



February 21, 2024 Council Agenda

5753

1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 2500, Portland, OR 97201

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

Questions may be directed to councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:30 am

Session Status: Adjourned

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Commissioner Rubio arrived at 10:14 a.m. and left at 10:44 a.m.

Officers in attendance: Anne Milligan, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Rebecca Dobert, Acting Council Clerk

Item 165 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and on a Y-4 roll call the balance of the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Council adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Communications

158

[Request of Becky Hawkins to address Council regarding the need for safer streets for biking and walking](#)

(Communication)

Document number: 158-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

159

[Request of Erica Montgomery to address Council regarding ceasefire](#) (Communication)

Document number: 159-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

160

[Request of Shedrick Wilkins to address Council regarding fusion](#) (Communication)

Document number: 160-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

161

[Request of Carolyn Brunett to address Council regarding plastics recycling program](#) (Communication)

Document number: 161-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

162

[Request of Patrick Brunett to address Council regarding organizations operating shelters and Safe Rest Villages](#) (Communication)

Document number: 162-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

Time Certain

163

[Accept the Technology Oversight Committee Quarterly Report](#) (Report)

Document number: 163-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 30 minutes

Disposition: Accepted

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

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

164

[Amend Floating Structures Code to clarify permitting requirements for repairs to existing floatation systems \(amend Code Sections 28.03.020 and 28.05.010\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191643

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Development Services

Time certain: 10:15 am

Time requested: 15 minutes

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading February 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda

165

[*Assign certain program functions to Commissioners-in-Charge in anticipation of the future service area realignment to support transition to the mayor-council form of government](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Disposition: Referred to Commissioner of Finance and Administration

Item 165 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

166

[Reappoint Kevin Rogers to the Community Budget Advisory Board for term to expire December 31, 2024](#) (Report)

Document number: 166-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: City Budget Office

Disposition: Confirmed

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

167

[*Authorize Letter of Agreement to grant recognition to the Public Information Officer classification into a represented status under Professional & Technical Employees, Local 17, and address wages and working conditions as part of the collective bargaining agreement](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191637

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Human Resources

Disposition: Passed

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

168

[*Accept grant from the State of Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development for \\$90,000, authorize Intergovernmental Agreement to implement equitable community engagement for the 2045 Transportation System Plan, and appropriate \\$40,000 for FY 2023-24](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191638

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Disposition: Passed

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

169

[*Authorize a contract with Carahsoft Technology Corporation for the purchase of Granicus workflow management system software licenses and support for three years not to exceed \\$1,500,000](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191639

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Transportation

Disposition: Passed

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

170

[Approve Council Minutes for January 3-31, 2024](#) (Report)

Document number: 170-2024

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

Bureau: Portland City Auditor; Council Clerk

Disposition: Approved

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Regular Agenda

171

[Nominate Chris Oxley to the Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission to fill a City of Portland Position](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37651

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan

Bureau: Management and Finance

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Adopted

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

172

[Amend Title 15 Emergency Code to align with the amended City Charter approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-228 \(replace Code Title 15\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191641

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Bureau: Management and Finance

Time requested: 20 minutes

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading February 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

173

[Appoint members to serve on the Police Review Board for terms to end February 21, 2027](#) (Report)

Document number: 173-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Independent Police Review

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Confirmed

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

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

174

[Accept two guaranteed maximum prices of \\$3,469,244 and \\$4,796,719 from Howard S. Wright for construction of Council Chambers, Councilor Offices, Mayor and City Administrator Offices, and major maintenance \(Procurement Report - RFP 00002125\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 174-2024

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 Gonzalez.

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

175

[Accept bid of \\$4,792,499 from James W. Fowler Co. for the Stark Trunk Rehabilitation project \(Procurement Report - ITB 00002225\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 175-2024

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 Gonzalez.

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

176

[Accept bid of James W. Fowler Co. General Contractors for the Sellwood Sanitary Sewer Extension for \\$6,736,437 \(Procurement Report - Bid 00002226\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 176-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Accepted - Prepare Contract

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

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

177

[Authorize Director of the Bureau of Human Resources to offer Employment Agreements to Interim Deputy City Administrators](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191635

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Human Resources

Second Reading agenda item 137.

Disposition: Passed As Amended

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Nay

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

178

[Urge Multnomah County Chair to pilot an ambulance response model to address paramedic staffing shortages and reduce instances when no ambulances are available to respond to emergencies](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37652

Introduced by: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Bureau: Portland Fire & Rescue

Time requested: 20 minutes

Disposition: Adopted

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Absent

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Four-Fifths Agenda

179

[*Authorize Letter of Agreement to approve inclement weather compensation for certain Laborers' International Union of North America Local 483 recreation casual employees](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191636

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Human Resources; Parks & Recreation; Management and Finance

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

**Portland City Council Meeting Speaker
List
February 21, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.**

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Rebecca Dobert	Acting Council Clerk	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Mingus Mapps	Commissioner	
Anne Milligan	Senior Deputy City Attorney	
Becky Hawkins		158
Shedrick Wilkins		160
Carolyn Brunett		161
Patrick Brunett		162
Skyler Brocker Knapp	Mayor's Senior Policy Advisor	162
Ethan Cirno	Analyst, Office of Management and Finance	163
Jeff Baer	Director, Bureau of Technology Services	163
David Tunley	Technology Oversight Committee	163
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Tracy Warren	Acting Human Resources Director	177
Ron Zito	Workforce Development Manager	179
	BDS Residential & Commercial Inspections	
Dave Tebeau	Division Manager, River Community Advisory Committee Liaison	164
	Interim Deputy Director, Bureau of Emergency Management	172
Chris Carey		
Diana Shiplet	Project Coordinator, Charter Transition Team	172
Jared Essig		172
Ross Caldwell	IPR Director	173
Addie Smith		173
Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch		173
Philip Chachka		173
Edith Gillis		173
bRidgeCranE chARLeS siMChA jOHnSoN		173, 178
Travis Reed	Howard S. Wright	174
Biko Taylor	Chief Procurement Officer	174-176
Maty Sauter	Manager, Division of Asset Management	174
Ryan Gillespie	Fire Chief, Portland Fire & Rescue	178
Scott Lewis	Fire Chief, City of Gresham	178
Rob McDonald	Multnomah County Operations Manger, AMR	178
Sharon Meieran	Multnomah County Commissioner	178
Sarah Hobbs		178
Vadim Mozyrsky		178
Jared Essig		178

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

February 21, 2024 – 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.

Speaker: Good morning, everybody. This is the Wednesday, February 21st, 2024 morning session of the Portland City Council. Good morning. Rebecca please call the roll. Good morning. Yea. Rubio Ryan Gonzalez here.

Speaker: Maps here, here. And I believe commissioner Rubio will be joining us shortly online if she's not already online, uh, we'll hear from legal counsel on the rules of order and decorum.

Speaker: Good morning.

Speaker: Good morning. Welcome to the Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually, you must sign up in advance on the council agenda. At Portland.gov/council/agenda. Information on engaging with City Council can be found on the council clerk's web page. The presiding officer preserves order and decorum during City Council meetings. The presiding officer determines the length of testimony. Individuals generally have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated. A timer will indicate when your time is done. 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 if you cause a disruption, a warning will be given. Further disruption will result in ejection from the meeting. Anyone who fails to leave once ejected is subject to arrest for trespass. Additionally council may take a short recess and reconvene virtually. Your

testimony today should address the matter being considered. When testifying, state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. Disclose if you are a lobbyist. If you are representing an organization, please identify it. For testifiers joining virtually, please unmute yourself. Once the council clerk calls your name. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Uh, good morning. Uh, I just want to clarify, I vote yea that commissioner Rubio has informed me that she needs to leave today's meeting early to attend to personal family business. Due to this, i'll be shifting a few agenda items up during today's session. We'll do communications first, as we always do. So this is subsequent to that following time. Certain item 164 will then hear item 177, which is the second reading followed by item 179, which is a 4/5 agenda item that requires all of our votes. After those items are heard, the rest of the agenda will be read in the typical order. Thanks to those here in person and online for your patience as we make those necessary adjustments. First up, will be communications. First, individual please. Item 158 require of becky hawkins to address council regarding the need for safer streets for biking and walking. Good morning. Thanks for being here.

Speaker: Hello. Is this a good, uh, distance?

Speaker: Perfect.

Speaker: It's. I mean, it's this the room is what it is. So we're a little farther apart than probably we'd like, but, uh, we really appreciate you being here. Thanks thanks.

Speaker: Um, so my name is becky hawkins. I've been a full time bike commuter in Portland for 11 years. My job has taken me to several different locations, so I've had a commute to northeast, southeast, northwest, and downtown Portland. And I have to brag for a second, because my commute right now is awesome. It is greenways

and bike lanes, door to door. Um, I can't join my coworkers and talking about where to park cheaply downtown or when to feed the meter. Um I spend less money a year on transportation than some of them do on gas and car payments. Every month. Um, when I get home at night, I don't have to worry about finding street parking, which is great because there truly isn't any. And I want this option for all of Portlanders to be able to get around safely. Um, also, Portland prides itself, right? Rightfully on its small businesses and bicycling is an extremely efficient way to take advantage of this. Um, if you have, like a bakery, a cafe, a specialty grocery store, and a stationary store within a mile and a half of each other, you don't want to repark your car and find new street parking for times. That sounds terrible. It's too far to walk with all of your stuff, but with bicycling, you're just hopping on and off and you can pull over if something else looks interesting. I work down the hill at the judy kafoury center for youth arts, and on a busy weekend we bring over a thousand people downtown, uh, some of whom used to be scared to go here. So when people drive downtown and park in the garage, all they see is the inside of our building and the line of cars waiting to get out. Or maybe the line waiting to pay. And if people can take active transit downtown, they're much more likely to find other things downtown, um, or on the way that they would like to come enjoy another time. And I want this infrastructure to be all over Portland. I have a friend who lives off southeast foster. He doesn't own a car, and he can't walk long distances, so bicycling would be a great way to get low impact exercise, visit friends, shop locally. Um, but he was getting a flat tire from debris in the road every couple months, and he just got frustrated and quit. Um, and the Portland insights survey, published last summer, 45% of respondents said they'd like to do more bicycling if it was affordable and safe to do so. I started biking in my 20s when I had poor risk assessment skills. Um, so I don't blame people who read about 1 to 2 deaths a

week and decide not to try biking here. Um, I have some streets I'd never bike on out of safety concerns. Um I found out you were considering putting bike lanes on northeast sandy. I would love to. I have a list of restaurants I'd like to try in northeast sandy and I keep forgetting they exist because I will never bike on northeast sandy. Um, you know, until there's a safer way to do it. Um just over a year ago, I witnessed a hit and run while I was en route to a vigil for victims of traffic violence. Um, julie can't make that stuff up. Um, and I don't know why. I can see a hit and run and read the news and keep a mental list of intersections where I've had close calls and keep biking. But you should not have to be that crazy or that stubborn to enjoy the benefits of bicycling and I want the infrastructure to bring that to everyone in Portland. Thanks for your time.

Speaker: Thank you. I know our transportation commissioner has a comment or question. Commissioner Mapps. Sure, sure.

Speaker: Hey, cynthia. Uh, mingus, I'm one of the guys are on the commissioner in charge of transportation here, including bike transportation. I wanted to thank you to come in for coming in today and advocating for bike infrastructure. I am really glad that it's working for you. Uh, and I think we have some really good news to report in this space. I think if you were watching the headlines over the last week or so, we just got our data on bike ridership in Portland. Uh, and it was up 5% last, uh, last year. And we're dedicated to continuing to grow that. And if I can do a pitch, uh, um, for bike town, if you haven't actually, uh, gotten on your bike for a while, maybe you don't own a bike or maybe your bike is old and a little bit, uh, need some repairs before you jump on it. We have many opportunities for Portlanders to go and rent bikes. Uh, um, at our various bike towns. Stations. Those are the kind of the orange bike racks that you see around the city. Uh, very cheap to explore. Super fun. Those are also electric bikes, too. So if you haven't been on an electric bike

before, uh, truly a game changer. Um, I want you and everyone who can hear my voice now to know that, uh, myself and pbot are deeply committed to building a multimodal transportation system, which includes people rolling on bikes, people walking, people taking public transportation. Uh we also have to accommodate, you know, our freight trucks and folks who, for various reasons, have to use the private automobile. Uh, we really appreciate, uh, the fact that, number one, the system is working for you. And number two, we appreciate you coming in and holding us accountable for maintaining and growing that system. Uh, thank you very much.

Speaker: Thanks for your time, sir.

Speaker: Thanks for being here. Appreciate it. Next individual, please. Item 159 request of erica montgomery to address council regarding cease fire.

Speaker: Welcome.

Speaker: Erica, is she on line? No. All right. 160, please. Next individual request of cedric wilkins to address council regarding fusion. Welcome, cedric. Thanks for being here. Morning.

Speaker: On October 18th, I did my little talk on fusion energy and I started a website. I got one person that responded and her initials are k, mf, uh, but there's no return address, so obviously maybe she would like to meet me in a public place like omsi. So send me another get on my website. So one person responded, I one thing. I said I'd send her a santa claus picture. I'm getting not getting. That way I look like santa claus. Keep going. Like this. Just take a picture with your phone at omsi so you can have your santa claus card right? Uh, and, um, there's a big, uh. I may start talking to pcc and the Portland public schools. There's been some, um, breakthrough in laser fusion over twice over break even. That's the energy coming out. But 20 years ago, there was a big controversy about laser fusion. It's not the best to make a power plant. It would be better to use, uh, magnetics, which looks

like a big giant donut. So I've said enough. I, uh, so my website is shedrick. Uh, magnetic fusion. Just google it. And, uh, obviously talking here doesn't get that many people. And obviously people at pcc might actually want a career or a job or high school students may want to study that. If and I've useful knowledge to them to know that, uh, this was what I heard 20 years ago, that laser fusion that may make more power to, uh, but the neutrons come out from a central source. It's easier to thermalize them if it's in a big, giant thing about the size of this room. The neutrons are spread out. Also if you use mirrors, the way the neutrons will be like bullets. They'll break the mirror up. And so that then you can't send as much light. So you got these. You got the one in Livermore labs which is over break even the laser systems the size of a football field. You know, that's a lot of stuff there. Uh, so that's all I got to say. And I don't have to, uh, give any speeches. It was my plan when I got the letter with no return address. Maybe somebody would like to meet me in a public place so that I thought, oh, OMSI. And I. Oh, I'm also a member of OMSI now, so I have a yearly thing, and I can have a guest. Right. And there's also bathrooms out outside. So if this person just sends me a timer a day and I'm retired on social security, now, I can just meet them. This keeps me active. I like to stay mentally active doing this even though I'm. I, you know, I keep active.

Speaker: Thanks. Uh commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Just real quickly. Uh uh shedrick. Thank you for coming in today. Uh, I'm one of the pleasures of serving on this council is to see the energy that you bring to finding alternative fuel sources. Uh, especially, uh, ones that don't depend on carbon. And, uh, I appreciate that. That's I think, very much the work of our current and next generations. Um, I did want to give you the opportunity, see if someone wanted to find your website or just email you. Do you have a website or email that people can go to? Well I usually just say it.

Speaker: I just say google, I'm at the top. Okay just google cedric magnetic fusion.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: But I have I have a speech. Like I say, I'm not for laser fusion. Okay. It's that was something I dealt with 20 years ago.

Speaker: Absolutely. I just wanted to make sure that, uh, I'm trying to help you find your audience and, uh, I'm I'm. And I thank if you, uh, put it in the google machine, people will find you.

Speaker: Yeah. I need to talk to the schools about the community. Colleges would be better.

Speaker: Okay, great. Good luck.

Speaker: Better than here.

Speaker: Uh, and thank you for your advocacy. Okay. Take care.

Speaker: It keeps me mentally active. I just don't want to retire and go. You know, all that well, you keep that a good idea active, too.

Speaker: All right. Take care. All right.

Speaker: Bye bye. Thank you. Sir. Next individual, please. Item 161 request of carolyn brunet to address council regarding plastics recycling program. Good morning. Good morning. Thank you for being here. Hello everyone.

Speaker: I have a proposal for you all. The city of Portland metro and the state of Oregon should collaborate to create a much needed enhanced plastic recycling program to employ persons experiencing drug and alcohol addiction and homelessness using cannabis tax revenue to do it. Utilizing state of the art handheld technology now used widely in europe. Plastic waste can be efficiently sorted and repurposed. This program can be funded by the cannabis tax revenue to help people fulfill the employment and job skills development piece of their rehabilitation. Recall that from the beginning, the cannabis tax revenue was

designed to support drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Ames, Oregon has a very serious problem with the recycling process. Many plastic materials that could be recycled are not because plastic items are often not clearly labeled by type. If at all. Materials that could be recycled unnecessarily end up in landfills. Homeless and addicted persons could be employed at a very good wage to collect and prepare plastic waste for reuse. Using state of the art technology for sorting. This could become a fundamental part of rehabilitation for addicted individuals seeking to change the course of their lives. Following the example of groups such as precious plastic, an environmental cooperative based in the netherlands, plastics are being used and reused in many creative and unique ways. There are many committed groups and businesses throughout the world, using plastic waste to make everything from eyeglass frames to high quality construction sheeting and bricks. The homeless and addicted already work and recycling, mostly collecting cans and plastic bottles, but this could be expanded and providing an opportunity to work in the recycling industry for a good wage, provide. Aided by the cannabis tax revenue, would give individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness a real path toward changing their lives for the better, while providing a much needed service. Initially, Oregon led the way in the widespread practice of u.s. Recycling, but then china decided it no longer wanted to take our plastic waste. So now this process must be upgraded. Improper managed plastic waste poses a tremendous threat to the health of life on earth. All an enhanced recycling program employing the homeless and addicted using the cannabis tax revenue would serve the dual purpose of properly managing plastic waste while helping individuals change their lives. For the better and improve the quality of life for everyone. Thanks thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner Mapps had a comment. Uh sure.

Speaker: Uh, mr. Burnett, thank you for your testimony today. I love your ideas and I very much appreciate you going out of your way to be here in person. Um, I know commissioner Rubio, uh, um, is managing a conflict now, and I know she'll show up at some point. It's too bad she can't be here. Um, I would encourage you to, uh, take your excellent written testimony and submit it to her. I'll tell you, commissioner Rubio is, um, the commissioner in charge of both the cannabis program right now and essentially the recycling program. I think that she would be probably a great resource. Uh, um, for you, as you, um, help, uh, as you go about the work of fleshing out this idea and looking for a champion.

Speaker: Thank you. Sure.

Speaker: And just just so you know, um, uh, commissioner Rubio will join us in a moment, but her chief of staff is listening, so. Yeah. Excellent hearing your great ideas.

Speaker: I've sent it to all of you, by the way. And there are links to what's going on in europe. Europe is really making great strides in dealing with this problem that everyone is dealing with. Thanks, folks. Appreciate it.

