000

So how can you?

01:44:00.000 --> 01:44:02.000

So I just.

01:44:02.000 --> 01:44:08.000

Thinking, be honest about the impact.

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Virtually.

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To begin with, you.

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And so they into this. And now it's yeah.

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Yeah, and I think just real quickly, Commissioner Ryan, I think that's why Pbot still has adopted policy.

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That's as we prefer walking biking transit over some of these other options.

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So we can continue doing all that work. At the same time, we can walk and chew gum.

01:44:38.000 --> 01:44:44.000

Yeah.

01:44:44.000 --> 01:44:51.000

All right. Great, thank you. This is a first reading of anon emergency ordinance.

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It moves to second as many. Thank you. Next, item 1, 5, one declare intent to initiate local improvement.

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District formation, Proceedings to construct street Improvements west of Northwest 80.

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Third place, in the Northwest read, drive local Improvement district.

01:45:09.000 --> 01:45:12.000

This is resolution. Commissioner Maps. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

01:45:12.000 --> 01:45:15.000

Colleagues, this item comes to us from Pbot.

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It concerns the creation of a local improvement district on Northwest Reed drive northwest Reed Drive, a northwest reed drive is a residential street in the West Hills.

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The purpose of this lid is to improve a small section of that road.

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Specifically, this lid applies to the section of Northwest reed drive from roughly northwest. 80.

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Third place to the cul-de-sac at the end of Northwest Reed Drive.

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This road was originally built by private developer in the 1,900 sixtys.

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At the time. This road was not built to city standards.

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One of the reasons why the road was not built to city standards was that in the 1,900 sixties the developer was not able to come up with a strategy for managing stormwater on the street in a way that complied with city code it appears that at least in informal

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compromise was struck where the developer built a road that did not comply with city code, and Pbot declined to maintain this road because it did not meet city code.

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It said, residents of Northwest Freedwave were responsible for the maintenance of the street, and that is how the carer and upkeep of Northwest roadway has worked for the past 50 years or so unsurprisingly over the past half century this road has

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deteriorated. In fact, today, Northwest Reed drive is in very poor condition and not salvageable.

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That's why a majority of residents on Northwest Street Drive have come together and requested Peabots help forming this local improvement district.

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This lid will remove the existing road grade.

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The street properly, and then construct a new street, which complies with current city code.

01:46:56.000 --> 01:47:03.000

These planned improvements will upgrade the condition of the street to the point where Northwest read, drive will qualify for maintenance by Pbot.

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Here today, we have 2 staff members from people out to tell us more.

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We have Andrew Abbey, Local improvement, district administrator and project manager with Peabody and a special guest Andrew, I'll turn it over to you.

01:47:16.000 --> 01:47:17.000

Thank you very much, Commissioner Maps. That was a great introduction.

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Sitting on my left is Scott Brian. He is our resident pavement engineering supervisor here at Pbot, and we have a presentation.

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I know you're a little behind schedule today, so we will endeavor to move through the quickly if we could go to the next slide, please.

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So this is the long history of Northwest. Read, drive!

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This project has been in motion basically, since 1,968 we've had multiple petition efforts.

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As you can see there summarized on the schedule of how we got here for this closure I've been at the city lawn a long time, but I was not here for the first several iterations of the petition effort that occurred on Northwest Street drive I was involved in

01:48:04.000 --> 01:48:19.000

the spring 2,004 petition effort, where we thought we could do a grinding inlay on the street, and the property owners declined to pursue the LED at the time, and then we've had a fairly exponential deterioration in the condition of the pavement back in 2

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1,013. There was a stormwater permit issued to construct a public stormwater facility.

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Commissioner Maps pointed out, this is the West Hills.

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This is a very steep area and Stormwater is not simple or easy in this area, but almost 5 years later the new public stormwater facility was built, which then allowed an LED to move forward with only street improvements, and without any stormwater improvement.

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Probably the first, last, and only lid that I will ever bring to council.

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That doesn't have stormwater in the Revolution or ordinance title, because we always build new stormwater facilities except for this one.

01:49:02.000 --> 01:49:21.000

When we bring lids to council. So what has really been a nice turn about on this project is afterwards of debating who was responsible for the for the roadway in the pavement?

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We've now transitioned into a very collaborative discussion with a new set of property owners on the street.

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We had meetings in October and September, September, and October, that were very well attended.

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Very very good collaboration. Scott. Brian joined me at the second of those 2 meetings, and we got into the nitty, gritty of pavement, and what the condition of the street was, and everything else.

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So we petitioned the lid. And we are here today with majority petition support from 14 out of the 25 property owners.

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We have 2 assessment zones. If I can make a slight clarification, this is actually not all that small of a project it's the equivalent of 1,114 centerline unit of tree and assessment zone a has a per equivalent dwelling unit cost of 52,000

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\$658 an assessment zone B has the equivalent of 4 center line feet very short, \$2,174 per equivalent dwelling unit.

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This is also in an Rtz zone. This is very low density, development.

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It's in the West Hills, and that is certainly one of the cost drivers.

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In addition to the condition of the pavement, because we don't have that many properties over which to split the cost.

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Could we go to the next slide? Please? Yeah, Commissioner Ryan did you ever comment on that slide, or do you wanna wait?

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Yeah, never mind. Go ahead. And then, okay, so I went back through the historical archives on this and back in 2,000.

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What one of the property owners on the street communicated was, we'd like to complete the base rack and paving repairs.

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We would like to eliminate property on our liability for improper maintenance, which is under Code section 17.4 2 of Cit Code eliminate potential impact on property values and also eliminate the need to provide disclosure to prospective purchases the property well 2 min before you convene

01:51:20.000 --> 01:51:25.000

the Council Session. This morning we received testimony in support of this lid.

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It was the fourth property owner to testify in favor, and I, in case you haven't had a chance to read his testimony.

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I thought I would just quickly summarize it, he said.

01:51:35.000 --> 01:51:50.000

We bought our home less than 2 years ago, and in that time we have seen parts of the street coming out, and water undermining the pavement to alligating of the street increases each winter with the water penetrating the asphalt freezing and expanding the cracks, and

01:51:50.000 --> 01:51:57.000

eventually leading large gapes. The rate of erosion has and will continue to accelerate each year.

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The road is on its deep hill with rainwater and snows steeping under the asphalt in a eroding.

01:52:03.000 --> 01:52:13.000

The base and sub-grade layers. This in turn, could cause large sections of the street to sink, shift, and slide testimony.

01:52:13.000 --> 01:52:17.000

You received from one of the property owners in support of the project.

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If council approved this revolution, we will come back with an all-d formation ordinance in April.

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Another very unusual aspect of this project. We have existing curbs on the street, and I've never had an lid before where we had existing herbs on this tree.

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So that those curves would remain. We would only do minor replacement where there are the few gaps in the curb.

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We would also not build sidewalks, so sidewalks would only be a potential condition of future redevelopment.

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We're trying to keep this affordable and minimize physical impact.

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The property Pbot pavement engineering would be the technical lead on this project.

01:52:48.000 --> 01:52:49.000

So this would not go through our normal Cip Project delivery project.

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We'd like to turn around the design very quickly and get it out.

01:53:01.000 --> 01:53:05.000

To Contraction Center rather than later, and then finally on the slide.

01:53:05.000 --> 01:53:14.000

One thing that we're really excited about is we're trying to learn from other jurisdictions, and we think that there's a possibility that full depth reclamation rather than full reconstruction.

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May be appropriate here, and just to clarify the difference.

01:53:18.000 --> 01:53:33.000

What full reconstruction is, is hauling out all of the asphalt and all of the rock, and hauling it away from the neighborhood, whereas the full depth, reclamation, and I'm giving the Layperson's view of this Scott knows the details.

01:53:33.000 --> 01:53:43.000

But that's where you basically grind everything up and then add more material to the top, and you recycle quite a bit of it on Site Portland really has not done any of that.

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The city of Gresham has done a lot of that.

01:53:44.000 --> 01:54:00.000

Had a meeting with the city of Gresham last month to learn more about what they're doing, and if count 4 approves of cell id, I'm hoping that this can be another tool in the toolkit where we can stretch our very limited maintenance dollars further and potentially use this on

01:54:00.000 --> 01:54:06.000

other streets to the city already maintains. Next slide. Please.

01:54:06.000 --> 01:54:16.000

So this is the engineering drawing of the very complex stormw management system that was currently designed and contracted between 2,013 and 2,018.

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So I'm just trying to give you a sense. Is this was the really key component that then enabled us to come back and proposed a street improvement lid next slide.

01:54:27.000 --> 01:54:32.000

So this is the last slide that I had to show you the flight on the left is up at 80.

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Third place, looking down the hill, a flight in the middle shows that rock from underneath the subgrade migrating its way to the top, and then the right just shows the alligator of the pavement pavement.

01:54:45.000 --> 01:54:59.000

Pretty geeky techical stuff, but we do have a physical problem here, and I'm just tremendously appreciative that the property owners have stepped up to the plate to tender their petition support, and I hope you'll approve this revolution today.

01:54:59.000 --> 01:55:04.000

Thank you. Is there any public testimony? Yes, we have 3 individuals signed up all right.

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3 min each name for the record, and colleagues just to head up. We're going to take a break after this for the closed captioner.

01:55:11.000 --> 01:55:13.000

First up we have Jennifer Borough.

01:55:13.000 --> 01:55:18.000

Welcome, jennifer!

01:55:18.000 --> 01:55:25.000

Hello, thanks for having me here today. Good morning, Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners.

01:55:25.000 --> 01:55:32.000

My name is Jennifer Brow, and I'm one of the homeowners at the bottom of Reed Drive.

01:55:32.000 --> 01:55:42.000

I'm really grateful for Andrew Aby for his work, and getting this lid going I don't wanna go through all the history as he did.

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He did a great job of going through that. And so I'm gonna skip to just my statement, which is, I'm here to ask you to to to vote, to approve the formation of this lid on our streets so we can have it repaved and maintained eventually hopefully

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annexed by the city, and maintained I was one of the neighbors who got everyone together so that we could have these conversations with Andrew, and he could help us understand the scope of the project.

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It's been better, pill to swallow, so to speak, for a lot of us, knowing that we have to fork over a bunch of money.

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It's not an inexpensive project, but we all understand, or the majority of us understand, it.

01:56:28.000 --> 01:56:41.000

At least the ones who voted in in favor of this, and petitioning that this is a necessary expense for us to keep our community in our road well, maintain.

01:56:41.000 --> 01:56:51.000

So you know, I ask, that you please vote in favor of forming this lid so that we can maintain the road, and I appreciate your hardware.

01:56:51.000 --> 01:56:55.000

Thank you, Jennifer.

01:56:55.000 --> 01:57:01.000

Next up is Brad Herner. Welcome!

01:57:01.000 --> 01:57:05.000

Oh, right here! Hey, Brian!

01:57:05.000 --> 01:57:08.000

Thanks for being here.

01:57:08.000 --> 01:57:09.000

Thanks. My name is Brad Herner. I'm a homeowner on Northwest.

01:57:09.000 --> 01:57:33.000

Read, drive. Thank you for your time. This morning I voted in favor of forming this LED, I'm sure you know, as elected officials getting a majority of people to agree on anything is difficult, much less getting them to agree to stump up on the neighborhood of \$52,000 a year to bring

01:57:33.000 --> 01:57:37.000

this road up to code, but we think it's the right thing to do.

01:57:37.000 --> 01:57:41.000

The road is in very bad shape, it's a very steep road, and it's only going to get worse from here.

01:57:41.000 --> 01:57:49.000

We don't really see any practical alternative. If this LED isn't formed.

01:57:49.000 --> 01:57:56.000

But if it is obviously it will help home values, that will help property tax revenues for the government.

01:57:56.000 --> 01:58:03.000

If it's not formed, I'm really fearful that emergency services like ambulances, fire trucks, will not be able to access the road when we really need it.

01:58:03.000 --> 01:58:13.000

So I would please ask you to join us in help bringing Northwest Reid drive into the Portland family.

01:58:13.000 --> 01:58:17.000

Thank you. Thanks, Brad. Appreciate your being here. Okay, and thanks, Andrew, for Andrew has been great, great chat out to him for all his tyr's work on our behalf. So thank you.

01:58:17.000 --> 01:58:36.000

Thank. I did not tell him to say that by the way, our last testifier is Todd Dance. Hi, Todd.

01:58:36.000 --> 01:58:42.000

Thank you. Oh, sorry, thank you, Commissioners, for hearing about our lid.

01:58:42.000 --> 01:58:51.000

We bought our house less than 2 years ago, so it was a surprise to us to know that it has not been annexed in with Portland.

01:58:51.000 --> 01:58:59.000

I started noticing that every time the street sweepers came snowpiles they would do a U-turn right above our house, and I'd be like, why not?

01:58:59.000 --> 01:59:10.000

The rest of the bottom half of the street, the top half of northwest read, is maintained by Portland.

01:59:10.000 --> 01:59:26.000

The bottom half is not. Therefore we get weeds in our part of the street chunks of pavement missing, growing up in the Santa Cruz mountains during the Loma Prieta earthquake.

01:59:26.000 --> 01:59:45.000

I've seen how roads can be destroyed pretty easily by an earthquake when there's been a lot of water intrusion under the road, so I'm hopeful that this will pass.

01:59:45.000 --> 01:59:47.000

I am I respect all the neighbors that voted against it.

01:59:47.000 --> 02:00:10.000

It's a pretty tough bill, Pill to swallow, but as we've seen from around 2,000 where it might have cost a few \$1,000 to repave it now in the tens of thousands to fix it, I see that the costs will only escalate thank you.

02:00:10.000 --> 02:00:13.000

For your time. Thanks for being here. Appreciate it. Thank you.

02:00:13.000 --> 02:00:22.000

Thank you. Just a quick clarification Andrew Abbey, lid administrator. I do want to say that we sent out 25 petition 14 were returned, 11 were not returned.

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But I do want to state for the record. I have not had anybody call me email me, or otherwise communicate to me that they were opposed to the project.

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Thank you. Great anything else. Colleagues.

02:00:39.000 --> 02:00:42.000

Sure!

02:00:42.000 --> 02:00:47.000

Andrew. Thank you, as always, has a great presentation, and you know, I I kind of focus a lot on those 11 that you haven't heard from, because it is.

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It is a big bill, and I get that. You have a majority.

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It looks like 56%. But again, you don't know if they just didn't reply, or if they're against it, there was suggestion that some are against it.

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I'm always struggling with what we do with people on fixed income, especially that suddenly have this new invoice from the city, and I think I'll continue to ask those questions in how we go about connecting with them.

02:01:17.000 --> 02:01:24.000

Is there a way that we can be helpful to them so that they can especially elders I want to age in place.

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That's always my concern. Alright, thank you, Commissioner Ryan.

02:01:25.000 --> 02:01:36.000

I think the answer to that question is, we did connect with them twice last fall, and we had very good attendance at the to property owner meetings that we had had on.

02:01:36.000 --> 02:01:49.000

You said you hadn't heard from those 110, I we had the 2 property on our meeting Plast fall, and 11 of the property owners did not shine and return their their petition I can't tell you.

02:01:49.000 --> 02:02:01.000

Off top my head of the 11 who didn't sign in return petitions who may or may not have been at that property on her meeting last fall, but I do know that neighbors were doing a very good job of communicating with one another.

02:02:01.000 --> 02:02:21.000

You know, I think in the final analysis, Commissioner Ryan, we do have our petition process and outreach process for a reason which is, we do have a big, momentous decision to make, and we provide every opportunity for people to not only participate with one another, but also to contact, me if they have

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concerns. I will just tell you anecdotally.

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I had a lid, and argue many, many years ago, and I had one property owner.

02:02:30.000 --> 02:02:38.000

I literally never heard from that property owner. From the time we had the property owner meeting to the time we went to council, I never heard from the property on her during design.

02:02:38.000 --> 02:02:41.000

I never heard from the property. On her final assessment.

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We just did the whole process with no engagement from that property on her, and that is Lid Bill was current so I'm a little reluctant to kind of question.

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The majority petition support from the property owners for a hypothetical outcome.

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I do rely on property owners to contact me if they have issues that are concerns with the project, and I think we've done it very exemplary job of outreach over literally decades on this project.

02:03:02.000 --> 02:03:17.000

So I'm comfortable, recommending that Council moved forward, but that said, if somebody come to us, we, in moving forward after counsel, approves this lid, we will certainly work with them great.

02:03:17.000 --> 02:03:38.000

Thank you. Anything else. Colleagues, Commissioner Gonzalz, which is building off Commissioner Ryan's question less about this project, but just thinking for in particular, the challenges in East Portland with a lot of unpaved streets a lot of folks on fixed income I just would want to

02:03:38.000 --> 02:03:41.000

Bootstrap off of what Commissioner Ryan is getting at that?

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How do we engage with those neighborhoods effectively this looks like a pretty well established neighborhood, and it's great that the neighbors are willing to buck up here.

02:03:51.000 --> 02:04:07.000

That's fantastic it, but we still have this sort of systemic problem on the East Side, you know, of streets that were annexed later in the history of the city, unpaved and with sort of a glaring.

02:04:07.000 --> 02:04:19.000

You know, discrepancy between even entry side and outer each side, and the way the streets look, so I don't have a particular comment via other than to just question sort of the question.

02:04:19.000 --> 02:04:28.000

How do we? How do we get streets paved in East Portland in a way that's not breaking people's backs, and I particularly those on fixed incomes or lower incomes?

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And I know there's no simple answer there, but I just put it to you.

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Have you had any thoughts on that question? I know you're ready to take a break, so I'll be extremely brief.

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But I think it might be helpful for counsel to know that Leds are really probably our primary, primary, primary asset management tool that we have now, think what is not well understood is when people call up whether they live in East Portland and by the way Southwest Portland actually had the Highest

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proportion of unpaved streets in the city.

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When people call up and they want a pothole fixed, it's usually not just fixing a pothole.

02:05:00.000 --> 02:05:05.000

It's usually along the lines of what we're talking about today.

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And the money, that this particular lid, by the way, is something on the order of, I think, 8 to 10% of maintenance operations and or pavement might mean its budget so what I'm really trying to stress is the city does not budget to do major capital projects like this they

02:05:21.000 --> 02:05:33.000

look to tools like LED to do it. I will also tell you that this, to my knowledge, is only the second LED in the city's history, where we didn't have direct funding to help defray the cost of the improvement.

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So we did do a lot of projects in East Portland with community development.

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Block grant funding and tax increment funding. When I first started here we went out to Lens and knocked out a Mile street in one summer and made a lot of progress there.

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That was a different funding climate and everything else but the short answer to your question, Commissioner Gonzalez, is, we need to have more of a funding strategy moving forward, and this is the wrong time to bring that up.

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But I'm just playing down a marker for counsel that we will not make progress, in East Portland or southwest Portland unless we can bring finding to the table to help defray the cost of street improvement.

02:06:14.000 --> 02:06:20.000

Appreciate it. Thank you. Raise your wraps. Sure. I know we do need to take a break.

02:06:20.000 --> 02:06:21.000

I'll be brief. I want to thank Commissioner Gonzalez for the question, and Andrew for his insights.

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It does point to a larger truth, which is that he bought lots of sustainable funding models. And we need to fix that as you're do, bebod, Commissioner.

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I'm deeply committed to figuring this out, and frankly, in order to get it done.

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I'm going to need your support, too, but that is part of the work that our team and our folks over at Peabody are doing right now.

02:06:51.000 --> 02:06:55.000

Very good. This is a resolution. Any further discussion?

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Please call the role on the resolution as amended.

02:06:59.000 --> 02:07:23.000

Review. I just wanna thank Commissioner Maps for bringing this forward, and Andrew, as always, thanks for your great work on this, and for really sticking with the community and figuring out a solution it's always great to see the Bureau being really responsive Brian yes, Andrew Brad thank you

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for being here. Scott. Sorry, Scott, correct. All right, and the testimony from the neighbors.

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Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to be here.

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I will support this. I actually, I think you can tell.

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I'm not satisfied with our outreach. I feel like when we don't hear from them.

02:07:39.000 --> 02:07:55.000

What's our extra efforts that we may, we can't always assume just because someone lives in a better address, that they have the means to pay for these new invoices that are coming to them and it's a decent, you know, it's a decent loan.

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So anyway, I just have a lot of compassion for those 11 that I don't know what they're thinking.

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But I will not get in the way of this it's clearly something that's been going on for a long time.

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I did appreciate the context, the history. I vote I it's all. I wanna thank you for your work on this and testimony from neighbors.

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I vote? I mess. I want to thank everyone who testified on this item today.

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I want to thank Andrew and Scott for your presentation and for your work on this item.

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I know that the city and residents have been trying to get this street repaired for nearly half a century.

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I am very delighted that we could be here today to move this project forward.

02:08:37.000 --> 02:08:47.000

I vote aye, Wheeler, happy to support good work, gentlemen, thank you.

02:08:47.000 --> 02:08:52.000

Everybody who came in to testify. Today I vote on resolution is adopted.

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Project moves forward. Thank you. All right, colleagues, we will take a ten-minute recess.

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We will reconvene at 5 min to noon, and then we'll head to the regular agenda.

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All right. We are back in session. We're now moving to the regular agenda.

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Item, 1, 6, 2, please. This is a report, accepted of \$1,774,800 from James W.

02:09:42.000 --> 02:09:45.000

Fowlerko for the Columbia Boulevard.

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Wastewater treatment, plant effluent channel washwater line replacement project.

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Well, that sounds literary, doesn't it? This is the Bureau of Environmental Services, Columbia Boulevard wastewater treatment plant through the Bureau of Environmental Services water line in the secondary Clarifier Affluent channel at the plant is deteriorated and is in

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need of replacement, design, and construction, procurement, manager Kathleen Bransmura is here to walk us through the report.

02:10:15.000 --> 02:10:18.000

Welcome, Kathleen.

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Thank you. Good afternoon, man. Commissioners. I'm Kathleen Brennis, Maroua, procurement manager for design and construction services, and I am here to recommend authorization to enter into a contract with James W.

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Fowler Company for the Columbia Boulevard.

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Wastewater treatment, plant effluent channel wash waterline replacement, project, on October fifth, 2022, he also authorized procurement services to solicit the project with an engineer's estimate of 1.5 million the bureau of

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environmental services rated the project. Estimate confidence level as high procurement services issued an invitation to bid and bids were opened on December thirteenth of 2,022, and we received 2 bids James W.

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Fowler Company submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$1,774,800.

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The city's aspirational. 20% subcontractor and supplier utilization goal applied
Fowler has committed to subcontract 20.28% to firm certified by the State
certification Office for business inclusion and diversity as identified in the

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report before you. Valer will be self performing the remaining 79.72% of the work.

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James W. Feller company is in full compliance with all city contracting requirements,
and, I hear, recommend you authorize this contract.

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Very good colleagues. Any questions at this point, and public testimony on the
report, no one signed up.

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Very good. Any further discussion, seeing none. Please call the role mayor. Would
you like? Oh, I'm sorry.

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Yeah, public testimony. Thank you, Christina. Oh, I just.

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We would need a motion so moved. Can I get a second second?

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Have a motion in a second there was no public testimony, anyway, sir. Oh, correct, there's no public testimony very good. Please call the roll.

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Thank you. Rubio. Hi, Ryan! Hi, Gonzalez!

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Maps, I want to thank Kathleen for today's presentation, and I want to thank the mayor and procurement for moving this important project forward.

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I vote aye, Wheeler. Well, as I said the last time, this is one of those projects where you don't know what it is until it doesn't work anymore.

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Then you know exactly what it is. So in the spirit of keeping it under the radar for all of us.

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I vote I the report is accepted. Good work. Thank you.

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Thank you.

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Next up, item 1, 6, 3. This is a an emergency ordinance.

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Authorize, grant application for 15 million from the United States Department of Transportation to fund local streets at Broadway Corridor.

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Commissioner Rubio. Thank you. I will turn it over to my colleague at Commissioner Maps to introduce this item.

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Well, thank you, Commissioner Rubio, colleagues, I'm pleased to introduce this item.

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This ordinance authorizes the city of Portland to submit a 15 million dollars.

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Grant proposal to the U. S. Department of Transportation through their rebuilding American infrastructure with sustainability and equity program this grant would fund construction of utilities and new local streets specifically Northwest Kearney and Northwest Johnson Streets from

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northwest, Ninth Avenue, on the west to Union Station.

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On the this Grant would also help fund a traffic signal modification at Northwest Ninth Avenue and Lovejoy Street.

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But before I turn this presentation over to Staff to tell us more about this project, I believe Commissioner Rubio would like to share some thoughts.

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Thank you. Commissioner Maps, and thank you for your leadership in partnership on this item.

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I'd like to emphasize that a Grant award to fund local streets in the Broadway corridor will help advance a project that is a big priority for me.

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Redevelopment of the 14 acre former Us. Postal service property at the heart of the Broadway corridor District represents one of Portland's most significant prospects to further an equitable economy by advancing wealth creation opportunities through construction development and teneting creating a

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vibrant and welcoming neighborhood and supporting living-wage jobs.

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Securing this grant would go a long way towards realizing a first phase affordable housing development on a parcel owned by the Portland Housing Bureau.

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And will leverage metro affordable housing bonds to create more than 200 housing units affordable to households with little or no income.

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Up to 60%. Median family income, although not testifying.

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We also have in the audience via Zoom, Sarah Harpo, Project manager from Prosper Portland, who has been instrumental in these efforts in case there are questions for Prosper. So now I'll turn it over back to commissioner maps and staff to present thank you.