Speaker: Have a good day. Thank you for your ideas. Appreciate it. Next individual please. Item 162 request of patrick brunet to address council regarding organizations operating shelters and safe rest villages.

Speaker: Welcome.

Speaker: Thanks for being here. Thank you. Good morning.

Speaker: Um, as you know, the city and county are spending millions of dollars to increase the number and size of shelters, sanctioned campsite, and safe rest villages around the city. This includes, for example, the Multnomah safe rest village, where the existing srv is slated to expand by three and a half times its current capacity from 28 pods up to 100. And whether you agree with this approach or not,

this strategy inevitably impacts neighborhoods where these facilities are located. I'm calling on the city to mandate increased accountability from the organizations contracted to run these facilities. Despite rules prohibiting satellite camps around shelters and srvs, unsanctioned camping persists, along with open drug sales and use discarded drug paraphernalia, mental health crises, fights people pass out on the street, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, vandalism, and trash adjacent to these facilities. Multiple instances throughout the city have been repeatedly documented in recent Portland newscast. The residents of neighborhoods are advised to report their concerns to pdx reporter and hope for the best. More egregious activity like car prowls, break ins, or verbal and physical assaults are shunted to 911 or the non-emergency line with variable responses. Unfortunate only the nonprofit organizations that run srvs and shelters often turn a blind eye to anything going on immediately outside their walls. Sites that they are responsible only for what goes on within the confines of the shelter or village. These well-funded nonprofits receive millions of dollars from the city and county. Are they not responsible for supporting the city's broader efforts? Their operations are often shoehorned into quiet residential neighborhoods. Despite the sincere and well-founded objections of the people living there. They therefore have an even greater obligation for assuring safe and clean streets, whether they think so or not. Given the millions of dollars of public monies received by these organizations, the city, county and joint office of homeless services must set higher expectations for civic engagement with the communities that have acquiesced to having them operate there are specifically nonprofits should be required to actively collaborate with neighborhood organizations to help monitor areas around shelters and villages. They should cooperate with citizen efforts to report unsanctioned illegal activity, becoming super reporters, if you will, and they should advocate for enforcement of anti-

camping regulations. These organizations comprise knowledgeable and well connected professional teams with strong lines of communication with governmental agencies. They have. They are hence strategically poised to help the city address the crisis on the streets. If they are going to continue to receive millions in taxpayer money, they have to get on board with efforts to address the homeless crisis beyond their walls. For Portland to regain any acceptable measure of livability and safety, these simple performance criteria must be made a condition for any new or continued funding. Thank you, thank you, and don't go away.

Speaker: Um, this this is, uh, your testimony is important. First of all, thank you. And um, I want to assure you that as we, we expand our sites and we use our new task model, this is front and center. And although I didn't give her much time to prepare, I'm going to call on skylar knapp, who runs this program for my office. She's listening in, uh, and maybe skylar, could you talk about what happens in a neighborhood near one of the task sites? And by the way, the safe rest villages are now being converted to be smaller versions of tasks, meaning they're not just an encampment. They're a place where people get immediate case management. They're connected to services. And the goal is to get them into housing that is specifically reserved for them as quickly as possible. But the good neighbor agreements are central to the work that we're doing. Skylar do you want to just briefly talk about some of that?

Speaker: Yeah, thanks, mayor. So, um, and also happy to talk offline a little bit on real specifics. If you have questions. But, um, i'll just do an overview that our team, um, two gentlemen on my team, hank and hendrick, are actually working right now. So, um, with the city shelter team to create good neighbor agreements for each site in the city shelter system. So that includes the temporary alternative shelter site. The safe rest villages, as well as the river district navigation center. Um, so we are

working with the surrounding communities and really, um, bolstering those processes right now. So exactly what you're talking about with the surrounding area, with having regular meetings, um, that cadence, for example, for the clinton triangle task site is a twice a month. Uh, hank, who's on my team, meets with a group of individuals that were selected by that community, um, from the two neighborhood um associations and the business district in that area. Um, and they know the names of the police officers that regularly patrol. They know the names of the, uh, the street services coordination center team, the outreach team members who regularly are in that area. They meet with the provider. So those we've been able to, um, facilitate that because we control all the pieces of that process. Um, for the safe rest villages, we obviously, like you mentioned, work for some of them with the joint office of homeless services to, uh, contract with providers through that process. It's a little bit different, but we are bringing our services to bear, um, to make sure that we're, uh, changing kind of the way that, um, we've historically modeled the internal versus external kind of communication piece. And so making sure providers are engaging with the community members in the surrounding area, doing regular engagement and walking around the area as well. Uh, trash pickup, graffiti removal, immediate reporting mechanisms, stuff like that. So we're working through those right now to try to add that to every single shelter site, just like the mayor mentioned. Um, it's obviously still in process, but I'd be happy to talk to you about, um, if there's specific sites or specific areas. We're, um, building teams and really connecting with those communities to create good neighbor agreements. And highlight specific individuals they want to represent them on those committees that will meet regularly.

Speaker: Yeah. And skyler, um, you know, I think patrick's hit on an important issue. And to the degree that you'd like to be involved in this process, we'd love to

get your insights and thoughts. Uh, your your requests are eminently reasonable. Part of the accountability model that you mentioned with urban alchemy is at their first task site. We worked with them and we worked with the neighborhood on what the neighborhood wanted to see. And we even expanded the area of outreach couch. And we put a new reporting mechanism. And that's actually a direct hotline right back to the site saying, if there's somebody loitering or somebody who's in violation of the agreement, uh, that could be remediated immediately without having to go to the Portland reporter or calling 311 or anybody else, it can be taken care of on the spot. And we found that to be very successful. And so we want that kind of accountability throughout the entire system. Uh, skyler. Thank you. Patrick. It looks like my colleagues have a couple of thoughts as well. Commissioner Mapps and commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: Well, before I jump in here, I wanted to, uh, see if mr. Patrick, do you have anything you. I don't want to. Any response? Yeah. Do you have any response? I do, I do.

Speaker: I appreciate skyler, I will contact you. Um, but but, um, the good neighbor agreements have to be more than just a piece of paper. They have to have teeth, and they have to have accountability. And responsibility built in. Um, the good neighbor agreement for the Multnomah sv has been sitting on someone's desk at the county for almost two years because of one sticking point, which was, I believe it was something like background checks and, uh, but we have no good neighbor agreement for that. Sv and that's, uh, coming in the face of a three and a half time expansion, uh, with a good neighbor agreement that's never been approved or enforced. So I think that's an example of where a cna really could, could help shepherd a process into a neighborhood if the neighbors really feel like they have some, uh, they can expect accountable city is.

Speaker: Skyler, I see you nodding vigorously in agreement. Where are you with that?

Speaker: No. Yeah uh, that's exactly right. And I've been right next to a school, by the way, that that one. So I work closely with that school and that neighborhood. So, um, we. Yes. So part of what I mentioned was we've kind of brought this, um, additional kind of new team to take the task. Good neighbor agreement model approach. Um, and so that's our first kind of good neighbor agreement that's been signed. The community still meets regularly, and we're taking that approach now to all these other good neighbor agreements that have been stalled for one reason or another. We also have new leadership at the joint office, which, um, has been helpful. And, uh, they're very supportive of this process. They've actually hired their own, um, folks to do this work alongside us for their different sites. So I will just say, yes, I share your frustration and, um, we are working to make sure that this new process is actually going to look a lot like our successful, uh, task good neighbor agreement process.

Speaker: Good. And we'll make sure we get you and skyler together. Megan, you have patrick's number. We're not going to say it out loud, obviously, but we have that information. Awesome. Thank you. Uh, commissioner Gonzalez, um, the commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Were you done?

Speaker: Uh, just real quickly before we cut loose.

Speaker: Skyler. Loose. Skyler, thanks for being here today. Uh, let's say, um, I'm a Portlander who's kind of in patrick's position, where I live, close to one of the safe rest villages or task sites. Um, I know, and I just kind of want to find out more information. How do I do that? Do I need your phone number? Do I need to go to

council, or is there a website, or do I go to my neighborhood association person?
Um, what's what are my entry points?

Speaker: Yes. So kind of all of the above. Um, but yeah, the websites actually. So the clinton triangle web page on the mayor's, you can go through the mayor's kind of web page on city of Portland website. Um, and we actually have that posted. So that's the first that's signed good neighbor agreement. It's a great example. There was a lot of diligent work that was done, and it's still that accountability piece is baked in in terms of meeting twice a month. And actually meeting certain metrics and divulging certain information and a dashboard and all those pieces. So it's a really good example of what we're trying to model for the subsequent sites in the city shelter system. Um, our, our um, email like for the mayor that I will provide this to different folks to have our numbers. But the neighborhood associations as well have contacts through the problem solver meetings and through our team and our regular communication. So that's another great way. Or a business district also has all of our communication, um, and numbers and emails as well. Great.

Speaker: Uh, so to summarize, you can go to a website, uh, for the site near you, and you should find the contact information. And if you feel like being proactive out after that, uh, neighborhood association, business association, mayor's office. Uh, and I won't. Yeah we'll do that. Uh, thank you very much. That was very helpful, commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: Mr. Burnett, just appreciate your testimony and particularly putting the lens on the nonprofit providers in the space. It's essential that as a community, we can continue to engage on who's really aligned with the direction the community is going. I think the City Council is very clear that, um, we will continue to be a compassionate city, but we cannot be enabling really self-destructive behaviors. And, uh, these, these srvs task sites need to be a path towards, uh, reentering

society in a healthy way, not to perpetuate permanent home on the streets of Portland. I do want to call out a couple other government partners that all citizens need to be aware of. You know, the city is often the first outreach, uh, for citizens, um, which is appropriate and fine. Um, but this council banned, uh, you know, outdoor drug use. Uh, and right now we are, uh, currently preempted under state law from enforcing that. It's certainly one of the externalities we're seeing around when we have sanction camps, what occurs immediate around is one of the pieces you alluded to. The second is the unsanctioned camps that are in close proximity to srvs. Uh, again, this council imposed time place, manner restrictions that would in addition to the good neighbor agreement, would restrict camping. Uh, with in close proximity, uh, by code to the srvs and tasc sites. We are currently enjoined, uh, from from enforcing that and the mayor and skyler had to indulge playing my grumpiness and how long it took us to roll that out and, and, uh, that maybe we didn't go far enough. And sure enough, we get enjoined at the end of that process. So uh, and partially based on state laws, we, we badly need our public partners to be aligned on cleaning up our streets. Uh, house bill 3115, please write that down. That is absolutely a barrier for us to, uh, clean up our streets, including in close proximity to srvs and task sites. So thanks again for your testimony. Uh, and look forward to partnering with you on clean up the city.

Speaker: Thank you. And I will contact skyler's office if I can leave you with one last thought. And that is, um, reporting about the events within and outside of srvs. And taz has often come from the nonprofits themselves that, frankly, have, uh, an incentive to put a good face on it. And I think there should be, uh, periodic and, um, and, and, um, deliberate outside audits of activities, uh, so that, that, uh, so that those data can be accessible to the public and to the city and county governments.

Uh, rather than looking at through the filter of the, of the nonprofits themselves. Anyway, thank you for your time. Appreciate it. Yeah.

Speaker: Thanks for being here. Good discussion. Appreciate it. Uh, to the consent agenda to, uh, have any items been pulled?

Speaker: Yes. One item, item 165.

Speaker: And that's being pulled back to my office. Please call the roll on the remainder of the consent agenda. Yea. Rubio Ryan Gonzalez I maps I Wheeler.

Speaker: I the consent agenda is adopted first time certain item please.

Speaker: Item number 163 accept the technology oversight committee.

Speaker: Quarterly report.

Speaker: Colleagues, I'm pleased to introduce this report brought by the technology oversight committee, which as you know, is comprised of five members of the public. Each selected by a commissioner. The committee is tasked with providing oversight on the city's technology based projects. Here to report are ethan surma, communications team in the office of management of finance. Jeff bear, chief technology officer and director of the bureau of technology services. And david tunley, technology oversight committee member representing commissioner Gonzalez. Welcome ethan, jeff and david. Thank you for being here today.

Speaker: Thank you. Good morning, mayor Wheeler. Commissioners uh, this is my name is ethan surma. I work on the communications team for the office of management and finance. It's my pleasure to come up here and introduce the report for the technology oversight committee. This is a report for the fourth quarter of 2023. Um to my left, jeff bear, chief technology officer, director of the bureau of technology services, and david tunley, a committee member and representative for commissioner Gonzalez since we last came up here and spoke to

you with the police office. 365 project has concluded. And, um, jeff can speak a little bit more on that as well as cover the three projects we are currently overseeing and the three projects that we will be overseeing. So with that, I will hand it over to jeff.

Thanks

Speaker: All right. Thank you, ethan. Appreciate the introduction. And good morning, mayor and City Council. Uh, as ethan noted, we're here to present the final quarterly report for 2023. And I'm just going to provide a few brief highlights, uh, on the different projects. And then turn it over to david for his comments in observations. Uh, first, just want to highlight the success of the police, uh, bureau's office 365 implementation. Uh, this was a pretty, uh, unusual for a project this size to come in under budget and on schedule as fact. As noted in the report, uh, there was it's was \$278,000 under budget. So that was a pretty, uh, money mental task to complete. And this was a complex project to what we call tenant synchronization. So two different tenants that have to talk to each other, one in the rose domain, one in the old domain, so that was, uh, that was complex and took a lot of effort on our team. And just a great effort by all parties involved. And then on the police record management system, we're continuing through the design phase and soon moving into implementation. And then on the infra project, which is involves both the water bureau and the bureau of environmental services. This is going to migrate their work order asset management systems onto a common platform. Uh under the infra public sector process. And now you may have noted that in the report there's a red indicator on this for schedule. And the water bureau and these are combining together to move this escalate this issue up with the vendor for resolution. And they have a meeting with their executive team here scheduled, I think a couple of weeks ago. And we will be they're going to be addressing the issues with the toc and will receive an update at next Monday's toc meeting. And

then just a concluding up on the ariba, which is part of the sap and this is our our contracts module. Uh, this one was where we needed to resolve an issue about not having the capability to host and store, uh, personal identifiable information or pii, which affects sole proprietors and we just resolved this by executing an agreement with the third party software for that was, uh, issued and will be integrating with that with the new application. And this remains on track to launch the end of April of this year. So with that, i'll turn it over to david for his comments and observations. Yeah

Speaker: Thank you very much. Uh, good morning, commissioners. Mayor Wheeler, my name is david tunley. I am a member of the technology oversight committee. At the appointment of commissioner rene Gonzalez this morning, I'm going to provide a bit more context around some of the updates that jeff spoke about and give a brief summary report of some of the projects that the technology oversight committee has engaged with over the last several months. And i'll refer to the technology oversight committee as toc. So currently, the toc is engaged with three projects. The first project is the record management system project for the Portland police bureau. Now, the goal of this project is to upgrade the police bureau's record management system, um, with a new virtual cloud storage solution and this project intends to streamline data processes and reduce support costs associated with current systems. Additionally, this upgrade will align the system, uh, Portland police bureau's record management system with Multnomah County sheriff's office and gresham police, which have both moved to a virtual cloud solution for this system. Um, the second project i'll highlight is the info project in partnership with the Portland water bureau and the bureau of environmental services. The goal of this project is to replace oracle utilities work and asset management system, a legacy asset management system. Um, um, the project will

ultimately migrate both Portland water bureau and bureau of environmental services assets into a new cloud version in for public sector um, while both bureaus have started implementing ation, I will note that the project has experienced some schedule setbacks due to technical support at both bureaus are reliant on the same technical vendor, which has experienced some turnover of key roles. The transition is being managed by the teams and the teams are moving forward on this project. And the last project that i'll highlight that the tox involvement is the sap ariba project. This project is intended to transition the procurement services system from by speed to a new system, and sap ariba system. The overall goal of increasing capacity for competitive sourcing events. I do want to note that there have been a few risks identified with this project, including aggressive timelines, delays, unexpected issues arising during testing. Um. However, these teams are managing these risks and documentation is currently being created and finalized where needed. Thank you all for listening to the report by the toc. The toc takes great pride in working with various teams and bureaus to provide counsel, consultation and oversight of important technology work within the city of Portland. So with that, i'll turn it back over to jeff. If you have any questions.

Speaker: Thank you. David and we appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning and especially to present the toc report. And one thing I just wanted to note that with the upcoming changes to the, uh, council changes with the transformation for the form of government, we will be bringing forward some recommendations to the structure of the toc committee later this year. With that, we'll answer questions that you may have perfect commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Uh, thank you very much. I want to thank our entire panel for today's presentation.

Speaker: And, uh, david, I want to thank you for serving on this committee. And I suspect this is your first presentation on before it is. Yeah. Great. Well, welcome. We're delighted to have you here. And we hope that you come back, uh, many times. Um, since it's your first time, i'll introduce myself. My name is mingus. I'm one of the commissioners in charge of water and bees. Um and I really appreciate your report. It's highlighting some challenges that we're having in terms of, uh, moving towards a new asset management software system. Can you give me some advice on how to manage and navigate this moment? What should I be doing in order to make sure that my teams kind of get get move from the red and the yellow into the green? Hopefully before you come back before this council, any suggestions in this space or.

Speaker: Uh, that's a really good question. So the teams have been meeting with the technology oversight committee and providing updates on some of the some of the issues that they're running into. I think a constant communication and a clear understanding of what are some of the obstacles that they're facing and help providing guidance on, on how to overcome those obstacles and kind of work through those, um, other than that, I don't know if there's any specifics from from your team.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you, commissioner. And I think one of the suggestions I would make is just making sure it's a priority that we really nail down the communication and escalate those issues with the vendor as soon as, as soon as they come up. That's that, to me, is probably the most important part, is that they hear us, hear us as a customer that we need to have their resources.

Speaker: Great. And just so I'm clear on kind of the nature of the friction that we're having right now. Um it seems like the breakdowns are on the vendor side because the vendor is experiencing some staff turnover. Is that roughly what's happening?

Yes. Okay. Uh, well, great. I know that I have, uh, water and biz, uh, folks listening today, including, uh, folks from my own office, you know, part of our brand is, you know, um, good project management and good asset management. So this one is really important to me. And it's important to me because it's important to the city of Portland. So I'm going to ask my teams to lean into this. I sure hope that by the time, uh, we receive our next quarterly report that we can move those, uh, yellow and red grades into the green. Um, and I want to let my teams know that I will do whatever I need to do in order to make sure that we get there. Uh, thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you. Commissioner. Commissioner Gonzales, just a couple quick questions.

Speaker: Office 365. Uh implementation project for police. How did we come in? Under budget?

Speaker: Uh, good question. Thank you. And it came in part of that was they held about that same amount in contingency. So they never dipped into the contingency funds. Got it, got it.

Speaker: Well, we'll remember whoever that vendor was for the future. Uh, and then on the record management system project, is there, I'm assuming the following is outside of scope to, uh, evaluate whether we can somehow consolidate boec records with police. Uh, I just I'm curious what your thinking is on the long, long term architecture. Uh, for our records, because we're often dealing with requests for the same incident going to both police and to boec and i, I've often wondered if there was a way to streamline that on the back end.