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Thank you. Commissioner Maps, and thank you, Mayor and commissioners again.

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Steve Sigathey. Capital Delivery division manager Pbot, and we do have a Powerpoint I think, queued up there.

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It is thanks so much. And again, we also have as Commissioner Rubio, said Sarah Harpo, Senior project Manager Prosper Portland.

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We're here to for you to seek authorization for this 15 million dollar grant from the Us.

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Department of Transportation. You may recall we did this last year.

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So this is our second attempt at the grant. We did get positive feedback from Federal staff in Washington, DC.

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That encouraged us to apply again for this grant, with some recommended betterments to our application.

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Next slide, please. So again the Grant program is raise acronym for rebuilding American infrastructure with sustainability and equity.

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This time the Federal Government has about 2.3 billion with a.

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B in discretionary grants available similar programs in the past.

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You may have heard about tiger and build the city and its partners have been pretty successful with these types of discretionary grants.

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Most recently, in 2,017, with the city, with Pbot and the Port Port Portland Building, the North River Gate overcrossing in the River Gate freight area.

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This round the grant sizes of eligible are 5 million to 45. We are again going.

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After a 15 million dollars, grant once again. Next slide, please, as some of you saw last week at on the site site is about 14 acres, bounded by Lovejoy, Hoyt, Ninth, and Broadway, and the Grant would go towards building the streets that you see outlined in Red there Johnson Street

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in Green and Kearney Street, and Orange, and some intersection and signal improvement stare at Ninth and Lovejoy to help aid the new trips.

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That would be generated by the site next slide. Please building these streets unlocks about 70% of the development potential of the site which can overall the psych can accommodate up to 8,800 jobs.

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2,400 new households, and, as Commissioner Rubio said, hundreds of affordable housing units that were committed through the master Plan process.

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Next slide, just some visuals on the streets themselves that will be constructed northwest.

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Kearney, the the northernmost street will be kind of a typical central city street, with a sixty-foot right of way bi-directional traffic on-street parking in 7 and a half foot sidewalks, Johnson Street, the Southern street will be a more

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Special Street, with a two-way cycle track and wider sidewalks, and the next slide has some illustrations.

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There on, proposed Johnson Street. This is intended to be kind of a a main street for the for the district, with opportunities for public gathering, some potential retail uses, depending on what types of development go in along the street and again, a two-based cycle track and wider

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sidewalks, and this is part of the longer route that would connect UN station with the pearl district and other neighborhoods in Northwest Portland.

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Next slide grant benefits rather obviously is that would reduce our city financial burdens.

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Reduce pbots, system development charge expenditures by about 3.2 million dollars.

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There is a local improvement district. That council already authorized on the site for 23 million dollars.

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That' would be reduced if we got this grant by about 12 million dollars.

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That also would reduce the interim interest costs on that local improvement district by about 6 million dollars.

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If we got this grant, which would then reduce some risk on the general fund, because the city owns those properties currently, and of course, the project in general boosts the financial feasibility of affordable housing and private development on the site it gets Us.

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This nice continuous Greenway route across Northwest Portland, and leverages up to 4 million dollars.

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Sorry 4 million square feet of smart growth that would support our city climate and housing goals.

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Next slide, please. So, to be clear, we we have the mechanisms to pay for this project.

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If we don't get the grant. But we found it thought it would be prudent to ask for this grant from the usdot in this 15 million dollars amount to defray a majority of those costs.

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So there, you see, with and without the grant, you know, we would be basically down to a sorry I lost my train of thought.

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There, I think the big takeaway here is that we get a majority of the project paid for, and we also get the interim interest costs reduced by getting this grant.

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If successful and last slide, I believe, is the next 1 s to last.

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I should say so, you know, responding to the comments from our Federal partners, we obviously were trying to make our applications stronger.

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We have really tried to get those merit criteria that the grant application requires us to answer, to dial those in a little bit more.

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I won't read the list there, but those are the different criteria that the that the reviewers are looking at on these grant applications from various jurisdictions

throughout the country, and then also strengthening our coalition of support and support of the project and on that note thank you to members

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of council that were able to join us on last Thursday on site, and joining Congresswoman BBC.

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On the groundbreaking of the demolition project.

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Next slide.

02:21:34.000 --> 02:21:37.000

So here's our timeline, the Grant applications.

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We're actually done with the work of filling out the the application that they're due at the end of this month.

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We're told that we'll hear back in June of this year on the awards we are deep into design on the project.

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We'll be completing street design engineering later this summer.

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And then in the fall we'll be issuing a best value request for proposals for street construction.

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This alternative contracting method will allow us to meet our community benefit agreement goals around equitable contracting and to select a qualified contractor for the project we're looking at breaking ground on the streets about this time next year in February 24 and about 18 months of construction with completion

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in August of 25. Next in last slide is just a thank you, and just opening it up for any questions or comments, or any additional information from Sarah at Prosper.

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But I just, yeah, just a general conceptual one. This is super exciting love.

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This potential? How much does our grant application really tie our hands as we need to alter to economic realities of whatever part you know, with our partners, we go forward in the region in the area?

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And so I just mostly just want to understand to what extent we have golden hand cuffs.

02:23:06.000 --> 02:23:11.000

If we're awarded the grant here, need to tweak the concept at the ground level.

02:23:11.000 --> 02:23:12.000

Yeah, thanks for that question, Commissioner Gonzalez, getting a Federal grant.

02:23:12.000 --> 02:23:24.000

It does require us to. Obviously you know, we're beholden to the Federal Grant requirements.

02:23:24.000 --> 02:23:29.000

Thankfully, Peabody, in the city of Portland, is certified in Federal Aid Project Delivery.

02:23:29.000 --> 02:23:37.000

We we currently are delivering 30 other Federal aid projects and are certified for design and construction.

02:23:37.000 --> 02:23:40.000

So we have experience with this type of grant, and you know we would have to do some additional processes.

02:23:40.000 --> 02:23:54.000

We'd have to go through a national environmental policy act process, we would typically get what's called a project categorical exclusion so it wouldn't be a big environmental process.

02:23:54.000 --> 02:24:05.000

But we'd have to do your typical federal environmental and other processes that were used to doing on other Federal aid projects.

02:24:05.000 --> 02:24:09.000

And if Sarah has anything else to add to that?

02:24:09.000 --> 02:24:12.000

I would just note in our debrief. We did have the opportunity to confirm.

02:24:12.000 --> 02:24:17.000

We can still apply the requirements of that regional workforce equity agreement to the Federal project.

02:24:17.000 --> 02:24:21.000

So it does align nicely with our commitments to community benefits.

02:24:21.000 --> 02:24:25.000

Okay. Thank you.

02:24:25.000 --> 02:24:28.000

Nope!

02:24:28.000 --> 02:24:32.000

No one signs up!

02:24:32.000 --> 02:24:42.000

Rivia. I would like again to thank Commissioner Maps and Steve and the team at Pbot for their partnership and leadership.

02:24:42.000 --> 02:24:46.000

On seeking this grant. I am particularly proud of the cross Bureau approach to this project.

02:24:46.000 --> 02:24:53.000

That's driven by a commitment to create an inclusive and connected and economic opportunity-rich site.

02:24:53.000 --> 02:25:06.000

Portlanders can expect future development in the Broadway quarter to prioritize climate resilience, create connections among this site with adjacent neighborhoods, and across the city, and deliver on affordable housing goals so if awarded this grant is a smart investment of our public dollars.

02:25:06.000 --> 02:25:13.000

So I'm happy to vote. I Brian.

02:25:13.000 --> 02:25:25.000

Thank you, Steve. Great presentation. I don't want to get in the way of us getting this big award and rooting for us, and grateful that you had the great kickoff last week with the Congresswoman.

02:25:25.000 --> 02:25:32.000

There that that's all part of the process. So let's get it, and I hope that we can be celebrating in June.

02:25:32.000 --> 02:25:35.000

Gonzalez. Thanks for the work. I vote I maps.

02:25:35.000 --> 02:25:40.000

I want to thank Steve for that presentation colleagues as your public works.

02:25:40.000 --> 02:25:55.000

Commissioner, I can tell you that Pbot, B. Es and Water are excited to get into this neighborhood and start to build out the infrastructure, so we can see new development come to this very important and long-neglected space.

02:25:55.000 --> 02:26:01.000

I also want to thank a moment to thank Commissioner Rubio and prosper Portland for their partnership in helping make this transformative project a reality.

02:26:01.000 --> 02:26:09.000

For these reasons and more, I vote on Wheeler. Thank you.

02:26:09.000 --> 02:26:28.000

I'd like to thank Prosper Portland, Commissioner Rubio Pbot, and Commissioner Maps for continuing the work to unlock the extremely phenomenal potential of the Broadway corridor, and the former Usps site as I mentioned at the demolition event last week I

02:26:28.000 --> 02:26:41.000

remain a strong supporter of finding a path forward to redevelop this site, which will bring affordable housing, small business opportunities, new jobs, parks, and community spaces to our central city.

02:26:41.000 --> 02:27:01.000

This is the best opportunity we will have for several generations to develop a neighborhood from scratch in the central city and so it's important that we get it right, not only in terms of what we build there, and this speaks to the infrastructure that we're talking about today, but also how we build

02:27:01.000 --> 02:27:11.000

it and who builds it, and, as was mentioned last week, this is intended as a community space for all in the city of Portland.

02:27:11.000 --> 02:27:13.000

It's a long time coming, but this really is beginning the process of tangible investments.

02:27:13.000 --> 02:27:23.000

We saw the post office building begun its process to come down.

02:27:23.000 --> 02:27:24.000

Now we're talking about funding the infrastructure that's going to replace it.

02:27:24.000 --> 02:27:36.000

I think it's an exciting moment securing this Federal grant would be an important step forward to making the bigger vision a reality.

02:27:36.000 --> 02:27:39.000

I'm very happy to join my colleagues in voting.

02:27:39.000 --> 02:27:44.000

I the emergency ordinance is proved. Thank you.

02:27:44.000 --> 02:27:48.000

And one item pulled from the consent agenda 152.

02:27:48.000 --> 02:27:59.000

We'll go back to 1, 5, 2, a settlement of Jacob Johnson bodily injured the lawsuit for \$13,750, involving the Portland Police Bureau.

02:27:59.000 --> 02:28:02.000

I assume we have public testimony on this item.

02:28:02.000 --> 02:28:04.000

That's right. I was pulled by Mark Boris.

02:28:04.000 --> 02:28:12.000

All right. Mark 3 min, please.

02:28:12.000 --> 02:28:21.000

Is he not here?

02:28:21.000 --> 02:28:24.000

Mark. We can't hear you.

02:28:24.000 --> 02:28:25.000

Okay. Can you hear me now, Mayor?

02:28:25.000 --> 02:28:26.000

Yeah, now, we can.

02:28:26.000 --> 02:28:29.000

Great good afternoon, Mayor and commissioners. My name is Mark Poris. I.

02:28:29.000 --> 02:28:32.000

You see him pronouns, and I'm with the group Portland cop-watch.

02:28:32.000 --> 02:28:39.000

We have no objection to the city paying this settlement, which is the result of police violence committed by Officer number 6, and another officer from Ppb.

02:28:39.000 --> 02:28:54.000

On August 1, 2,020, during a protest against police violence, this settlement raises the total paid out for protests between 2,018 and 2,020 to at least 1,000,089.4 4 \$5, including the don't chew portland lawsuit agreed upon last fall which has

02:28:54.000 --> 02:28:56.000

not come to council yet. We hope Mr. Johnson has fully recovered from injuries.

02:28:56.000 --> 02:29:12.000

He was dealt by the 2 officers, and since he's a member of the media, we hope the public will continue to benefit from his reporting on police violence, we pulled this

item from the consent agenda, and we continue to appear before you on police misconduct settlements with full understanding

02:29:12.000 --> 02:29:19.000

that the parties have already come to a financial agreement before the cop watch will continue to attempt to get you to engage and discuss the underlying policy issues.

02:29:19.000 --> 02:29:32.000

When these settlements come before you, at least until we have a police bureau free of brutality, corruption, and racism, we continue to urge you to help the public understand the true cost of policing by including the amount of time and money spent by city attorneys and risk management on police

02:29:32.000 --> 02:29:37.000

Misconduct settlements, and we ask you again to stop using the term encounter in the ordinance language.

02:29:37.000 --> 02:29:42.000

When cops abuse their authority and harm community members, as reported in the Us.

02:29:42.000 --> 02:29:45.000

Press freedom tracker, which includes links to video of the incident.

02:29:45.000 --> 02:29:51.000

Independent journalist, Jake Johnson, was shoved into a bush by a police officer clearing protesters from a street.

02:29:51.000 --> 02:29:54.000

Despite being clearly marked as press. A second Ppb.

02:29:54.000 --> 02:29:57.000

Officer then slammed him onto a car hood and maced him at close range.

02:29:57.000 --> 02:29:59.000

We suspect it was pepper spray rather than mace.

02:29:59.000 --> 02:30:07.000

But you get the point, Mr. Johnson said. He had moved between parked cars when the officer used a baton to shove him, and that he injured his pinky toe when he tried to catch his fall.

02:30:07.000 --> 02:30:19.000

He attempted to follow the officer asking for his badge number, reading the number on the back of the officer's helmet, he could be heard yelling that it was Officer Number 6 that shoved him another officer shoved him into a car hyper extending his knees.

02:30:19.000 --> 02:30:22.000

And when he looked up he was immediately maced in the video.

02:30:22.000 --> 02:30:35.000

A police officer driving by in a riot Van can be heard saying, Smart move gearbag roster obtained by a community member with a public records request shows that helmet number 6 belonged to Officer Chuck

02:30:35.000 --> 02:30:40.000

Elam, who was promoted to sergeant in May of 2,021, 9 months after injuring Mr.

02:30:40.000 --> 02:30:47.000

Johnson, who was the other officer, was either officer disciplined to the officers, even know that their actions caused the city to pay this settlement.

02:30:47.000 --> 02:30:55.000

If not, how can we expect them to have learned anything at the League of Women Voters panel on challenges for Portland police and policing alternatives?

02:30:55.000 --> 02:31:01.000

Earlier this month. Dr. Gina Ronnie, who stood on both the Training Advisory Council and Fitco, stated Ppp.

02:31:01.000 --> 02:31:02.000

Has external limitations which make it very difficult for them to become a learning institution.

02:31:02.000 --> 02:31:16.000

Specifically the role of the city attorney's office greatly controls the narratives and limits the ability of the Ppb to become a more reflective, vulnerable, and truth-telling agency.

02:31:16.000 --> 02:31:20.000

So in closing, please stop letting cops hide behind.

02:31:20.000 --> 02:31:21.000

Alternative, numbering schemes while on duty, and please work with Dr.

02:31:21.000 --> 02:31:27.000

Ronnie to help Ppb. Become a learning institution. Thanks.

02:31:27.000 --> 02:31:32.000

Thank you. Mark any further discussion on this item.

02:31:32.000 --> 02:31:37.000

This is an emergency ordinance. Please call the roll Preview.

02:31:37.000 --> 02:31:39.000

Bye, right, Hi! It's Alice! Hi! Max!

02:31:39.000 --> 02:31:54.000

Hi Wheeler! Hi Jordan! This is adopted, and we are adjourned.

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

February 22, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.

This file was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised city Council broadcast and should not be considered a verbatim transcript. The official vote counts, motions, and names of speakers are included in the official minutes.

1

00:00:46.990 --> 00:00:49.630

Speaker: Good afternoon, everybody. This is the

2

00:00:49.660 --> 00:01:03.730

Wednesday, February 20 s, 2023 afternoon session of the Portland City Council Keeling. Good afternoon, please call the role. Good afternoon, Rubio. Here, Ryan. Here, Gonzales, here, naps here, Wheeler.

3

00:01:04.000 --> 00:01:16.880

Here now we'll hear from legal counsel on the rules of order in decorum. Good afternoon. Good afternoon! Welcome to the Portland City Council. The City Council is holding hybrid public meetings with in-person attendance. In addition to electronic attendance.

4

00:01:16.920 --> 00:01:25.910

If you wish to testify, testify before of council in person, or virtually, you must sign up in advance by visiting council, agenda on the Council clerks Page

5

00:01:26.200 --> 00:01:46.700

Speaker: Web page at [www. Portland. Go Backslash Council Backslash](http://www.portland.gov/backslash/council/backslash). You may sign up for communications to briefly speak about any subject. You may also sign up for public testimony on resolutions, reports, or the first reading of ordinances. Written testimony may be submitted at [CC. Testimony at Portland, Oregon. Gov.](http://cc.portland.gov/testimony)

6

00:01:46.820 --> 00:02:04.810

Speaker: Your testimony should address the matter being considered at the time when testifying, please state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. Please disclose, If you are a lobbyist, if you're representing an organization. Please identify it for testifiers joining virtually. Please unmute yourself. Once the Council clerk calls your name.

7

00:02:04.880 --> 00:02:12.200

Speaker: the presiding officer preserves order and decorum during city council meetings, so everyone can feel welcome, comfortable, respected, and safe.

8

00:02:12.330 --> 00:02:14.110

Kris Taylor: The presiding officer.

9

00:02:14.280 --> 00:02:23.910

Speaker: the length of testimony. Individuals generally have 3 min to testify, unless otherwise a timer will indicate when your time is done.

10

00:02:24.060 --> 00:02:32.800

disruptive conduct, such as shouting, refusing to conclude your testimony when your time is up, or interrupting others. Testimony or council deliberations will not be allowed.

11

00:02:32.800 --> 00:02:49.910

Speaker: If there are disruptions, a warning will be given that further disruption may result in the person being ejected for the remainder of the meeting after being ejected. A person who fails to leave the meeting is subject to arrest for trespass. Additionally, Council may take a short recess and reconvene virtually

12

00:02:51.180 --> 00:02:58.160

Speaker: very good, thank you. And we have one item for this afternoon. It's a resolution. Item number 164. Please

13

00:02:58.190 --> 00:03:08.720

referred charter amendment to voters to establish transparency advocate in office of the Auditor at the May. 162023 special district election.

14

00:03:08.730 --> 00:03:11.970

Speaker: Good afternoon. Not a monitor. Thanks for being here.

15

00:03:18.280 --> 00:03:20.640

Speaker: Thank you all for being here today.

16

00:03:20.960 --> 00:03:21.530

Yeah.

17

00:03:22.000 --> 00:03:28.140

Speaker: thank you, Mayor Wheeler, and good afternoon, Commissioners, as well as Council President Ryan.

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00:03:28.900 --> 00:03:33.720

My name is Simone, Reddy and I'm, the elected auditor auditor for the city of Portland.

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00:03:34.090 --> 00:03:43.970

Speaker: You may call me Madam Auditor. My office's mission is to promote open and accountable government by providing independent and impartial reviews.

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00:03:44.140 --> 00:03:49.280

access to public information and services for city government and the public.

21

00:03:50.070 --> 00:04:00.740

Speaker: I'm joined today by leaders from our community and experts on transparency and accountability. We are here to advance a charter amendment proposal to voters with your support.

22

00:04:02.370 --> 00:04:21.779

Speaker: This proposal is to create a transparency advocate in my office that would be available to the public as well as city employees consistent with the authority Charter grants my office to investigate the acts of city bureaus, the transparency advocate would continue to resolve issues of openness and transparency.

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00:04:22.490 --> 00:04:31.940

Speaker: This Charter amendment would give this position the unique authority to investigate the acts of all city officials, as they relate to records of transparency.

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00:04:33.170 --> 00:04:38.660

City charter currently exempts the acts of elected officials from my office's scope.

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00:04:39.180 --> 00:04:57.970

Speaker: This proposal is both timely and urgent. It is responsive to Our city's changing form of government. It is appropriate and necessary as a check on the newly separated branches of legislative and executive government that will define our city by January 2025,

26

00:04:59.160 --> 00:05:08.540

Speaker: if approved by voters in May. This charter amendment will take effect immediately. and my office is committed to leading and funding its implementation

27

00:05:09.840 --> 00:05:16.390

Speaker: before we delve deeper into how this Charter amendment will be implemented. I want to remind you where it came from

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00:05:17.720 --> 00:05:24.810

the last time this proposal was brought to you here in Council Chambers was January, nineteenth 2,023.

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00:05:25.830 --> 00:05:31.730

Speaker: It was presented to council by 2 former co-chairs of the 2020 Charter Review Commission.

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00:05:31.950 --> 00:05:34.500

Deborah, Porta, and Brenda Keita.

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00:05:35.510 --> 00:05:39.180

Speaker: It was one of 6 proposals that they recommended to you. That day

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00:05:39.970 --> 00:05:52.280

Speaker: Their presentation was followed by public testimony, during which concerns were raised about the lack of urgency with which the city was acting to establish a Government transition advisory committee.

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00:05:53.260 --> 00:05:56.220

Speaker: The delay and silence around

34

00:05:56.810 --> 00:06:06.440

Speaker: that initiative that community members experienced was an opportunity for public input in this very important transition.

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00:06:06.520 --> 00:06:11.730

Speaker: and the very substance of concerns that this Charter Amendment proposal would address

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00:06:13.230 --> 00:06:17.450

the January nineteenth. Presentation concluded the work of the Charter Commission.

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00:06:18.360 --> 00:06:27.790

Speaker: It followed the report that was issued and posted on the city's website. and its final public meeting was on December third, 2022

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00:06:28.870 --> 00:06:37.180

Speaker: prior to that the Commission heard public testimony highlighting this proposal, and the problems that it seeks to solve on 4 different occasions

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00:06:38.250 --> 00:06:42.230

a public hearing on November 192022

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00:06:42.340 --> 00:06:55.720

Speaker: a public hearing on November seventeenth, 2022, an information session on June 20 eighth, 2,021, and for the first time at a work session on May 2720 21.

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00:06:56.400 --> 00:07:00.010

All of those meetings are documented on the city's website

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00:07:01.680 --> 00:07:07.010

Speaker: in the December third meeting the city attorney's office confirmed their review of this proposal.

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00:07:07.310 --> 00:07:12.220

Speaker: and that while it was actionable, it still needed some work.

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00:07:13.560 --> 00:07:19.630

It also confirmed that my office has the authority to investigate transparency and openness.

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00:07:20.740 --> 00:07:26.380

Speaker: The proposal received 12, yes, votes 4 and 4 abstains from the Commission.

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00:07:26.390 --> 00:07:28.350

Speaker: and there were 0 no votes

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00:07:29.420 --> 00:07:38.620

Speaker: in the Commission's deliberations. It agreed not to send the proposal directly to voters, so that Council could discuss it and work on it with its proponents.

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00:07:39.860 --> 00:07:48.940

Speaker: I have continued that work. I have taken leadership of the Commission's recommended proposal because it clearly aligns with our city's values.

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00:07:49.370 --> 00:07:54.070

I've made this proposal: My business, because it affects my office's duties.

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00:07:54.690 --> 00:08:01.240

Speaker: its proponents. Trust me to ensure that it gets your attention and is ultimately decided by voters.

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00:08:02.450 --> 00:08:10.630

Over the last 2 months my office has engaged with Charter commissioners, community members and technical experts to refine the proposal.

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00:08:11.570 --> 00:08:19.390

Speaker: It has benefited from the involvement of community organizations like the Aclu of Oregon, the League of Women voters.

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00:08:19.540 --> 00:08:31.370

Speaker: the greater society of professional journalists and open Oregon. Our office also solicited and considered feedback from all Council offices, and the city attorney's office.

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00:08:32.900 --> 00:08:46.380

because the transparency advocate's role will be interfacing directly with the public and city employees. This position also serves as a means of community engagement on the topic of openness and transparency itself.

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00:08:47.270 --> 00:08:57.490

Speaker: It is everyone's responsibility at the city to deliver on the promise of transparency. But it is no one's responsibility to conduct community engagement around this issue

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00:08:57.510 --> 00:09:00.280

Speaker: or address these issues systematically.

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00:09:01.480 --> 00:09:11.800

Speaker: With the creation of this position we are creating a dedicated place for community feedback to be heard. and a way for practices citywide to be improved.

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00:09:12.390 --> 00:09:25.280

Speaker: This is exactly the type of engagement that I envision for the auditor's office, so that diverse communities have the opportunity to influence our work. The transparency advocate would directly contribute to this goal.

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00:09:26.390 --> 00:09:38.960

Speaker: So how will this position fit within our existing structure? It will occupy a new classification within the Ombudsman's office, which is an office under my purview.

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00:09:40.590 --> 00:09:48.940

Speaker: How much will it cost the office? My office has estimated this at 130 to \$170,000 per year.

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00:09:49.390 --> 00:09:52.140

My office is willing to cover this cost

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00:09:52.650 --> 00:10:03.600

Speaker: as a one-time as one full-time position for the next 2 years that means it would have no financial impact on the city's general fund until 2025.

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00:10:05.380 --> 00:10:14.070

Speaker: The associated costs of technology, administrative and communication support would also be covered. Using my office as existing resources.

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00:10:15.350 --> 00:10:27.250

Speaker: Our office also considered the cost of a special election. In the timing of this request. since council referred, the children's levy renewal to the May 2023 ballot.

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00:10:27.330 --> 00:10:31.600

Speaker: The addition of this measure would not incur any additional elections costs

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00:10:32.890 --> 00:10:40.140

waiting to call a special election later. This year or early next year could incur hundreds of thousands of dollars in expense.

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00:10:40.310 --> 00:10:45.160

Speaker: particularly since those elections would not be shared with other jurisdictions.

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00:10:45.180 --> 00:10:48.010

As the May election is with school districts.

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00:10:49.570 --> 00:10:53.270

So why does Portland need a transparency advocate?

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00:10:53.490 --> 00:11:10.240

Speaker: And why does Portland need a transparency advocate? Now, in addition to the comments heard by the Charter Commission. Over the last 2 years you've received written testimony in advance of this meeting from civic leaders like former Oregon, Secretary of State, Phil Keesling.

71

00:11:10.340 --> 00:11:19.230

and Senior fellow at Portland State University's Center for public service, Barbara Dudley. They both urge you to send this proposal to the ballot.

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00:11:20.640 --> 00:11:24.950

My office has also invited guests to help answer these questions.

73

00:11:25.420 --> 00:11:32.130

Speaker: Former charter, Commissioner Brian Lewis, is with us to explain why the Commission recommended this measure to council.

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00:11:33.340 --> 00:11:44.300

Speaker: Unfortunately, former commissioners, Deborah, Porta, and Candace Avalos were unable to join us today, but but Commissioner Lewis has agreed to share their written testimonies with us.

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00:11:44.840 --> 00:11:52.640

Speaker: I want to thank all of the Charter Commissioners for their service, and I will turn it over to Commissioner Lewis to share his remarks.

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00:11:56.590 --> 00:11:57.530

Bryan Lewis - 164: Good afternoon.

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00:11:59.110 --> 00:12:00.380

Speaker: Yep. We hear you

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00:12:01.120 --> 00:12:05.550

Bryan Lewis - 164: perfect. Thank you. My name is Brian William Lewis I'm, a former charter Commissioner.

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00:12:06.980 --> 00:12:13.740

Bryan Lewis - 164: When the transparency advocate proposal was first brought to us in June of 2021. We were very interested.

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00:12:14.010 --> 00:12:21.520

Bryan Lewis - 164: I became even more intrigued as I spearheaded conversations with the city of Atlanta Transparency officer that October.

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00:12:21.880 --> 00:12:34.740

Bryan Lewis - 164: along with former organs to archivist and others would appeal to us on the Commission was that this proposal is based on a proven model and good government practices and scaunch all over North America.

82

00:12:35.040 --> 00:12:40.070

Bryan Lewis - 164: That is an unbudsman only with a transparency focus

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00:12:40.210 --> 00:12:47.220

Bryan Lewis - 164: at the State level. Here in Oregon a similar position led to dramatic improvements in just 2 short years.

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00:12:47.610 --> 00:12:49.190

Bryan Lewis - 164: Not only this.

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00:12:49.260 --> 00:12:58.310

Bryan Lewis - 164: but the proponents had already run this proposal by several lawyers and experts meeting that by the time it got to Our commission

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00:12:58.360 --> 00:13:03.920

Bryan Lewis - 164: it was practice vetted and nearly ready to pass. Unfortunately.

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00:13:04.110 --> 00:13:15.070

Bryan Lewis - 164: we ran out of time. We were not able to have all of the discussions we had hoped. so. I was glad that in January this year our newly elected auditor, Simone Reed, took on the tests.

88

00:13:15.440 --> 00:13:16.600

Bryan Lewis - 164: In addition

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00:13:16.670 --> 00:13:30.770

Bryan Lewis - 164: to conducting further community engagement, the auditor has conducted multiple rounds of legal review, leading to further revisions, to address every concern, and ensure that this language is consistent with not only the charter, but every other applicable law.

90

00:13:31.960 --> 00:13:33.110

Bryan Lewis - 164: Mayor Wheeler

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00:13:33.590 --> 00:13:39.440

Bryan Lewis - 164: in 2,020. You and the city council adopted a resolution recognized and transparency

92

00:13:39.480 --> 00:13:41.610

as a core value of the city.

93

00:13:42.340 --> 00:13:49.190

Bryan Lewis - 164: But the city has yet to take steps necessary to operationalize needed institutional and cultural change.

94

00:13:49.540 --> 00:14:04.030

Bryan Lewis - 164: This proposal allows all of you to take that stop putting Portland hand in hand with a small group of cities around the country that have established offices to support transparency, such as Atlanta and Toronto.

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00:14:04.230 --> 00:14:11.900

Bryan Lewis - 164: or that have adopted transparency as an actual value, such as Kirkland, Washington, San Francisco, and Madison Wisconsin.

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00:14:12.350 --> 00:14:25.050

Bryan Lewis - 164: To be honest, some of the shorter Commissioners, and many in the community felt that sending this proposal to Council would be like asking the fox to provide advice on hen House design.

97

00:14:25.600 --> 00:14:28.950

Bryan Lewis - 164: But I prefer to think. But if we are to do

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00:14:28.980 --> 00:14:32.630

Bryan Lewis - 164: what has been asked of us, and reach to a new horizon

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00:14:32.720 --> 00:14:34.920

Bryan Lewis - 164: of what local democracy can be

100

00:14:35.290 --> 00:14:48.280

Bryan Lewis - 164: if we maintain our position near the head of the pack of cities who innovate, and there we would do well to ensure that our new people's government was one worthy of trust, and that is for that democracy.

101

00:14:48.640 --> 00:14:51.080

Bryan Lewis - 164: I respectfully urge you to do the right thing

102

00:14:51.320 --> 00:14:55.350

Bryan Lewis - 164: and vote on for this well vegetable government proposal.

103

00:14:59.290 --> 00:14:59.990

Bryan Lewis - 164: Thank you.

104

00:15:01.780 --> 00:15:06.730

Bryan Lewis - 164: If I may continue to read on behalf of the Homer Commissioner, that reporter

105

00:15:13.410 --> 00:15:24.560

Bryan Lewis - 164: i'm submitting written testimony in support of agenda. Item, 164 to establish a transparency position as a member and co-chair of the city, Corbyn Charter Commission.

106

00:15:25.010 --> 00:15:37.660

Bryan Lewis - 164: I voted in favor of forwarding this recommendation to the City Council. I'm. Writing today to strongly encourage commissioners to adopt this proposal in a time when accountability is inconsistent

107

00:15:38.020 --> 00:15:48.700

Bryan Lewis - 164: at us, and trust with Portland has been badly damaged. creating this position would send a strong signal that the Council understands the importance of transparency.

108

00:15:48.780 --> 00:15:54.280

Bryan Lewis - 164: and is committed to the city's core, obvious in action as well as what.

109

00:15:54.790 --> 00:16:08.310

Bryan Lewis - 164: while vacancies on the city showed a commission prevented moving this proposal directly to program voters. This issue of transparency was a frequent topic raised by Portlanders throughout the Charter Review process.

110

00:16:09.290 --> 00:16:20.430

Bryan Lewis - 164: This matches to 400, and it should matter to this council. The proposal before this Council today is a well constructed

111

00:16:20.610 --> 00:16:25.150

Bryan Lewis - 164: based on proving models and extensive expert inputs.

112

00:16:25.580 --> 00:16:31.430

Bryan Lewis - 164: The transparency advocate position, agenda item is not only much needed for this city.

113

00:16:31.510 --> 00:16:37.010

Bryan Lewis - 164: but it's a solid proposal. That city council should approve. Okay.

114

00:16:40.510 --> 00:16:46.870

Bryan Lewis - 164: if I may continue. This is the testimony of former charter Commissioner Candace Avalon.

115

00:16:48.340 --> 00:16:50.770

Bryan Lewis - 164: Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Rubio.

116

00:16:50.840 --> 00:16:59.710

Bryan Lewis - 164: Commissioner Ryan machine Maps, and Commission Gonzales transparency is what keeps our democracy run.

117

00:17:00.320 --> 00:17:09.839

Bryan Lewis - 164: which is why i'm here as a former Portland for the Commissioner to urge you to let voters decide whether to establish a office of the transparency Advocate.

118

00:17:10.810 --> 00:17:20.140

Bryan Lewis - 164: Recent newspaper reports show officials in City Hall claiming that the proposal for you who vote today has not received that

119

00:17:20.280 --> 00:17:23.400

Bryan Lewis - 164: community engagement or undergone revisions.

120

00:17:23.730 --> 00:17:25.470

Bryan Lewis - 164: That simply is not true.

121

00:17:26.210 --> 00:17:32.510

Bryan Lewis - 164: even though what the Charter Commission voted on was a draft to be sent to Council for approval.

122

00:17:32.570 --> 00:17:43.400

Bryan Lewis - 164: The reality is that that was a second draft. and it was based on well accepted good government research with expert and lawyer input. Not only

123

00:17:44.250 --> 00:17:56.010

Bryan Lewis - 164: that, but since the Charter Commission voted 12 to 0 to recommend this proposal for more of that thing. The auditor took on the baton and gave it additional multiple rounds of vetting.

124

00:17:56.080 --> 00:17:59.820

Bryan Lewis - 164: targeted engagement, legal review and revision.

125

00:18:00.040 --> 00:18:01.610

Bryan Lewis - 164: including to

126

00:18:01.650 --> 00:18:07.760

Bryan Lewis - 164: address concerns shared to city council, shared by city council and the city in turn.

127

00:18:08.430 --> 00:18:17.010

Bryan Lewis - 164: I am grateful that the auditor took on the job because many of us, on the Charter permission, fear the City Council would bear this proposal.

128

00:18:17.890 --> 00:18:22.730

Bryan Lewis - 164: If i'm reading the latest media reports correctly. that fear was justified.

129

00:18:24.120 --> 00:18:30.410

Bryan Lewis - 164: while people who prefer secrecy will claim that this proposal is complicated and risky.

130

00:18:30.590 --> 00:18:32.380

Bryan Lewis - 164: and still needs more button.

131

00:18:32.600 --> 00:18:40.920

Bryan Lewis - 164: The truth is, this proposal is not rocket sense. It is simply a transparency themed on buds.

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00:18:41.940 --> 00:18:47.770

Bryan Lewis - 164: Any claim to the contrary by members of city council are not based on accurate information

133

00:18:48.980 --> 00:18:54.880

Bryan Lewis - 164: in 2,020. Mayor Wheeler and the City Council approved transparency as a core value for the city.

134

00:18:55.410 --> 00:18:56.920

Bryan Lewis - 164: If that is true.

135

00:18:56.960 --> 00:19:01.110

Bryan Lewis - 164: you will let voters decide whether to establish this office.

136

00:19:01.660 --> 00:19:04.260

Bryan Lewis - 164: I urge you to go. Yes, on transparency.

137

00:19:05.170 --> 00:19:09.260

Bryan Lewis - 164: Thank you, Candace. Avalos, from a shorter commissioner and community applicants.

138

00:19:09.960 --> 00:19:21.430

Bryan Lewis - 164: I thank this body for giving me the time to speak today. and again urge you all to go by on this very important proposal for the future of our city.

139

00:19:21.940 --> 00:19:22.690

Bryan Lewis - 164: Thank you.

140

00:19:23.000 --> 00:19:25.140

Speaker: Thank you for your testimony. Appreciate it.

141

00:19:28.070 --> 00:19:39.470

Speaker: So now that you've heard some more about the process that this proposal took to get here, and the need for a transparency advocate to ensure a successful charter transition.

142

00:19:40.050 --> 00:19:45.150

as well as the importance of this issue for communities of color to participate in their government.

143

00:19:45.690 --> 00:19:58.320

Speaker: You're going to hear from practitioners in Oregon and Atlanta who can speak to the benefits of having a dedicated resource like this for our city as well as the public to address issues of transparency.

144

00:19:58.930 --> 00:20:06.650

Speaker: They're going to tell you why Portland needs a transparency advocate to build trust in city government, as it makes this historic transition.

145

00:20:07.510 --> 00:20:20.960

Speaker: At this time I would like to invite Kristen Dennis, chief transparency officer for the city of Atlanta and Ginger McCall, former State Portland, but former State public records advocate to share their remarks.

146

00:20:29.500 --> 00:20:31.860

Kristen Denius - 164: This is Kristen. Would you like me to go first?

147

00:20:33.670 --> 00:20:34.590

Speaker: Yes.

148

00:20:35.120 --> 00:21:00.350

Kristen Denius - 164: good afternoon greetings from Atlanta? My name is Kristen Dennis. I am the chief transparency officer for the city of Atlanta in Georgia. and I would love to share with you guys a little bit about the benefits that I have seen as a an employee of the city of Atlanta, and as a resident of the area with the creation of my position.

149

00:21:00.350 --> 00:21:10.770

Kristen Denius - 164: My first of all, I started off at the city of Atlanta as an attorney in the city's law department, and I was in that role for about 18 years before I transitioned into my current position.

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00:21:10.770 --> 00:21:36.530

Kristen Denius - 164: One of my duties was to advise on open Records City, Georgia, open records at compliance within the city of Atlanta, and there was a training component with that one when this position was created mayor at the time their

bottoms asked me to fill that role, and so my position is created in the executive branch of our government, and but I am appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by our city council.

151

00:21:36.810 --> 00:21:39.630

So I do have some independence in that regard.

152

00:21:39.650 --> 00:21:51.880

Kristen Denius - 164: and I do. My My role seems very similar to what is being proposed in Portland as a a transparency advocate in that I do a lot of interface with the public.

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00:21:51.880 --> 00:22:02.060

Kristen Denius - 164: and I and I act as a resource for both the public and our elected officials and our employees on how to best comply with the requirements of our one

154

00:22:02.130 --> 00:22:14.120

Kristen Denius - 164: Georgia Open Records Act. So my and I, my my authority specifically, does extend across all city employees and elected officials as well.

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00:22:14.150 --> 00:22:27.810

Kristen Denius - 164: So I and I additionally have an an investigative component where a a complaint has been made against someone within the city government around failure to comply with the provision of the open Records Act.

156

00:22:28.020 --> 00:22:47.150

Kristen Denius - 164: However, what I see is my main goal is to avoid that from happening entirely. So I do have a policy role and a training role at the city of Atlanta. And I have been, and i'm knocking on all the what I can find very successful in averting any of the situations that

157

00:22:47.150 --> 00:23:01.850

Kristen Denius - 164: sort of led to the creation of my position. And you can easily Google City of Atlanta and Georgia Open Records Act and see what some of those things are. We did not have a good reputation in the late 20 teens.

158

00:23:01.850 --> 00:23:07.720

Kristen Denius - 164: and since I have been in my position we have managed to avoid any

159

00:23:07.740 --> 00:23:09.920

Kristen Denius - 164: situations, repeating

160

00:23:09.950 --> 00:23:28.290

Kristen Denius - 164: just a few of the things that I have noticed in this position that are different than the experience I had with this. A very similar topic when I was in the city's law department is that the ability to have one centralized contact point for citizens is huge.

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00:23:28.290 --> 00:23:38.290

Kristen Denius - 164: Many times. Citizens do not have a good sense of how to even get started contacting someone in their government, and at least a lot of confusion and

162

00:23:38.580 --> 00:23:40.780

Kristen Denius - 164: and a lot of bad feelings when

163

00:23:40.850 --> 00:23:49.390

Kristen Denius - 164: the process probably worked fine. But they just came away feeling as though they were lost in. They were lost in the machine, maybe a cog in the wheel.

164

00:23:49.390 --> 00:24:03.170

Kristen Denius - 164: and especially since we you know those of us who work inside government. We understand how we do things, and it makes perfect sense to us. But citizens, Don't necessarily have that information, and and so, having a place to
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165

00:24:03.170 --> 00:24:10.130

Kristen Denius - 164: go to, maybe even just brainstorm. Hey? I think this is kind of what i'm looking for. What's the best way to go about that, Where should I ask?

166

00:24:10.180 --> 00:24:20.670

Kristen Denius - 164: Has been really helpful. And I've I've received a lot of very positive feedback directly from citizens about that specific piece. The other thing that's really been very useful is

167

00:24:20.900 --> 00:24:34.000

Kristen Denius - 164: that in my experience a lot of the issues that we see around open records and open meetings, compliance and just transparency in general involves a mismatch and understanding.

168

00:24:34.320 --> 00:24:52.300

Kristen Denius - 164: So folks in the community either Don't understand or have have bad information about what is required by the government under these laws, and so, having somebody like me, who can, they can have it a more in depth. Conversation with, to explain those things

169

00:24:52.300 --> 00:24:57.340

when they have a question or think something has gone wrong

170

00:24:57.360 --> 00:25:09.570

Kristen Denius - 164: really helps a lot. So it it de escalates the situation. I can provide information and explanation that say someone in the law department could not, because it might be considered to be legal advice to a citizen.

171

00:25:09.640 --> 00:25:16.510

Kristen Denius - 164: And so that has been shockingly helpful in my for my personal opinion.

172

00:25:16.520 --> 00:25:29.440

Kristen Denius - 164: The other thing that that my someone in my position kind of creates is an opportunity for folks within the the city government to have somebody to hand off

173

00:25:30.170 --> 00:25:49.590

Kristen Denius - 164: a a citizen who is perhaps displeased with their experience to date, so I am frequently offered as a resource if somebody seems to be having a difficult time, and then I can engage and and do that explanation piece that I that I described a minute ago.

174

00:25:49.680 --> 00:26:09.100

Kristen Denius - 164: And and it really is kind of a low stakes way for people within city government to provide service around transparency without having to take that

on themselves, and it it alleviates a burden in the law department for the the lawyers, who would have otherwise been

175

00:26:09.100 --> 00:26:20.120

Kristen Denius - 164: trying to navigate that process. You know, walking the line between not giving legal advice, but sort of diffusing a potential legal liability situation with a violation of a statute.

176

00:26:20.350 --> 00:26:33.580

Kristen Denius - 164: So those are. And and the other thing that I do is I have. I have a lot of information that I have made available and kind of layman's terms on a website that I have available to the public with frequently asked questions and and links to

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00:26:33.580 --> 00:26:42.280

Kristen Denius - 164: internal policies and things like that that I've created. So all of those things have been surprisingly helpful, and we have

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00:26:42.550 --> 00:26:52.350

Kristen Denius - 164: had a really good experience with this process so far at the city of Atlanta that is drastically different from the experiences we were having in the transparency realm. Up until that point

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00:26:52.410 --> 00:26:56.980

i'd be happy to answer any questions if it's appropriate at this time, or I can. I can hang out and wait.

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00:26:58.950 --> 00:27:14.260

Speaker: You have a question, Commissioner Gunsall. First of all, thank you for your testimony. Kristen. Commissioner Gonzales has a question for you. Thanks so much for your testimony. Kristen, can you remind me of your title in the city of Atlanta, and where you report in in the hierarchy there?

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00:27:14.430 --> 00:27:29.120

Kristen Denius - 164: Absolutely sure. So My title is chief Transparency officer. That sounds really fancy it's really just me. I'm not really chief over anyone but myself, and maybe my cat and dog. But

182

00:27:29.120 --> 00:27:38.610

Kristen Denius - 164: and definitely my kids. But and I report technically up through the executive offices, which is part of the Mayor's office.

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00:27:38.760 --> 00:27:46.500

But I do not sit in the Mayor's office. Physically, my my actual office is in the law department

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00:27:46.510 --> 00:28:04.340

Kristen Denius - 164: for convenience, for a couple of reasons, one. That's where my office was when I made the transition, and also my administrative support is through the law department, and I do work closely with members of the law department at the city of Atlanta on occasion on different matters. So it just made sense, from a

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00:28:04.340 --> 00:28:08.060

Kristen Denius - 164: practical standpoint for me to to stay in that

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00:28:08.120 --> 00:28:24.400

Kristen Denius - 164: kind of reporting structure. I also report up through the city attorney for just administrative purposes. So she's the one who would sign off on my leave requests if I were to submit one. But the the real. There was a lot of deliberate thought put into

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00:28:24.400 --> 00:28:35.820

Kristen Denius - 164: how to make my position as independent and not technical, you know, not dramatically aligned with either the the legislative or the executive brand. Parts of our government

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00:28:36.330 --> 00:28:38.550

Speaker: got it, and in so.

189

00:28:39.330 --> 00:28:50.830

Speaker: I mean is your background as an attorney or a paralegal. I didn't quite hear the attorney. No, it wasn't tricky, so so how does privilege work from your advantage? Point in your role. I don't have any.

190

00:28:50.910 --> 00:29:10.150

Kristen Denius - 164: I. I am no longer. I am an attorney. I'm still barred in Georgia, and I do have 18 years of experience as an attorney with the city of Atlanta, and a lot of people at the city know me in that context which can present problems, and I, I regularly remind folks that their conversations with me are no longer privileged, because I'm. No longer

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00:29:10.150 --> 00:29:15.380

acting in the capacity as an as a legal counsel for the city of Atlanta

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00:29:15.660 --> 00:29:34.770

Speaker: got it got it; and when there is a complaint that is filed by a member of the public, they they they would initiate that complaint with you. If if it relates to a public records item. Or how does how does the city? How do citizens engage with you

193

00:29:34.770 --> 00:29:36.510

in the context of a complaint?

194

00:29:36.950 --> 00:29:51.850

Kristen Denius - 164: So we have a lot of different ways that that can happen. I'm always. So all of my contact information is available on my website at the city of Atlanta, and Sometimes I joke that my name must be written on a wall somewhere, because people find me from all over the place.

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00:29:53.170 --> 00:30:04.670

Kristen Denius - 164: But so someone can submit a formal complaint to me in any way that they can get it to me, probably most typically via email or and it can be very formal. It can be, you know, in

196

00:30:04.790 --> 00:30:21.600

Kristen Denius - 164: this is a complaint. And I'm complaining about this, and this happened on this day, and and then I would proceed from that, or it could be as simple as somebody shooting me an email, saying, hey, i'm concerned about this request. I'm not sure it's being handled properly, and i'll I will also look into that. So we don't have any sort of a

197

00:30:21.600 --> 00:30:34.670

Kristen Denius - 164: threshold for what is considered to be an actionable complaint for me to to inquire about, and a lot of the time the the informal, compliant complaint. I you know it's more of like an alert

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00:30:34.670 --> 00:30:49.350

Kristen Denius - 164: is an opportunity for me to step in early on in a process before there's actually been any violation of the law, and just make sure that everybody stays on the rails, and that happens a lot, and it's been been a very helpful and useful process

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00:30:49.350 --> 00:31:01.770

Kristen Denius - 164: for for us at the city. Now I don't know that it what? Your ha! What's because for you all would be in a similar position to be able to do that. But you know, on the in the instances where I've received a complaint.

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00:31:01.770 --> 00:31:20.200

Kristen Denius - 164: A similar process is followed, I mean, I reach out to the in interior, in inside, folks and say, hey, look I've received this complaint, you know. I like a response from you within X amount of time, and then I proceed from there so far every single time that's happened it has been a misunderstanding

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00:31:20.200 --> 00:31:33.150

Kristen Denius - 164: that that I have sort of had an opportunity to mediate, and and I sort of think of that in the same regard as an a process that we have available through the Georgia Secretary of I'm. Sorry. The Georgia Attorney General's office.

202

00:31:33.150 --> 00:31:45.180

Kristen Denius - 164: their open Records compliance. Folks have a mediation, a formal mediation process. Where citizens can send a complaint, and they do a very similar thing. They'll reach out to whatever agency is one

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00:31:45.180 --> 00:31:54.490

Kristen Denius - 164: being accused of malfeasance or wrongdoing, or whatever, and and kind of work it out, and it works way better than the other option, which is for a citizen to follow a lawsuit.

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00:31:54.930 --> 00:31:58.740

Speaker: got it. So the last 2 questions related this.

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00:31:59.030 --> 00:32:14.240

walk me through the differences for you, and engaging with the member of the public versus a member of the press like, what is there are there? Does Does the press interact with you? Do they come to you for guidance as well? And is there material differences in that engagement.

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00:32:14.650 --> 00:32:28.970

Kristen Denius - 164: Sure, I mean. The only material difference in that engagement is that when I do receive communications from a member of the news media or the the print press, or even bloggers, or anybody who's sort of media adjacent.

207

00:32:28.970 --> 00:32:36.560

I will alert our mayor's office of communications just so that they're aware because they do have standing relationships with a lot of these folks.

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00:32:36.600 --> 00:32:50.560

Kristen Denius - 164: and it's helpful for them to know if somebody's having difficulties or has a question. But they're really other than that. There's really no difference in the way that I interact with the news media or as a or just a regular citizen.

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00:32:50.560 --> 00:33:11.370

because the law applies to everybody the same, and and my interest is in making sure that that we stay in within the guardrails of the law at all times. They, the news media is actually, I'll save you the trouble of Googling. The news that our local print, newspaper and and kind of media organization, Aj. C. Wsb.

210

00:33:11.460 --> 00:33:24.820

Kristen Denius - 164: Was part of the process of of my position being created, they filed a complaint with the Attorney General's office in our state about some activities that happened in the late at at the end of 2,

211

00:33:25.280 --> 00:33:29.030

Kristen Denius - 164: 3 years ago. 2,017 is.

212

00:33:29.040 --> 00:33:39.120

Kristen Denius - 164: and so we and and the city ended up entering into a settlement agreement with the Attorney General's office. That and one of the provisions was the creation of a position like mine.

213

00:33:39.230 --> 00:33:48.620

Kristen Denius - 164: and so that that particular organization, and all of their their kind of competitors in our market. Sort of feel a

214

00:33:48.810 --> 00:33:49.710

Kristen Denius - 164: I I

215

00:33:50.270 --> 00:34:03.150

Kristen Denius - 164: We have friendly feelings. They sort of feel like they contributed to my existence, and they they appreciate having somebody to contact directly. If they feel as though they're having a problem.

216

00:34:03.730 --> 00:34:19.389

Speaker: Got it. Got it last question here, and then thank you for my colleagues for tolerating all of them here. But the you know i'm relatively new to as a city commissioner. Here I have been struck by the tremendous cost at times

217

00:34:19.389 --> 00:34:41.020

that the city has to go through for public records, request the amount of resources that it absorbs, and it's really a phenomenal public policy, Balancing act right, the need for transparency, the need, the the presses entitlement to dig into issues and to get prompt response a concern Citizens ability to dig in on the one hand.