Speaker: Yeah, the good news is that, uh, there are going to be they're both currently on the same vendor platform. So the first terms so versatum runs the

caller assisted dispatch for 911 and for the police record management, it's going to remain on versatum. But we're moved into their host. Their cloud hosted solution.

Speaker: Okay. And I'm assuming this project is primarily to manage sort of the costs associated with managing our own infrastructure. We don't necessarily anticipate any compression and timelines for our ability to respond to records, request or anything like that. This is this is really infrastructure management driven. That's correct. Okay I think that's all I got. Thank you very much.

Speaker: All right. Terrific. Thank you. And thank you all for your service. This is a report i'll entertain a motion to accept the report. So moved commissioner Gonzalez moves. Can I get a second? Second? Commissioner Mapps seconds and further discussion. Seeing none. Rebecca please call the roll. Rubio. Hi Ryan.

Speaker: Gonzales. Hi.

Speaker: Maps here I Wheeler I the report is accepted and I really want to thank you guys for your service.

Speaker: And I realize, uh, particularly for our volunteers, you're bringing a lot of intellectual firepower to the table, and we're not paying you very well for it.

Speaker: And so what you get is our undying gratitude and thanks.

Speaker: We really do appreciate it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: All right. So we will go to first. Uh, we will hear item 177 which is a second reading.

Speaker: Authorized director of bureau of human resources to offer employment agreements to interim deputy city administrator colleagues.

Speaker: As a reminder, this is a second reading of an item to authorize the bureau of human resources to offer employment agreements to interim deputy city administrators, or dcas, once selected by commissioners in charge. As a reminder,

these interim dca positions are challenging to recruit for and especially so in the dynamics of a changing government structure. So the goal of these agreements is to incentivize folks to step into these roles, knowing that in doing so, they leave behind their current positions and responsibilities, as well as, uh, an effort to support them as they transition out. Commissioner Gonzales? Uh, sure.

Speaker: We've actually had a fair amount of discussion. I think we have bhr team here. I don't know if it makes sense to call them up, or how would you like to have further questions?

Speaker: Come on up and if you can introduce yourselves for the record, please. Thanks, Tracy.

Speaker: And I, uh, and I'll play through my questions for them. Um, is we were trying to level set, uh, interim roles in the city. Uh you know, I recently appointed and then extended an interim fire chief, uh, and was trying to calibrate what we were trying to do with that interim role, with what we were we're doing with here, uh, for deputies and just for my colleagues benefits. Just to be clear, in, in appointing an interim fire chief, we gave no contractual severance rights. Um, they, they, uh, essentially are taking some risk in accepting the position they choose to, uh, actually extend it through June 30th in, in many ways parallel to what we're trying to do with deputies, there's arguably some differences, but the goal is to give the new form of government flexibility if they choose not to retain that fire chief, they have the ability, uh, through the city administrator. And in the next deputy for public safety, um, to end that contract without any severance obligations. Um, it turns out, as I understand it, that the police chief is under a similar situation, has no contractual rights to severance. Uh, is in an interim role. Um and, um, so I guess I'm just level setting. We are making other appointments for interim basis. Um, even with the transition in mind, we are often not providing severance as a city. Um, and

then maybe i'll turn it to over to bhr just to calibrate with interim directors, uh, and deputy directors to extent that's been implicated. Um, what is what we're doing in that area right now?

Speaker: Thank you. Mayor and commissioners. Tracy warren, interim human resources director. Happy to answer your questions, guys. Um, we are not offering director contracts to interim, um, directors. Instead, what we are doing is using our human resources administrator role to offer, uh, the ability to return to a similar role within the organization. So we're providing a different level of security in the uncertain time. And would it be fair to say that really, for this council, that's the choice in terms of, you know, attracting candidates to give them return rights or to give them some severance?

Speaker: I call it contractual severance rights, but essentially employment agreements specifying severance, uh, those could be two options that are utilized by council. Is there is there other ones that we haven't that would be reasonable to consider as alternatives? Besides those two? I'd have to think about that.

Speaker: Um, I think what we've proposed is what we felt was, uh, one of the best options. Consider bring the dynamics of the organizational structure continuing to change and evolve and not knowing what that might look like.

Speaker: And I guess I'd submit to my colleagues how they feel about this. I mean, i, I think there are two pathways here at least. Uh, the return rates has its own pluses and minuses. Um, uh, I but I continue to be concerned about saddling our next form of government with severance obligations. And so i, um. Well, let me, uh commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: I appreciate you, um, continuing to lean into this space. And I think we had a really rich conversation last week when this came to council. Um and I think the week went by so fast, we, um, probably didn't fully complete those. These

conversations. Um. Help me. I'll. I'll direct this question to staff. So it sounds like one of the new insights we've had is that not every, let's say, bureau director, uh, uh, who's currently serving in an interim role, um, has a severance package. And I think the alternative that's being put forward is, well, why don't we just let them return to their old job? But what do we do? In the case of, like, the police chief, uh, who I think does not technically have an old job to return back to, they accepted the position under the terms that were provided at the time.

Speaker: Yeah. To be clear that that was a one off. Yeah. Um I had a relationship and knowledge of chief day, and I wanted him here. I thought he was important for, uh, the stability of the organization. And he's certainly aware of the core issues. And so that that was that was not a standardized agreement. That was somebody who'd worked for ppb for many years, who knew the players, who was coming back on on a one off agreement and I should say, excellent choice with the chief.

Speaker: Um, so glad that he's here. But i'll share with my colleagues and the folks listening at home. I'll tell you, as I'm looking for, uh, deputy city administrators, I have actually considered very seriously considered, um, someone who doesn't currently serve in one of my bureaus. So this would be a little bit of a challenge. I don't I'm not sure what we would have done in that, that situation to tell you the truth. Um and here's the other observation in which I have, um, I appreciate, uh, commissioner Gonzalez as well. I got two problems here. Um, frankly, I'd like to, uh, make an offer to a deputy city administrator sooner than later. My staff tells me I can't. I literally can't send out an offer letter until we pass some version of this ordinance before us. So I need to make progress. Yes, we need to make progress on this legislation somehow. Kind of soon. Uh, at the same time, I appreciate the testimony that we heard last week and commissioner Gonzalez is concerned about fiscal response ability. And I'm wondering if there's a middle path here. Could we

make the compensation package, uh, subject to the discretion of the, um, make it up to and even subject to up to x and subject to the discretion of the commissioner. So if a commissioner wants to hire a deputy city administrator and you say, hey, I do not want to saddle my future, our future councils with this expense, uh, I'm going to talk this person as the mayor did, into hiring, um, making this offer without the severance package, whereas, you know, in my previous situation where I was asking someone to step in, not from an internal to the system, there is no fallback for them. Maybe in that case, I would have been compelled to. Um, there's a difference. Okay. What's the difference?

Speaker: It's a fair question. Yeah and actually might want to pursue this a little bit. Um the police chief serves at my pleasure. And so that is a conversation that we have. However, the dcas will not serve at our pleasure. They will be interim and the presumption is, if none of us come back, the dcas are still in place for at least presumably six more months. Right? So that we have that transition period for the new council and the new mayor. So they're no longer at our will. And that's I think that's an important difference. Mayor, may I add a piece there on that distinction?

Speaker: And I yeah, I mean, police chief is its own bucket. Deputies are kind of their own. The interim directors and other chiefs are almost a third. Uh, you know, the fire chief, for example, again, has no has no contractual protections. Uh, and it still took the position, um, I mean, I could debate whether there was implicit, uh, uh, implication that he'd have an opportunity to return to his old position. Um, but he doesn't have any contractual protections there. Um, and our other directors, uh, are, uh, as it sounds like, are in a similar boat for the most part, that they aren't given. Um, uh, this this type of protection. Um and maybe the question back just building off commissioner Mapps inquiry is I know we want consistency. We, um, I mean, that that there's a there's a desire for that if we go down this road with

deputies, we would have some inconsistency with some of our directors. Uh, uh, currently. Um, but is there a mechanism to just the offer can be either severance or return rights? Um, is it is there a way to write a policy or to have the policy just or contractually that that's one or the other? Um as an option.

Speaker: So we do have existing administrative rules that allow for us, um, to provide folks the opportunity to return to prior roles. So, so we already have that ability. What we don't have the ability to do, um, is offer for these new interim dca roles and employment agreement. So we can't do that without this ordinance passing. So if you want to do both, you'd have to pass this ordinance.

Speaker: Can I jump in here? And, uh, commissioner Rubio, I'm going to put you on the spot. I recognize you just, uh, boomed in. Do you have, um, any opinions or thoughts on this space? And it's fine if you.

Speaker: I just have a question actually. Um, so if we pass this, do we still have the ability to choose to use this, um, or or to not such as the example that the mayor did not include it in his direct negotiation around the police chief? Is that an is it an option or is it something that would be required?

Speaker: Uh, I believe as the ordinance reads, it just allows us the ability at the direct line of the commissioner in charge to offer an employment agreement. What I would add to that, um, is that we would like to see consistency in our practice so that we are treating folks going into those roles as comparably to each other.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: I think that was actually, uh commissioner Gonzalez. I think that statement was actually helpful. So in this situation with this ordinance, you don't have to offer the severance package. It's sort of subject to the, um, direction of the city commissioner, although we're getting staff guidance that every commissioner should use the same policy is that that is correct. Okay um, commissioner Gonzalez.

I wonder if this if that, um, if that framing helps you. Um um, at all. So you don't have to actually offer the severance. We're getting advice from, um, staff that best practice would be to do that, but sometimes elected officials don't follow the advice of staff. Um, does that move you closer to.

Speaker: Before you answer that question, let me intervene. Sure you're being very subtle about why we want to have assistant contracts. Can you elaborate a little bit about the problems? We could inadvertently find ourselves in? If we have inconsistent offers on the table?

Speaker: Absolutely. I mean, you would be, um, offering someone additional compensation as part of their employment package and someone else who's doing very comparable work, not that same, um, compensation.

Speaker: We have a history of that problem in this organization. Do we not?

Speaker: We do. And that can create challenges. And I also think that it doesn't add to what we are aiming for as an employer, which is to be an employer of choice, um, and to provide, um, equitable pay practices for our employees.

Speaker: Thanks. Now you can go for it. I just I just want I thought that was a little subtle and we might actually need the city attorney to weigh in here a little bit.

Speaker: Um, just so we're clear, because I'm looking at the language of the resolution, it the council directs the bureau of human resources or the bureau of human resources director is authorized to offer employment agreements with interim deputy city administrators. Um, this does not explicitly say that it's commissioner. Uh, that so doing so again, I guess that's implicit with the November resolutions. But the um, and then the next provision says the duration of employment in the interim appointments shall be up to one year at the discretion of the city administrator, with the ability of the city administrator to extend an additional one year extension rights don't don't care, because we're at the end of

the year and they so choose they can. You know, that's we're all gone at that point, at least in this current seats. But it's, um, so I guess I'm not 100% clear on the interpretation there as to who gets to make that call pursuant to this resolution or pursuant to this ordinance. Um and I yeah. So i, I'm in a little bit of a pickle because I totally understand the interest and consistency with among deputies. I'm just seeing an inconsistency in the way we're treating a very expensive new bureaucracy. Right give to the directors that sit under them. That may be in interim roles and just don't have this protection. Then, uh, I hear you, commissioner gonzales.

Speaker: Do you have a proposal?

Speaker: Um, i, I really lean towards the return rights. Um, I just am trying to play through the scenarios you're dealing with. You know, if you're if you're appointing someone who, um, is coming from another bureau, um, I don't I don't know how that would work. I mean, that was a that's a scenario that I hadn't really fully thought through, I think, could I jump in on that one?

Speaker: Um, so right of return is. It sounds good, but it's complicated because keep in mind, it can create a domino effect that can go all the way. It can filter down through the organization totally fall and bhr was quite eloquent in sort of articulating those implications to really preserve the spot.

Speaker: I mean, and correct me if I'm wrong, but if even within your service area, you would have to hold open that director position to preserve that spot for that deputy to return to. And while on the one hand, I like the sound of that, because that saves us money. You know, on the other hand, you know, you're you're creating flexibility. Flexibility on one side and you're actually tying your hands on the other. I mean, either way, that's kind of the choices here. But I'm comfortable

not filling positions at some level of directors moving up to a deputy. But I don't know if everybody would be sure.

Speaker: Uh, mr. Mayor, what? Um, you know, I think we're having a good faith conversation here. I don't know what the answer is. Uh, this is kind of a little bit in your portfolio, so do you have any recommendations on what? Yeah.

Speaker: Um, so there is no such thing as a perfect solution here. The reality is we're trying to hire people into a position when potentially none of us will be here later. And it is up to the future mayor and the future City Council to determine who they want in any of those leadership roles. And so people who are being recruited by us to fill the dca positions will know that and their families will know that. And if we want the caliber of people that we're expecting, namely people who are already bureau directors or of that caliber from outside the organization, it's going to matter to them that their employment lasts more than six months. I mean, if they're going to step out of their role as a bureau director with a contract potentially, or step out of some other role in the private sector or another government organization in order to come here. They're going to want some assurance from us that financially, this is worth it for them to take that risk for a short time. Employment contract. So that being the case now, we have two options. And the commissioner has offered one idea, which is if they're an internal recruit and they come from, say, a bureau directorship, we hold their position open. I would rather not do that. I would rather pay for the flexibility to be able to fill that position. And the dca position and have us transition into the new form of government fully staffed and fully operational, and acknowledge that because there is short term risk to the people filling those roles, we have to pay for it. That's yeah, it's the capital aspect of our employment, uh, opportunity. So we have to pay people for the risk. We are asking them to assume for short term contracts,

potentially short time. They may be here for 20 years, but we just don't know that because we may not be here.

Speaker: Yeah. And I chime in on one piece of that.

Speaker: Sure. This still gets out. My concern that we're making decisions that making assumptions about what the next mayor and the next city administrator want in these roles and, and, um, you know, there's interesting game theory. I mean, the probability of who the next mayor is likely deliberating on this matter right now. And so it's know who it isn't. That's me right. Uh, but smiling.

Speaker: Yeah. We we're playing through an interesting, you know, game and i, I guess I'm just want to reiterate, I'd rather preserve flexibility for whoever's next.

Speaker: And I see commissioner Rubio wants to chime in as well. Commissioner

Speaker: Yeah I appreciate the conversation. I just wanted to chime in to I think we also need to recognize that while the return to work or keeping the position open may work in some bureaus and other bureaus, it does not. And for me, I know that that would absolutely not work to hold on to hold the position open while having someone move into that senior position, when we would experience significant service delivery impacts to that. So I just I'm, I'm, I hear the concerns. I also feel like there's some urgency about moving forward because these are unique temporal situations. And I feel like we are as the mayor mentioned, um, essentially, it's a package that encapsulates the risk of taking this position. It's very visible. It's unique, and likely there won't be a position like this again. So so, um, for what it's worth, I just want to make sure that I chime in there and, um, if I may, mr. Mayor, I appreciate, uh, commissioner Rubio sharing her perspective and i'll be transparent with my colleagues.

Speaker: Uh, we're all in the same boat. Look, you know, shopping around for deputy city administrators. Um, I will tell you, I've tried to recruit folks basically,

under the understanding of this particular package, uh, which is has include the severance. Um, and I've been turned down, uh, for my, I think, really promising candidates, frankly, I'm in some situations, I'm looking from the outside. These are dodgy or uncertain jobs, let's put it that way. Um uh, so that's been my experience. I'll just just share that with you. Um I also, um, why commissioner Rubio says about service continuity is important to. And then I don't see my chief here, but my chief has scolded me that I'm not going to be able to move forward with this hire until this thing gets past. So none of that leads to a clearer answer, but it does gives you a sense of the various pressures. At least I'm under. Great. Thank you for that.

Speaker: Any any further? Great. This is a second reading of a non emergency ordinance. Please call the roll. Rubio

Speaker: Um, I want to thank everyone who testified and I really appreciate it. Um, uh, commissioner gonzales, for raising these good issues for us to really dig into, um, and as I mentioned, at the same time, I feel like we have a responsible committee to kind of move forward and ensure readiness. Um, there is no perfect solution, but we have something before us, uh, that as I mentioned, encapsulates like the uniqueness of, of this situation. So so, um, appreciate the dialog. Um, and I think I'm ready to move forward. I vote i, Ryan gonzales, I continue to be concerned about the severance.

Speaker: We're going to saddle the next form of government with an and particularly for very expensive bureaucratic positions. And for that reason, I vote nay maps.

Speaker: Um, I'm going to vote. I on this. I very much appreciate the, uh, conversation. Uh here, um, I think I've learned a lot. Um, I recognize I think it's important to, um, marshal or at least dispenser\$ carefully. Um, especially in a tight budget year. Um, but I am voting yes on this. I also reserve the right to exert all my

rights as a city commissioner. That means I could make an offer to a deputy city administrator. That includes the severance. I could make an offer to a deputy city administrator that does not offer severance. And I might not fill this position either. Um, I think all of those are things with their which are within my, um, authority. And in the end, I will, uh, make the choice that I believe serves the people of Portland. Best. So with that, I vote I Wheeler I the ordinance is adopted.

Speaker: Thank you everybody. Thank you both. Thank you. Appreciate it. Uh, we'll do the 4/5 agenda item, please. Item number 179, an emergency ordinance authorized letter of agreement to approve inclement weather compensation for certain laborers.

Speaker: International union of north America, local 483. Recreation. Casual employees.

Speaker: Colleagues. This item authorized is a letter of agreement with liuna local 483. Recreation. Casual employees to receive compensation on a one time basis for the January 2024 severe weather event. Ron zito, director of employee and labor relations within the bureau of human resources, is here to present the ordinance yea. Ryan. I see you there online. Welcome

Speaker: Good morning, mayor. Good morning. Commissioners thank you for this time. Um, I'm ron zito, manager for the city employee and labor relations team within bhr. And I'm joining you today to seek your support and approval for a letter of agreement regarding compensation for casual employees that are represented by our liuna local 43 recreation contract. And this is, uh, specific to our recent severe weather event in January. As you'll recall, during the week of January 12th through the 19, severe weather caused the city to close a number of recreation facilities, uh, and that resulted in recreation associates who were previously scheduled to work during that time to lose income. Uh, this group of casual

employees is covered by our collective bargaining agreement that does not include compensation for inclement weather events. However, based on the duration and the impact of this unique event, uh, the interests of the parks bureau and our partners in liuna who raised a demand to bargain on this issue, we reached a letter of agreement that would provide compensation for those scheduled hours in this group. Uh, during this event and this letter of agreement also stipulates that for the duration of our contract, which expires in September of 2026, there won't be any additional demands to bargain over inclement weather or any associated compensation. So given the parameters of this specific agreement, we believe this is a desirable outcome for both parties, and we'll seek further bargaining on this issue during our successor negotiation in 2026. And so as a result, uh, we would ask your approval to move forward with this letter of agreement and I'm happy to address any questions you may have. Thanks, ron.