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00:34:41.050 --> 00:34:59.490

Speaker: but on the other just tremendous cost to the city in both time spent in dollars of I mean, I think we just approved 3 ftes in a last budget cycle devoted just to public records, and it's it's it's real when we'd like to be hiring fire and 9 1 One dispatchers.

219

00:34:59.490 --> 00:35:07.540

I guess, maybe just walk me through from your advantage point. Since you you've gotten into your position.

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00:35:07.540 --> 00:35:20.620

Speaker: how have you addressed, managing the cost and the absorption of resources for the city of Atlanta and your role in trying to balancing those competing policy considerations.

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00:35:20.850 --> 00:35:29.910

Kristen Denius - 164: Sure. So we've. We have, as you said, as you have described, complying with public records, laws is not cost neutral.

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00:35:29.910 --> 00:35:42.830

and we are never, even with the we have some cost recovery provisions in the Georgia Open Records Act. I'm not sure. I honestly haven't had a chance to look up your laws to see how similar or distant, or they may be.

223

00:35:42.940 --> 00:36:01.560

Kristen Denius - 164: But we're never going to even break, even on the amount of resources that we expand in complying with these records. Laws what I will say 100 is that litigation around open records at compliance is way more costly than than a transparency officer.

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00:36:01.560 --> 00:36:10.050

Kristen Denius - 164: And so and we've had considerable amounts of litigation around alleged noncompliance with the open Records act at the city of Atlanta.

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00:36:10.190 --> 00:36:11.520

And so

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00:36:11.550 --> 00:36:23.510

Kristen Denius - 164: one of the one of the things that I can do in my position is definitely address those issues that arise before it gets to that point where it does become extremely costly and time consuming.

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00:36:23.510 --> 00:36:43.180

Kristen Denius - 164: But also I. I am a resource for training and for advice, and for brainstorming, for those individuals within the city whose job responsibility includes, complying with open records, act requests for their particular departments, and the city is very large. So we have actually designated an official

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00:36:43.180 --> 00:36:49.240

records officer for each department, and each department is is considered to be the custodian of its own requests.

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00:36:49.520 --> 00:37:03.940

Kristen Denius - 164: And so there are quite a few folks in our within within the city of Atlanta who who have this role, and it is a lot, and I I tell them straight up, like I sympathize. But there's not much we can do, because we are required to comply with this law.

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00:37:03.950 --> 00:37:12.830

Kristen Denius - 164: and we're whether it's expensive and time consuming, and frankly, a pain in everybody's backside or not. And so the my role does

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00:37:13.130 --> 00:37:16.050

Kristen Denius - 164: have the benefit of being able to

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00:37:17.370 --> 00:37:36.000

Kristen Denius - 164: kind of spread best practices out. So like, if one department is doing something particularly well, I can, you know, provide that information and kind of guidance on how to maybe implement that in other departments, you know, everybody has a different workflow because of the types of documents they have, and and different different levels of

233

00:37:36.000 --> 00:37:50.980

Kristen Denius - 164: responsibility around finding them, and how hard that might be. But it does seem to be helpful to have a place where those folks can say, hey, I've received this request. I'm really unsure about what to do with it, because I I will tell you

234

00:37:51.390 --> 00:38:05.720

Kristen Denius - 164: in my experience that we're 22 years the places where we have not complied with the law and gotten gotten really smack for it are places where people just weren't sure what to do. They didn't want to do the wrong thing. And so they did nothing.

235

00:38:05.830 --> 00:38:17.130

Kristen Denius - 164: and and so and that's a that that's real. That's very human. It's it's sort of a paralyzing situation. When you get a request that's completely confusing, and and you're really not sure what to do with it 150

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00:38:17.130 --> 00:38:35.520

Kristen Denius - 164: having somebody in a role like mine. But they can pick up the phone or send me an email. We can jump on a teams meeting or whatever, and they have a chance to walk, walk through it with me, and we can. We can sort of parse it out and say, okay, this is what you should do first. This is how you should handle this piece. It is really helpful, and it keeps it kind of moves people off of the starting block.

237

00:38:35.550 --> 00:38:44.620

Kristen Denius - 164: and and just helps with prioritizing and making sure that they can get through all the things that they have to get through in order to comply with the wall.

238

00:38:45.010 --> 00:38:51.640

Kristen Denius - 164: Appreciate it, and appreciate my colleagues indulging all those questions. Thank you very much for your testimony, Kristen. You're welcome.

239

00:38:51.640 --> 00:39:05.930

Speaker: No, those those were actually that was a great conversation.

240

00:39:05.930 --> 00:39:19.000

Speaker: And your dog I would debate if you ever have authority over cats, which is my experience. But you, you who the person who hired you was appointed by the mayor, and then approved by Council vote?

241

00:39:19.190 --> 00:39:22.740

Kristen Denius - 164: No, actually so, My! I was appointed by the Mayor.

242

00:39:22.760 --> 00:39:34.920

Kristen Denius - 164: That's what that's what i'm sorry that's what I meant to say.

243

00:39:34.980 --> 00:39:36.400

Kristen Denius - 164: Who was

244

00:39:36.440 --> 00:39:55.920

Kristen Denius - 164: tasked with drafting all of these dot, all of the you know the ordinances and things like that. I never expected to be in this role. I was going to be that person's lawyer, and so but the the mayor at the time Keisha Bottoms asked me to to step into this role, and that's it. It's been it's been fantastic.

245

00:39:55.920 --> 00:40:06.580

Kristen Denius - 164: but so there was a lot of very deliberate thought when this position was being created about how to make it as independent as possible, because one of the

246

00:40:06.590 --> 00:40:14.590

Kristen Denius - 164: issues that we were dealing with at the time was allegations of political interference with compliance with the Open Records Act.

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00:40:14.900 --> 00:40:19.060

Kristen Denius - 164: And so the way they did that was to have the

248

00:40:19.100 --> 00:40:32.640

Kristen Denius - 164: the position app appointed by the mayor, so the mayor has the discretion to a point, whoever he or she wants, and then the the has to be confirmed by a majority vote of the city council, and then on the on the back side. The

249

00:40:32.740 --> 00:40:35.820

whoever sitting in my position cannot be removed

250

00:40:35.860 --> 00:40:37.690

Kristen Denius - 164: without

251

00:40:38.910 --> 00:40:52.500

Kristen Denius - 164: a written notice from the Mayor and an approval of the Council, so there. There is no way for someone to exert and do influence around. How we comply with the open Records Act

252

00:40:52.570 --> 00:40:59.010

Speaker: that. Thank you, Kristen, for confirming actually how you fit into the construct in the city of Atlanta. Appreciate it.

253

00:40:59.470 --> 00:41:12.520

If I could ask one follow up. I think I heard the answer. There your position was created by ordinance. Is that correct? Not by charter. I believe so.

254

00:41:12.800 --> 00:41:14.460

Kristen Denius - 164: I would have to go back and check

255

00:41:14.480 --> 00:41:32.740

Kristen Denius - 164: It's been a minute, our, and we had it. We created a new section of our code around transparency, and i'm fairly certain that that's where the authority from my position is our.

256

00:41:33.330 --> 00:41:38.760

Kristen Denius - 164: and our tier is also als0 Our charter is also amended by ordinance. It just takes a separate read.

257

00:41:39.880 --> 00:41:54.970

Oh, that's interesting, too. So here's here's a question I have for you, do you? You? You expressed the importance of independence, and actually on your website. It stresses the importance of independence. And I certainly agree with that.

258

00:41:55.110 --> 00:42:04.540

Speaker: Do you believe that that has worked, even though your position was created by the Mayor and the City council through ordinance. Do you believe you've remained

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00:42:04.830 --> 00:42:08.270

Speaker: an independent voice and a community advocate?

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00:42:08.840 --> 00:42:15.270

Kristen Denius - 164: I do. You know I I've been at the city for a very long time, and

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00:42:15.370 --> 00:42:26.820

Kristen Denius - 164: I can definitely say that I feel that my current position is very is much less firmly aligned in the operational executive

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00:42:26.980 --> 00:42:46.060

Kristen Denius - 164: than than I was when I was in the law department. There's a perception that the city of Atlanta that the Law Department works for the mayor, even though it's the the city attorney is a dual report in our in our form of government, so we do have separate branches of government. We have the legislative branch of the city attorney

263

00:42:46.060 --> 00:42:49.700

reports actually to the Mayor and the Council.

264

00:42:49.860 --> 00:43:03.480

Kristen Denius - 164: and that was another reason that my position was kind of left in the law department, because there's there on paper and in structure there is more independence and in the law department. But the perception at the city of Atlanta, because

265

00:43:03.480 --> 00:43:18.990

Kristen Denius - 164: of the way. Government just works quite frankly where the Executive is the one that the executive branch is the one that usually at least in our in our government we have a strong mayor, we council form of government. That's not Those are not my words. It's the words in the law.

266

00:43:18.990 --> 00:43:44.280

Kristen Denius - 164: and there's certainly nothing weak about our city council, but just by the nature of the way the city operates due to its construction. The the

executive branch is a little bit more active and proposing laws and things like that, where the law department has more of a public face. And so the perception is a little bit that the law department is more closely aligned with the executive branch in the current. In my current role I really do feel equally

267

00:43:47.240 --> 00:43:57.990

Kristen Denius - 164: kind of just equally distributed. If there's a better word to say that I'm not sure what it is that I don't get the sense. I don't get the same sense that people look at me as representing the Mayor

268

00:43:58.170 --> 00:44:00.700

Kristen Denius - 164: that I did when I was in the law department.

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00:44:01.960 --> 00:44:05.600

Very good. Thank you. Appreciate your testimony.

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00:44:12.750 --> 00:44:19.610

Speaker: Thank you, Kristen, and thank you, Council, for your engagement. I appreciate your levity as well. Kristen.

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00:44:19.690 --> 00:44:23.600

I'd like to invite Ginger to share her remarks now

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00:44:24.430 --> 00:44:30.110

Ginger McCall - 164: Thank you very much, and thank you for inviting me to make remarks on this. Can you hear me

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00:44:30.770 --> 00:44:55.890

Ginger McCall - 164: loud and clear, and we can see you as well, and I apologize for the background noise. It is dinner time here on the east Coast, so you will probably hear my children. My name is Ginger Kinter. I'm a call, and I was the first Oregon's first public records Advocate. I'm testifying today to voice my strong support for the transparency advocate.

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00:44:55.890 --> 00:45:02.560

Ginger McCall - 164: But on the State level, and in my time as advocate, I saw firsthand the problems that the city of Portland has with public records.

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00:45:02.560 --> 00:45:31.290

Ginger McCall - 164: I received numerous consistent complaints about the city's processing of public records requests especially related to delays and excess fees being charged for providing records, as I noted in my own formal report, portland's, public records, fee policy charging a staff hourly rate plus up to 42% more to cover for employee benefits stands out as exorbitant even in a state where high public records fees are the norm. The city of Portland was, in fact, the most frequent subject of complaints I received. As for the records advocate.

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00:45:31.600 --> 00:45:46.970

Ginger McCall - 164: I believe that, having an office that is tasked with studying Portland, specific public records, practices, and challenges, and proposing solutions would be a great benefit to the city. This position will be complementary to the state's. Public records, Advocates office which focuses primarily on mediation and training.

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00:45:46.970 --> 00:46:06.660

Ginger McCall - 164: The transparency advocate could devote significantly more time to assessing Portland's public records, processes, and making nuance suggestions for improvements in regular reports. These reports would be able to address systemic city specific issues more easily than the State public records advocates office, which is focused again on mediation of individual cases.

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00:46:06.810 --> 00:46:28.980

Ginger McCall - 164: Some public records issues like confusion over the scope or the subject of a particular request are more appropriate for individual mediation. But other issues, like the city of Portland's practice of charging excessive fees are systemic issues that are more appropriate for study and evaluation in a report dealing with systemic issues individually over and over through mediation, is inefficient, and waste both time and taxpayer dollars.

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00:46:29.060 --> 00:46:35.510

Ginger McCall - 164: Having a transparency advocate that focuses attention on city public records. Processes will greatly benefit public access

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00:46:35.510 --> 00:46:53.620

Ginger McCall - 164: for city officials. Just knowing that someone is exercising oversight regarding public records, decisions will likely motivate better behavior and more responsive customer service, and my work is, or against public records advocate. I often found that simply calling a public official and inquiring about a public records decision was enough to motivate swift action.

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00:46:53.620 --> 00:47:07.430

Ginger McCall - 164: oversight and accountability work to create better and more responsive government as discussed earlier in this this discussion. Independence is important for this position. I saw this first hand in my own experience as public records advocate

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00:47:07.490 --> 00:47:14.350

this office's placement in the auditor's office will help to ensure that independence, and will make the transparency advocate and effective on Buds person.

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00:47:14.450 --> 00:47:44.450

Ginger McCall - 164: I also want to second Kristen's statement about how a transparency Office can assist citizens and their basic questions about public records and help to lower the temperature of the public records, dispute. This office can offer basic information about public records request which is a great public service, and will actually improve the quality of requests which decreases time spent processing, and may even decrease litigation. As Brian said, there's nothing radical about this proposal. Offices like this exist on local State and the Federal level, including the Federal office of government information services

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00:47:44.450 --> 00:47:59.320

Ginger McCall - 164: in the national Archives and the public records advocate right here in Oregon. These offices have effectively and efficiently improved public access and by extension, public trust. For these reasons I would urge you to approve this proposal, and i'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

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00:48:01.770 --> 00:48:12.160

Thank you, colleagues, any questions. Commissioner. Yeah, thank you so much, Ginger. For that testimony. I didn't catch how long you were in the role at the State of Oregon.

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00:48:12.480 --> 00:48:20.540

Ginger McCall - 164: I was the public records advocate for a year and a half before I resigned because there was a political, attempted political interference in the office.

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00:48:20.720 --> 00:48:28.160

Speaker: The office has since become independent through the Legislature. You said a year and a half. Did you say the start? Date and date? I didn't hear that

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00:48:28.230 --> 00:48:31.330

I started, and I believe April of

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00:48:32.020 --> 00:48:39.350

Ginger McCall - 164: 2,018, and I left in September of 2,019.

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00:48:40.190 --> 00:49:00.180

Speaker: So I I to ask, and if this is a sore subject. Just tell me to stuff it. You said you left due to political interference. Can can you give us? Because I thought that's part of what this was trying to avoid. Can you tell us a little bit about what happened unless this is a subject of litigation or something, which case i'm. I'm happy to move on.

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00:49:00.180 --> 00:49:06.690

Ginger McCall - 164: No, no, it's not a sore subject. It's actually easily discoverable information in many news Media reports.

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00:49:06.690 --> 00:49:27.840

Ginger McCall - 164: The office was envisioned to be independent. It was so. I was appointed by the Governor's office with a clause. I believe that, said I could only be dismissed for cause, but I was to report to the public Records Advisory Council, which was an independent body. It was composed of a mix of

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00:49:28.130 --> 00:49:31.630

Ginger McCall - 164: members of the Requester community and members of Government.

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00:49:33.110 --> 00:49:43.260

Ginger McCall - 164: The governor's office, despite telling the public and the Legislature that this was meant to be an independent office, someone in her office basically let me know that what I should be doing is they're getting

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00:49:43.290 --> 00:49:55.960

potentially slowing down proposals that the Governor's office did not like. The other complication, for this office was that my budget still went through the Department of Administrative services, and the Governor's side of the budgeting process.

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00:49:56.130 --> 00:50:01.420

So you know, place in this position where I felt like I.

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00:50:01.640 --> 00:50:17.800

Ginger McCall - 164: It was an impossible ethical position for me to be in to not own up to the public that I was doing the Governor's office, bidding to not own up to the Council that I reported to that. That was what I was doing, and and basically to not be an independent office made it impossible for me to continue to function in that situation.

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00:50:17.800 --> 00:50:22.110

Speaker: Thank you. It sounds like you are standing on principle, and I

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00:50:22.590 --> 00:50:40.280

appreciate that. And thank you for sharing that Commissioner maps you had a question for that is, yeah. But, Ginger, thank you for your testimony today. I wasn't going to get into this, but as long as we we did I do. I think I vaguely remember your tenure in that post, and I think, even since you've left.

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00:50:40.780 --> 00:50:58.370

Speaker: at least in my casual observations. It seems like that office has continued to have some challenges. Could you unpack a little bit? Some of the sort of a structural challenge challenges or chronic challenges that you that that office at the State level here in Oregon seems to experience around transparency.

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00:50:59.140 --> 00:51:11.910

Ginger McCall - 164: So I I think you know the the challenges are. you know, numerous, obviously public records. Disputes are numerous, and so you need to make sure you have adequate staffing and an adequate budget.

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00:51:12.000 --> 00:51:30.380

Ginger McCall - 164: The office needs to be independent, which I think putting it in the auditors office is the correct location for it, You know, in the city level on the State level. I I believe that they ended up just making it a separate independent office with a separate independent budget. But you know you need to ensure the independence of the onbuds person.

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00:51:30.460 --> 00:51:46.560

Ginger McCall - 164: The office needs to be adequately funded. And honestly. You have to find the person who is dispositionally well suited to that particular position someone who cares deeply about public records, someone who interacts well with the public, but also has trust with the government.

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00:51:46.560 --> 00:52:02.550

Ginger McCall - 164: You know. I mean, I think that that that might be one of the biggest challenges, just finding someone who can who can meet those demands, because you know, the customer service aspect of it is really important. I mean, I think it's important for everyone in government to exercise good customer service because we serve the public.

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00:52:02.580 --> 00:52:07.780

Ginger McCall - 164: and having a disposition where you want to talk to people you want to help. People, I think, is very important.

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00:52:07.930 --> 00:52:13.400

So you know, staffing the office correctly, I think, is, is a big challenge and an important one.

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00:52:14.540 --> 00:52:16.870

Thanks, Ms. McCall. No more questions.

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00:52:17.090 --> 00:52:27.230

Speaker: I have one more question, and I appreciate this back and forth. This feels a little like a work session, which is what I'd hoped we'd have

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00:52:28.410 --> 00:52:41.680

Speaker: you You'd suggested at the city level. The auditor's office is the correct place. To put this we heard earlier from Kristen that in their executive form of government it worked better for them under the Executive.

310

00:52:42.340 --> 00:52:53.100

Speaker: Why not? Since we are talking about nothing less than a change to the city's governing documents to our charter and the formal structure of our government or government.

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00:52:53.190 --> 00:52:58.560

Speaker: Why not just have it be completely independent. Why have it report to any political officer?

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00:53:00.910 --> 00:53:09.430

Ginger McCall - 164: I'm not an expert on Portland's particular form of government, so I can't really speak to whether or not that would be possible.

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00:53:10.560 --> 00:53:25.820

Ginger McCall - 164: I mean the the other piece of it. Is it to get an office off the ground? And this was a real challenge. You have to have administrative support, and one thing that was very good about my office originally. So my office was situated with administrative support from the Secretary of State's office.

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00:53:25.820 --> 00:53:33.510

Ginger McCall - 164: and then, you know, the Governor's office appointed me so that that separation was meant to create the independence. Unfortunately.

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00:53:34.710 --> 00:54:01.020

Ginger McCall - 164: the Secretary of State passed away, and some of the protection that I had from that office was eliminated, but having the administrative support from that office was really essential for me to get my office off the ground. I mean just silly things like someone setting up a website for me, Someone, you know, teaching me the ropes of of government and the budgeting process, and how to submit a reimbursement request. I think that is the place where you know the auditor's office, at least as a starting point, is a good place to start

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00:54:01.020 --> 00:54:18.090

Ginger McCall - 164: to give this office the administrative support that it needs to succeed Good. And that that makes sense. That's a a a thoughtful answer. I'm. Just sort of thinking in the structure of our government, even going forward. Our economic development agency is actually independent, has its own independent Governance Board.

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00:54:18.090 --> 00:54:23.640

There are intersections with the city around Budget and other areas.

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00:54:23.690 --> 00:54:31.010

Speaker: but with with thought there could be even more or true independence

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00:54:31.030 --> 00:54:52.190

Speaker: as we're discussing it here today. But I appreciate your testimony. And you're being here 2 0ther Our Commissioner maps did. You? Are you back on. Yeah, I I am back on. I was gonna let this for call go. But actually, I think she's a really important person for this Council to talk to frankly, colleagues, when I think about this particular position, the metaphor, At least one of the examples I look to

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00:54:52.190 --> 00:55:08.980

Speaker: is the position that Ms. Mccall used to hold it at the State, so I've actually been kind of eager to pick your brain. And I got 2 questions. One. You may not be in a good position to answer. But i'll ask anyway. Miss Mccall, do you have any opinion about the

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00:55:09.400 --> 00:55:24.170

Speaker: proper place to right to create this office as in should this live in code, or should this live on the charger? And I recognize you, might that might not be your area of expertise. But if you have an opinion i'd be interested in hearing it.

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00:55:25.050 --> 00:55:34.190

Ginger McCall - 164: I don't really have a strong opinion other than if Charter makes it a more permanent position. I would favor charter.

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00:55:34.190 --> 00:55:50.710

The second question I have is, you know, we have a fairly. I think we have a one-page proposal before us today, which just creates the office in terms of actually defining the responsibilities. All that sort of administrative rules, or whatever. That is. How complicated

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00:55:50.710 --> 00:55:54.470

Speaker: is that i'm trying to figure out

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00:55:54.990 --> 00:56:06.810

Speaker: what that works look like looks like. Who does that work? How much public engagement there should be around some of that back office stuff that really defines what what you do on a day to day basis any insights there.

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00:56:07.090 --> 00:56:22.230

Ginger McCall - 164: Yeah. So looking at the proposal, I actually, I think it's adequate for you to hire someone in for them to sort of run with this in a way that's effective, I mean, I don't think it's any more vague than the the law that ended up creating. You know, my former office.

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00:56:22.250 --> 00:56:38.590

Ginger McCall - 164: I I think that there's enough here that this person sort of knows what their basic marching orders are. You know what they need to be working on. You know the job of this office is to take public complaints. It is to investigate complaints and potentially to issue reports and recommendations. And I think that is

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00:56:39.330 --> 00:56:55.030

Ginger McCall - 164: given what I've seen of the city of Portland public records problems that will be an adequate amount of work for a full time employee. So I think you know, if you get someone who is ambitious and and cares about this a lot, this this will, will Will this amount of this scope will be adequate?

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00:56:55.340 --> 00:56:58.810

Thank you. Ms. Mccall. Do more questions, I promise.

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00:56:58.880 --> 00:57:16.940

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio. Thank you, and thank you. Ms. Mccall for being here, I really appreciate, and it's been really great to hear your experience. My

question is around capacity and staffing, and you mentioned a few times now how it's really important to fund it well, and to to ensure you have

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00:57:16.940 --> 00:57:36.730

Speaker: the staff necessary to to do this job well and and be responsive and effective, and I know you don't you. You don't you. You're not in a position to assess our capacity here at the city. But can you give us just an idea from your experience, maybe, what what consists of adequate capacity, how much staff, and what

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00:57:36.730 --> 00:57:44.130

what was a typical budget for something that you felt was enough, or was it even enough for for your experience?

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00:57:44.330 --> 00:57:56.760

Ginger McCall - 164: Thank you. So, staffing Wise? Thank you for the question. By the way, thank you everyone for the questions. I'm always happy to talk about public records, staffing wise. I was the only person in my office for about the first.

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00:57:58.420 --> 00:58:13.770

Ginger McCall - 164: not like 7 Or 8 months, I think, before I hired my deputy, because it was just a slow hiring process. You know I had to get everything together. I had to do the interviews, and I think it up until that point. It was probably adequate staffing. You know, the one

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00:58:13.770 --> 00:58:26.490

Ginger McCall - 164: really resource heavy thing that my office did. That this office will not be doing is the mediation. The mediation is very resource heavy for us. The training was very resource heavy because I was expected to train throughout the State.

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00:58:26.510 --> 00:58:38.460

Ginger McCall - 164: which you know, if i'm over on the other side. Or, again, if i'm you know, off on the eastern side of the State. I can't be. It's much harder for me to do mediation right, so I would be kind of spread very thin that way.

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00:58:38.460 --> 00:58:57.860

Ginger McCall - 164: I think, at least to start off having one full time employee who's fully devoted to this transparency advocate position will be adequate, provided that that person has the kind of administrative support that the auditor was talking about earlier coming from the auditor's office. You know someone to help out with with the websites someone to to help out with.

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00:58:57.960 --> 00:59:17.560

Ginger McCall - 164: You know it, Support those sorts of things. I I think one person is adequate for the time being. If you end up finding that you need someone else. Then you know, potentially, you could change that. But I think, starting off having one transparency advocate, I think that would be adequate. Given the description that I saw in the proposal, and given. You know the work that I did.

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00:59:19.730 --> 00:59:37.870

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzales has another, and thank you so much for for being here and answering our questions. But Ms. McCall, just by just a benchmark. Are you aware of any other Portland or organ cities that have adopted a transparency advocate. And what does that look like in in those cities?

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00:59:38.730 --> 00:59:47.220

Ginger McCall - 164: I am not. But I have to be honest. I haven't really kept on up on sort of the nuances of of Portland's public records work since my departure.

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00:59:47.660 --> 00:59:56.490

Speaker: But but you're not. Are you aware of any similar position in Oregon? Any other cities in Oregon that have adopted a transparency advocate.