Speaker: Uh, commissioner Mapps, uh, hi, ron.

Speaker: Thanks for the presentation. How much is this going to cost? And is it already in compensation set aside or something?

Speaker: That's correct. These were, uh, scheduled hours that were not worked because of the weather, and it impacts about 240, uh, individuals and those recreation facilities. And that's, uh, when you include wages and roll up costs for those scheduled hours, it's about \$100,000.

Speaker: All right. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Public testimony. There's not very good. There's an emergency ordinance 4/5. Please call the roll yea. Rubio. I Ryan Gonzalez.

Speaker: So I appreciate their work and commitment to the city. I vote I maps.

Speaker: Yeah I want to thank our team over at liuna for helping out during the winter storm. I'm glad to vote. I Wheeler I the ordinance is adopted my colleagues we needed four people for the consent agenda.

Speaker: Yeah. Um, could we recall the vote, please, on the consent agenda, understanding that 165 has been pulled back from my office. Yea. Rubio i, Ryan Gonzalez I Mapps I Wheeler. All right. Consent agenda is adopted and we now move back on to our agenda. Item 164 times certain this is a non-emergency ordinance.

Speaker: Amend floating structures code to clarify permitting requirements for repairs to existing floatation systems.

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio, thank you, colleague.

Speaker: The bureau of development services regulates floating structures and marinas within the city through title 28. Bts staff meets regularly with the river community advisory committee to discuss issues relating to these floating structures and to titles. Any changes to title 28? This ordinance incorporates recent discussions and recommendations of the river community advisory committee regarding permitting requirements. Here to explain the changes in more detail is dave tebo with bts.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner. Uh, thank you, mr. Mayor and commissioners. I appreciate the time. Um just a quick overview. Um um, commissioner Rubio alluded to it, but title 28 is, uh, the city title that regulates floating structures as floating homes and related structures around them. Um, my name, first of all, my name is david thibeault. And I'm the liaison for bts with the river community advisory committee. Um, I basically facilitate their group. Um, so title 28, basically deals with these structures. It was put together collaboratively back in the early 2000 with all the river community as well as the city, uh, collaborating on that, on that issue. Um, this is the second phase of amendments to this ordinance, and

hopefully the last one that we'll be seeing for a long time. Um, the first one was in January of 2023. This particular one is to clarify why, um, some to provide some clarification for the structure owners out on the river about when permits are required and what they can do as a part of maintenance to their structures. So this is, um, something that that doesn't really won't impact other bureaus other than the fire bureau, um, and their harbormaster, which is the, uh, you know, our, our, you know, front line, uh, city official that that deals with the river community. And they were very much involved with this, with the statements that we're putting in right now. Um, historically, there's been a lack of clear direction in the code. And so we're revisiting it with the with the help of the advisory committee to, to, um, to help provide clarification and make it easier to understand for the folks, um, in that community. Um, we also via the second piece of this is that we were going to rescind a piece of the of the title that basically required that they provide as built, um, when they are not getting the permit that that just didn't work logistically in that if they're not getting a permit and we don't really have a file to put these as bills. And so we determined we don't do that on land with structures, and we determined that it really wasn't necessary in the floating, floating home community as well. Um, with that, if I'd be happy to entertain questions if you have any. Um, but that is it in a nutshell.

Speaker: Great. Thanks, colleagues. Any questions on this item? Thanks dave. That seems eminently reasonable. Do we have public testimony?

Speaker: We do not.

Speaker: Okay. This is a first reading of a non emergency ordinance. It moves to second reading. Thank you commissioner Rubio. We will now move to the regular agenda item 171 nominee chris oxley to the metropolitan exposition and recreation commission to fill a city of Portland position. Colleagues, I'm jointly introducing this

item with commissioner Ryan, the City Council's liaison to the metropolitan exposition and recreation commission. Otherwise known as merc, as well as the Portland five centers for the performing arts. Commissioner Ryan is traveling this week on city business, so I'm introducing the item on behalf of both. Both of us, merc is a metro commission. Excuse me, mr. Mayor.

Speaker: I'm sorry. Uh, commissioner Mapps has left the room. We need to recess to hear this item until he returns.

Speaker: Sorry, I guess I'm not as observant as I used to be. Uh, we'll take a note. Here he is. You need me?

Speaker: Yeah.

Speaker: Apparently you left, and I didn't notice. Oh I got in trouble for. I know she she had to leave. Okay, so commissioner Ryan is traveling this week on city business, so I'm introducing the item for both of us. Merc is a metro commission with oversight of operations and planning for three key regional visitor venues. The metro owned Oregon convention center and expo center. And the city owned Portland's five centers for the performing arts theaters. These facilities are critical to supporting the region's travel, tourism, and convention industry, which contributes billions in direct visitor spending. In our city every year and supports over 30,000 jobs. This resolution nominates Chris Oxley to the merc to fill the remainder of a recently vacated term, serving from the upcoming March 6th merc meeting and ending September 25th, 2024. Before recommending this nomination, commissioner Ryan talked to a great many people with connections to the arts, culture and entertainment industries. Though Mr. Oxley was not able to join us this morning, I've known Mr. Oxley to be a seasoned sport and entertainment executive from his many years with the Portland Trail Blazers, he is well suited to represent the cities and the community's interests in a very important venues overseen by the

commission. There is no staff presentation on this item today, however, there may be public testimony. Rebecca has anybody signed up? No no. All right. Very good colleagues, any questions that I will do my level best to answer. Nope very good. This is a resolution. Please call the roll. Rubio

Speaker: Ryan Gonzalez I Mapps want to thank chris for agreeing to serve on this important committee.

Speaker: Uh, I vote aye. Wheeler

Speaker: Very happy to support this. Thanks also to chris. Uh, we know he's a busy guy, but we appreciate his, uh, deep knowledge of the role of merc and the importance. And I am happy to vote. I in the resolution is adopted and. 172, please. A nonemergency ordinance to amend title 15, emergency code to align with the amended city charter, approved by voters in Portland.

Speaker: Measure 20 6-228 colleagues in November of 2022.

Speaker: As you're well aware, voters approved amendments to Portland city charter fundamentally changing the city's form of government to an executive mayor and a legislative focused council. While the charter amendments provide the basic framework for the new roles of the mayor in the next City Council, today's ordinance helps to clarify the specific roles of the executive and legislative branches in managing emergencies in the city of Portland. With that, i'll turn this over to commissioner gonzales to introduce today's presenters. Commissioner gonzales, thank you.

Speaker: Mayor. Uh, accountability and clarity of responsibility and emergencies protects lives as well as city infrastructure. The updates proposed for title 15, uh, ensure that the city has clearly identified who is responsible for declaring emergencies. Under what circumstances emergencies can be declared, and what authorities can be granted through an emergency declaration. Before I introduce

today's presenters, I want to offer my thanks and appreciation to the charter transition team pbem staff and linly reese of the city attorney's office for working collaboratively on the code updates proposed today. The diverse perspectives of these teams helped ensure that the city is well prepared to manage emergencies in the future and most importantly, clarify who's in charge. When I would like to now introduce diana shiplett with the charter transition team and shad ahmed.

Although it sounds like we're going to have someone sitting in the seat, uh, director of Portland bureau of emergency management, chris, why don't you introduce yourself just as a good morning, mr. Mayor.

Speaker: Commissioners, I'm chris carey. I'm the interim deputy director of the Portland bureau of emergency management. Thank you for your time.

Speaker: I'll turn it over to both of you. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Good morning, mayor Wheeler. Commissioners, my name is diana shiplett. I use she her pronouns, and I'm a project coordinator with the charter transition team under. Fortunately, director ahmed was unable to join us today. But thankfully, joining me today is chris. I appreciate it. And also on hand to answer legal questions is chief deputy city attorney linly reese. Thank you for having us. Our presentation is very short, so if it's possible for you to hold any questions or comments until it's completed, that would be much appreciated. Next slide. As you well know, last November Portlanders voted to change our city government in three significant ways. First, allowing voters to rank choice voters ranked choice their candidates in order of their preference uh second, creating four new geographic districts with three members elected to represent each district. Expanding the City Council to a total of 12 members and third replacing the commission form of government with a mayor council form. The City Council will focus on setting policy and a mayor, elected citywide will run the city's day to day operations with the help

of a professional city administrator. Our clear and responsible, clear roles and responsibilities at the leadership level are necessary for successful management of any emergency. Next slide. Uh, Portland city code title 15 describes how and by whom an emergency may be declared in the city. It also outlines what authority are granted under an emergency, while the amended city charter provides initial guidance on rules and the order of succession for elected officials, clarity about these roles and responsibilities are especially important in an emergency. This is true for the role of the mayor. Most especially emergency management is largely an administrative function and as the head of the administrative branch in the next form of government, it is vital that the office of the mayor have an expanded succession in place. Thus, the proposed update to title 15 names more than 20 potential successors, which hopefully will be enough in a catastrophic emergency. Additionally Portland bureau of emergency management, as the city's experts in emergency planning, have provided us with a few additional recommendations for revisions to the code to improve their emergency response. It's my understanding that they will have additional recommendations to bring forward at a later date. Next slide. So what are these proposed changes to title 15? Next slide.

Speaker: Hi. Good morning again I'm Chris Carey I'm the interim deputy over at pbem. Uh, the first proposed change is that the mayor, as the head of the executive branch, is the authority for declaring an emergency. This is because emergencies require unique, urgent, coordinated efforts by city bureaus and personnel, all of whom will be overseen by the mayor starting in 2025. The mayor may delegate their emergency powers to the city administrator, pbem director, or other appropriate officials as needed. Second, under the proposed code, emergencies can be initially declared for 21 days and renewed by the declaring official in increments of 14 days. Thereafter the declaring official may also request that

council extend an emergency declaration for up to 60 days. An extension of this length can help ensure that the full length of the emergency is well managed into recovery. This includes ensuring that the public safety and resources are placed. Paperwork is completed, payments are completed and other technical operations which are necessary but often forgotten, are followed up and completed successfully. Next slide. Um, the next bucket of changes are related to the management of emergencies. Uh, first proposing that in addition to the authorities already established in code, the city may halt the movement of trains, boats or other vehicles in an emergency. This is really a clarification of existing code. It's kind of bringing it into line with current practices. Second, we better define the duration and definition of a housing and sheltering shortage emergency outside of the outside of that, we've kind of left that section pretty straightforward pretty left left that section alone. This is because our current housing and sheltering related activities were established under this code, and we do not want to unintended interfere with those activities. Lastly, we have updated the order of succession for the mayor. Uh, so the city charter states the mayor's chief of staff is their successor. And it's important that in a catastrophic emergency that we have a robust list of successors who can declare an emergency for the health and safety of the city. The current list includes bureau directors and the succession list. We are proposing corporates. The new city administrator, deputy city administrators and keeps bureau directors in there in a thoughtful order. Next slide.

Speaker: The final area of change we propose in title 15 is related to the balancing of authorities between the legislative and executive branches. This was the one area in which the transition team and pbem had many, many discussions and debates. Uh, thankfully we were able to come to a compromise, uh, based on input given throughout the charter review process and what authorities are jurisdictions

comparator cities authorize in their code. The transition team felt it was important to balance the mayor's authority as the declaring official with some legislative oversight by the council. At the same time, pbem was concerned with the ability to fully prepare for and manage emergencies without them becoming political. In the end, we agreed to compromise and have included in the proposed code before you the ability for council to modify or terminate an emergency agreement, but only after the initial 21 day declaration and only with a vote of a supermajority. Nine members of council. Next slide. And that is the end of our presentation. So we'll open up to questions. Very good.

Speaker: Colleagues. Any questions? Commissioner Mapps. Yeah I have a couple.

Speaker: Um, thank you for the presentation. Um, and i'll tell you, I was delighted to see this on the agenda because, uh, one of the things I've been thinking about is I think about our next form of government is how emergency declarations are going to work under that system. Um, indeed. You know, you might think of if we have a city administrator in many ways that almost seems like an emergency declaration, um, in place, at least operationally. If you if you get if you follow my drift. Uh, so I guess my question is how, you know, after we pass this ordinance and after we hire a city administrator, how will emergency declarations under that system be different from emergency declaration actions that we have today? And mr. Mayor, I might ask you to comment on whatever staff says to you because I'd be interested in your lived experience.

Speaker: Sure, it is correct that they will be different in the next form of government. Uh, most especially that they will probably be called less often because you won't need to have an emergency declared to get bureaus to work together because they are all underneath a singular authority. So the mayor, in the future form of government will be able to say, you are going to work with you and

we're going to get this emergency handled. So yes, there will probably be fewer is the biggest change. I concur completely.

Speaker: I mean, operationally, I don't see much changing except for the fact that the government itself will have shifted and frankly, it will make it much easier for the city to respond to emergencies. Correct? I see this as nothing but an improvement. So so.

Speaker: And that makes sense to me. So currently when we do, when we declare when there's an emergency, when we declare an emergency, a lot of the power is centralized, frankly, in the mayor's office. And we've all been through this. I've had forest fires, I've had snowstorms. And then you pull off summer parts of bureaus to work with other bureaus to manage an immediate crisis. Uh, and at least on in theory, that's crisis is being managed by the mayor's office. Um, now. And it seems like if I'm understanding the language here in the emergency declaration of the future, that's still going to be managed by the mayor's office, or is it going to be managed by the city administrator or that. Oh, go for it.

Speaker: So, um, as as I understand it, the mayor will be the declaring official, but the mayor is also is still empowered to declare a designee, whether that be the city administrator. The director of pbem, or another appropriate official as they see fit with the powers of the mayor to meet the needs of the community during that emergency, the powers of the mayor.

Speaker: It seems like the powers of the mayor or the powers of the city administrator.

Speaker: I believe the mayor, although I defer to council on that. So my reading of this was it is the mayor who is allocated the authority and the mayor, quote, may delegate that authority.

Speaker: I can't think of any circumstance where the mayor would not delegate that authority. I mean, routinely, we're under multiple emergency declarations right now, and routinely I delegate either to michael jordan or I delegate to shard, or I delegate to others who can manage the day to day comings and goings of an emergency. And I think operation, that's what people expect to happen. But it's not required. To. Um.

Speaker: Thank you. I appreciate this conversation. And just for candidates listening at home and Portlanders thinking about the future, um, uh, you might not you probably don't realize how often emergencies happen in this town. This space is, uh, really important. You know, one of the things I like about our new charter is that I think it kind of captures some of the best of us when we are in an emergency situation. Um, however, how to read kind of the white space in this, um, particular transition is also a challenge. A challenge to, uh, thank you very much. I got no more questions.

Speaker: Great. All right. Anybody else? Do we have public testimony on this item?

Speaker: We do. We have one person signed up. Great jared essig. Good afternoon.

Speaker: Welcome. Good morning. Mayor. Commissioner um, office of emergency management and citizens of Portland and Multnomah County. Uh, thank you for this report. However, unaddressed in the proposal is, um. Emergencies of a non-natural nature. Um we do need to prepare for the big earthquake, but we also have to prepare for other things. For example, mass civil unrest. What do we have to prepare for another event of the type that we experienced in 2020? The results of which are still with us? As everybody knows now in order to address that, we're going to have to deal with multi-jurisdictional declarations. Now, what are you going to do if the federal government declares an emergency ? But the city, for political

reasons, refuses to do so? I perhaps there's a lot of people that would like to be known as an anarchist jurisdiction here in Portland, and take that as a symbol of pride. And this place is called little beirut for a reason. Now, the district attorney and the chief judge, I understand, are county employees, not city employees. And much of the emergencies that we're currently facing are the county's responsibility. In fact, there is an item on the agenda that's going to address this very this very point. Uh, 178 you're going to urge the Multnomah County chair to pile in an ambulance response model to address the paramedic staffing shortage and reduce instances when no ambulances are available to respond to emergencies. Now, this is an urgent public safety concern that has to be addressed. But it is a reaction to a problem, just like dealing with the police, the staffing shortages and the police bureau is a reaction to a problem. And all of these reactions exist in a vacuum. Create by the absence of moral and intellectual leadership. That's why they exist, and that's why we have to be prepared for the next one. Now I'm going to propose a much broader emergency response that's going to include a declaration on the county and state level. And this may require lobbying. Uh, other jurisdictions. And I'm going to come back and give public comment on how I propose that to happen. But I'm volunteering right now as essentially your deputy foreign minister for tri county and metro relations. I was at the, the, the county meeting last Tuesday and the Thursday before. And I want you guys to appoint one of you as your foreign minister to go tomorrow to the county and to lobby them with me, because what's needed is the is, is a judge a prosecutor and a mayor to stop hiding behind the police and come together to make a public declaration. That's what's needed. Oh, and defund the police.

Speaker: All right. Any other public testimony that concludes testimony?

Commissioner Mapps had a comment. Sorry.