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00:59:57.140 --> 01:00:17.140

Ginger McCall - 164: Not that i'm aware of.

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01:00:22.360 --> 01:00:32.560

If I could comment on that last question, this would be a first for Portland, and, I believe, a first for Oregon, in terms of leading in the area of transparency.

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01:00:32.730 --> 01:00:39.320

and that's consistent with the legacy of the Auditor's office and our institution.

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01:00:39.890 --> 01:00:49.230

Speaker: I want to thank Kristen and Ginger so much for their testimony, and each of you Council members for your engagement on this issue.

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01:00:49.910 --> 01:00:51.350

I think

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01:00:51.540 --> 01:00:59.760

Speaker: I can say with confidence that you have a clearer understanding of the value that this type of position would bring to our city and its residents.

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01:00:59.880 --> 01:01:05.890

and particularly the benefits that it offers council offices, and city bureaus alike.

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01:01:06.530 --> 01:01:17.120

Speaker: I want to reiterate why it makes sense for my office to implement this proposal with help from a very special guest, a former Monoma County auditor

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01:01:17.160 --> 01:01:21.100

Speaker: and former Portland City auditor, Levon Griffin, Vlad.

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01:01:27.920 --> 01:01:30.400

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Hello.

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01:01:30.490 --> 01:01:32.220

Hi!

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01:01:32.820 --> 01:01:38.260

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: That was a very interesting discussion. But anyway, how she then for this myself.

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01:01:38.510 --> 01:01:44.680

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm. A longer from delay, and as

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01:01:44.710 --> 01:01:57.020

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Simone mentioned, I was the former i'm on the county auditor, and then I became the city auditor, and I was the auditor from 2,009 through 2,014,

356

01:01:57.180 --> 01:02:01.440

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: and it's nice to be here today among friends

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01:02:01.490 --> 01:02:05.160

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: and former colleagues and members of the public.

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01:02:05.490 --> 01:02:11.080

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: I want you to know that I don't have a still the experience that the the

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01:02:11.160 --> 01:02:15.840

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: 2 professionals who just testified in front of me

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01:02:15.920 --> 01:02:18.740

d0 On this matter. But

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01:02:20.640 --> 01:02:27.190

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: and some of that is because I've been kept busy these past years since since leaving office.

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01:02:27.220 --> 01:02:31.320

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: and i'm offered for a novel set in Eastern Reagan.

363

01:02:31.350 --> 01:02:40.690

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: But i'm not here today to haw my books. I came to ask you this. I'm gonna show up hands, please, Who does not like transparency?

364

01:02:42.180 --> 01:02:43.150

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Okay.

365

01:02:43.280 --> 01:02:45.710

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: all right.

366

01:02:46.740 --> 01:03:03.290

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Transparency is critical for effective and well functioning governance. And I'm proud the city of Portland has had us have set of transparency tools via the independence to the editor's office, built into this institution for more than a century.

367

01:03:03.680 --> 01:03:09.720

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Among those tools. Our performance audits oversight of annual financial audits.

368

01:03:09.730 --> 01:03:12.140

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: and the Independent Ombudsman.

369

01:03:13.370 --> 01:03:30.380

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: The transparency of the position was recommended by a majority of members of the Charter reviewed mission, and as modeled after similar transparency functions at at at the State of Oregon, as you know, and the State of Arizona.

370

01:03:30.380 --> 01:03:40.180

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: as well as the city of Atlanta and the city of Toronto, both of which have auditors offices similar to the

371

01:03:40.740 --> 01:03:59.380

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: the transparency of that would be the point of contact to manage transparency and records related issues more broadly. The transparency had to its role would include the examination of other areas of of transparency related to public records long

372

01:03:59.710 --> 01:04:07.330

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: regarding the city attorneys world in records related matters. I'd like to note that the city of Portland.

373

01:04:07.580 --> 01:04:18.690

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: It is the sole client and interest of the city attorney's office, having a transparency advocate within the City Auditors office

374

01:04:18.730 --> 01:04:31.570

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: would provide Portlanders with an impartial body that addresses their public records, concerns the city attorney is not in the position to provide those services

375

01:04:31.900 --> 01:04:35.940

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: to community members and organizations.

376

01:04:37.070 --> 01:04:46.170

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Finally, i'd like to applaud our new city auditor for her courage, and, moving forward with this. Ask for greater transparency

377

01:04:46.190 --> 01:04:56.580

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: reportedly, in the face of some resistance from council. That shows she has guts, and you want to guts the auditor on your side and the on the city side.

378

01:04:57.280 --> 01:05:05.090

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Thank you for your time. That's all I have to say today that if you have any questions of me feel free to ask.

379

01:05:06.070 --> 01:05:09.420

LaVonne Griffin-Valade - 164: Thank you, and it's good, seeing you. Thank you for being here.

380

01:05:14.790 --> 01:05:30.700

Thank you, Lavon. I want to thank all of you again for taking the time to engage in this very important discussion, and for taking this proposal seriously. I hope that this presentation has clarified the purpose of the transparency advocate proposal

381

01:05:30.940 --> 01:05:41.410

Speaker: where it came from, why it matters, and how it will be implemented. Beyond that, I hope that this presentation has shown you that, referring this charter amendment to voters.

382

01:05:41.490 --> 01:05:49.760

Speaker: We'll put Portland on the leading edge of transparency where it belongs, and further on the path of an inclusive and responsive government.

383

01:05:50.430 --> 01:06:01.480

Speaker: I ask that you consider the confines of our new system, and not the one we are working to transform today. And let this be your lasting contribution to Our city's continued growth.

384

01:06:03.030 --> 01:06:13.530

Speaker: I would like to thank our community members for their oral and written testimony. our speakers for sharing their wisdom with us. and the voters for pushing all of us to do better

385

01:06:14.140 --> 01:06:31.610

Speaker: with that. I would like to remind you that the Transparency advocate proposal has touched many hands. It originated from community organizations. It was advanced by the Charter Review Commission and refined by my office with input from technical experts in and outside of the city.

386

01:06:32.790 --> 01:06:49.440

I request that you refer this measure to Portlanders for their consideration in May. I would like to thank my chief deputy auditor, Reed Broderson for his multidisciplinary dedication and the rest of my team for lending their legal budget and policy expertise to this endeavor.

387

01:06:49.880 --> 01:06:55.720

Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Wheeler, and thank you, Commissioners for your consideration and your continued input.

388

01:06:56.160 --> 01:07:08.290

Speaker: Finally, I ask that if there are amendments to this proposal that I please have the opportunity to comment as the elected official who referred this measure to you and the leader who is charged with implementing it.

389

01:07:10.260 --> 01:07:22.730

Speaker: Very good, thank you. And does that complete your presentation? Did you have invited testimony, or were just going right to the public testimony. Those were my guests. So if there is public testimony, I can take a seat. Very good. Thank you.

390

01:07:23.310 --> 01:07:34.680

Speaker: Yeah. So the the Council clerk will call people in turn. 3 min each, please. And if you could just state your name for the record, Thank you. Thank you, Mayor. First up we have Michael Mills

391

01:07:36.540 --> 01:07:37.380

Speaker: welcome.

392

01:07:43.370 --> 01:07:45.580

Speaker: Michael is joining us online.

393

01:07:47.970 --> 01:07:49.380

164-01. Michael Mills: Thank you. Mayor

394

01:07:49.460 --> 01:07:53.700

164-01. Michael Mills: City Commissioners at a monitor. This is Michael mills.

395

01:07:53.830 --> 01:08:02.670

164-01. Michael Mills: I resigned in my l'm. Here today to support the establishment of the transparency advocate within the Otters office.

396

01:08:03.060 --> 01:08:07.260

164-01. Michael Mills: I worked within the public ombudsman community for most of my career.

397

01:08:07.490 --> 01:08:11.150

164-01. Michael Mills: first as Ombudsman for the municipality of anchorage, and more recently

398

01:08:11.450 --> 01:08:15.520

164-01. Michael Mills: I served as the city's first Ombudsman, under Mayor Vera Katz

399

01:08:15.880 --> 01:08:19.350

164-01. Michael Mills: I then became the city's first statutory Ombudsman

400

01:08:19.800 --> 01:08:24.600

164-01. Michael Mills: in the City Otters office under Gary Blackm. I would serve twice

401

01:08:24.609 --> 01:08:27.370

164-01. Michael Mills: as president of the Us. Ombudsman Association.

402

01:08:28.120 --> 01:08:32.410

164-01. Michael Mills: Portland had visionary leaders like former Us. Attorney Sidley's Act.

403

01:08:32.850 --> 01:08:37.800

164-01. Michael Mills: one of the founders of the alternative dispute Resolution movement in Oregon.

404

01:08:38.160 --> 01:08:48.210

164-01. Michael Mills: who advocated for city Ombudsman, he and Mayor Katz believe that an independent function would promote equity and efficiency in the provision of government services.

405

01:08:48.779 --> 01:08:53.859

164-01. Michael Mills: Mayor cats believe that the city needed to be more accountable to its residents.

406

01:08:53.910 --> 01:09:02.939

164-01. Michael Mills: especially those who are unemployed. Not everyone can pick up the phone and call their elected officials and expect them to speak with them.

407

01:09:03.439 --> 01:09:08.220

164-01. Michael Mills: Independent offices, such as Ombudsman and Transparency advocate.

408

01:09:08.359 --> 01:09:13.010

164-01. Michael Mills: ensure that their voices are heard. as well as those voices

409

01:09:13.290 --> 01:09:19.370

164-01. Michael Mills: that are not speaking through the Ombudsman or transparency. Advocates systemic

410

01:09:19.390 --> 01:09:20.700

164-01. Michael Mills: investigations.

411

01:09:21.830 --> 01:09:29.100

164-01. Michael Mills: My ancestors played a significant role in the building of the city of Portland. Coach Mills, Ainsworth, Pedic fled better.

412

01:09:29.120 --> 01:09:30.840

164-01. Michael Mills: I'll help shape Portland.

413

01:09:31.200 --> 01:09:36.740

164-01. Michael Mills: However, they were also complicit in the promotion and continuation of racism

414

01:09:36.779 --> 01:09:39.520

164-01. Michael Mills: and privilege in Portland and in Oregon.

415

01:09:39.640 --> 01:09:52.960

164-01. Michael Mills: That remains with us today. I acknowledged these injustices, and the role my family members played in them. I'm. Always looking for ways to write these wrongs and make Portland and Oregon more just

416

01:09:53.729 --> 01:09:57.820

164-01. Michael Mills: providing the transparency advocate furthers the subjective

417

01:09:57.950 --> 01:10:04.520

164-01. Michael Mills: a fair, just that accountable government. Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

418

01:10:06.000 --> 01:10:10.220

Thank you. Next up we have Jude Alex. Allstone.

419

01:10:11.200 --> 01:10:13.670

Speaker: Hi, Jude.

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01:10:13.860 --> 01:10:21.630

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: Good afternoon. My name is Dude Al Gazelle Stone, and I appreciate this opportunity to testify behalf of the Aclu of.

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01:10:22.210 --> 01:10:34.940

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: We ask that you refer the establishment of a transparency advocate in the city of Portland's Charter to the voters. This May. Over the past years Portland has unfortunately developed a reputation for secrecy.

422

01:10:35.110 --> 01:10:41.140

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: There are several issues that emphasize our city's need for a transparency advocate within the Auditor's office.

423

01:10:41.190 --> 01:10:50.960

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: Lack of community trust, lack of transparency inefficiency and inequity we've heard from Portlanders that public trust in our city government is very low.

424

01:10:51.130 --> 01:11:06.060

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: People pay attention to what's happening in their city, and they see that the city has been subject to multiple lawsuits regarding public records, practices, outlist district attorney opinions, and headline after headline about Secrecy and missing or hidden records.

425

01:11:06.290 --> 01:11:22.790

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: Community Partners with long histories of civic engagement have reported their struggle to locate and communicate with the

correct party. When public records and information Aren't made available a process that proves even harder for members of marginalized communities who might not have the

426

01:11:22.790 --> 01:11:37.360

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: requisite time for resources, and who are impacted by Government decisions even more disproportionately. Our coalition first submitted the transparency advocate proposal and testimony to the Commission the charter commission in 2,021,

427

01:11:37.460 --> 01:11:48.960

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: and the Madam auditor has taken that draft considered by the Commission. There are rounds of outreach vetting, revision and legal review to ensure that this position will be effective.

428

01:11:49.090 --> 01:11:52.540

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: and especially as the city navigates the new Charter Government

429

01:11:52.590 --> 01:12:05.350

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: in the months ahead. There has never been a more critical time to establish a transparency advocate in Portland. This proposal offers a multitude of benefits for both the people and government employees of Portland.

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01:12:05.370 --> 01:12:23.420

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: The advocate will fill a critical role that is currently missing from our government, because not only will they be able to investigate individual instances of inefficiency or inaccessibility? But we'll also be able to provide support and best practices expertise to make systemic improvements in how our city works.

431

01:12:23.560 --> 01:12:32.330

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: and by doing so the advocate will also increase. People's access to public information, help the city and Body Its work. Value of transparency.

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01:12:32.970 --> 01:12:44.640

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: The transparency advocate will also act as a government third party to resolve conflicts between city employees and Portland residents, so, rather than advocating for any one side. This person will simply advocate for good governance

433

01:12:44.730 --> 01:12:53.550

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: by letting both employees and residents voice their concerns. The advocate will help diffuse tension, promote understanding, and uphold best governance practices.

434

01:12:53.740 --> 01:13:09.870

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: The people of Portland have made it clear that they're ready for change when they overwhelmingly elected the city's new charter Government, with a 15 point lead, and as elected representatives of these voters, it's critical that you listen to what they're saying, but they're advocating for a stronger, more transparent democracy in Portland.

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01:13:09.870 --> 01:13:15.140

164-02. Jude al-Ghazal Stone: so we hope you'll demonstrate your commitment to transparency by sending this proposal to the voters in May. Thank you.

436

01:13:15.490 --> 01:13:16.440

Speaker: Thank you.

437

01:13:16.710 --> 01:13:19.140

Next up we have Kate Titus

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01:13:19.910 --> 01:13:20.990

Speaker: Hi, Kate.

439

01:13:21.000 --> 01:13:24.150

164-03. Kate Titus: Mayor Wheeler, City Commissioner. It's nice to see you.

440

01:13:24.240 --> 01:13:37.620

164-03. Kate Titus: My name is Kate Titus, and I'm. Here on to testify on behalf of common cause. and, as most of you know, a common cause is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, and accountable government.

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01:13:37.820 --> 01:13:47.870

164-03. Kate Titus: Common causes, national and scope works in all 50 States and all of levels of government. and our Oregon office is actually just a few blocks from Portland City Hall.

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01:13:48.060 --> 01:14:02.110

164-03. Kate Titus: What what you may not know is that in the 1970 s common cause help past sunshine laws across the country requiring that government meeting records be open to the public, and we continue to advocate for government transparency today.

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01:14:03.280 --> 01:14:07.480

164-03. Kate Titus: So here's what i'd like to add to the record, and have you consider.

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01:14:08.030 --> 01:14:22.470

164-03. Kate Titus: I I trust, that each of you is personally committed to your role in ensuring transparency in city government. Absolutely. Nevertheless, I think it's fair to say that, despite intentions, it's not always easy to deliver on that responsibility.

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01:14:22.730 --> 01:14:29.780

164-03. Kate Titus: Currently, Portland has a poor reputation for government transparency, and of course, some argue that that failure is on your watch.

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01:14:29.940 --> 01:14:37.370

Both the blame and the burden of Portland's transparency challenges get placed at your doorstep.

447

01:14:37.690 --> 01:14:42.680

164-03. Kate Titus: When when systems are overloaded, you and your offices deal with the extra workload.

448

01:14:42.840 --> 01:14:56.170

164-03. Kate Titus: and where there's a breakdown in city government transparency, whether it's real or just perceived, the failure is seen as your failure, often putting you at odds with the grieved constituencies, it public interest groups, journalists, or voters.

449

01:14:56.580 --> 01:15:03.480

164-03. Kate Titus: So this proposal would actually change that dynamic by better resourcing your leadership on transparency

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01:15:03.680 --> 01:15:21.960

164-03. Kate Titus: as we've seen at the State level here in Oregon and in cities like Atlanta and Toronto, a dedicated transparency advocate creates an ability to proactively improve systems get ahead of problems and lend extra capacity to support you and your offices in leading

451

01:15:22.260 --> 01:15:26.080

164-03. Kate Titus: and dealing with a fluctuating transparency workload.

452

01:15:26.560 --> 01:15:34.460

164-03. Kate Titus: and also, ultimately, of course, by keeping government transparent and avoiding scandals. It also builds public trust.

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01:15:35.030 --> 01:15:41.410

164-03. Kate Titus: I want to add that common cause Oregon has been involved in vetting and giving input on this proposal both

454

01:15:41.720 --> 01:15:44.180

initial

455

01:15:44.920 --> 01:15:56.200

164-03. Kate Titus: and fuller proposal that the auditor has developed for your consideration today. This you, by both our State and National staff, who have expertise on this issue.

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01:15:56.410 --> 01:16:06.970

164-03. Kate Titus: We do have some concern that you or the city attorney seem to be considering ways to weaken the authority of the transparency advocate, and I hope that you won't go further in that direction.

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01:16:07.020 --> 01:16:12.330

164-03. Kate Titus: But regardless, we strongly support the proposal that's in front of you, and we urge you to send it to the voters.

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01:16:12.490 --> 01:16:14.580

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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01:16:15.650 --> 01:16:16.960

Speaker: Thank you, Kate.

460

01:16:17.140 --> 01:16:18.960

Next up we have Debbie K.

461

01:16:19.830 --> 01:16:21.130

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: Okay, afternoon.

462

01:16:21.150 --> 01:16:21.990

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: Thank you.

463

01:16:22.540 --> 01:16:24.530

Good afternoon, Mayor Wheeler.

464

01:16:24.930 --> 01:16:27.210

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: Commissioners, and Madam

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01:16:27.510 --> 01:16:34.510

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: Auditor, I am Debbie Kay, President of the League of Women, voters of Portland, and glad to speak to this issue again.

466

01:16:36.430 --> 01:16:48.430

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: It is very important to have a transparency advocate for the city of Portland. This is a position that the League has, if you will, advocated for throughout the Charter Amendment process.

467

01:16:49.110 --> 01:17:05.340

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: The League wholeheartedly supports Auditor Ready's proposal for a Charter amendment referral that would create the position of transparency advocate in her office the city adopted transparency as one of its core values in 2,020. Now is the time to turn words into action.

468

01:17:06.710 --> 01:17:13.830

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: All Portlanders and city employees will benefit from a transparency advocate to provide assistance in finding information

469

01:17:14.150 --> 01:17:20.430

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: to be effective. This advocate needs the authority to conduct investigations and issue reports

470

01:17:21.210 --> 01:17:36.790

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: as an organization that promotes active and informal participation in government. The League works to fully understand issues. Before acting. We monitor city boards and commissions and study informational documents produced by city bureaus.

471

01:17:36.830 --> 01:17:58.080

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: At times, however, information such as minutes, agendas, and meeting materials. This information is not posted in a timely manner, or publicly available at all. We understand that sometimes these oversight could be due to staff overload a transparency advocate could assist community members and viro staff in resolving these types

472

01:17:58.100 --> 01:18:08.250

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: issues cooperatively. The city often engages, furthermore, in lengthy efforts to develop new policies or plan new development projects.

473

01:18:08.500 --> 01:18:14.430

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: The League believes the public should be involved in those discussions and deliberations from the beginning.

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01:18:14.790 --> 01:18:20.610

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: There are times, however, when the public doesn't even hear about these projects until they are near completion.

475

01:18:20.640 --> 01:18:35.280

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: A transparency advocate has the potential to instill in city bureaus the importance of making the public aware of these

undertakings, so they can follow them from the start and provide informed feedback to decision makers.

476

01:18:35.940 --> 01:18:42.090

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: Transparency is important to the League as a matter of principle, and as a practical matter.

477

01:18:42.350 --> 01:18:57.700

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: a transparency advocate embedded in the Charter will ensure there is someone who appreciates the importance of access to information, and whose purpose is to foster a culture of openness and also intervene in individual cases.

478

01:18:57.950 --> 01:18:59.710

Timer: We urge your support

479

01:18:59.820 --> 01:19:02.620

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: for referring this Charter amendment to the voters.

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01:19:03.060 --> 01:19:06.270

164-04. Debbie Kaye LWV she/her: It is time. Thank you very much.

481

01:19:08.810 --> 01:19:14.520

Speaker: Thank you. Next up we have K. Rambo. Welcome, Kay!

482

01:19:14.960 --> 01:19:24.930

164-05. K. Rambo: Hi I'm. Kay Rambo, editor in Chief of 3 Roots, Vice President of the Greater Oregon Society of Professional Journalists, and a proud Portlander. So i'm here in my capacity with Spj.

483

01:19:25.220 --> 01:19:38.030

164-05. K. Rambo: Mayor and Commissioners. Thank you for taking the time to hear public testimony on this item. I hope this is more than a performative attempt at appearing to consider the public's will and your deliberations today, as appears to be the case based on a story published by the Oregonian last night.

484

01:19:38.340 --> 01:19:55.630

164-05. K. Rambo: First. I'd like to respond to some of the claims made by commissioners and staff in that article. Most notably the claim that this measure didn't receive public, input as you heard from Charter Commissioners and Auditor ready. This proposal did receive public input it was vetted by the auditor. It did undergo legal review, and it is based on existing best practices.

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01:19:55.630 --> 01:20:00.660

164-05. K. Rambo: I know it received public input in part because i'm one of the people who testified before the Charter Commission

486

01:20:00.760 --> 01:20:13.330

164-05. K. Rambo: regarding attempts to paint this measure as the last minute effort. I'll simply point out that adding a transparency of Advocate was first proposed to the Commission last June, then reintroduced in October before receiving public testimony. In November and December

487

01:20:13.330 --> 01:20:25.540

164-05. K. Rambo: the coalition working on the measure first contacted Commissioner Ryan for a meeting on January eleventh the measure was first added to a city council agenda on January thirteenth. It was then presented to the Council with public testimony on January nineteenth.

488

01:20:25.680 --> 01:20:28.140

164-05. K. Rambo: I know this because i'm one of the people who testified.

489

01:20:28.650 --> 01:20:47.990

164-05. K. Rambo: as I've said, as I said on the nineteenth, and we'll reiterate. Now, Portland desperately needs a transparency advocate as it currently stands. Portland has among the worst public record systems of all major cities in the United States. It is costly, opaque, and inefficient, and subject to the whims of public officials acting in bad faith. The same can be said for public meetings Protocol.

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01:20:47.990 --> 01:20:53.210

164-05. K. Rambo: That issue only becomes more problematic when Portland transitions to a more centralized form of government.

491

01:20:53.570 --> 01:21:11.850

164-05. K. Rambo: In my capacity as an Spj board member, I regularly hear complaints about the city's, public record and meetings practices as a journalist who's extensively covered police accountability and homelessness policy in the city. I have plenty of my own complaints. Long list of costly lawsuits, news stories and da orders are strong evidence that I know what i'm talking about.

492

01:21:11.900 --> 01:21:24.310

164-05. K. Rambo: and to be quite honest, whether you agree the city needs to address its long-standing issues with public records and meeting laws should be secondary. Same with. If you believe that the public should simply trust you when filing a public records request

493

01:21:24.500 --> 01:21:39.240

164-05. K. Rambo: lost in the fray. Here seems to be that you're not voting for or against a law today. You're not even voting for or against creating an office of the transparency advocate you're voting for, or against what is supposed to be the truest form of public engagement and a democracy voting

494

01:21:39.410 --> 01:21:40.940

164-05. K. Rambo: you owe it to the voters.

495

01:21:41.180 --> 01:21:45.730

164-05. K. Rambo: both present and future, to give them the choice on a transparency advocate. Thank you.

496

01:21:46.540 --> 01:21:55.030

Speaker: Okay. Could I ask you a question and I appreciate your testimony. First of all, this is Ted. If you can't see me. Yeah. So

497

01:21:55.160 --> 01:22:05.450

Speaker: there's a bit of a difference here, and that the council's not being asked to vote on an ordinance, and go through our usual process of voting on and vetting an ordinance

498

01:22:05.550 --> 01:22:22.460

Speaker: through a first and a second reading, and all of that we're being asked to refer a fundamental change to the document governing the city of Port with the Charter. And you heard that that's somewhat unusual, even compared to some of the testimony you heard today.

499

01:22:22.510 --> 01:22:29.060

Speaker: and i'm sure you would agree that if something goes out to the voters, and it says

500

01:22:29.120 --> 01:22:32.550

Speaker: a proposal to increase transparency

501

01:22:32.760 --> 01:22:44.180

Speaker: of the city of Portland, and investigate elected officials, or whatever it's going to say, I don't know what the language will be, and I I don't pretend to know it's pretty certain it's going to pass right.

502

01:22:44.290 --> 01:22:50.450

Speaker: So let's let's assume that that's probably the case that it it would likely pass.

503

01:22:50.710 --> 01:22:56.370

Speaker: Therefore wouldn't you agree with me that it is important that we get this right?

504

01:22:58.290 --> 01:23:15.430

164-05. K. Rambo: Well, I don't think those I I don't think that question really makes sense. I mean, if if you think that some

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01:23:15.530 --> 01:23:23.930

was a charter reform that the prior auditor brought to city Council in 2,017 all those years ago, and we

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01:23:23.960 --> 01:23:29.540

Speaker: enthusiastically embraced, sending a reform out to the voters it was supported.

507

01:23:29.810 --> 01:23:33.680

Speaker: We're still debating the details today.

508

01:23:34.000 --> 01:23:44.260

Speaker: and a few weeks after that reform went to the ballot, and it was supported with the blessing, presumably of the city council that referred it. We had

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01:23:44.740 --> 01:24:01.230

Speaker: a lack of clarification on who had budgetary authority over the auditor's office, and that still has not been resolved to this very day. So i'll just be honest with you, and tell you that weighs on me. I want to make for my perspective. I won't speak for the Council.

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01:24:01.230 --> 01:24:07.320

Speaker: I want to have all the questions answered, and I asked a few questions that my mind are still open questions

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01:24:07.720 --> 01:24:19.330

164-05. K. Rambo: about getting this right. So I just wanted to test you whether my voting for this specific proposal and all of the eyes the way they're dotted, and the t's the way they're crossed

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01:24:19.450 --> 01:24:23.350

is this a proxy? For whether I believe in transparency or not?

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01:24:24.970 --> 01:24:32.320

164-05. K. Rambo: I mean that's up to the voters. My personal opinion is that you, as the Mayor and the Commissioners

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01:24:32.410 --> 01:24:43.360

164-05. K. Rambo: clearly have a potentially a vested interest in limiting accounts for transparency, and and I guess, going back to what you said previously, I can't speak to how

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01:24:43.400 --> 01:24:57.710

164-05. K. Rambo: prior measures, or you know, reforms were crafted. I can speak to this one which I know was crafted carefully. It was crafted based on again existing best practices. It's gone through a number of experts, whether a a, and from

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01:24:57.710 --> 01:25:05.170

164-05. K. Rambo: a variety of positions, right journalists, open government advocates, school board members, attorneys.

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01:25:05.340 --> 01:25:10.910

164-05. K. Rambo: The people who have been involved in this process know what they're doing. They've done their research.

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01:25:10.930 --> 01:25:25.760

Speaker: and that's really all I can offer, and that and that's fair. And you you proffered yourself as somebody who's been involved in this process from the beginning. So there! There's one question that's still sort of outstanding in my mind, amongst

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01:25:25.840 --> 01:25:26.850

others.

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01:25:27.140 --> 01:25:38.370

Speaker: We've heard this reference several times today as being sort of a no-brainer. And yet, when it came before the Charter Commission

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01:25:38.490 --> 01:25:51.340

Speaker: they did not refer this to the voters amongst all of the other myriads of complicated proposals that they referred to the public. Instead, they referred it to City Council

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01:25:51.740 --> 01:25:56.720

Speaker: for further refinement and deliberation. Why did they do that?

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01:25:57.070 --> 01:26:07.180

164-05. K. Rambo: Yeah, Well, and first of all i'll clarify. I I haven't been a member of this coalition since the beginning. I've I've monitored it, and was added in the fall. I, but

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01:26:07.440 --> 01:26:10.170

164-05. K. Rambo: I I guess, to speak to your question

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01:26:10.560 --> 01:26:21.310

164-05. K. Rambo: the point of referring it to city council, as I understand, I mean, in addition to the fact that it was not revisited by the Charter Commission until late in their efforts

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01:26:21.320 --> 01:26:28.700

164-05. K. Rambo: was to open up a process of collaboration between the city and the people.

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01:26:28.810 --> 01:26:46.390

164-05. K. Rambo: you know, trying to implement this measure. So I don't think it's based on a lack of certainty, but based on an understanding that there needs to be an amount of collaboration and working together to ensure that this makes sense legally, and from you know, a legislative perspective.

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01:26:46.670 --> 01:26:51.140

Speaker: I appreciate that. Thank you. Thanks for answering my questions and thanks for your testimony.

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01:26:51.480 --> 01:26:52.370

164-05. K. Rambo: Thank you.

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01:26:54.180 --> 01:26:57.080

Next up we have Michael Anderson.

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01:26:58.990 --> 01:27:00.430

Speaker: It's Michael here.

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01:27:02.190 --> 01:27:02.910

Speaker: Okay.

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01:27:06.690 --> 01:27:09.490

let's move on. James Posey.

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01:27:12.490 --> 01:27:14.840

Welcome, Mr. Posey. that one.

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01:27:19.810 --> 01:27:21.860

And okay.

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01:27:25.630 --> 01:27:29.380

Speaker: Yeah, thank you. My name is James Posey, and

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01:27:31.330 --> 01:27:35.500

Speaker: what i'd like to say is whether it's running for Mayor

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01:27:35.570 --> 01:27:41.450

Speaker: are pushing for equity in the city, contracting other matters I spent at large

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01:27:41.510 --> 01:27:52.950

Speaker: chunk of my 77 years on the earth, trying to make this city better. Today I urge you to refer the transparency advocate measured to the main ballot, so

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01:27:53.020 --> 01:27:56.130

Portland voters will have an opportunity to approve it.

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01:27:56.890 --> 01:28:06.070

Speaker: As our society has gotten more complicated. Polarized Public trust is essential. Transparency reads equity fairness

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01:28:06.290 --> 01:28:24.260

Speaker: right now. It seems like sometimes you almost have to have a heart lobbyist or a lawyer to find out what's really going on in a city. We we hold the city for all this wonderful things. It's done, but at the end of the day. We do need a

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01:28:24.280 --> 01:28:30.140

Speaker: transparency advocate in the city, where there's countless countless staffers

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01:28:31.690 --> 01:28:44.720

Speaker: devoted to telling the public what elected officials and city managers want the public to know is time for one single position to be devoted to helping the public access information. The public wants to know.

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01:28:44.990 --> 01:28:56.210

Speaker: This is a small investment that will pay off. I believe you all should refer this. You should say yes, so i'm. Referring this. let me just add that

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01:28:56.360 --> 01:29:14.260

Speaker: as a citizen. I am very proud of our audit. a our orders, and the audit process in the city. Oftentimes, when we come up here and have this discussion with you all. We feel like we don't have anybody that really represents us.

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01:29:15.020 --> 01:29:19.170

Speaker: I can tell you. The previous auditor she was fantastic.

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01:29:19.340 --> 01:29:38.710

Speaker: and it sounds like this auditor is following in that same lead. And really those of us who go to bed at night weren't wondering whether or not we do have representation. We've always looked to the auditor's office as a a kind of counterweight to all the other situations that g0 On. I could give you

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01:29:38.710 --> 01:29:44.620

Speaker: particular incidents where we've gone to the auditor's office. Dan Budsman has helped us

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01:29:44.840 --> 01:30:01.190

Speaker: give us some some sense that we we really belong, and that we have some power within this city as citizens. And so I urge you to build upon that with our Auditor's office. And really I really respect these people.

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01:30:01.520 --> 01:30:15.670

Speaker: Thank them for their service, and I just want to add my voice to this claim. I mean this so process to get a transparency advocate. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Post. I appreciate your testimony.

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01:30:16.100 --> 01:30:19.710

Speaker: Next up we have Kai Mcurtrie online.

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01:30:24.370 --> 01:30:25.650

Speaker: Hi, You're muted.

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01:30:26.250 --> 01:30:27.380

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: Hi! Can you hear me?

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01:30:27.430 --> 01:30:28.660

Speaker: Yep, loud and clear?

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01:30:28.770 --> 01:30:44.200

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: Thank you for taking my testimony. I'll be very brief. I'm. Just here, representing myself as a resident of Portland, and wanted to add my name to the record, asking you to advance this, and to voters it seems as obvious as could be that if we

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01:30:44.370 --> 01:30:46.460

you want to put

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01:30:48.000 --> 01:30:57.060

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: to to walk the walk, that we should advance a a measure regarding transparency to the most transparent and equitable democratic process we have, which is simply

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01:30:57.080 --> 01:30:58.370

the ballot box.

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01:30:58.400 --> 01:31:16.680

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: I think the experts and advocates have made a strong case. I am not an expert, but i'm happy to advocate on behalf. If, as has already been said, Portland truly believes in transparency, and not just a performative tenant or or so forth.

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01:31:17.400 --> 01:31:18.280

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: we should.

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01:31:18.440 --> 01:31:23.600

164-08. Kai MCMURTRY: You should. You should advance this measure to voters. Thanks.

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01:31:24.830 --> 01:31:25.780

Speaker: Thank you.

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01:31:26.860 --> 01:31:29.760

Speaker: Next up we have Emily Harris online.

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01:31:30.480 --> 01:31:48.670

164-09. Emily Harris: Hi. Thank you very much. I appreciate the chance to join you. My name is Emily Harris. I'm a board member with open Oregon, one of the original coalition members supporting this proposal. Open Oregon is an educational and charitable organization. We have a single mission to assist and educate the general public students, educators, public officials.

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01:31:48.670 --> 01:32:08.440

164-09. Emily Harris: media and legal professionals to understand and exercise their rights, to open government and their rights and responsibilities. Under Oregon law. We have heard that some Council members are considering voting against the proposal through direct conversations and through public statements. We've heard several different reasons which I'd like to address. First, we've been asked, what is the specific problem?

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01:32:08.440 --> 01:32:27.430

164-09. Emily Harris: The problem is that in repeated experience over years, people who run into obstacles trying to get legitimate, lawfully available information. Don't have anyone to turn to for help, not just in solving their own problems, but to improve the system. I have an addendum to this testimony that's focused mainly on records that I'll submit as well. But here's one example.

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01:32:27.750 --> 01:32:33.140

164-09. Emily Harris: Written testimony submitted to this Council before a vote is taken on an issue.

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01:32:33.160 --> 01:32:37.200

164-09. Emily Harris: It's not publicly available. It's posted a week or so later.

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01:32:37.900 --> 01:33:03.640

164-09. Emily Harris: The problem, isn't specifically that the problem is that nobody has noticed that that's a transparency thing and let alone try to fix it. This position of transparency advocate would be able to notice things. They'd be able to fix things things that might feel small, but they actually create obstacles which in turn create unequal access to participation in government. In addition, this person would have the authority to get to the bottom of problems, 3

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01:33:03.640 --> 01:33:22.630

164-09. Emily Harris: mit ctl. And a second example is that when when public agencies don't post agendas or minutes, even when one of our coalition member groups pointed out that problem to an agency. The agency still didn't change its practice. Portland's transparency advocate would need tools to be taken seriously in City Hall, and this leads to a second concern that we've heard one.

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01:33:22.630 --> 01:33:26.410

164-09. Emily Harris: It's directly related to the word investigate.

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01:33:26.450 --> 01:33:42.570

164-09. Emily Harris: Last Friday Commissioner Ryan's office suggested that we the word investigate be replaced with the word review. We shared back the fact that the language and the authority proposed for this position is actually identical word for word to the Ombudsman office, which is a familiar and known office in this city.

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01:33:42.750 --> 01:33:52.410

164-09. Emily Harris: and this came out of the Ombudsman office, originally recognizing they didn't have the capacity to tackle what's needed for this fundamental piece of democracy overseeing transparency.

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01:33:52.490 --> 01:34:08.290

164-09. Emily Harris: I do want to thank you, Commissioner Ryan, because you were very present and very engaged when you led the January Nineteenth Council meeting when the auditor first brought brought this proposal. But I do want to respectfully suggest that keeping consistent language is important, and also keeping some kind of backbone in this position.

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01:34:09.430 --> 01:34:23.810

164-09. Emily Harris: What does investigate mean? It means, yes, acting on specific legitimate complaints when needed, but ultimately it means having the last resort,

authority, if needed, to be able to dig into the bottom of any situation relevant to transparency and advocacy.

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01:34:24.370 --> 01:34:37.750

164-09. Emily Harris: people are referenced. The values. Declaration made on June seventeenth, 2,020 a very emotional time. Mary Wheeler, you said at that time this is not performative. This is your opportunity to put words into action. Thank you very much.

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01:34:37.820 --> 01:34:42.880

164-09. Emily Harris: I make it cut off, but I will also say I am. I have been here from the beginning, and can

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01:34:42.880 --> 01:35:00.650

164-09. Emily Harris: answer some of your questions about the our perception of why the Charter Commission did what they did, and I also am a member of the Public Records Advisory Council, which ginger reference. And if you are interested in the future and learning more about that State Office, and how it runs. Or now i'm happy to try to answer your questions. Thank you. Awesome. Thank you. We appreciate it.

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01:35:01.760 --> 01:35:04.080

Speaker: Next up we have Stephanie Stewart.

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01:35:04.890 --> 01:35:21.610

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: Hello, Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners. My name is Stephanie Stewart, and for 13 years I served as the Land Use chair for the Mount Taper Neighborhood Association. More than 10 years ago I proposed that council direct from the top down a transparency first approach to governance and daily operations in the city.

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01:35:21.660 --> 01:35:26.430

I'm. Thrilled to see this proposal for transparency advocate finally come to fruition.

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01:35:26.450 --> 01:35:32.890

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: I believe this proposal can make transparency a practice, and not just a platitude here in Portland.

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01:35:33.080 --> 01:35:51.530

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: My 2,010 proposal came about after the Neighborhood Association, wanted to look at a bid for a water bureau project. A colleague and I spent 2 h reading a document in a water Bureau conference room. We found 8 pages we wanted copies of. We waited an extra hour for those copies.

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01:35:51.530 --> 01:36:01.270

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: and we're not given the copies instead. At the 3 h mark. we were handed a bill for almost \$60. This was not an isolated incident.

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01:36:01.360 --> 01:36:16.280

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: Our public information requests were regularly met with responses that would surprise most citizens. I feel that with my education and the fact that I actually have some skin to spare if I can't access public records.

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01:36:16.520 --> 01:36:24.540

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: I'm not sure who can. Inspired by our experiences. I researched the city's, stated goals for information access.

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01:36:24.670 --> 01:36:29.920

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: and our local practices, and I looked at policies for many other jurisdictions.

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01:36:30.060 --> 01:36:40.470

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: I concluded that Portland's transparency policies lie behind those of its peers fell short of our community's values, and could use a number of reforms

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01:36:40.650 --> 01:36:43.420

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: 12 years later. This is still true.

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01:36:43.520 --> 01:36:47.780

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: A transparency advocate is an investment in sunlight for government

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01:36:47.910 --> 01:37:00.400

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: As a citizen. It isn't possible to get enough traction to make the complicated work of systemic reform possible. This issue requires one dedicated mind empowered to help the city move forward.

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01:37:00.620 --> 01:37:04.910

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: to analyze and propose solutions, to respond to requests for help

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01:37:04.990 --> 01:37:07.310

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: and to improve bureau culture.

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01:37:07.400 --> 01:37:12.980

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: This work is too complicated to be just one item among many and an employees

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01:37:12.990 --> 01:37:17.490

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: job description. It's also too important to be put off any longer.

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01:37:18.780 --> 01:37:30.660

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: It's important to remember that in delegating authority to city officials, the citizens of Portland do not give away to their public servants the right to decide what is, and isn't good for them to know.

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01:37:30.930 --> 01:37:36.660

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: But this is the accidental default with Portland's existing model of public information, sharing

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01:37:36.980 --> 01:37:47.240

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: as someone who cares about this city, and is among those who have tested the city's records, access practices enough to know that they fall short of our values. I

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01:37:47.340 --> 01:37:51.480

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: proposal for an independent, impartial transparency Advocate.

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01:37:52.120 --> 01:38:02.890

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: You know already that Portlanders value civic engagement. and information about our city workings is essential to foster this vibrant civic life that characterizes Portland.

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01:38:02.940 --> 01:38:06.690

Please for prefer this public discussion

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01:38:07.190 --> 01:38:09.880

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: to the people for the ballot in May.

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01:38:11.930 --> 01:38:12.720

164-10 Stephanie Stewart: Thank you.

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01:38:13.100 --> 01:38:14.630

Speaker: Thank you. Appreciate it.

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01:38:15.130 --> 01:38:17.420

Next up we have Ashley, Henry

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01:38:17.850 --> 01:38:18.820

Speaker: Hi Ashley.

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01:38:20.130 --> 01:38:27.210

164-11. Ashley Henry: Hi! Good afternoon, Mayor Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

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01:38:27.300 --> 01:38:43.820

164-11. Ashley Henry: My name is Ashley Henry I. Live in Southeast, Portland, and I'm. Testifying as a private citizen. The last time I testified before the Council I was the outgoing executive director of an organization called Business for a better Portland.

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01:38:43.890 --> 01:38:56.090

164-11. Ashley Henry: and the testimony that I provided that day about the public process that I had gone through as a member of Prosper Portland's Budget Advisory Committee is very relevant to today's one

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01:38:56.090 --> 01:39:08.230

164-11. Ashley Henry: the conversation, and since Commissioner Gonzalez was not elected at that time, I hope that he will pay particular attention to what I am going to say 2.

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01:39:08.290 --> 01:39:12.970

164-11. Ashley Henry: The organization that we found it was based on the belief

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01:39:13.030 --> 01:39:27.710

164-11. Ashley Henry: that if citizens and small business owners and others were simply to be more informed and engaged, and had the opportunity to provide input to city government that things could change

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01:39:27.710 --> 01:39:34.280

in a way that would be more positive for small business owners and for the community at large.

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01:39:34.510 --> 01:39:38.680

164-11. Ashley Henry: And over the 6 years that I served in that role I was a diligent.

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01:39:38.690 --> 01:39:54.180

164-11. Ashley Henry: a participant, and every civic engagement process that our city offers, and the most particular that I mentioned was was the city's budget. Advisory Council that was provided by Prosper Portland.

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01:39:54.260 --> 01:39:59.470

164-11. Ashley Henry: Back in the fall I shared how, over the 3 years of serving on that body

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01:39:59.480 --> 01:40:16.620

164-11. Ashley Henry: I learned an enormous amount from from the staff of Prosper Portland and I witnessed how they over time were incredibly responsive to public input and and by public input I mean

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01:40:16.620 --> 01:40:33.860

164-11. Ashley Henry: the head of the Columbia River Corridor Association, the head of 40 S. Our Forty-second avenue someone from a neighborhood business district, someone from a culturally specific organization all of whom served on these committees; and what I learned

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01:40:33.860 --> 01:40:37.170

164-11. Ashley Henry: is that none of that matter, because at the end of the day

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01:40:37.250 --> 01:40:48.110

164-11. Ashley Henry: our recommendations, no matter how engaged and and quite frankly responsive. The city staff, were it all boiled down to the

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01:40:48.170 --> 01:40:50.510

164-11. Ashley Henry: referral of the

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01:40:50.530 --> 01:40:55.220

Budget to the Mayor's office, and everything that happened inside the mayor's office.

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01:40:55.310 --> 01:41:00.290

164-11. Ashley Henry: and my conclusion is that until we have a transparency officer.

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01:41:00.550 --> 01:41:19.830

164-11. Ashley Henry: we as citizens, should not waste our time being involved in city efforts, because as individual citizens as small businesses. If you do not have a paid lobbyist in city council, tracking things day to day and influencing the outcomes of votes you don't matter.

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01:41:20.100 --> 01:41:23.380

164-11. Ashley Henry: and I really would love to see

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01:41:23.430 --> 01:41:28.550

164-11. Ashley Henry: this vote today. Demonstrate that you actually don't believe that is true.

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01:41:28.640 --> 01:41:30.890

164-11. Ashley Henry: So thank you for your time.

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01:41:32.280 --> 01:41:33.260

Speaker: Thank you.

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01:41:33.600 --> 01:41:35.930

Next up we have Mary Pavito.

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01:41:38.110 --> 01:41:51.720

164-12. Mary Peveto: Good afternoon. My name is Mary Kivito. I'm Reson and Bolton, founder of nonprofits of the nonprofit neighbors for clean air. Thank you, Mayor, and and all the members of the City Council for allowing me this opportunity

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01:41:51.810 --> 01:42:09.340

164-12. Mary Peveto: to speak to you today. I've been working for over a dozen years to reduce harmful air pollution in our Portland neighborhoods, and I started this work in the relative narrow kind confines of my North. We Northwest, Portland neighborhood, and Chapman elementary school community of parents and neighbors. Our first battles

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01:42:09.380 --> 01:42:22.760

164-12. Mary Peveto: we're made all the more acute and difficult, because, while many of us didn't know that the problem existed. We, the entities charged with the oversight of pollution, most certainly did.

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01:42:22.770 --> 01:42:32.160

164-12. Mary Peveto: and access to full information has been critical to achieving the advancements we've made for clean, safe air in our communities, but too often we don't know what we don't know.

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01:42:32.610 --> 01:42:49.730

164-12. Mary Peveto: so i'll note my name's been conjured, and more than one active for your request, due to my persistent pursuit of decision makers to achieve clean air, and that's in part. Why I'm. Here in support of your vote to move this proposal to the ballot. It is fair for the public to know who is being so listened to, and why

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01:42:49.940 --> 01:43:09.790

164-12. Mary Peveto: in governments and a democracy. We're tasked with serving all with equal consideration and lack of transparency only feeds the worst intentions, and sometimes serves only the wildest imaginations. It's through sunshine that we can truly obtain the factual information that drives us to the best solutions, and separate it from the interest that are being served, and the why

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01:43:10.000 --> 01:43:26.120

164-12. Mary Peveto: in my work I've always sought that truth. The why of reticence, obstin and outright opposition to achieving clean air in our communities, because every authentic barrier. Technical, legal, economic, is the problem to be solved. To achieve the outcomes we desire.

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01:43:26.160 --> 01:43:40.600

164-12. Mary Peveto: but not if you don't have the truth, not of a talking point of opposition is just a fulfillment of one narrow set of interests. We're not of the leaders that I elect and the Government, but my taxes support Don't, support, respect me enough, have confidence in my capabilities to share those truths.

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01:43:40.600 --> 01:43:49.140

164-12. Mary Peveto: It's not that I expect to have a seat at the table, or to be directly involved in decisions that are made there; but I do believe i'm entitled to hear the conversations in full.

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01:43:49.160 --> 01:44:07.270

164-12. Mary Peveto: Nothing is more true than this in the world of shaping the policies that shape our lives. And i'd argue that one of the great strengths of Portland has been the involvement of the people who live here flawed as we may be at times. There seems to be no city in the country that has a stronger track record per capita volunteerism.

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01:44:07.270 --> 01:44:26.270

164-12. Mary Peveto: Whether that's in the legacy of neighborhood associations, and our schools clean up crews on our city streets, pop, community meals are serving the vast network of nonprofits. People of Portland deserve to know what is behind the decisions that affect us. If we don't know the truth, we'll make up our own, or waste our energy working against forces that Don't exist.

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01:44:26.980 --> 01:44:41.910

164-12. Mary Peveto: Democracy are not businesses with proprietary secrets to be protected. I urge you to send this concept to the voters, so as to establish the position of officer transparency to enable everyone equal access to the information that shapes our lives. Thank you very much for your time.

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01:44:43.330 --> 01:44:47.380

Speaker: Thank you, Mary. Next up we have Alyssa Vitali.

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01:44:49.090 --> 01:45:07.360

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: Hi! My name is Alyssa Vitali, Mailer, Wheeler, and City Council. I urge you to refer the transparency advocate question to voters. This is the morally right thing to do to ensure this city actually works for everyone, and not just the select few who already have money and influence

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01:45:07.700 --> 01:45:20.840

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: as stated in the resolution. This recommendation also aligns with the city's core values of equity and transparency core values that council

approved in 2,020 after they, I believe, were introduced by you, Mayor Wheeler.

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01:45:21.070 --> 01:45:34.090

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: It's high time to live up to those values Today The Mercury reported that Mayor Wheeler's office and other commissioners have pushed back on this proposal, due to a concern about the lack of public engagement on the issue.

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01:45:34.450 --> 01:45:39.430

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: I share your concern that the public should be more and not less engaged in city government.

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01:45:39.670 --> 01:45:51.220

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: However, I find the Council raising concerns about public engagement on this particular issue only to be farcical and hypocritical, since public opinion has so frequently been ignored.

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01:45:51.670 --> 01:46:06.550

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: where was the concern for public engagement when thousands of Portlanders wrote letters and dozens testified against the downtown, clean and safe contract renewal. Where was the concern for public engagement after we asked for the city's review on enhanced services districts

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01:46:06.630 --> 01:46:14.900

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: which has ground to a standstill. Where was the concern for public engagement when hundreds testified against the proposed mass camps

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01:46:15.220 --> 01:46:28.950

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: during that particular hearing, I actually recall dozens of community members were forced to take a back seat to sharing their opinions, because Commissioner Ryan's office discreetly bumped several real estate developers to the top of the public testimony list.

652

01:46:29.720 --> 01:46:45.050

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: When a concern for public engagement and transparency is selective to specific issues, I can't help but see that as performative. I find it disrespectful to those of us who are trying to live a full life in this city without having special access to your offices.

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01:46:45.430 --> 01:46:54.890

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: And, after all, isn't letting the entire city vote on this issue the ultimate form of public engagement. If there's nothing to hide, you shouldn't be worried about more transparency.

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01:46:55.220 --> 01:46:58.720

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: do the right thing and refer this to voters. Thank you.

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01:46:59.490 --> 01:47:03.090

Speaker: Alyssa. Can I ask you a follow up question and thank you.

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01:47:03.210 --> 01:47:08.220

I'm struck that. A number of the examples that people are using today

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01:47:08.570 --> 01:47:13.120

Speaker: in support of additional transparency were

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01:47:13.390 --> 01:47:25.780

Speaker: examples that were freely available in the media. I mean there. There already was transparency on most of the examples that people had brought forward today, and I I just want to identify that as kind of interesting.