Speaker: Uh, Jared, I just want to thank you for your testimony and also, I want to underscore the, um, the issue that our colleague and friend points out is real. We live with it all the time. I think of some of the challenges that we have when we have a winter weather event, which requires both, uh, both the city and the county to, uh, move with some dispatch. Um, often there's friction between or at least a lack of coordination between the city and the county as we try to move into these spaces. Could also take a look at the fentanyl emergency, which was recently declared where both the city and the county are moving forward with this. But often, um, uh, often our, um, our efforts are not as well coordinated as they should be. Um, you know, God help us when we have a major earthquake that brings down, uh, freeways and bridges and whatnot, and we all need to work on the same page. So thank you very much. We always appreciate hearing from commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: I can say a lot about, uh, emergency declaration involving the county, but I think that's its own bucket of, of complex cities. Um, I think the illusion of civil unrest in the area, I think is a community. We do have to, uh, digest what occurred in 2020. I encourage those listening at home to review the independent report on the police response. I think it was extremely insightful. Uh, as to what we did right, what we did wrong, and some of our capacity constraints, uh, in responding to the future, um, we are doing work inside of pbem and police to prepare for the future there. Um but, um, it's an ongoing issue, uh, including whether mutual aid networks will work, uh, when we really need them. And uh, that's why it's important for us, as a community for us to clearly articulate that we're supportive of law enforcement, particularly those that are accountable. Um, because when we have the civil unrest that was alluded to, what our neighbors are willing to support and what they're not is going to matter. And I'll leave it at that. Thank you. Yeah

Speaker: So i'll chime in on this as well. Um, first of all, I know that there are some candidates for City Council who are listening to this conversation. It is very important for you to read up on the incident command management structure. And one of my concerns has always been that we really don't drill it in from top to bottom. What that means, how it operates, and who is responsible for what. In the event of a declared emergency, emergencies can be declared at all levels of government simultaneously, either for the same emergency or for completely different emergencies. And that matters. The job of our emergency management bureau is to make sure that we are appropriately plugged in to the incident command management structure at the right level to ensure that folks upstream from us understand what is going on in the community, what our needs are, what our resources are, and to respond for their requests to their requests for our assistance on anything else. A great example of all of us working together is this. This I guess i'll call it a trilateral declared emergency around fentanyl. Um, much of that because it's new territory, is focused on figuring out who is responding for what, who has what resources, who has what funding capacity, how do we all bring it together in a consolidated package that makes sense. Maybe a better example would be when we had a catastrophic wildfire in the columbia river gorge, where we had multiple layers of government from many different jurisdictions working together under a unified command to address on a moment by moment basis what was going on in the gorge here at the city. The biggest obstacle to overcome is the one that this ordinance actually, I think does a really good job of overcoming, uh, which is coordinating our bureaus and I agree with commissioner gonzales. There is much to read in that report, and I hope it's taken off the shelf from time to time. There are declarations that can be made by the mayor, the mayor, for example, in an act of civil unrest. It can and has declared a curfew. There are consequences to

that, but that can be done. Uh, the mutual aid piece that commissioner gonzales raises, the police have been working relentlessly on ensuring that they have mutual aid going forward. And it's a very complicated issue there. There are very complicated issues across jurisdictions. And it's not all politics. A lot of it, frankly, is legal and liability related. And so it is incumbent upon the police bureau and the emergency management office to continue those conversations. And reach compromise. Where it makes sense. And I will just remind people that I offered a blanket immunity to law enforcement agencies throughout the region if they chose to participate. It turned out that wasn't really the issue. There were other issues. Um, but it is complicated. And, um, last but not least, the individual commissioners need to understand what their role and responsibility is. Nobody gets it right. That's that's the first thing we all understand about emergency management. I think we're well prepared for the catastroph traffic events. I mean, these guys will correct me if I'm wrong, but if we have a massive earthquake, I actually think there's been a lot of planning and a lot of communication amongst emergency management organizations. It's the stuff we don't anticipate. Um, fentanyl being a great example. The heat emergency that killed dozens of people in this city a few years ago, something that five years ago, nobody would have even contemplated as a possibility. T the catastrophic fire in the columbia river gorge. Fortunately, our fire bureaus around the region were extremely well coordinated and had had gathered. Unfortunately, in southern Oregon and central Oregon for large wildfires previously. So they had some on the ground, you know, boots on the ground experience that they could bring to bear pretty quickly in the columbia river gorge. But it's always trying to figure out what is the unanticipated one that nobody saw coming. And when it happens, how quickly, effectively and professionally can we organize to respond rather than everybody just panicking? And part of it is

acknowledging that in a major event, we could all be dead. So the question who's in charge? You have to answer that question. And what I like about this ordinance is it answers the question. And so, um, i, I strongly support this. I think it's really solid work. And I think you took into account a lot of the concerns that I've had previously about this. And and it's solid. It's really good. I wish I was here to hear me say nice things about him. Uh commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Uh, mr. Mayor, I want to thank you for that advice to, uh, future councilors. I think that's, um, awfully important. Anyone who's spent time in city hall knows that emergencies happened. Uh, and they happen frequently. Uh, this is also a space I've been thinking about a lot. And as I look out into the audience, I see, uh, we have smart staff who are preparing, uh, for both, uh, future emergencies and, frankly, to, uh, preparing to on board future members of council. One of the things I certainly have been thinking about, um, and I hope this will happen for future members of council is um, as part of their onboarding is maybe a couple of tabletop exercises to get take people through various emergency scenarios, you know, ones that have, uh, really shaped my life and my experience in this job have been snow and heat, forest fires, civil unrest, and public health. Um, I don't quite know what a tabletop exercise on those would look like, but it's really important to work through because the degree to which different bureaus and even programs within bureaus need to work together. Uh you will certainly discover the capabilities that you don't have when you have a gigantic forest fire that's not in your city boundaries, but impacts, say, your water supply. Um, yeah, it's quite complicated. And uh, historically, the way you train at least electeds up on that is just a limit. And that may not be the best scenario or the best way to approach a challenging moment like that. That's all I got.

Speaker: Thank you. I want to highlight two failures. Um, I'm taking the Gonzalez challenge is what I'm going to call it, because I think we learned more from our failures than we do from our successes, to be honest. Um, some many years ago, I think almost seven, I brought an ordinance forward. That was a time, place, manner restriction. In the event of civil unrest and what I had in my mind. Then was two factions with very different politics box seeking and declaring that they would have a fight on the streets of our city and the thought was, how do you protect the city while preserving first amendment rights for people to yell at each other? And we came up with an ordinance that created separation between the two groups that we could enforce. We could enforce that separation and the police bureau was willing to do it. The council didn't support it, and I always regretted that because I think that was a missed opportunity. That would have been helpful to us in later years. The second failure was during the 2020 riots, and I'm being very specific about events that were declared riots. We needed other city resources to be able to support the police, and one of the requests that was specific we made was to the bureau of transportation to provide heavy vehicles, and that request was denied by the commissioner in charge. And I acknowledge the commissioner had that right. Under our city charter to come to an independent decision that that was not the right thing to do, but it created this really weird in the field situation where we were managing an active riot and we're all having debates as city commissioners about how we're going to approach this. When the police and the people out there on the streets are saying, we need this, and we need this, and we need this and we need it right now, and we weren't able to provide it. And that's where I think our city structure tripped us up a bit. And so I again, that by way of pointing out a failure to say, I think what you're proposing is a very, very strong and important step in the

right direction. But enough of me. This is a first reading of a non-emergency ordinance. Was there any public testimony? I don't think there was.

Speaker: No. Just just one. So we're concluded.

Speaker: Okay. Justin, are you okay? Is the first reading of an emergency ordinance moves to second reading. Thanks thank you, thank you. Commissioner Gonzalez appreciate it. Uh, 173 appoint members to serve on the police review board for terms to end February 21st, 2027. Colleagues before us today is a request to appoint four new members to the police. Review board. The police review board is comprised of community members who are included in the disciplinary process. When officers are investigated for misconduct, these community members volunteer their time to review investigatory files and vote on findings and recommendations made to the chief of police regarding the conduct and the imposition of proposed discipline. It bears noting that this group of volunteers will continue to be a critical part of the police disciplinary system while we continue pressing forward with the implementation of a new police disciplinary system. The folks we are considering today represent broad perspectives and experiences from our local community here to tell us more about these candidates is ross caldwell, the director of the independent police review. Welcome, director caldwell.

Speaker: Thank you. Good morning, mayor Wheeler and members of council, uh, for some reason, my camera's not working, so hopefully you can hear me.

Speaker: Okay, we hear you loudly and clearly. Okay

Speaker: Sorry about that.

Speaker: Not a problem.

Speaker: My name is ruth caldwell, and as you said, I'm the director of ipr. Uh, today I'm asking you to consider the appointment of four community member volunteers to the crb. Uh, as as you all know, the police review board makes

recommendations as to findings and proposed officer discipline to the chief police. They also make recommendations regarding the adequacy and completeness of investigations, which is very important. And they can make policy or training recommendations to the police, uh, police chief, which can also be very important because they actually see critical incidents such as officer involved shootings. Uh, closer up than other community members are able to, uh, the independent police review recommends for appointment uh, the following community volunteer members leslie brunker, matthew carter, joe van waardenburg, and pastor robert weisner. Their biographies and statements of interests are provided as part of this report, and these community member candidates apply. Uh, were thoroughly interviewed and then recommended by a selection committee consisting of ipr and professional standards and internal affairs division employees at b-b-b. These community member volunteers are a critical part of our current police accountability system, and they provide important feedback from a civilian perspective to the police bureau. We ask the council approved the appointment of these four community members to serve on the. And just as a side note, we hope that these are three year terms. So we hope that, uh, these volunteer terms will get us through to the new accountability system that is currently being developed. That's all I have. Thank you so much. Please ask, uh, ask any questions that I can try to answer.

Speaker: All right. Thank you. Uh, ross commissioner Gonzalez, I have a I'm not sure if this is for the mayor or for ross, but for these appointments, how do we envision this working with what pac has done?

Speaker: And is there opportunities to combine boards when I when I look at the good work of cog, what pac is doing and what's or and police oversight, I guess this

is maybe I start with you, mayor. What's your thought on the long term? Right. Amount of boards in this area.

Speaker: Oh my god, you don't want my opinion. You really don't. Uh but we can take it offline.

Speaker: But I'm genuinely curious.

Speaker: I'll defer this to ross. But look, when it comes to police accountability and oversight, we have many different boards, and we have lots of community engagement. We have different institutions that are involved. And, um. You know, for a process to be effective, it has to be just and it has to be seen as just and it has to have credibility and support in the community to be an and at every step of this process, I have let it be known that as we create this new police accountable city oversight mechanism, if you will, it has to be seen as credible in the community. And so I've had some of my, you know, arguments and disagree over why people certain people are excluded and certain people's relatives are excluded from participating. And I think that hurts the legitimacy of a process. When you say not everybody is eligible to participate. Um, I think there have been too many boards and commissions, which has made the process long and confusing. Both for the officers who are accused of misconduct as well as for the community at large that expects an accountable policing system and it's hard sometimes to see how these different efforts interact, particularly from the public's perspective. The prb versus, um, you know, the work that that ross and his team do, um, you know, prb arb um, independent oversight board fit cog in the eyes of the public. I think it can get very confusing very quickly. So I'm not solving any problem here. I'm simply reiterating points I've made for many, many years. And I hope that this process moving forward is an opportunity to start streamlining and bring together some of these disparate oversight boards and, frankly, speed the process up. One of the great

killers of legitimacy is time. And if it takes years for these issues to work themselves through the accountability system, it's not in the service to anybody. It's a disservice to the officers involved, and it's a disservice to the public that is waiting for an answer. So you asked for it. There it is. My ramble of the day. Ross, what do you think? Say something to save me.

Speaker: Well, I very much agree. I think that, you know, I think one other point. There's a lot of different boards. There are a lot of different groups that give a lot of recommendations, runs our office, gives recommendations. There are people that are internal to the police bureau giving recommendations and a lot of these were things were envisioned before for the city was under a settlement agreement. So there's also a lot of feedback coming from the doj. And I forgot about that.

Speaker: I didn't even mention that. That's a whole different rant in a budget advisory board.

Speaker: That's correct. Police yeah, right.

Speaker: And I think that I think it can be hard for the police bureau to take in that many recommendations at a time. Uh, and I think that that can lead to at times, volunteers in different groups feeling like they're not being heard. And I think it does impact the health of these various groups. And so now that you know, now that we're kind of in the midst of an overhaul, I agree, I think this can be made more efficient. And, you know, if there's a centralized, legitimate place that the community can provide engagement, I think that makes a lot of sense. So I hope that we go in in that direction. It sounds like we still have some things to figure out, but a lot of work is a lot of work has been done. And, uh, it's under way. This group will likely review investigation and sit on the prv so they recommend in or out of policy and disciplinary recommendations, and they can make different recommendations for things that come out of that. Uh, and just the last thing I

would say is that I think as we're putting together exactly how the new thing works, I think that volunteers, um, you know, these volunteers from the police review board and also the citizen review committee, they've seen a lot of, uh, administrative investigations. So I think I think they have some important input to give. And I know that's something that we've talked to folks at the city attorney's office. Uh and I think some of your staff about so I think that'll get incorporated when we get to that point.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Great. Any further questions? And I already asked you about whether we had public testimony.

Speaker: You did not. We do have four people signed up. Great the first is addie smith.

Speaker: Welcome, addie. Hi

Speaker: Thank you. Can everyone hear me? Okay

Speaker: We certainly can. We can see you as well.

Speaker: So I've talked to you guys before about the concerns that I have had with with the, uh, mead center or the department of community justice. I've talked to you guys before about concerns that I have had with racism and discrimination from not just judges in Multnomah County circuit court, but judges in Washington county circuit court. And I don't think that you guys are, uh, really communicating with your colleagues in the legislature. Uh, and I'm a democrat, and we've got an election coming up. We we're going to have, uh, elections coming up from local level all the way up to the white house. And I don't think that black people in this state, I don't think our votes are being taken seriously. And that's going to be problematic for you guys. That's going to be problematic for president biden, who is literally committing a genocide. But I want to say speak directly to what I signed up

to testify about. And I'm going to come in person because you guys need to see me. I am not from Oregon, and I feel like the black people in Oregon that are from Oregon that have been here for are completely different. And have a completely different perspective of the world of this nation than black people who are from other parts of this nation, say the south or say Calif. It's almost like they have been blinded or sheltered, sheltered from the systemic racism that Oregon has. Oregon is one of the top three in the nation in racism and discrimination. California Washington state and Oregon are overtly and it's just so disgusting. And people the media doesn't even talk about it. And it's happens and it's because it's suppressed by the media here that it doesn't make it to the national media. But I want to say to Ross, and I want to say to all of you that if there is not a black person that is on that police board, then scrap it. You need someone black on that board. I'd like to nominate myself. I don't know who how the nomination process started. I don't know how I missed the opportunity to be on this board, but if there are no black people on the board, um, you need to scrap it. There needs to be some diversity on the board and one of the biggest killers of legitimacy. C uh, in Oregon, for example, is racism. And discrimination. So you guys need to make sure you're either someone black or I nominate a tribute. Is on that board. Otherwise it's I'm going to be I am going to be one of the main people saying that this is a failure.

Speaker: All right. Thank you.

Speaker: That's all I have to say.

Speaker: Appreciate it.

Speaker: Thank you. But I will be at the next board meeting. Um, in person to because I don't think that I think that you guys like to say a lot of political talking things that get you maybe elected for the next or maybe for me.

Speaker: I definitely don't want to get elected again. Well, I don't think you're running again, but whatever the case may be, it's not funny because, see, we aren't protected our kids aren't protected.

Speaker: One of the things that I tell people give me just one second, please. One of the things that I tell people all the time is the reason that gun violence is still prevalent in this country. It is not because of the politicians, the politician have always shown us who they are. It is because of the voters. The voters continue to elect the politicians. It's not funny. I don't know if you guys cut me off or what because we're we're still hearing red thing in front of my face. Um, but it's not funny. It's. And black people should not have to be. Portland is what number five with the with the Portland police in terms of racism and discrimination for black people in Portland. It's disgusting. All right. And it is not.

Speaker: Thank you. You've made your point extremely well and we look forward to seeing you in person next time. And we hear your admonition that you want to see diversity on that board. And I think you'll find we all agree with you. Thank you for your testimony. I think she disappeared. Oh. Well, uh, next individual next is dan handelman.

Speaker: Hi, dan.

Speaker: Uh, good morning, mayor Wheeler. And commissioners, can you hear me? Okay.

Speaker: Loud and clear.

Speaker: Great. Uh, my name is dan handelman. I use he him pronouns and a member of Portland copwatch. We have no objection to the four people being nominated for the police review board civilian pool, but their appointment raises a number of issues for instance, the last records we can find of people being appointed to the prb for three year terms were for September 2019 and February

2020. It's not clear how many, if any, of the 14 people appointed back then have continued and or whether their terms are not being formally extended due to procedural issues. If none of the circa 2020 crb members are continuing, and that means the entire pool of people to volunteer for police review boards to look at possible officer misconduct up to and including deadly force cases, now consists of only the six members of the citizen review committee. There will only be ten volunteers total. After you accept this report, that's not adequate. The deadly force cases we have heard can contain over a thousand pages, and the community volunteers must read every one of those pages. The rest of the crb is made up of 3 or 4 paid Portland police employees and a paid ipr staff person. The recruitment announcement for the crb and crc members went out at the end of June, without a deadline attached at long since forgotten about this effort. Since it was almost eight months ago. As we await the creation of the new community board for police accountability, it's important to keep the current system going in order to ensure, to the extent possible, that officers are held accountable and yes, sometimes cleared of wrongdoing. Doing the police review board is also required by city code to put out two reports each year. The second, for 2023, was released on December 27th. These reports have become increasingly frustrating to read with the gender of involved persons, precincts and even the dates of the prb hearings, and issued memos redacted. What's the point of doing that to their credit, the ppb has been including the dates and locations of deadly force incidents. In their reports, but again, inexplicably not including the names of the community members shot or shot at. Even though the bureau has an entire section of their website that includes that information, often it feels as if the police association contract requirement to avoid embarrassment is making the city so afraid to publish any useful information as to render the reports almost meaningless. This overcautiousness is of great

importance, as the city attorney has taken over, taken its watered down version of the police accountability commission's proposal for the new board behind closed doors to negotiate it with the bargaining unit of under 800 people, whose actions affect the 630,000 people who actually live in the city. The public must be involved and informed about any changes being considered to further weaken the new oversight system. On February seven, deputy city attorney heidi brown briefed the citizen review committee about the new system, but most of her nearly hour long presentation in q&a reverted to the same theme. I can't really talk about that because of the negotiations. Well, that's nonsense. We're the public and we're stakeholders. Miss brown gave a nod to the public input that came in during the month after council vote in November, but gave few specifics of what might be reconsidered. I personally spent 20 months of my life working with a wonderful group of other volunteers to create a strong and evenhanded plan for the new system, only to have it looked at as if some crazed, cop hating anti-authoritarians will use it to tear down the whole police bureau again. That's nonsense.

Speaker: Dan, thank you for your testimony and I have a request for next time I cut you a little slack because you're a regular here. Um, but you didn't really testify on the matter at hand. And I do hold people to that standard. So I'd ask you when you come back next time, please testify on the issue at hand. I realize there's a lot of other issues you're involved in, and I appreciate your involvement and knowledge, but, um, please, going forward, if I give you slack, then other people wonder why I haven't given them slack. So let's stick. Stick to the knitting.

Speaker: I hear I hear you, mayor Wheeler. I just want to point out there's no public meetings of the police review board. There is nowhere else to have these discussions about the police review board or the contents of the report.

Speaker: Sign up for this is the only like everybody else. That's how you can do it. And then you can come here at the very beginning of our council session and give your testimony. So thank you for your testimony.

Speaker: We're also we're also hoping that the nominees will hear our testimony as they get prepared to be part of this board.

Speaker: Fair enough. Thank you sir. Next individual please.

Speaker: Next. We have philip chachka. Hi philip.

Speaker: Hi. My name is philip chachka. I'm also a member of Portland copwatch I echo dan's comments that we should that we do not object to the appointments made today. Thank you.

Speaker: Is there anything else? Can I continue if you keep it to the testimony? You heard my conversation.

Speaker: I just started my testimony.

Speaker: All right, let's hear it. Okay. Yeah

Speaker: Um, on the topic of the structure of the prb, the city wants to let the police nominate members of the oversight. New oversight board. Um, on the topic, the police review board has also been called out repeatedly and by the compliance officer in the us. Doj reports for not examining the tactics of officers used by officers looking at performance issues. Instead of force issues, and more. And of course, we really can't speak to those issues since the meetings are closed to the public. We're hoping that the, uh, i'll, i'll go back to the, uh, we closed by urging the new the four new members to work with the citizen review committee, which meets almost every month, but hasn't heard any appeal since 2021 to hold a public meeting where the prb volunteers discuss the semiannual reports. They do not have to divulge any confidential information, but they could at least discuss the

process so that people understand what's happening in the meetings. Thank you, thank you philip.