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01:47:25.840 --> 01:47:30.550

Speaker: But my question is this: given what you're proffering as

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01:47:30.880 --> 01:47:45.280

Speaker: a more or less complete distrust of the City Council when it comes to issues of transparency and accountability. Why do you think the Independent Charter Review Commission forwarded this to the Council

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01:47:45.460 --> 01:47:54.780

Speaker: for Review rather than what they could have done, and did with several even more complicated issues which was, refer it to the ballot

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01:47:55.270 --> 01:47:57.630

Speaker: directly we bypass the Council.

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01:47:58.000 --> 01:47:59.540

Speaker: Go right to the people.

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01:48:00.300 --> 01:48:10.880

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: Sure, I mean you're asking me to hypothesize about how these people felt when they refer this to you, and I I don't think I can speak to that.

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01:48:11.150 --> 01:48:17.990

164-14. Alyssa Vitale: Yeah, I appreciate you asking me. But you're asking me to make a conjecture about something that I I can't speak to.

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01:48:18.100 --> 01:48:21.010

Speaker: Very good. Thank. I appreciate your testimony. Thank you.

667

01:48:22.120 --> 01:48:24.770

Our last testifier is Benjamin.

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01:48:29.680 --> 01:48:36.220

Speaker: Hello. Hi Benjamin, hey? I think I stand apart from the other testifiers today.

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01:48:36.230 --> 01:48:41.090

Speaker: I I really don't think transparency in this way is a good idea.

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01:48:41.130 --> 01:49:00.620

Speaker: You know it. It was only recently I realized that I belong to a dark, money lobbying organization, and when I approached the auditors office in the past about Esds, and they had no knowledge about it, and I I specifically got people to write in testimonies from the unhouse community to the out of their office before they did the review their annual review

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01:49:00.620 --> 01:49:17.840

Speaker: before, you know, and butchering Mary at public meetings, in order to to ask questions about the Esds, that they had really no knowledge about, and really lobbying inappropriately to them over and over and over, until they realized that there had actually been no information

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01:49:17.860 --> 01:49:47.860

Speaker: on Esds for the past 20 years, you know. I realized that that was inappropriate, and I realized that when they were really aggressively pushing that and they got dismantled. You know it costs in their jobs. And when I worked with Ginger McClell and she was working on the economic improvement districts of Oregon, and I asked her about the Esds as well, and she was forced to resign. You know that was inappropriate of me. And when I, when I worked with the Esd Coordinator, and he was forced to resign after completely and absolutely

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01:49:47.860 --> 01:50:13.200

Speaker: instructing Esds and all their essences and forms. Specifically the poor, them business alliance, and he had to walk out. I realized that I was costing people those jobs, and transparency is not good for the city. It's bad, for the city will cost you your jobs, after all. You don't want to end up like Seattle, where they're forced to to to show that they had to delete text. But what if you'd never had to delete those texts because the public had no access to it. You see.

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01:50:13.220 --> 01:50:14.270

Speaker: you see.

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01:50:14.270 --> 01:50:42.340

Speaker: I think that is the way to go. Shut it down. I we want to protect the most privileged in our city, the the people in the Wells Fargo Center. You know where you know the first case of Covid and Moltenumba County happened. You know they they here induced it. But whatever forget about that, you know the people in the bank building the Pink bank building. You know, people in the World Trade Center who have my peers, my peers, and their fellow dark money, lobbying organizations. They need to be protected, and who protects you them.

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01:50:42.340 --> 01:50:49.420

Speaker: So if you can't protect them, who's going to protect you all? So just make sure you do the right thing for sustainable careers.

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01:50:49.710 --> 01:50:53.990

Speaker: Turn this down, make sure the voters never see it right.

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01:50:54.020 --> 01:50:59.600

Speaker: That is the smart thing to do. We're not talking about the good thing to do. The moral thing, the ethical forget that

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01:50:59.620 --> 01:51:13.380

Speaker: right. Nobody said that has to be a good democracy just said. It has to vaguely appear like a democracy. So do do the right thing. I urge you as a private citizen in this city who does not want to be held accountable. He does not want to be investigated for

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01:51:13.380 --> 01:51:34.560

Speaker: maybe my thousands of hours of lobbying to different council members, you know, like the Pba. You know, my fellow peers, you know that's inappropriate for the public to know, because they are the go getters. They are the ones who run this city, the World Trade Center, you know. Pg: Those folks they run this city? Not not us. What do we care? What do we know? Nothing.

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01:51:34.780 --> 01:51:37.880

Speaker: They do the right thing. Thank you. Thank you.

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01:51:39.580 --> 01:51:45.470

Speaker: That complaints testimony. Very good colleagues. I will entertain discussion on this item.

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01:51:50.230 --> 01:51:54.870

Speaker: I'll go first, then. Okay, Commissioner Maps, I have some questions for the auditor.

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01:51:55.500 --> 01:51:57.760

Speaker: Not a monitor. Could you come back up. Thank you.

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01:52:01.300 --> 01:52:11.180

Speaker: Madam Auditor. Thank you for both this proposal and the testimony.
We're here today

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01:52:11.290 --> 01:52:22.410

Speaker: very open to this this particular idea. At the same time. I have some just some questions about the process that was used to get here, and maybe some of the details.

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01:52:22.720 --> 01:52:30.500

So if I could just run through a couple of quick questions that will help grant my understanding of where we're at.

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01:52:30.690 --> 01:52:32.840

Speaker: Madam Auditor.

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01:52:33.960 --> 01:52:39.720

Speaker: What's your understanding of? Why, the Charter Commission didn't just send this directly to the voters.

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01:52:40.430 --> 01:52:46.780

I would love to reiterate. Why, I think that was. I think I laid that out in my opening remarks that

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01:52:47.310 --> 01:53:01.320

Speaker: there was an intentional decision not to reach a unanimous vote of support, to go directly to voters, so that Council would engage in discussion and work with the proponents of this proposal.

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01:53:03.270 --> 01:53:11.140

Speaker: I think I've highlighted the opportunities that were public for the community and Council to engage on this

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01:53:11.230 --> 01:53:16.670

and the last time I brought this to you, for discussion was on January the nineteenth.

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01:53:16.920 --> 01:53:22.270

Speaker: My office has worked really quickly with everyone.

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01:53:22.310 --> 01:53:25.710

Speaker: every representative from your office, and trying to get your feedback.

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01:53:25.880 --> 01:53:30.500

and in our initial stages we did receive thumbs up.

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01:53:30.580 --> 01:53:36.440

Speaker: But as soon as the materials came to the agenda, that's when we started facing resistance.

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01:53:37.530 --> 01:53:38.870

Speaker: Well.

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01:53:41.820 --> 01:53:52.780

Speaker: I think part of my feedback. I actually am supportive of of this particular proposal. I think part of my feedback and the exchange that at least I've had with your office was that

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01:53:54.140 --> 01:54:12.150

Speaker: you know this looks interesting. I should. I sure would like to see more of a public engagement process on this. Can you tell us both what the what public engagement process you use, what public to develop this, what public engagement the Charter Review

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01:54:12.360 --> 01:54:22.520

Speaker: Commission used to develop their this proposal. Well, I did go over that. I noted

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01:54:22.600 --> 01:54:28.020

Speaker: commission. That was, and appointed in 2,022 is a 20 member

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01:54:28.460 --> 01:54:31.310

Speaker: commission that is appointed by the city Council.

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01:54:31.500 --> 01:54:51.210

Speaker: All of their information is publicly available. I'm happy to reiterate why this needs to be a charter, reform, and not an ordinance, and that's because well, that's I think the question that was actually kind of more. I'm i'm trying to get at the well. I'm trying to say that this came through the Charter Review process, and that's why

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01:54:51.210 --> 01:55:00.460

the proposal lives there and not in an ordinance. Do you know, if they had like public hearings on this or to yeah. But this was

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01:55:00.740 --> 01:55:06.700

Speaker: in November, and June is when the proposal was introduced. That was June of 2,021,

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01:55:06.910 --> 01:55:15.100

Speaker: and then the concerns around transparency, which the proposal was designed to address was on May 20, seventh, 2,021.

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01:55:15.920 --> 01:55:26.780

Speaker: Okay, I feel like this is a little bit different from some of the other information that I've gotten. But that's fine. What? What public number? One? A second question.

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01:55:26.800 --> 01:55:43.280

Speaker: How does is your proposal the same as the proposal that came out of the Charter Review Commission? Are these 2?

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01:55:43.310 --> 01:56:04.770

Speaker: If you go back and listen and or watch that recording they did not. The Commission did not have the version that was being voted on. That was the version that the City Attorney's office reviewed, but it was not the version that was available during that virtual meeting, and I think, due to that uncertainty. Folks were less enthusiastic about sending it directly to voters.

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01:56:04.850 --> 01:56:14.730

Speaker: however, that the language itself is something that my office, with input from the community organizations that I mentioned.

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01:56:14.840 --> 01:56:21.250

we have tweaked it. We have made sure that it's going to be effective, and that it doesn't leave gaps for

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01:56:21.320 --> 01:56:27.650

Speaker: what our what our city is transitioning to, which is a much larger legislative body. That's why we need

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01:56:27.680 --> 01:56:41.680

Speaker: authority to not review, but investigate the acts of all city officials. If we Don't include city officials, then we're missing out on a large legislative body. Sure, I understand that change.

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01:56:41.680 --> 01:56:55.580

Speaker: But can you describe for us the community engagement You process that you went through to develop your version of this this idea. I did not conduct an independent community engagement process.

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01:56:55.730 --> 01:57:09.250

Speaker: I I think I told you that I worked with council offices. I worked with proponents of the measure. There were no known opponents of this measure when it received 12. Yes, votes from the Charter Review Commission.

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01:57:09.250 --> 01:57:25.370

Speaker: So why didn't you engage? Was there a particular reason why you didn't engage like a in a public engagement process? I would say the level of support and the level of development of the proposal when I saw it take when I took term.

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01:57:25.400 --> 01:57:30.590

Speaker: or when my term began January the first for me gave you the confidence

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01:57:30.620 --> 01:57:42.660

to pursue this proposal. The other reason why I didn't conduct a full engagement process is because I had a matter of weeks before this was officially recommended to you

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01:57:42.710 --> 01:57:55.370

Speaker: by by the Charter Commission on January 19. My office worked as fast as possible, and we had this item on the agenda, February fifteenth, and we pulled it at your request.

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01:57:55.470 --> 01:58:08.130

Okay, I that's actually kind of helpful, and gets to another question and puzzle. I I have, I think, when you came to us with the proposals from the Charter Review Commission that they hope that we would send on to the ballot.

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01:58:08.130 --> 01:58:34.670

Speaker: All of those things were, or at least trigger reform part 2 was going to be on the November 2,024 ballot. I noticed that you were proposing that we bring up, that we bring this Charter reform proposal to the voters in May of this year. I'm wondering why it. To me it just seems intuitive. Seems like it would intuitively make sense to like, have all our charter votes on the same ballot. And indeed, that's kind of the principle that seems to be baked into Our current charter. So why isn't this

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01:58:34.670 --> 01:58:41.610

Speaker: on the nove the 24 ballot as opposed? Yeah. I I do appreciate that question

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01:58:41.910 --> 01:59:01.120

Speaker: for me. I see this as kind of the unfinished business of the Charter Commission. If we were to wait until November 2024, I can't guarantee that my office would be able to fund it, and I also see it as lagging behind the transition that is all already underway to create a new form of government

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01:59:01.770 --> 01:59:08.920

Speaker: if it's passed, or if it's referred to to voters in May and pass. That means my office can start implementing

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01:59:08.970 --> 01:59:16.520

Speaker: in the next fiscal year, and that would be in line with the other charter changes that are coming into effect in January 2025.

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01:59:16.640 --> 01:59:20.640

Well, an alternative path would be that.

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01:59:20.930 --> 01:59:26.400

Speaker: It seems like there are an awful lot of questions that would need to be a fleshed out

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01:59:26.830 --> 01:59:34.980

Speaker: in order to see on this office up. It seems like you could. Your office can engage in that work. And frankly, have you know, a

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01:59:35.230 --> 01:59:48.460

Speaker: a couple of public hearings collect public testimony, maybe do a work session. I would assume that you know frankly, every major policy that comes out of this council goes through some sort of civic engagement

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01:59:48.460 --> 02:00:14.150

process. It just actually seems odd to me that we haven't done that with this particular proposal, and not only haven't we done it, we are actually not putting it on the ballot with all the other Charter reform proposals that we have here. All of this all of this just seems kind of odd, and I I I think that if we took a little bit of time to actually engage with people who have done this work. I know what I think about

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02:00:14.690 --> 02:00:42.520

Speaker: when I think about this particular idea, and i'm very open to it. And frankly, I think, as we move to our next form of Government colleagues, I think that we should make you know accountability and transparency into the new way that we do business like one of the good examples of how we could do that would be the Oregon public records advocate, or whatever that they call that that piece. At the same time, if you've been a student of that office which I have been.

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02:00:42.650 --> 02:00:56.350

there have been issues. There's a lot of drama around that office, you know. I I don't know what's gone wrong, or if anything has actually gone wrong there. But I certainly think there probably some lessons that could be learned if we actually kind of delve into

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02:00:56.350 --> 02:01:13.540

Speaker: other experiences that we've other the lessons that we've learned from similar posts out here. So i'm just kind of confused as to why we aren't kind of doing our homework

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02:01:13.920 --> 02:01:15.850

Speaker: the tenure

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02:01:15.860 --> 02:01:22.340

Speaker: a ten-year tenure of my previous ombudsman who has been working to establish our practices.

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02:01:22.360 --> 02:01:35.320

Speaker: No, I don't think so, although I do kind of have a question about, you know. When I first heard a version of this I I wondered. Why can't we just give this power to the Ombudsman and I still frankly wish I had a

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02:01:35.940 --> 02:01:50.780

a forum to kind of ask that question and get some feedback around it. But you know we we haven't really created a table where you know these kind of just implementation and policy development questions can kind of be better. Yeah, that that's exactly what this proposal is.

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02:01:51.120 --> 02:02:08.870

Speaker: It's an extension of the authority that the Ombudsman already has, and my office uses that authority to investigate issues of open openness and transparency. We have case examples listed on our website dating back to 2015 of those kinds of issues. What this would do

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02:02:08.870 --> 02:02:15.890

Speaker: is create a dedicated subject matter expert that is accessible to the public in the way that the Ombudsman is.

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02:02:15.920 --> 02:02:23.400

except we wouldn't have to choose to take on those issues at the cost of investigating others that are threatening the life.

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02:02:23.720 --> 02:02:39.620

Speaker: safety, and health of Portlanders. So do you already have? Are you saying you already have the authority to do this in in in law or statute? And really this is about a budget thing, because if there is a nuance, I suppose that I could explain to you

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02:02:40.060 --> 02:02:49.170

Speaker: there's a section of the charter that reads nearly identical to this edition. Yeah, and that that revision is in your packet.

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02:02:49.340 --> 02:02:57.110

What this does is extend the authority to investigate all city officials, not just administrative acts

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02:02:57.210 --> 02:03:07.610

Speaker: of city offices, so that there's a difference there, and there's a difference in creating the the dedicated subject matter expertise in issues of transparency.

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02:03:08.990 --> 02:03:19.910

Speaker: I think I understand the investigative piece, and i'm fine with it. I think I am so lack. I don't know. I feel like i'm so lacking some traction around

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02:03:21.290 --> 02:03:34.410

Speaker: the so the subject matter expert I like. I guess I don't get. Why. Why, you couldn't just kind of do this now. We could continue to do it now on a part time basis with the resources we have.

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02:03:34.580 --> 02:03:51.440

What if we gave you more resources? Would that allow you to ramp up what you're doing and kind of. Give me that you want to go

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02:03:51.540 --> 02:04:08.260

Speaker: proposed and pushed for for many years. And so I want to honor that in this, in this proposal, sure, let me just put it. I guess my cards on the on the table. I I hear your ask, and at least for me, I can't speak for my colleagues. One of the things I would ask for you is to have a more thorough

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02:04:08.260 --> 02:04:31.450

Speaker: public engagement process around this. This is not designed to derail this, I think it's designed to actually the my purpose here is actually to flesh out the questions and concerns that community members might have. I think we know from other transparency offices that have been established in the State. These things can get complicated if we can think about ways to actually make sure that we're

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02:04:31.720 --> 02:04:41.780

Speaker: implementing the best office that we can. I think it's worth kind of taking the time to do this, and also it sort of kind of makes sense to me because we're going to be voting on the Charter Reform proposals

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02:04:41.800 --> 02:04:49.520

in November of 2,024. So I think we got time to do this I don't necessarily really get why we're

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02:04:50.640 --> 02:05:09.740

Speaker: We need to do this in the next 2 months. If it means that we can't have a civic engagement process. I mean, if that's the reason is we need to have it in November, because we we can't do a civic engagement process because we have to do this by November, or may I? I feel like I'd rather get this right than get this fast.

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02:05:10.440 --> 02:05:21.240

Speaker: You do understand that there were proposals made by the Charter Review Commission that received 3 more votes. and are not subject to additional community engagement. No.

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02:05:24.030 --> 02:05:43.690

Speaker: I don't. I am not using the lack of time as an excuse for not conducting more community engagement. My argument is that in order for the city to continue its leadership and transparency and accountability that we not lag behind major changes to our form of government, and rather proactively plan

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02:05:43.690 --> 02:05:46.950

Speaker: and time them in sync with those changes

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02:05:47.090 --> 02:06:17.090

Speaker: Here I'll just add one more comment, then I'll hand it over to my colleagues. I want Portland to be a leader in this space, too. I actually think that this is substantively important, because we are about to fundamentally reinvent the way City Council works with our next form of government. I think that it's important that we put in some guardrails here to make sure that our future colleagues are being transparent and accountable. This is very important. I think most of us probably spend about half of our time at this point, trying to implement

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02:06:17.090 --> 02:06:32.810

reform to make sure that that future government is working well. I'll tell you one of the things we are not doing as we figure out. Charter reform is kind of cutting

corners, and I just I I I would encourage us as we think about the transparency space

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02:06:32.810 --> 02:06:37.700

that we not headquarters here, I think a little bit taking some time to have

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02:06:38.560 --> 02:06:57.860

Speaker: collect public testimony, hold a couple of community meetings and have a work session with both. Probably build political support for this idea, and would ultimately get us to a better proposal. But that's just what I think i'll now hand the floor back over to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your indulgence.

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02:06:58.210 --> 02:07:00.840

Speaker: Thank you, Commissioner. Colleagues, Any other

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02:07:04.270 --> 02:07:04.970

okay that

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02:07:06.290 --> 02:07:20.940

Speaker: I I'll just say that I really appreciate. I appreciate the presentation. I think what was really compelling for me was hearing about the other cities that had similar

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02:07:21.000 --> 02:07:31.230

Speaker: offices or positions, and I really really am drawn to this concept For me.

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02:07:31.740 --> 02:07:42.930

Speaker: I appreciate what my colleague just said, and I have similar interest in just hearing some broader perspectives on this proposal, or any proposal that that takes shape.

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02:07:43.040 --> 02:08:01.890

Speaker: I really am interested in learning more about the other offices and other examples. That's how I learn, and that's how I feel like I can get a more complete picture. I would also love to learn a little bit more. I don't feel like I have a good command of understand, or at least to the degree that you do. Maybe, and others do

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02:08:01.890 --> 02:08:14.070

Speaker: what the gaps are, so that we can assess or I can. It can help me learn and assess what would be a good model for prop proposal for Portland, and I can

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02:08:14.120 --> 02:08:15.520

Speaker: be

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02:08:15.800 --> 02:08:31.180

Speaker: very a credible messenger for that work and get behind it and support it. I want to support this concept. I really do. I just need a little more time to to study it, and to learn it, and to see how other cities operate with it.

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02:08:31.180 --> 02:08:37.520

so that I can feel good in my role of supporting this, which I want to do so.

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02:08:37.740 --> 02:08:40.660

Speaker: My question to you is.

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02:08:40.940 --> 02:08:46.740

had you thought about having a work session, or would you be open to a work session.

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02:08:46.990 --> 02:08:49.020

Speaker: so that we can do that.

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02:08:51.420 --> 02:09:01.810

Speaker: I'm asking you today to refer this measure to voters on the May 2023 ballot. and I do want to point out that I've followed the process

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02:09:02.020 --> 02:09:04.890

Speaker: that you all ascribe to

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02:09:05.310 --> 02:09:17.540

Speaker: i'm. I'm. I'm disappointed at the level. The lack of engagement prior to this meeting prior to the the February fifteenth meeting. It's possible maybe you didn't take this as seriously as you should have.

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02:09:17.740 --> 02:09:23.370

Speaker: and Mayor Wheeler The ballot language is in the packet for today's meeting.

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02:09:23.490 --> 02:09:34.650

Speaker: So i'm not feeling confident that setting another session will mean that anyone is further along, and having reviewed these materials and giving them the consideration that that they deserve.

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02:09:37.960 --> 02:09:39.150

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan.

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02:09:40.680 --> 02:09:43.530

First, thank you to all those who testified today

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02:09:43.680 --> 02:09:58.130

Speaker: continually building a culture of transparency in the city is essential to building, trust and ensuring Portlanders can connect with their city government. I want to read for the record additional testimony submitted to the council clerk.

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02:09:58.410 --> 02:10:13.490

Speaker: Phil Keysling, from Kamikaz Oregon, testified that the Advocate should have specialized focus to allow the development of expertise in research and best practices to help public servants efficiently share information with Portland residents.

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02:10:14.020 --> 02:10:19.970

Speaker: Mary Beth, her Kurt, a retired Oregon State archivist, testified that when she established

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02:10:20.200 --> 02:10:27.880

Speaker: public records advocate for the State that position was in her quotes, able to help agencies, reduce the number of

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02:10:27.940 --> 02:10:33.290

nuance, nuisance, request, and help requesters and agencies work

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02:10:33.310 --> 02:10:34.580

Speaker: through conflict

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02:10:35.370 --> 02:10:45.020

and Barbara Dudley, former executive director of Greenpeace, U.S.A. Wrote: it's absolutely crucial for members of the public to have timely access to information about their government.

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02:10:45.090 --> 02:10:51.480

Speaker: its deliberations, its sources of information and all the factors underlying its decisions.

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02:10:51.810 --> 02:10:53.840

Speaker: It's what makes democracy work.

790

02:10:54.870 --> 02:11:02.610

Speaker: This is the transparency model we should be aspiring to create here in Portland. However, the proposal in front of us is rushed.

791

02:11:02.780 --> 02:11:04.500

Speaker: It lacks community, input

792

02:11:04.840 --> 02:11:10.310

Speaker: for example, Bureau directors are included in this proposal, yet none were engaged for input

793

02:11:10.950 --> 02:11:22.270

Speaker: the attorney, the city attorney's staff, who managed city data and Records request, which were also mentioned in the proposal, were not engaged for input

794

02:11:22.420 --> 02:11:43.040

Speaker: the unclear goals of the auditor's proposal, as it relates to public records. has many of us perplexed from our research. In considering this proposal, we understand the city has investigated significantly invested, Sorry invested significantly in improving transparency, including hiring additional staff

795

02:11:43.300 --> 02:11:54.200

Speaker: improving software, programs and training. In every month our records team meets with public records, responders citywide. I'm sorry. Are you reading your written testimony?

796

02:11:54.520 --> 02:12:09.390

Speaker: I don't need to be interrupted when I have the floor. I'm concerned about whose testimony you're you're speaking, Commissioner Ryan. Yeah. In fact, usually you wouldn't be up here when we're at this moment because you already came. Well, we are here for discussion, and I have concerns about whose testimony you're reading.

797

02:12:10.310 --> 02:12:15.420

Speaker: I want to monitor the the right. Now you need to be clear about whose voice you're using.

798

02:12:15.640 --> 02:12:32.620

Speaker: Okay for the we're talking about transparency, not a monitor. This is my last warning. The floor is Commissioner Ryan. So I ended the quotes when I said Barbara Dudley, and then I pivoted, and I said, this is a transparency model we should be aspiring to create here in Portland.

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02:12:32.820 --> 02:12:46.320

Speaker: Now I will go ahead and repeat. Since I was interrupted. However, the proposal in front of us is rushed and lacks Community input Bio directors are included in this proposal, yet none were engaged for input.

800

02:12:46.540 --> 02:13:01.770

Speaker: The so the attorneys staff who manage city data and records requests were also mentioned in the proposal. They were not engaged for input the unclear

goals of the auditor's proposal, as it relates to public records, has many of us perplexed

801

02:13:01.930 --> 02:13:21.030

Speaker: from our research, and considering this proposal, we understand the city has invested significantly in improving transparency, including hiring additional staff, improving software programs and training. And every month our records team meets with public records, responders, citywide to improve timeliness.

802

02:13:21.030 --> 02:13:23.250

Speaker: I can attest to these improvements.

803

02:13:23.630 --> 02:13:33.870

Speaker: as my office alone received 84 records request over the past year, almost 10,000 pages, which are all reviewed by a number of staff, including my own.

804

02:13:35.360 --> 02:13:45.800

Speaker: I. We are committed to continuous improvement in this area, but the notion one transparency advocate can manage what is vaguely proposed is at best questionable.

805

02:13:46.390 --> 02:13:57.330

Speaker: My first conversation with the otter on this specific topic was last Friday, and she indicated to a coalition of supporters, included 4 Organizations which you did name earlier

806

02:13:57.950 --> 02:14:04.080

Speaker: for a ballot referral, I would have expected much broader. Input. May I turn this back over to you.