Speaker: I love the painting to your right, by the way. It's pretty awesome. Next individual edith gillis edith, welcome. Edith, are you there?

Speaker: Can you hear me?

Speaker: Yeah, now we can. Good morning.

Speaker: Um, I'm edith gillis, and I object to these four nominees. Um, this decision does financially and politically affect the city and local economy. When civilians see proof that police screen interview, influence, choose, train, and form or withhold information from, recommend and approve the volunteers as a rubber stamp so police feel confident they can continue with immunity to harass, terrorize, extort, rob, assault, rape, torture, kill and lie. Then it makes civilians think it's not worth it's not safe being here so they will, if they have the ability, move elsewhere and invest elsewhere, we will lower. We will lose our tax base and our income, and we will lose the cooperation and the trust that we need as a community to avoid what you were complaining about in 2020. This process, and the kinds of obvious bias these pro-police for applicants have an antiport lenders in human rights increases the city losses with litigation lawyer costs overtime corruption, fines and it also also increases the belief that many police think they can get away with what they're doing. These three white pro-police volunteers, without the lived experience to recognize, report and resist the wrongs with demonstrated moral and physical courage to stand up to cops and corporate powers, are not what we need now. Matt carter was correct to address that. We need to address the causes with good analysis. However, the national science professional engineers and many investigators of boeing have shown that during his decades of work there, there was corruption, sexist, racist approval and that purest sense of the white, white, uh,

european engineer beliefs that you can look at something outside of context, outside of relationships, um, has why things have failed without having the moral courage to stand up to the for profit war industry. Um, more people are dying. We're losing our money and our tax base. It's anti-democratic. I've not heard or seen any way in which, um, uh, leslie brunker has said that even though she can pay \$600 a year for rotary fees, that she's paying anything towards, uh, learning to be anti-racist or or to, um, pay reparations, for example, the \$600 per windshield that the police break of, uh, media or medics or legal observers is, um, I'm not seeing any way that people are hearing anything they're saying doesn't come from a bias. I come from a background where I'm ignorant, but I am taking the following trainings. I am spending these months in a homeless camp. I am connecting with the folks who are targeted by police. So that I can understand and recognize when things go wrong, that otherwise in my white privilege and white fragility, I'm oblivious to. I think we definitely need to find better people than this and a better process of this. And the lack of this and the questionable timing of this, makes us lose any credibility. It's not going amount of time. It's not going to improve our our protections. Start over. Do it right.

Speaker: All right. Thank you. Edith, you're always clear as per usual. Um colleagues, I would just like to note that this panel is diverse and I think some of the people testifying may not have actually done their research very thoroughly before they made what I think are fairly personal attacks against some of the people who are kind enough to be volunteering their time to serve any further public testimony, any there is.

Speaker: We have one additional person signed up, charles simcoe bridge crane johnson, welcome.

Speaker: Thank you for being here.

Speaker: Good morning. I'm Charles Simcoe Bridge.

Speaker: Crane Johnson, and I was glad that before the testimony ended, your staff was able to save you with a little reminder that among the things that still exist in the universe is the United States of America versus the city of Portland and a long running thing, uh, uh, legal situation where the United States Department of.

Speaker: Microphone just turn off.

Speaker: Yeah. Doo doo doo distance. All right. Uh, and, uh, found that, uh, there's a pattern in practice that is disadvantageous towards people experiencing or appearing to experience mental illness. I haven't done what other testifiers seem to have done. As far as looking so closely into the background of these volunteers. Um I do think it will be interesting to see that what happens once we have the new voter approved oversight board. Does that phase these people out if we move too quickly with the new board, would these people not necessarily need to serve their terms? I hope that, uh, in the future that, you know, it doesn't need to be answered right away. But I think as the faster we move with a voter initiated process, uh, the more these concerns that have come up about, uh, the diversity of the panel and such can be addressed. But, um, I think that will cover it. I do wish that it was easier to find on the website a listing, uh, specifically of citizen volunteers in the police review board, and that had the footnote about how many different police staff or city staff are also part of the police review board. Thanks very much. Yeah.

Speaker: Thank you. Appreciate your testimony.

Speaker: That concludes testimony. All right. Great

Speaker: Uh, dare I ask any questions? Colleagues seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to accept the report. Moved. Commissioner Gonzalez moves. Can I get a second? Second? Commissioner Mapps seconds. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Call the roll, please.

Speaker: Rebecca Rubio, Ryan Gonzalez. So appreciate these folks willingness to serve.

Speaker: I vote I Mapps.

Speaker: Um, I appreciate the public testimony today. I want to thank these volunteers for agreeing to serve on this important committee. I vote yea Wheeler.

Speaker: I wish that in this community, we would give our fellow citizens who volunteer to support, to help our community the benefit of the doubt. And if you don't like the people who are stepping forward to volunteer in their spare time to help the community, guess what? You can volunteer. You can sign up to serve on one of these committees too, and have your voice or your perspective heard. But what I really wish would end is people coming to this council to disparage their fellow Portlanders who are willing to step forward and serve. I hope that we can become a more civil society in that regard. I've sat here for seven years and I've listened to people who have disparaged people who are willing to serve on a variety of committees. This city is run by a committee structure. We have the City Council of course, but then we have dozens of these committees that are just ordinary folks who are willing to step forward and serve on behalf of all of us, and we should celebrate that. And I celebrate these individuals who are willing to serve on what is a very, very tricky. We volunteer position. This is a tough one, and it's critically important because again, it gets back to legitimacy and we all understand that we have to have public eyes on every aspect of the public safety process. Yes, but let's give these folks a chance. Let's let them do the work that they want to do. On behalf of all of us. And given the benefit of the doubt, that's all I'm asking for. I vote I the appointments are approved, the report is accepted. Item 174. Also a report.

Speaker: Accept two guaranteed maximum prices of \$3,469,244 and \$4,796,719 from Howard S Wright for construction of council chambers, counselor offices,

mayor and city administrator offices, and major maintenance colleagues with ballot measure 26 228.

Speaker: Portland voters approved transformational changes to their city government in order to accommodate the changes within the city's physical structure. The office of management and finance facilities services renovate city halls, council chambers, and the workspaces that support the new 12 person council. The mayor, the city administrator and the support staff. As part of this renovation, city hall will receive vital upgraded security, audio visual and broadcasting enhancements to accommodate the public and council processes, as well as long overdue major maintenance work to the facility itself. In accepting these guaranteed maximum prices, this item would allow construction work to commence in these spaces, be biko taylor chief procurement officer and maddie sauer, manager of the division of asset management, are here to present this item. Welcome. And I'm sorry, I don't remember your name. Travis reed travis. And you represent otis wright. Howard s right. Okay welcome. We're glad to have you here too, director taylor. I'll turn it over to you to start. I guess.

Speaker: Is it still morning? Good morning, mayor Wheeler. So, uh, i'll start off by just giving the procurement overview of the project. Thank you. Uh, for the record, my name is biko taylor. I'm the city's chief procurement officer. On April 19th, 2023, City Council approved an exemption ordinance. 191246 to complete this project. The initial engineering engineering cost estimate was \$3.97 million, and the confidence level at that time was low. Um, there was a notice of public hearing and advertising for this for this project in the daily journal of commerce on April 5th, 2023. Um, on on may 4th, 2023, procurement services issued the request for proposal officially, uh proposals were due on June 1st, 2023, and in total we received one proposal for this project. The evaluation committee selected balfour

beatty construction doing business as howard s wright as the highest scoring proposer on this project. The cities regional workforce equity agreement goals did apply. That's a 25% co bid participation goal. For the record, howard s wright presented a plan that has 11.4% minority participation, 11.4% women participation. And 1.8% veteran owned business participation. Howard wright is located in Portland, Oregon. They are not a state certified cobid contractor. They do have a current city of Portland tax registration and are in full compliance with all of the city's contracting requirement. If there are any questions on the procurement process, specific, I'm happy to answer them. If not, I will welcome my colleague maddie souder to answer any other questions. Uh good morning council.

Speaker: Um, I know that this has been a long road to get here, so we provided in advance some slides to speak to the nature of the overrun. Uh, big thank you to the council clerk for getting them up. Since my zoom just decided to update, uh, so you can advance the next slide, please. Uh, just as a reminder, uh, there have been a couple of enemies working against this project the entire time. Uh, the primary one being the exceedingly compressed nature of the construction schedule and effectively, what this, uh, led us to was having to do the initial budgeting for this project prior to actually having a full fledged, uh, architect on board, and also the cmjk contractor. And as a result, the budget that we submitted was informed. But it was a little bit of a guesstimate. And we've been working our way through the programing for the entirety of this process along with the cmjk process itself. So initial budgeting, I believe, was back in January or February of this of last year. And we have reached the point in which the guaranteed maximum price is available and ready to be reviewed. Next slide please. Uh, just as a reminder, there are two groups that are coming forward. The first is for council chambers itself, and the second is for council workspaces. And we added into that as part of our October

work sessions, uh, something called major maintenance. And so this is a recognition of the fact that the council offices are frequently occupied, and it's very difficult to do maintenance in those sites. So we are replacing 46 heat pumps that are on the second floor. And doing seismic bracing and lighting upgrades in those areas. So these are capital projects that we would be pursuing anyway. But as long as the offices are down, it makes a lot of financial sense for us to do them at the same time. Next slide please. We wanted to give you a comparison of the original cost estimates and the actual the original is a little bit confusing because this is a cobbled together set of budgets that don't per se relate to the original gmps. So gmp one for council chambers is as it was as a as as council offices. But we added in here something that was not originally in the gmp, which is the mayor city administrator's offices. So these were in the budget but they weren't in the gmp and without a program, this was our estimate of what that work would cost. And then we have a major maintenance line item that we've taken from our five year capital plan. This was our guesstimate of what these activities would cost, uh, if and when we got to do them. So we've added them here just to kind of create an apples to apples scenario. So you see original estimates without programing and vetting came in at \$6 million. The actual bid to do this work is \$8.2 million. So there's a delta of about \$2.2 million. Now that we have more information about the programing and constructability, and we have hard bids next slide please. Uh, we did do some assessment of what drove those costs. So for lines one and two, the administrative offices and major maintenance, as noted, these were not necessarily part of the original gmp. They were added to the gmp as we pulled both of them into the project, because it was more cost effective to do them with the project than to delay them a year or indefinitely. So even though we have refined programing that has added to the cost of the project, it's still cheaper than if we were to wait to

do those projects separately or at a future date number three is an all user restrooms. So when we originally came to you with this project, we had done preliminary test fitting with our interior designer and concluded that we didn't think we could reuse city hall, uh, council chambers for the council chambers. So we had pitched to you that we thought we were going to the leasing building or, sorry, Portland building, leasing room. Uh, we ended up discovering with the onboarding of the architect that we could reuse city hall. It was overall a much preferable option because we didn't have to deal with certain broadcasting elements, and we weren't going to have an ongoing cost duplication for operations and maintenance\$ of our security profile at both buildings. So we're consolidating all security at one building and able to save almost half \$1 million a year on security costs. However, in using city hall, we also have a one time cost increase of about \$500,000 for all user restrooms. So this is a code requirement that we triggered because of the volume of work that we're doing at city hall. There are also two cost drivers related to construction. So one is cobid premiums. So we obviously have quispe cobid goals for this project, but it's also a very specialized project. There aren't a lot of wsp contractors in this space. And so we paid premium pricing to make sure that we could recruit individuals and firms to this work. Uh, and, and ensure that they could get that work done on the tight timeline. We also end up triggering something called rawiya, which is a regional equity agreement, which has a bit more administrative burden than traditional cobid projects. And then last but not least, we did denote that if we delay the move out of offices and separate the projects, really in any way, that there would be a price premium that we would pay for certain contractors who are doing work at the beginning of the project? Uh, we did note that that would be very expensive if we delayed offices an entire year. We shaved that price premium down by agreeing to a move out date of summer. I

think July 1st is the date. And so we cut that premium down to about 575,000. So those are the drivers of cost in the project. And I believe that's the last slide. But I'm also happy to turn it over to um, howard wright. If you have any questions. Or we can field questions as well.

Speaker: Colleagues, any questions at this point? Commissioner Mapps quick question.

Speaker: Can we go back to the slide that shows the timeline? Yeah. Okay. So I guess I'm trying to interpret the timeline. Um, so we're here, uh, as the red font indicates. And when is the when's the construction going to be done? Maybe that's, uh, done.

Speaker: Yeah. The goal is to have it done, I think. You tell me at the beginning of December, right at the beginning of December.

Speaker: So all commissioning and testing.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Uh, I think that's all I have.

Speaker: Very good. Any further questions? Do we have public testimony on this item? We do not. All right. This is a report. I'll entertain a motion. So moved.

Commissioner Mapps moves. Can I get a second commissioner? Second seconds. Any further discussion? Seeing none, please call the roll.

Speaker: Rubio. Ryan Gonzalez. Um I'm going to vote to accept the report and continue to have concerns about cost overruns on charter reform, transition maps.

Speaker: I appreciate all the work that's gone into, um, getting us to the where we are today. Um, and I appreciate the presentation.

Speaker: I vote yea Wheeler, the reports accepted.

Speaker: Item 175, period.

Speaker: Item 176 accept bid.

Speaker: Thank you. Yeah, I forgot to say thank you.

Speaker: Yeah.

Speaker: Sorry. Go ahead. 170.

Speaker: Excuse me. Item 175 accept bid of. \$4,792,499 from James W. Fowler Co for the Stark Trunk Rehabilitation Project. The Bureau of Environmental Services needs to rehabilitate 1800 feet of deteriorated, large diameter combined sewer pipes in the Central East Side Industrial District.

Speaker: These repairs will increase the sewers resiliency, extending its service life for 60 years or more, and it will help prevent sewage releases into building basements and streets, Chief Procurement Officer Biko Taylor is here to describe it. Welcome Biko.

Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Wheeler.

Speaker: On December 14th, 2022, City Council approved an ordinance that ordinance was 191104. Originally, the engineering estimate was 5,266,000, and the confidence level was high. Procurement Services issued the invitation to bid on November 9th, 2023, uh, with a due date of December 19th, 2023. In total, we received one bid for the project, so the market was not, uh, didn't respond as vigorously as we had liked. James W. Fowler was the apparent low bidder and is the recommended awardee. Their bid came in at 4.792 million, and that was 9% below our original estimate. The city's 20% aspirational goals did apply to and I'm on the record as saying that we did not make that goal on this project. Um, James Fowler will will, um, perform 81.5% of the project? Uh, 10% will go to COVID certified contractors and 6% will go to non-certified subcontractors. Um, a note from the general contractor that participation is low due to the specialty type of pipe work. Um, and Fowler is really one of the few subcontractors qualified to perform the spiral wound line. The spiral wound lining work. I'm not familiar with that firm.

However Olsen concrete construction is, um, is on the project and they are Washington state firm and they are in the process of, uh, fulfilling their COVID certification on the projects, which will add roughly 3% COVID, uh, certification to this project. A few notes on James W. Fowler. They are located in Dallas, Oregon. They are not a state COVID certified contractor. They do have a current city of Portland business tax registration and are in full compliance with all the city's contracting requirements. Um, this concludes my presentation on the procurement process. If you have any further questions, I do have my colleague online, Amy Dunn, Amy Dunning, from BHS to answer questions as well.

Speaker: Great colleagues. Any questions? Do we have public testimony? We do not. All right. This is a report I'll entertain a motion. So moved Commissioner Mapps moves Commissioner Gonzalez seconds. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Please call the roll. Rubio

Speaker: Ryan. Gonzalez I maps.

Speaker: Um, I want to thank Biko and Procurement for, uh, getting us to the point where we are on this project. Uh, this is a part of town that I know quite well. We've got lots of great, um, uh, anchor businesses in this area. It will help this, uh, work will help keep those businesses dry and operating. Uh, which is why I'm really glad to vote. I will.

Speaker: There are reports accepted. 176 a report accept bid of James W. Fowler Co, general contractors for the Sellwood sanitary sewer extension. For \$6,736,437 the Bureau of Environmental Services needs to construct a sanitary sewer extension in the Sellwood neighborhood to resolve the non-conforming sewer status of properties that do not currently have direct access to sanitary sewer. This contract would authorize the build of approximately 7200ft of main line sanitary sewer

pipes, as well as 153 individual property, sewer laterals, chief procurement officer biko taylor is still with us. Greetings

Speaker: Thank you, mayor Wheeler.

Speaker: On April 12, 2023, City Council approved ordinance 191239 to complete the sellwood sanitary sewer project. At that time, the engineering estimate was 7.9 million even and the confidence level on an estimate was high. On December 21st, 2023, procurement services issued an invitation to bid I'm sorry. On November 16th, 2023, correct in procurement services issued the invitation to bid the due date for the invitation to bid was December 21st, 2023. In total, we received five bids. James w fowler company was the apparent low bidder and is the recommend awardee. Their proposal. Totaled \$6,736,000, which is 14.7% under the engineering estimate. We do have a standard 20% aspirational goal on this project as well, james w fowler will perform 70% of the work, roughly, um, 21% approximately will go to certified cobid contractors 10.2% will go to non certified contractors. James w fowler is located in dallas, Oregon. It is not a state cobid certified contractor and they do have a current city of Portland business tax registration and on full compliance with our with our contract and requirements. That concludes my presentation on procurement. I have a bs project manager on the line, melanie latonya. Um, if you have additional questions on engineering estimates and etc, any further questions on this?

Speaker: Uh, it seems both reasonable and necessary to have public testimony. We do not. I'll entertain a motion to accept the report.

Speaker: So moved tuqan commissioner Mapps moves.

Speaker: Commissioner gonzales seconds any further discussion? Seeing none. Please call the roll.

Speaker: Rubio. Ryan. Gonzales Mapps.

Speaker: Um, I want to thank, uh, director Taylor and, um, procurement for helping us get to the point on this particular project. I remember this project quite well. It's going to play an important role in upgrading the, uh, sewer services. Um, and, uh, the Sellwood neighborhood, which is one of the many reasons I'm glad to vote. I on this Wheeler reports accepted.

Speaker: Thank you, director Taylor. Well done. Item 178, please. This is a resolution.

Speaker: Urge Multnomah County chair to pilot an ambulance response model to address paramedic staffing shortages and reduce instances when no ambulances are available to respond to emergencies.

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzalez. Uh I first want to check with my staff.