807

02:14:04.290 --> 02:14:06.230

madam? Monitor, You had a comment

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02:14:06.540 --> 02:14:09.900

Speaker: I had. I had a concern about

809

02:14:10.000 --> 02:14:19.250

Speaker: the use of written testimony, and the clarity between President Council Council, President Ryan's remarks, and those that he was quoting.

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02:14:22.310 --> 02:14:28.980

Speaker: I believe, if I may continue, that we heard from experts, from other jurisdictions

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02:14:29.100 --> 02:14:37.050

Speaker: very clearly that one fte is enough to start this initiative, and to establish this office

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02:14:37.410 --> 02:14:42.830

Speaker: within a system that has well established structures and processes; for in

813

02:14:42.980 --> 02:14:47.170

Speaker: interfacing with the public, and that's the Ombudsman's office.

814

02:14:48.530 --> 02:14:56.610

Speaker: No very good Did Did you have a comment now? Very good. So i'm going to read a statement.

815

02:14:57.460 --> 02:15:01.660

Speaker: Transparency is a core value for myself and for the city.

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02:15:02.250 --> 02:15:08.620

Speaker: which is why the counselor bolstered, bolstered our public records routine with an additional 4 time

817

02:15:08.690 --> 02:15:16.560

Speaker: for full time Positions to address the backlog of public records requests in our last budget. That was 4. Fte.

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02:15:16.780 --> 02:15:22.830

Speaker: Equally important is the city's core values of communication, collaboration and fiscal responsibility

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02:15:22.910 --> 02:15:32.110

Speaker: values that, as you've heard from our perspective were not upheld in the process of developing the item brought before Council today.

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02:15:32.450 --> 02:15:37.460

The Charter Review Commission discussed the Transparency Advocate proposal for the first

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02:15:37.510 --> 02:15:38.880

Speaker: and the last time

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02:15:39.330 --> 02:15:45.370

Speaker: in their final meeting on December third, 2022 for approximately 24 min.

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02:15:45.860 --> 02:16:00.730

Speaker: During that time members expressed concern that this item came at the eleventh hour, with no community engagement and no time for the Charter Commission themselves to appropriately, appropriately vet the full and final proposal.

824

02:16:01.120 --> 02:16:14.730

Speaker: Charter Commission Members question the reasons for the item given, that transparency is already a core value for the city of Portland, and as discussed here today, the Ombudsman does much of what is already proposed.

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02:16:17.870 --> 02:16:27.170

Speaker: In lieu of putting this item directly on the ballot, They voted intentionally for this to come to Council for further discussion, collaboration.

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02:16:27.360 --> 02:16:29.100

Speaker: and consideration.

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02:16:29.300 --> 02:16:39.870

Speaker: I want to be clear again. This is not an ordinance. This is a request to refer to the ballot, a change in the governing documents of the city.

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02:16:39.879 --> 02:16:44.510

Speaker: In other words, if we don't get it right, we can't fix it

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02:16:44.760 --> 02:16:56.180

Speaker: by Council ordinance. We would have to refer the changes back to the ballot in order to even tweak this proposal. In other words, we have to get it right the first time.

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02:16:56.700 --> 02:17:09.379

Speaker: Moreover, we've heard that this is not a panacea. We heard problems from our state public records, advocate, and you know I I've never met her personally, but she seems like a very shrewd and

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02:17:09.440 --> 02:17:16.120

Speaker: a thoughtful and intelligent person, and she ran into problems in her tenure at the State level.

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02:17:17.860 --> 02:17:20.680

Speaker: And I believe there have been other issues elsewhere

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02:17:21.420 --> 02:17:30.580

Speaker: without that public engagement we're with. Left with a lot of confusion regarding what this item would do for Portlanders, and how it would change city services.

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02:17:30.650 --> 02:17:37.760

Speaker: both important clarifiers before the Council should consider putting anything on a ballot that would change our city's constitution.

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02:17:38.520 --> 02:17:47.190

Speaker: We also lack clear understanding of the fiscal impacts of this proposal. Given that creating this position with the charter would earmark ongoing funds.

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02:17:47.590 --> 02:18:07.219

Speaker: Well, I have heard the auditor say, this is one Fte. And only one Fte. Given the volume of public records requests the number of bureau that we currently have the workload of the current public records individuals that the Council brought on the 4 Fte. I find it somewhat unlikely

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02:18:07.270 --> 02:18:19.219

Speaker: that this single position would be able to carry out the work that was detailed, and the city needs to plan for potentially major investments in additional personnel. In my opinion.

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02:18:20.160 --> 02:18:24.910

Speaker: to be clear. this might be the best landing place

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02:18:24.920 --> 02:18:43.670

Speaker: i'm not criticizing the proposal in total. This may be the right thing to send out to the voters. I like much of what has been proposed. I like the centralized nature of this. I think, as we move to a centralized form of government, it is essential that we centralize this function. I have questions as to where to centralize it, and how best to do it.

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02:18:43.670 --> 02:18:50.549

Speaker: and what the scope of work should be. But I agree with you, Madam Monitor, that we need to modernize the system.

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02:18:51.139 --> 02:18:59.450

Speaker: I would urge the auditor and her team to complete the internal and external engagement needed to refine this proposal, so that its impact

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02:18:59.580 --> 02:19:08.750

Speaker: are are clear to all Portlanders that we have the public input that we, as the Council, need to be able to refer this to ballot with confidence that we got it right.

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02:19:09.230 --> 02:19:10.459

Speaker: Given all

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02:19:10.760 --> 02:19:21.860

Speaker: that my colleagues that I've highlighted. I'd entertain a motion to lay the auditor's resolution on the table. Can I get a motion? Some of I have a motion from Commissioner Ryan. Can I get a second second?

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02:19:22.219 --> 02:19:23.760

Speaker: The item is tabled.

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02:19:26.059 --> 02:19:35.260

Speaker: Mayor. You need to vote on that motion to table it. Thank you. I'm new to this. I've never tabled anything in my 6 years as mayor. There's the first for everything.

847

02:19:35.530 --> 02:19:36.840

Speaker: Please call the Roll

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02:19:37.219 --> 02:19:44.690

Speaker: Rubio first. I want to thank Madam Auditor ready for her

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02:19:44.860 --> 02:19:47.209

Speaker: thoughtful and informative presentation Today

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02:19:47.209 --> 02:20:16.670

Speaker: I also i'm also reading my comments. I also want to be clear that I support the concept of creating a office of transparency or an advocate. Trans Transparency clearly is a value of all of us up here, and and and a core value for the city, and it's an expectation that we should all be held accountable to. And there isn't a day that goes by that any of us working in here and during government know that we should be practicing practicing this in our daily work.

851

02:20:16.930 --> 02:20:31.480

Speaker: and, as I've stated, numerous times before, I know that we can do better to improve our systems. And that's why i'm typically compelled to support any efforts to promote transparency or community engagement or center community. And people know this about our office.

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02:20:31.480 --> 02:20:47.680

Speaker: So the the need for this improvement is clear and is clear and compelling, and so is the vision for what is possible through the guest speakers that we heard today. What isn't clear for me is how and what we where we are, and what we aren't doing.

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02:20:47.690 --> 02:20:55.970

Speaker: and where, if any, are any efforts that we're doing currently working. And where are there gaps? I don't have that baseline of understanding.

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02:20:55.970 --> 02:21:08.200

Speaker: I don't have that knowledge that I need to inform my decision for the reasons that the mayor said, this is a permanent thing, and I want to make sure i'm doing everything in my integrity to make sure it's the right decision.

855

02:21:08.210 --> 02:21:26.360

Speaker: And now, after this presentation, i'm. Super motivated to learn more about what these other offices in other cities have done, how the work is improved, how it's similar or different to our issues and and our proposed model or not. I have all these questions now that are good questions that I should be asking.

856

02:21:26.360 --> 02:21:41.090

Speaker: and I want the ability to engage with all the relevant learnings and conversations that we do with any serious matter that comes before this council with both internal and external stakeholders, so that I can bring that full analysis to a decision.

857

02:21:41.090 --> 02:21:53.980

Speaker: and that we have a shared baseline of understanding. And if there's one thing I've learned in my past 2 years, here is the need for baseline understanding as a starting place of collaboration and good policy work.

858

02:21:53.980 --> 02:22:05.120

Speaker: This is why I think we would have greatly benefited from a public work session on this issue. I believe this was a miss and I, and we would have been. It would have been a very helpful step

859

02:22:05.120 --> 02:22:20.230

Speaker: for us to develop a shared understanding together, and precisely why I would appreciate some time now to engage, so that we can get this right. And I can feel good about this, and ultimately create this office or commission that we clearly so so badly need.

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02:22:20.290 --> 02:22:27.340

Speaker: So those are some of the open questions for me, and these are the reasons that I I vote in support of this. I vote like

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02:22:27.370 --> 02:22:28.970

Speaker: Ryan. I

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02:22:29.210 --> 02:22:30.230

Speaker: as well as

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02:22:33.200 --> 02:22:36.210

Speaker: did you say

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02:22:37.450 --> 02:22:38.320

Speaker: maps?

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02:22:39.940 --> 02:23:09.660

Speaker: I know. I think we're going to go on for a little bit longer today, but I I I want to share with the auditor that I appreciate you bringing this proposal forward actually fundamentally support this idea. I think this is something that we should bake into the next government. However, the process as a policymaker I find to be disappointing. This is an important big move. I think it makes sense to collect feedback from the community, and lawyers and everyone else who has a stake in this process. I don't think that

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02:23:09.830 --> 02:23:14.950

dialogue is going to kill this proposal. I think it's going to make it better.

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02:23:15.110 --> 02:23:24.170

Speaker: and I hope that ultimately that's where we land. But in the meantime I will vote in favor of the mayor's proposal to

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02:23:25.980 --> 02:23:37.560

Speaker: I take a to table this particular proposal. but I hope it comes back in another form, with more political or more eyes on it. Engagement. Thank you.

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02:23:38.480 --> 02:23:48.480

Speaker: I predict this will go to the ballot in the not distant future. and we'll have the opportunity to work on that I vote I. The item is tabled.

870

02:23:48.770 --> 02:23:54.440

I will now entertain a motion to suspend the rules to allow immediate consideration of a substitute resolution

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02:23:54.590 --> 02:24:00.080

Speaker: so moved. Second, we have a motion and a second to suspend the rules.

872

02:24:01.290 --> 02:24:03.910

Speaker: Please call the role on the suspension of the rules.

873

02:24:04.110 --> 02:24:11.620

Speaker: Rabbi. All right, all right, all right, all right. The rules are suspended.

874

02:24:11.890 --> 02:24:21.850

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan. Yes, colleagues. I'd like to submit a resolution for council, consideration and deliberation, title resolution on promoting government transparency.

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02:24:22.230 --> 02:24:28.070

Speaker: whereas transparency is a fundamental principle of good governance that promotes accountability.

876

02:24:28.150 --> 02:24:31.600

Speaker: public trust, and effective public service delivery.

877

02:24:31.730 --> 02:24:43.450

Speaker: whereas access to information and open communication are essential for community members to participate in the decision-making process, and to hold government officials accountable.

878

02:24:44.030 --> 02:24:47.800

Speaker: whereas a lack of transparency can lead to corruption.

879

02:24:48.090 --> 02:25:02.290

Speaker: mismanagement and abuse of power, all of which undermine public trust and government institutions. whereas there is a growing demand for greater transparency from the public and civil society organizations.

880

02:25:02.560 --> 02:25:07.290

Speaker: whereas council approved increased funding in the fiscal year 2223

881

02:25:07.580 --> 02:25:09.760

budget to hire 4

882

02:25:09.780 --> 02:25:17.530

Speaker: new full-time employees for public records process to address the existing backlog and avoid backlogs in the future.

883

02:25:17.750 --> 02:25:27.030

Speaker: whereas Council approved the creation of a privacy and city-wide data governance team to identify best practices in how sitting managers

884

02:25:27.240 --> 02:25:40.270

Speaker: the city manages and shares data, whereas Council appointed a transition team for charter, reform, and changes to government, related to measure 26 to 2 8, with the intent to educate.

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02:25:40.430 --> 02:25:56.240

Speaker: engage, and inform the community. whereas Council supported the now dissolved Charter Commission an exploration of new ideas and respects that the Commission did not have the time to vet the concept of a transparency advocate.

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02:25:57.130 --> 02:26:05.650

Speaker: Therefore, be it resolved that all members of council recognize the importance of government transparency as a means of fostering public trust.

887

02:26:05.900 --> 02:26:10.350

Speaker: promoting accountability. and enhancing public service delivery.

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02:26:11.820 --> 02:26:18.380

Speaker: Be it further resolved that Council requests the auditor perform the following analysis: Number One

889

02:26:18.830 --> 02:26:30.110

Speaker: review city policies that promote transparency and access to information. including the adoption of open data initiatives. freedom of information, laws

890

02:26:30.130 --> 02:26:34.150

Speaker: and whistleblower protection laws. number 2

891

02:26:35.060 --> 02:26:47.940

Speaker: review existing efforts to increase public participation in decision making and make recommendations on ways to improve those efforts, including the city's, network of advisory boards and commissions.

892

02:26:47.970 --> 02:26:55.600

Speaker: public comment periods. participatory budgeting, and other feedback mechanisms. Number 3

893

02:26:55.980 --> 02:27:09.990

Speaker: ensure procedures are in place to train government officials and employees on the importance of transparency. and how to effectively communicate with community members and respond to their request of for information.

894

02:27:10.260 --> 02:27:19.570

Speaker: Number 4 explore the concept of transparency advocate that would review acts of city, bureau and city officials

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02:27:19.620 --> 02:27:25.840

Speaker: build upon current public record practices and AIM to further increase transparency, engagement

896

02:27:26.390 --> 02:27:33.380

Speaker: council supports such position as having timely access to employees, information and records

897

02:27:33.870 --> 02:27:45.740

Speaker: review cost associated with a transparency advocate conceptual position, including the time and budget needed to support bureau and city official responsiveness

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02:27:46.610 --> 02:27:57.370

Speaker: be. It finally resolved that the Council supports the auditor, providing regular reports on progress made in the research of any recommendations related to the actions listed above.

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02:27:57.580 --> 02:28:13.620

Speaker: and supports the auditor, bringing back to Council for consideration of future ballot referral that has been fully vetted, and in partnership will continuously seek ways to enhance transparency and accountability in the city's operations.

900

02:28:18.270 --> 02:28:28.070

Speaker: Thank you. So the resolution is on the table. Madam Auditor, i'll give you the first word on it, and then we'll open it up to public testimony people would like to testify. It is a resolution.

901

02:28:30.150 --> 02:28:33.390

Speaker: Is this a resolution you're planning to pass today? Yes.

902

02:28:33.440 --> 02:28:36.160

Speaker: I have not. This is the first I've heard of it.

903

02:28:36.530 --> 02:28:42.100

Speaker: So I don't think this honors the spirit of transparency that you all are passionate about.

904

02:28:43.470 --> 02:28:49.980

Speaker: I'm not willing to commit to an alternative use of my office's resources without my knowledge.

905

02:28:51.740 --> 02:28:54.030

Commissioner Ryan. Any thoughts on that

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02:28:57.850 --> 02:28:58.540

Speaker: in it.

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02:28:58.730 --> 02:29:14.020

Speaker: Sorry. Sorry so if I may paraphrase so she does not have to repeat herself. She does not feel she's had adequate time to review. This does not think a vote today would be in the spirit of openness and transparency.

908

02:29:14.050 --> 02:29:20.340

Speaker: Would you like to vote today? Or, if you want it alternatively, we could put it on an agenda for a later date. It's up to you.

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02:29:20.770 --> 02:29:30.780

Speaker: I'm just i'm reading the room. And what I heard is that this is in the spirit I know all of the all. Everyone did comment on this.

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02:29:31.790 --> 02:29:45.130

Speaker: We can give you a copy. I do think we should vote today. It's what's been said with all the chiefs. Excuse me. I've had no knowledge of this resolution. It was not submitted to council prior to this meeting.

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02:29:46.130 --> 02:29:48.680

Speaker: I've submitted all my documents to you.

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02:29:53.150 --> 02:29:58.980

Speaker: Well, i'll tell you what, as the snow comes down, and my ford fiesta waits for its trip

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02:29:59.030 --> 02:30:00.970

Speaker: across mountainous terrain.

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02:30:01.160 --> 02:30:07.220

Speaker: I'd be happy just tabling this all, and having further discussions about it at a later date.

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02:30:08.380 --> 02:30:10.400

Speaker: I don't know how my colleagues feel.

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02:30:11.470 --> 02:30:23.940

Speaker: I would only note that it's a request of the out. There is certainly not a direction right? So it's we, as a body, can make the request, and she can choose how to respond

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02:30:24.460 --> 02:30:31.530

Speaker: due time when she's had a time to to digest it. So I Don't have particular concerns.

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02:30:31.750 --> 02:30:38.980

Speaker: making the request today, and fully understand. She needs time to process it, and maybe come back to us with with feedback.

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02:30:39.340 --> 02:30:50.670

Speaker: I agree with that statement. May I ask you for clarity for process, when issues are tabled by council? Could you give us for our shared understanding? What next steps are.

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02:30:52.290 --> 02:30:56.820

Speaker: The proposal is tabled indefinitely. and so it could come back.

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02:30:58.940 --> 02:31:00.430

Speaker: And who would?

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02:31:00.810 --> 02:31:04.900

Speaker: Who would put it on the agenda? I presume it would be? You would be me

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02:31:09.850 --> 02:31:14.000

Speaker: doesn't have to be you doesn't happen it could be you. It could be you.
Yes.

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02:31:14.450 --> 02:31:16.630

Speaker: i'm sorry it could be. Counsel

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02:31:17.280 --> 02:31:23.880

Speaker: Council could do that as well anybody could. Yes, anybody with the
authority to put an item on the agenda could yes.

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02:31:25.030 --> 02:31:28.270

Speaker: or a variation of it, or it could be in cooperation.

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02:31:30.470 --> 02:31:33.610

Speaker: Mr. Oh, sorry, Robert

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02:31:33.750 --> 02:31:39.080

just Robert Taylor, City attorney, just to clarify that point of procedure. If

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02:31:39.180 --> 02:31:42.900

Speaker: Council has passed a motion to lay an item on the table

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02:31:43.350 --> 02:31:46.400

to get it off of the table. A

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02:31:46.450 --> 02:31:56.030

Speaker: motion has to pass, counsel to take it off the table and have Council consider it. So. Yeah, it would be the primers procedure. Okay, thank you for that clarification.

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02:32:00.250 --> 02:32:16.330

Speaker: I'm sorry. Could I get clarification on that? I want to make sure I follow it. Just so. Everyone's clear so to now that it's been tape, and and this is literally the first time anything's been tabled in my tenure, my 6 plus years. So my understanding and Robert jump up and down and object, if i'm wrong on this.

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02:32:16.330 --> 02:32:35.630

Speaker: to unable something tabled would require a majority vote of the Council. Is that correct? You make a motion to take it off the table. Another majority have to be seconded. Yeah. And then a majority of the Council would have to vote to unable it. Is that correct?

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02:32:36.040 --> 02:32:38.160

Speaker: Could propose a completely different

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02:32:39.580 --> 02:32:41.650

Speaker: that that could happen too.

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02:32:46.240 --> 02:32:48.620

Speaker: May my I

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02:32:49.490 --> 02:33:03.720

Speaker: ask if there, if it's indefinite. There's no timeline on. On taking it off the table it remains to be on the table until it's taken off the table. Right? Okay, so we can continue to discuss this

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02:33:03.830 --> 02:33:07.420

Speaker: at our next soonest opportunity. I would hope so

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02:33:08.580 --> 02:33:09.760

Speaker: absolutely

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02:33:12.790 --> 02:33:29.520

Speaker: all right. So time is wasting. I'm. I'm hearing the the majority. Is there any public testimony on the resolution? Is there anybody who'd like to testify on the resolution? Come on up, and could you rest? I I got your name the first time. But if you could say your name again for the record, please.

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02:33:32.350 --> 02:33:36.700

Speaker: Yeah, my name is Benjamin. I got 3 min. I assume.

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02:33:38.140 --> 02:34:00.840

Speaker: Yes, you have 3 min. Yeah. I I think this resolution is great. I think, neutering the the city auditors office is is a wonderful idea, giving them any sort of power or time to do investigatory things or audits on our business partners, our our fellow super pacs that have financed our way into these offices, you know. I think, that we should d0 Our best to limit and curtail them completely.

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02:34:00.840 --> 02:34:30.840

because otherwise we're gonna have another issue where an audi0 On the on the Portland Business Alliance happens right. A historic audit that won a national award, the nightly award, the first one of the first in the country, I mean, we can't have that again. That's that's a scandal on a large level. You know the the multinational lawyers over here at the Wells Fargo Center. They want to prove that you know they will not be protected if if we give the auditors office certain powers to actually look into things, and I mean the the district attorney. They just cited that because the Portland Business Alliance received

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02:34:30.840 --> 02:34:44.200

these public funding, I think millions to fund for different fts and positions to advocate that people visit Portland, or whatever that could be, money to fund the author's office. But forget that.

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02:34:44.200 --> 02:34:59.450

Speaker: like like we need that. You know us fellow. Dark money. Audience: we need that protection, and and to have the author's office the freedom to go around and and look into things and act like they they know what they're talking about with the facts

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02:34:59.450 --> 02:35:28.410

around. Transparency like forget all that like. Do you agree, Mr. Ryan? I mean, this is a wonderful proposal to completely delineate any kind of progress, any kind of investigatory powers that they might have. And I I think you are making the right decision. You are gonna be protected. Just so, you know, especially you, R. And your double protected maps. You're You're not become a I think that the you know those fellows over there at the World Trade Center. I think they're looking at you and the Police Union. I already know they love you.

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02:35:28.410 --> 02:35:33.710

Speaker: I know they love you. So I really advocate that this

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02:35:33.710 --> 02:35:58.040

Speaker: what what was it? Whatever amendment thing I I think it's great. I think it's great, I think. In fact, we should just do more. We should. We should have, like the authors office, go pick up trash, you know, just to this should in Honestly, i'm going to be honest. This could be written by Chat Gbt within, like I don't know 5 min so hopefully they don't do that. That that would be an inappropriate use of of the resources.

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02:35:58.040 --> 02:35:59.450

But you know.

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02:35:59.510 --> 02:36:03.550

Speaker: hopefully, this continues and pulls forward. I'm just kind of being redundant now, but

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02:36:03.750 --> 02:36:06.780

Timer: I really I really want to stress that

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02:36:06.910 --> 02:36:11.090

Speaker: y'all y'all are made men and women. And thank you.

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02:36:11.120 --> 02:36:12.350

Speaker: Thank you, Benjamin.

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02:36:14.450 --> 02:36:15.560

Speaker: Anybody else

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02:36:19.060 --> 02:36:20.050

Speaker: call the roll

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02:36:22.520 --> 02:36:35.150

Speaker: board of Order Commissioner maps. So we are voting on. So we are voting on a resolution. Commissioner Ryan's resolution. Okay. thank you. Rubio.

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02:36:35.720 --> 02:36:43.460

Speaker: As I say, before I welcome a chance to engage with the hopes of this proposal. Coming back to councils fairly soon.

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02:36:43.460 --> 02:36:56.280

We need to do our homework on this, and I welcome future conversations to come, and my intent today is that it? The after more engagement we'll be back here ready to move forward on a full proposal to the voters. I vote I

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02:36:56.350 --> 02:36:57.190

Speaker: right?

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02:36:57.480 --> 02:37:14.780

Speaker: Yeah. This council is committed to transparency. We live it daily in 2020. The mayor and the city council approved transparency as a core value for the city. Since then the city's attorney's office has added 4 full time positions to ensure. We are delivering on this promise

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02:37:14.780 --> 02:37:18.750

Speaker: and created initiatives on privacy and open data for the public.

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02:37:18.790 --> 02:37:37.100

Speaker: Today we double down on that promise. Through the proposed resolution. We look forward to having the auditor return to council with the fully vetted plan working together, we will deliver an improved transparency policy and additive transparency practices in the spirit of cooperation. I vote I

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02:37:37.560 --> 02:37:39.950

Speaker: and Allison Aye maps.

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02:37:40.790 --> 02:37:50.130

I want to thank everyone who participated in today's dialogue. I recognize this wasn't easy.

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02:37:50.230 --> 02:38:08.280

Speaker: I also appreciate what the auditor is trying to do here. I actually support the initiative. I think that it's smart policy for this Council to look into establishing a transparency advocate. However, I am disappointed about the lack of a

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02:38:08.470 --> 02:38:27.700

Speaker: community engagement process around this, I think it would help answer some of the questions that have been bouncing around this chamber today. I don't think it's hard to do. This is what we do on every major policy that comes before this Council. It. The auditor obviously is an independent body, and can behave and

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02:38:27.700 --> 02:38:38.810

Speaker: can move forward. However she wants. However, I would encourage the auditor's office to consider Don't give up on this plan, at least for me.

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02:38:39.520 --> 02:38:54.400

Speaker: engaged with in more of a dialogue, and got more feedback from the people of Portland and other stakeholders here. I think that we could address all the concerns that were raised today, and we could get something before the voters. But in the meantime I will vote I,

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02:38:54.680 --> 02:38:55.420

Speaker: Miller.

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02:38:57.190 --> 02:39:08.450

Speaker: I think we're going to get to. Yes, madam, Auditor and I will work with you to get there. But how we get there matters to me, and the details also matter to me. I vote I

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02:39:09.030 --> 02:39:14.990

Speaker: resolution is adopted. and blissfully we are adjourned.