Speaker: We're actually a little bit ahead of schedule, so I want to make sure. Do we have everybody here okay. So we're good to go. I'll dive right in. Um, colleagues, this resolution from Portland fire is calling on Multnomah County to pilot a change from two paramedics per ambulance to one paramedic, one EMT nationally, we are facing a severe paramedic shortage. Locally educated future paramedics was halted for two years during the pandemic, we have increasingly felt the effects of this crisis. Our communities, public safety system is getting crushed by this shortage on most days. Multnomah County reaches level zero. There are no ambulances or crews available to help or transport Portland's most vulnerable and seniors aging in place. There are no ambulances available for people experiencing perhaps the scariest experience of their lives. These are our grandpa, aunts, parents, infants. This problem is delaying arrival time to emergency rooms and it is simply unacceptable. Time is of the essence. The time for planning has passed. The time for action is now enough. Workshopping ideas of enough discussion about plans is enough. Pushing this issue further into the future. Portlanders cannot afford to

wait. Multnomah County residents cannot afford to wait. We owe our residents something simple, speedy and reliable transport to the emergency room. Multnomah County remains amr sole operating jurisdiction, mandating two paramedics per vehicle at least as far as we can find all of amr's other 266 jurisdictions, each of our surrounding counties and most other major cities in the united states follow a one on one staffing model. I want to make something clear. We don't dispute that a two paramedic model may be the gold standard, and yes, something we hope the county can work back towards in the future. But we are currently in a situation where that's not feasible. Portlanders can afford to wait years for a fix. The county's ambulance provider, amr, has laid out two roads forward, having all 50 ambulances staffed regularly providing speedier care and transport to Portlanders within 90 days by piloting this one on one model or a near collapse of all basic ambulance functions in the region. Last night, the gresham City Council unanimously approved a resolution for the county to pilot this change. Today I hope our county's two largest cities will unify in this recommendation. Here to discuss the impacts that the status quo has had on our city level. First responders is Portland fire chief Ryan gillespie and gresham fire chief scott lewis. Chiefs, please take it away.

Speaker: Good morning. Thank you. My name is Ryan gillespie, fire chief for Portland fire and rescue. Uh, mayor Wheeler, commissioners, thank you for having us here today and giving us the opportunity to speak regarding the ambulance shortage in Multnomah County. Portland fire and rescue brought this critical ambulance shortage to Multnomah County's attention in early 2023, and we have yet to see a substantial improvement. The responsibility for ambulance, for the ambulance transport contract, providing service to the city of Portland, lies solely with Multnomah County level zero incidents, where a medical call is dispatched but

no ambulance is available have occurred intermittently for years, but over the past year have become the norm. In 2023, there were almost 15,000 level zero incidents, with a daily average of over 40 level zero calls. These are emergency calls where no ambulance is available to be dispatched. As first responders, we see firsthand the consequences to the community when the only contracted ambulance service provider in the county cannot provide transport to critically ill or injured patients over the past several months, Portland fire and rescue has been forced to transport critical, critical patients to the hospital, all in the back of fire apparatus, suvs, busses and police cars. Due to no ambulances being available, members of Portland fire and rescue have been forced to make difficult patient care decisions. I would like to share some of those specific examples. Engine nine recognizes that a patient was suffering from an acute stroke and required immediate specialty intervention. Amr was at level zero. Engine nine ultimately transferred the patient to Portland providence emergency room, Portland providence physicians stated if it weren't for the actions taken by engine nine crew, this patient would have likely died if treatment was further delayed. Engine 26 was presented with a status seizure patient with amr at level zero. This occurred on marine drive and Portland police responded as a partner agency. Amr was level zero with no eta for when a medic unit would be available due to the patient's condition, they were unable to be loaded into the taller fire apparatus. As with this problem, engine 26 requested assistance from the police officer to transport the patient, with engine 26 providing care to the patient. In the back of the Portland police squad. Car rescue 11 faced with the level zero predicament, made the decision to transport a chest pain patient to Portland adventist emergency room via a trimet bus truck seven has been required to transport critical patients on several occasions as truck seven's medic transported a trauma patient suffering from a severe hand injury as a result

of being trapped in machinery. This patient was transported in a battalion chief's apparatus. On a separate occasion, a child fell from a second story window onto concrete truck seven, determined the child had a serious potential for a severe brain injury from the fall, and with no amr unit available, truck seven transported to a manual trauma center in the back of the fire truck. Most recently during the winter storm engine 18, in southwest Portland faced a dire situation that unfortunately ended with the death of the patient. Despite being transported to the hospital by engine 18, this was a severe bleeding issue that was described by a 19 year veteran firefighter paramedic as one of the worst calls he has ever experienced. Engine 18 made every attempt to obtain an ambulance, including request for a Washington county ambulance, which was denied based on dispatch and amr protocol. Finally, during the storm, a Portland firefighter suffered significant leg fractures while operating at a residential fire. Again there were no ambulances available and fnr was forced to transport the injured firefighter to the emergency room in the back of a fire apparatus. The practice of Portland fire and rescue transporting patient is extremely unsafe for the patients and for the firefighters, providing medical care, as these vehicles are not licensed nor set up to transport critical patient s. The shortage of ambulances is putting the community's lives in jeopardy, and it also putting our. It is also putting our firefighters lives in danger. All Portland fire and rescue emergency response apparatus are staffed with at least one paramedic, which goes well above and beyond our agreement with Multnomah County to provide only basic life support, care. Since the combination of one for paramedic and one amr paramedic will still result in two paramedic s on advanced life support incidents, I strongly encourage Multnomah County ems to pilot the one on one staffing model. This crisis has gone on for too long with a short tum solution being proposed by those of us doing the work on the streets of

Multnomah County's inaction and unwillingness to take immediate measures continues to put lives at risk. Thank you for your time today and I would like to introduce Scott Lewis, fire chief from the city of Gresham.

Speaker: Good afternoon, Mayor Wheeler. Members of the commission, thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

Speaker: Thank you, chief, for being here.

Speaker: Our experiences with the extended response times very much mirror those that were described by Chief Gillespie here before you. We provided some similar examples to the Mayor Stovall members of Gresham City Council, last night, so I won't repeat those here today. But as Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned, they voiced unanimous support for a very similar resolution last night at their council meeting. The further east you go, the longer the response times extend the location of hospitals. With the exception of Mount Hood Medical Center, are all towards the center of Portland. Often times, those patients that we interact with come back further this way, thus exacerbating the response times our critical patients are still transported to OHSU and the mainland, often from much further east. Much longer response times. These excuse me, these extended extended response times occurred in the Gresham response area months ahead of the other zones as identified by Multnomah County EMS and our view is closer to two years that we've been in this crisis, not the one referenced by Multnomah County EMS. In our last firefighter recruitment, we had eight paramedic applicants. We were able to process one to be hired. All fire departments, Portland, us, Vancouver and those big fire districts around us are competing with AMR for the same limited pool of paramedics. This is a real shortage. This isn't something that's made up to avoid, uh, hiring paramedics to date, no one from the mayor's office or county EMS has reached out to me as the fire chief for the second biggest fire department in the

county to have a discussion about ambulance response times or a recommendation, a process to improving them. They've been silent on the measure, at least to my office. In my opinion, the chair's four step plan, released yesterday, again, does nothing to improve ambulance response times and further kicks the can down the road with no end in sight. Um same as Portland. We staff an engine and ladder truck with a paramedic on critical calls. We are dispatched at the same time. Amr is and frequently arrive first, thus putting two paramedics on the scene. There may be a time when something went haywire with the patient's description of the injury. The illness? Uh boec didn't glean the information to define something as a critical call, and amr may be dispatched alone with their single paramedic. Those things will happen. They still have advanced life support care available to them. All they have to do is call and we will be there with our second medic. In my 21 years with gresham and 20 years before I came here as a paramedic, I have not once seen an ambulance crew member get in the back where the firefighter drives to the hospital. That second paramedic always during transport is the driver of an amr ambulance. With that, we thank you for your time and your consideration for your resolution. This afternoon.

Speaker: So, mayor, we also have some additional invited testimony from amr and Multnomah County commissioner, would you like us to invite them up first?

Speaker: Why would you go ahead and just invite them up first and then we'll get to public testimony. If there's people who'd like to testify on this.

Speaker: So I'm inviting up amr operations manager for Multnomah County rob mcdonald, to hear about the one on one staffing model proposal and their vision for better service here in Portland. And as well as Multnomah County commissioner sharon meieran, who is leading the charge at the county to pilot this change.

Speaker: Welcome. Thanks for being here, both of you.

Speaker: Thank you. Good afternoon, commissioners.

Speaker: My name is Rob McDonald and I'm a Multnomah County operations manager for American Medical Response Northwest. I want to start by thanking Commissioner Gonzalez's office for inviting me to speak in support of this resolution to pilot a temporary modified deployment model to allow EMTs to work with paramedics on 911 ambulances in Multnomah County. I also want to applaud my industry partners and Commissioner Myron, uh, to include Gresham Fire, Portland Fire, Sauvie Island Fire and Corporate Fire, all of which are calling for this immediate change. I've lived in Portland for all but five years of my life. My wife, Erin, and I moved back to Portland this summer after college. Over 30 years ago, my three children were born in Portland. When I was given the opportunity to serve the city that has given me so much, eight years ago, it was a dream. Come true to manage Multnomah County EMS for American Medical Response. I'm not alone. Our organization is made up of incredible men and women who have chosen Multnomah County to work and raise their families. Our hearts are broken to see the EMS system crumble around us. In July of 2022, AMR came to Multnomah County EMS and Doctor John Ju to consider making this deployment modification. When AMR realized the national paramedic crisis was disproportionately impacting Multnomah County due to its dual paramedic requirement and there was no relief in sight. At that time, if we were permitted to bring EMTs onto our frontline, 911 ambulances, the staffing crisis would have been solved and this resolution would have been completely unnecessary. More so, we would then be operating in line with the national and state staffing standards shared by our neighbors in Washington, Clackamas and Clark County EMS. In July of 2022, AMR came to Multnomah County EMS and Doctor John Ju to consider making this deployment modification. Excuse me, pardon me. As the crisis has grown, AMR adopted

each of the pilot programs required by doctor ju in hopes of improving our performance. We did this knowing these pilot programs would be band-aids applied to an arterial bleed that would fail to cure the system and avoid total collapse. We implemented those half measures at amr's expense. In the spirit of leaving no stone unturned to recover from this pan driven, pandemic driven national paramedic shortage, we've invested over \$700,000 in full ride paramedic scholarship ships. We offer incentives on top of overtime, essentially triple time to entice paramedics to fill open shifts costing an additional \$120,000 a month in unbudgeted wage expense. As we had predicted, these measures failed to stem the tide of paramedics leaving Multnomah County. Our turnover is two times our extensive onboarding efforts. For 29 years, amr has been a faithful and responsive contractor to Multnomah County. As one of several providers. Before 1995, we have served Multnomah County for 111 years, until March of 2022, when the national paramedic shortage was present in full force. We were substantially compliant with our contract benchmarks and performance requirements once the pandemic receded from ems, we learned in short order that our clinicians in the field have post pandemic burnout, and with the volume of behavioral health emergencies, the drug addiction crisis, and the unhoused seeking social services that are desperately lacking in the county. Excuse me. I'm sorry. In the county that, combined with heavy attrition of licensed paramedics who have found different careers outside of ems or successfully moved to fire agency positions elsewhere, made it very clear that we were heading towards disaster. Despite our concerted efforts to engage doctor jue and chair vega peterson and Multnomah County ems to allow this desperately needed staffing modification. We've been met with excuses, myths and a total obfuscation of facts. With this city's resolution, we hope

chair vega peterson will reconsider this destructive path forward. That will surely result in total collapse of the ems system. Thank you for my time.

Speaker: Thank you. Um, mayor City Councilors. Uh, I really appreciate the opportunity to be here today. Um, to testify in support of your resolution. I'm going to speak a lot in my, uh, in my role as an emergency physician today. Also in my role as just a regular person. Person who expects that when I call 911, some one will show up at my door. When people call 911. Time is measured in lives. The fact that this has been going on for a year, that this conversation has been happening for a year or more, makes me wonder how this could be allowed to happen. I have been flabbergasted and working as an e.r. Doctor, I go into work, one of my works, and I'm working around people who are desperate to save lives, save lives. They know that time is measured in minutes, and minutes can save lives. Then I go to my other work at the county, and the voice response for the entire system is satisfied. Issuing a press release telling us we need more process and to do a bunch of stuff a that we don't actually need to do, but b that could have been done any time over the past year. We don't need more days. We don't need more weeks. We don't need more process. This change in staffing that could make all the difference to the people, to saving lives, to our other first responders who are out there. This could be done by the next time I work a shift in the e.r. One thing that keeps getting glossed over and it's really essential to understand band, is that an ambulance showing up with a paramedic and an emt as soon as possible is better than no ambulance showing up at all, period. It's also better than them getting there when it's far too late to do anything. Everyone involved in the system and gresham City Council call yesterday, Portland fire and rescue, gresham fire. Um, the public all understand this basic tenet. The whole point of calling 911 is to get someone to respond and when you call. But for some reason, county leadership has missed

that core tenet in the e.r. I rely on ambulances getting there to me as quickly as possible. And there's nothing I can do for people unless they get to my door in time. I honestly don't know how anyone at the county really sleeps at night, knowing people will be calling 911 before we wake up, and ambulances might not be there as quickly as they need to be, that people might die because we are not engaging in the simple action of changing the staffing model temporarily to allow for more ambulances on our streets. People shouldn't wonder whether it's better to call 911 or uber. I so appreciate the dedication of you and commissioner Gonzalez for all the work that you have done in support of this. In particular, um, that you have leaned in and you are considering this resolution and treating this matter with the urgency it deserves. It makes such a difference. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner. Could I and yes, my understanding, the county's taking this up today is that correct?

Speaker: No, no okay.

Speaker: So this is purely the decision of the chair. Is that correct.

Speaker: So there is a lot of obfuscation. Yea. Ryan. I think is the right word. Uh, there the person who can make the decision without any question, without any other rigamarole is the ems medical director. Okay doctor ju that being said, the other person who can direct his action is his boss, the chief personnel officer at the county. The county executive, the chair. She could direct his action immediately. And he has the authority. She and she has the authority under the Multnomah County code to act in immediately in the face of an emergency, to change staffing if needed. Got it? They don't. All this other stuff is smoke and mirrors and that's what it really boils down to.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate you being here and both of you. Thank you for being here.

Speaker: Can I one more thing to that. There I believe that the county chair has put this on the agenda for a week from tomorrow, and I would just, uh, pose the question of how many level zeros will we have between the time she signed that, that press statement between our board meeting tomorrow and next week, how many level zeros, how many lives will be risked because we're not taking action and not treating this like the emergency it is. Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Speaker: How many questions for the fire chiefs or I don't just now, commissioner, do you have questions?

Speaker: Um, I do, but we all. I think we also have public testimony. Maybe to be fair to rebecca, how many folks do we have signed up?

Speaker: We have four people signed up to testify. Why don't we do this? Let's get through public testimony. And then that might prompt some some questions or thoughts and, and, uh, chief, I also want to be both chiefs. Uh, I want to be mindful of your time. If you have to get out of here. Um we understand that you're good. Okay, great. Why don't you call him up? Rebecca, in order versus sarah hobbs. Welcome, sarah. You're sitting all the way in the back today.

Speaker: One arm in lake. Thank you. And it's going to be really scary.

Speaker: It will make sense to the minute. And I just wanted to be in a spot where I could pace.

Speaker: Well, you always do a fantastic job here. We appreciate you being here today. Thank you.

Speaker: My emotional support alien because it's it will make sense in a minute. I am in the state of it. For the record, my name is sarah hobbs. For the past two years I have lived knowing I have a 4.5 thoracic aortic aneurysm. Um, if this aneurysm were to dissect my life would depend on a swift transport to the hospital. The

survival rate for people in the throes of aortic aneurysm dissection who are transported to the hospital in a swift manner. Is only 30. The fatality rate for those not transported to the hospital at the time. We mean is 80. I recognize it's just not my life, but the lives of other Portland citizens of all ages that are at risk due to the current ambulance service shortage. Thank you for bringing this resolution to the table. I believe the county's unwillingness to address this issue is misguided at best, dangerous at worst. It places an undue burden on the first responders lack of timely treatment could cause further injury to the patient and to people like myself. It can prove to be fatal. I spoke. Sidebar I spoke briefly to someone at trimet yesterday about the event that I just learned about where the firefighter paramedic put somebody in a bus and just transported him to adventist. I'm not angry with the firefighter paramedic or trimet, but I am angry with the commission whose inaction put both agencies in this difficult situation. My gut, my diagnosis after my mother died from a thoracic aortic dissection. I know where this can go, and I feel like. There are so many thoughts going through my mind right now. But mayor, we have to discuss proper chamber decorum when I was actually with the trimet, I was talking to somebody, a customer service, planning a trip to a fun event. I'm going from here and I'm like, oh, by the way, this what I'm hearing true. And they're like, yes, I let out with a loud bowl full on and playing the upper. The person said, you know, it's a long term. Trimet operator, I can tell you if we've got to transport somebody quickly, we know how to do it. And I just said, my complaint is not with the firefighter paramedic. It is not with anybody in your company. It's with the county that has put you into this position. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you sir. We appreciate you being here. As always.

Speaker: Next we have Fadime Mazurski.

Speaker: Welcome Fadime. Thank you for being here. Thank you mayor.

Speaker: Thank you. City commissioners. Uh, my name is vote yea mazurski. I'm the president of the goose hollow foothills league neighborhood association, as well as the district four coalition of neighborhood associations. I come here in my own capacity, but as, um, as president of those organizations, I hear a lot about first responders like the fire bureau responding to what should be ambulance calls in our neighborhoods, um, Portland and Multnomah County are facing yet another crisis, but this crisis is of our own making. Uh, Multnomah County continues to regularly run out of ambulances to send to emergencies. This is because, as you've heard, there are not enough paramedics to staff the currently required to per call. Uh, the shortage is nationwide and not something that's specific to Multnomah County. Since people were aware of this issue for two years now. Um, you might ask, what is the plan? As you've heard, there is no plan. Um, instead, the county has chosen to find the ambulance company, which has resulted in no improvement to response times. Again, because there's not enough paramedics. Um, this week the county announced that it needs to hold more meetings, um, to discuss what a plan would look like. It's past time to take actions and save lives. The Multnomah County commission has tools at its disposal today, as commissioner martin has pointed out, to fix these long call times. But we need to act. According to doctor stephen dean, one paramedic and one emt can handle more than 98% of the calls that are being received in the system. This one paramedic, one emt is a national and state standard, one that our sister city of gresham has supported. Yesterday that to me sounds like a pretty good plan. Um, this practical plan will reduce ambulance wait times and allow for quicker transportation to the emergency room, and it will decrease the strain on our first responders. I applaud the herculean efforts of our first responders to save lives under the current circumstances, but it's past time for the county commission to treat this crisis with the urgency that it deserves. And join

the city of gresham. Uh, commissioner myron, uh, to back a proven common sense approach that will address the ambulance availability for people experiencing life threatening emergencies. And I urge our City Council to back this plan as well.

Thank you. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Next up, we have bridge, crane, charles johnson, welcome back.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: I'm bridge crane. Charles simca johnson, thank you for this opportunity to testify. Uh, where we're learning money isn't everything, but we'll still kill people for it. And, I mean, not robbers on the street. I mean, y'all all. I mean, the county commission argued. Ali ammar. Um y'all are already wearing your emergency pants. You you and tina kotek and jessica vega peterson, put on your emergency pants because as a government, you all failed to protect us from fentanyl and hundreds of people have died. Um I guess we're going to wait two weeks. But in that or a week, uh, in a day until next week's, uh, county commission to find out if there's going to be any action to save lives and reduce risk or not. But but when commissioner gonzales put this forth, he talked about and how in the aws it's a county mandate to develop an ambulance plan. I believe if you consult with what some people say is your bloated city attorney's office of 40 jds, uh, you'll find that there's no restrictive language that says in Portland it is illegal and impossible to do what the rest of the world does and have municipal ambulance service. We have to think boldly and consider the fact that the gentleman, mr. Mcdonald from amd or excuse me, from amr, perhaps needs to send a letter saying due to the crisis situation with availability of paramedics, we are no longer able to fulfill our contract. So sue us. And then the slightly smaller blah blah of lawyers at the county can decide if they're going to sue amr some more. I guess they've already done some fines and you could instantly stand up a municipal ambulance service

because amr is 50. Ambulances wouldn't be doing anything. I'm optimistic like that in eight days we can find a less legally risky procedure where we have to worry about the financial security of amr being sued. Um, but you need to be ready to act. Um, I don't think Oregon statutes. I don't think you can be constrained from taking over the ambulance service, taking it away from people who many people are arguing, not administer it properly. So please consult with the city attorney's office and other private counsel and the legislature. And I hope you're having regular contact with miss kotek, since we're in the midst of a fentanyl emergency, which has resulted in a few arrests.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner gonzales, I just want to speak to one piece.

Speaker: Thank you for the testimony. Um, the prospect of the city eventually getting into the ambulance service. I think, over a long terme is a legitimate discussion to be had. You know, the fire departments and other parts of the country are involved in ambulance service. Um, it it it and I've asked and my service area in conjunction with csd that's developing a long terme public safety plan. Uh to at least consider this as on the road map for the city. But I want to be crystal clear. Um, everybody is competing for paramedics right now, and, um, we've done a lot of work in Portland fire to build up our capacity, uh, for our fire trucks. But there's no switch tomorrow for us to be able to step into ambulance service. It's just simply not possible. Uh, on the short terme. But I appreciate the commentary. I think this is something that over the long haul, um, we need to evaluate. We do have fire departments in clackamas county that are, uh, ami jurisdictions that provide some ambulance services within certain towns. Um and so I appreciate the testimony. I actually think it is part of the longer terme discussion, but this will not fix the national paramedic shortage, will not fix the paramedic shortage in our area. Um, there are a number of labor implications. Runs, uh, and we will literally be taking

paramedics from fire trucks and putting them in, uh, ambulance, which is going to create a whole other ripple effect. But but we need to make a space for this discussion over the long haul for the city of Portland.

Speaker: As clarification, even though I may not be entitled, um, I'm not suggesting a complete restructuring. I'm just saying that once ammar says we can't meet the demands set by jessica vega. Peterson, you simply fund amr to do the work that they're being funded. It's kind of gross that we've sat here and we have not mentioned how many dollars we're spending to do this. We know that dollars aren't the answer because it's a shortage of paramedics. But in reality, it doesn't matter where amr gets the money from. You're going to kill people because you're we're scared to see amr get sued for telling us the truth. Thank you jared essig.

Speaker: Welcome back, jared.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor. Commissioners. Good morning and citizens of Portland and commissioners of Multnomah County. Uh thank you for your testimony, commissioner myron. Um I was present at the briefing on Tuesday when you led a walkout in protest of the chair's failure to put this issue on the agenda. And at the time, I thought it was a mistake. But I see it was part of a larger influence campaign. Um and I endorsed it at the time through a heckle. But there's a particular issue at stake here, which is the ambulance response model, and I endorse the city's position on this and that of the city of gresham. And i, um, will represent the city's position tomorrow when I lobby the county on it. But there's a larger issue of the dysfunction of the system of governance in the county, which is created, not just this a number of other another, uh, a number of other issues. Um dysfunctions and behavioral health in, um, you know, housing, camping and other issues that are, are, uh, an overlapping concern with the city of Portland now, to address that, apparently, unlike this City Council, where any commissioner can

place an item on the agenda for discussion in, nominate an item either to the regular consent agenda, apparently in the county, only the chair can put in item for discussion. Uh, that seems totally dysfunctional to me. And uh, I think there may need to be a charter reform for the county, and it could go before voters in November. And I want to ask the city attorney to do some research and to present the recommendation. And I will campaign for that. Uh, in the fall. I see that as really the only way forward. Um I represent a radical centrist political ideology. Um anyway, like I said, it may not be necessary to appoint a foreign minister to lobby them. If you've already made this resolution and collaboration with the city of Gresham. But I will represent the city in this. I'm also asking the city to help me in lobbying the county to provide more proactive public safety and moral and intellectual leadership. We need, um, I don't necessarily support arrest and prosecution for rioting, but there needs to be denunciation of rioting. Marxist Leninist terrorism, especially when it's done in solidarity with foreign terrorist organizations like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Speaker: All right. You're getting a little off set, but thank you for your testimony, Commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Um, I have a couple of questions for, uh, the invited testimony.

Speaker: Thanks, chair, for your testimony.

Speaker: Thank you. I appreciate that, and I think I'm going to need the two fire chiefs. Uh Commissioner Myron. And if I still have Madame. Uh, Vadim two. You guys come on up.

Speaker: Real leaders will say this. You want a cease fire? Free the hostages. That completes testimony.

Speaker: Any.

Speaker: Uh. Uh, thank you very much. Uh, I'm just so. I am sure I understand all the dynamics here. I just want to run through a couple of very quick questions. Maybe I'll start with the fire chiefs. Um, I used to have 911, so I have a rough sense of call volumes and how they've evolved a little bit. Uh, I think both of you. Well first, I'd be interested in how long you've been with fire. Uh, locally and, um, what's your experience with level zero? Um frankly, when I was had part of commissioner Gonzalez's job, I think I wasn't hearing that much about level zeros or around ambulances. So is this a new phenomenon or or where are we here?

Speaker: Sure. So I'll start with that one again. Ryan Gillespie, Portland fire I've been with Portland fire for 25 years. I've been the interim fire chief, uh, this go around for about six months. For six months? Um I've worked in emergency operations, uh, for almost 20 years of my career. For as far as level zero incidents, we would hear them over the course of my career. We would hear them very infrequently. And I don't have the exact numbers, but it might be a, uh, you know, a summer evening, uh, a lot of people out and about events within the city and you might hear a level zero pop out once a month, once every few months. Um very infrequently, starting about a year and a half ago to two years ago. And, uh, chief Lewis can speak to the Gresham experience. We started to see it more frequently, and it was a somewhat of a gradual build where you you there's times where it was understandable. There was a winter storm, there was a high demand. But then we started seeing it on a sunny Tuesday morning. Uh for really no apparent reason. Other than there weren't enough ambulances available. So it was a gradual climb. Although we absolutely saw it coming about a year and a half ago, at which time we spoke with Multnomah County EMS to let them know, uh, this is not a problem. We think that's going to solve itself, and it needs to be addressed.

Speaker: Um, thank you. Uh, what's the Gresham experience like, chief? Thank you.

Speaker: Uh, again, I'm Scott Lewis, I'm the Gresham fire chief. I've been with the city of Gresham for 21 years, and I did 20 years in Ohio before I came out here. And I don't mean that to sound like I was in prison in Ohio. I did 20 years in the service, and as, uh, Commissioner Gonzalez represented where I came from was fire-based EMS. So we ran the medic units with a firefighter EMT and a firefighter paramedic out of the fire station. So I do have a little bit of experience with that delivery system as well. Level zero was one of those things that happened on occasion, and you'd hear it on the radio. It happens with enough occurrence. Now that there's a LZ with a number after it. Code uh, I used to think LZ was landing zone that you. We've assigned the rig for the landing zone because we have a helicopter coming in. Now. LZ means land. Uh level zero. And eight means 0 or 8 deep calls without an ambulance available to respond to them. Uh, on the very worst of times, I've seen it as high as 15. But frequently we're, uh, pushing double digits. So again, uh, at my experience with the extended response times beyond level zero is because the further east you go, the longer it takes that ambulance that's clearing Portland Adventist, because there's not another ambulance available to respond back out there.

Speaker: Uh, well thank you. That's uh, unsettling. Um, but also kind of consistent with my experience. I was, uh, talking to some of my staff who used to work over at 911. Um and they were telling me we didn't have a code for level zero, at least when I had, uh, Commissioner Gonzalez hat on. Um, another thing which I just want to be sure I heard correct me. Um, uh, how often I think you cited some stats on how often level zeros happen. Um in Portland. Can you remind me of what those numbers are again?

Speaker: Sure. So we did start tracking that in early 2023. In January of 2023. Before that, the only data could be obtained through Multnomah County because

we didn't track that metric. So we began that through boec in January of 2023. So for the full calendar year of 2023, we're almost 15,000 incidents of level zero, which averages out to about 42 per day. So that's when calls come in and the length of time that we're at level zero varies, right? A call could be dispatched with a fire engine. We're at level zero within 15 seconds. An ambulance could become available and it could get dispatched. Or it can take 45 minutes before an ambulance is available to be dispatched. So that's another, another metric besides just the quantity.

Speaker: Uh, that's really helpful and kind of horrifying so like 42 times a day, roughly. Um someone calls our 911, they need an ambulance, and there's just not an ambulance there. And that is a new phenomena. Yeah. And if I understand the dynamics, uh, here in terms of staffing and some of the things I've written in the paper, I think some of the things I've heard from our friends over at amr, um, uh, is am I right in that this problem is likely to get worse if we stick with the status quo?

Speaker: Well, I can speak to the paramedic shortage and the challenges, even with in the fire department to hire paramedics. I think amr is probably the best source of that information because they can project their hiring glide path would look different than ours. Although so there just aren't enough paramedics out there right now to support all of the need.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you very much. And, uh, commissioner myron, uh, thank you so much for being here today. I think one of the questions you posed to this council is, as you know, um, how many people are not going to get ambulances between now, uh, and when the county meets on this in eight days? And I think the answer must be about 320 times. Um, over the course of the between today and the next time you the county comes together to address this. Um, and I know you're also an emergency room doctor, and I'm just trying to imagine, um, uh, 320

ambulance calls. Uh help me. From a medical perspective, uh, from a medical professionals point of view and from an, er, doctor's point of view, what does it mean? What are the risks? We're running when we don't send out an ambulance for, let's say, 320 calls?

Speaker: Well, I think a number of people thank you for the question, Sharon. Myron Multnomah County commissioner, district one. And, uh, thank you for that question. A number of, uh, people who testified, um, have spoken in to the time being of the essence in terms of emergency response and a lot of the standards that were set were around sudden cardiac death, sudden cardiac arrest, where within, you know, if you didn't get there within eight, ten minutes. Defibrillate, um, the survival rate goes way down. So a lot of what we do is very time sensitive. So it depends on, on the, you know, whether the particular case and the length of time. But but for cardiac arrest, um, 320 cases. I mean that, that is that's major. Um, and, and I personally just to speak to my experience, I've had people patients and friends, um, tell me that that, uh, they were on hold or they couldn't get an ambulance, so they just ended up. You know, grabbing and going and just going themselves to the e.r. With their loved one. And um, the terror that instilled in them. But they had no choice.

Speaker: Uh, um. Thank you. Yeah. Just to, um, build on your point, I can recall within the last probably 2 or 3 weeks, I was out visiting a hospital. Um uh, that specialized in cardiac arrest. And we talked about timelines that they're trying to manage, and I think they were trying to get someone into care within 14 minutes. Otherwise, you risk some, uh, brain damage. So so time really is of the essence. And go ahead, sir, I don't want to interrupt.

Speaker: You know, go. One extra thing to add here. As far as our staffing model in Portland fire, we have a paramedic on every one of our responding apparatus. Um,

we are proud of the fact that we've been able to, albeit with some increase, maintain our response time throughout the last five years. We're not getting there as quick as we would like to, but we have maintained that. So our paramedic, when they arrive on scene, they can provide that higher level of care that is necessary. And again, this is a data question, I think. And some of the information that's been coming out of the county about the calls that Portland fire does and does not respond on, we respond on all high acuity calls that we are dispatched to, and we work closely with the county to work through that dispatch protocol to make sure that we are responding appropriately, appropriately to that. So we will get there and provide that initial level of care. And the problem is getting them to the hospital again, to that higher level of care. We can stabilize the examples I gave earlier. Those individuals needed to be at the hospital as soon as possible to get that higher level of care with emergency room doctors and nurses, there's no way to get them there. There's no ambulances to get them there. That's the problem that we're trying to address, solve for.

Speaker: Well, I want to thank all of you for leaning into it. And finally, vadim, thank you so much for being here today. Um, i'll tell you, as a city commissioner, um, uh, I don't get a lot of feedback from constituents around, uh, amr, you know, that's a county thing. So I think when people are upset about, uh, um, amr, they probably tend to go talk to our colleagues across the river. Uh, but I know that you are active in the neighborhood association system. Can you give me a sense of what you're hearing from at a neighborhood, grassroots level? Um, you know, we're about to do a vote here. Um, I haven't gotten a whole lot of letters from my constituents about what they want here. Can you give me a sense of what you're hearing? You know, in those neighborhood association meetings and just out in the community, I think I

want to reinforce what the fire chief said in it is something that before we did not hear about.

Speaker: But now you hear about it regularly. Um, last night at, um, a condominium on vista. Um, there was an emergency response that required, uh, the fire bureau to be there, and an ambulance was not there on time. Um, it was actually blocking, uh, one of the roads. So if you had to go not on vista, but on a side road because of the nature of the emergency response, these things come up over and over and over. And, you know, at first you hear it a little bit and you think it's not an issue, but you hear it over and over and over, over the course of a year plus and you realize it is that's why I'm here. That's why commissioner martin is here. That's why we're all here. It deserves an urgency that that unfortunately, has been lacking for quite some time.

Speaker: Uh, well, vadim, thank you for being here, commissioner. Thank you for being here. And, uh, fire chief, it looks like you have a question or statement if I if I may throw one last thing in, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today.

Speaker: We have limited resources, as does your fire bureau. When we are sitting on a call waiting for an ambulance, takes them to the hospital. Our unit is unavailable for the next call, and we have a cascading of effects where my engine seven four is tied up and his engine 31 comes to gresham to help me out. Now there's a hole in the response system because there wasn't an ambulance available. Your citizenry, my citizenry, talk about and we educate them on fire response times and unit reliability. And when we're sitting around waiting for an ambulance, it's not that the patient doesn't deserve our care. But as we sit and wait, our response time reliability goes down. Those it's a cascade of effects where one is out, somebody moves in, somebody's house, moves in, and now you have 3 or 4 units out of position. Because we were late on an ambulance.

Speaker: Uh, thank you for that nuance. Um, I learned a lot today. Um, and commissioner Gonzalez, uh, mr. Mayor, I have no more questions.

Speaker: Very good. Anybody else have any questions? Great. This is a resolution. Please call the roll yea. Rubio Ryan Gonzalez.

Speaker: I just want to thank our, uh, sisters at the city of gresham and Multnomah County, uh, for their attention to this. I want to thank commissioner meieran, who's in many ways has been the leader in calling this out. Um, I've been working with Portland fire for a better part of a year in evaluating this issue. This was not shooting from the hip. This is not a hasty response by any stretch of the imagination. This took a lot of study, a lot of dialog. Um and, um, it, it we just are at an unfortunate point where, um, we're seeing, uh, our sister, uh, organization across the river, uh, not responding to the crisis before us. And I wish this was the only topic that were true. It is not the only topic. It's true. Um, and so I wholeheartedly support this resolution. And again, I appreciate the testimony from all, uh, and the cooperation among the two largest cities in the in the county coming together on this, um, and that I vote yea maps.

Speaker: Um, I want to thank commissioner Gonzalez, uh, for bringing this forward. I want to thank vadim, uh, commissioner myron and our chiefs for, uh, joining us here today. Um, I would add, I have a couple of things I want to add. I can confirm the fact that, uh, um, commissioner Gonzalez has been thinking about this topic probably since the entire time that he's been here. Uh, he's been advocating for some reform in this space. Uh, um, for more than a year now. So I appreciate his work in this space. And commissioner myron's work in this space. Uh, as I think many people in the room know, I used to be the commissioner in charge of 911. Um, and still have, uh, solid contacts with people who do that work. I'll tell you something, which I just authentically hear is that the, uh, lack of ambulances in this

town is unusual. This is not new normal at all. Um, in terms of a problem to have. And also, it's an incredibly dangerous problem. Uh, and that concerns me, too. Um, and I will also tell you that, um, in the, in the course of doing my work, it's not unusual for me to deal with and interact with local hospitals often around livability and safety issues. Frankly but when we're out there, we're kind of talking about how the whole system works and this is something which I consistently hear from the people who work in the hospitals, who tell us, you know, um, your worst outcome in this space is to have no ambulance response at all. And in Portland, that happens. 15,000 times a year. Um, that's just incredibly scary. Um, which is why why I vote I on this resolution. I very much value having a constructive, uh, relationship with the county. So it does pay me a little bit to put my colleagues across the river on the spot. However, we also have to hold each other accountable for building systems that actually work, which is why I vote yea. Thank you, Wheeler, I want to thank our panel today.

Speaker: Thank you for being here today and answering our questions and, uh, giving us clear narratives about what we're talking about here. We're talking about people's lives. And I appreciate you underscoring that multiple times. I want to thank our colleagues on the gresham City Council who passed a mere resolution, I believe, yesterday. And we will be in alignment with this resolution in terms of our messaging, I want to thank commissioner Gonzalez as the commissioner in charge of the fire bureau, as well as obviously other related first responder bureaus. I want to thank our first responders generally for the great work they continue to do in this city under withering circumstances. Thank you to all of you who do that work. And I appreciated chief you starting with the stories about fire bureau police officers 911 callers, first responders generally, and how all of them are adapting to this crisis in order to get people where they need to be connected to help as quickly

as possible. All, uh, that's how the public views first responders. That's how I view public responders. That's how our colleagues here are all view public responders. And I appreciate their flexibility in the face of a crisis. This is obviously a critical issue. And I definitely appreciate the testimony that we heard today from my perspective, this is a no brainer. And we don't often get no brainers coming to Portland City Council when our neighbors or frankly, we are our loved ones, have an emergency. The only thing that people care about at that moment is getting help as quickly as possible. And it's incumbent upon us as government leaders to make sure that help arrives, and that the systems that we have in place to get people connected to health are as sound as possible. I recognize the urgency needed to meet this demand. And I also hear the frustration being expressed by our first responders as I also recognize that while we have a crisis upon us, we need to ensure that we're creating good and sustainable policy for the long run. So for me, the answer is yes to both approaches. Yes, we need to mitigate the immediate problem and find short solutions. And yes, we need to course correct and ensure our long term policies prevent this situation from continuing or happening again in the future. But right now we have the crisis and it requires immediate action. We have heard a lot of consensus and support for 1 to 1 paramedic response. It seems to be a common practice not only here in the region, but indeed throughout the rest of the nation. It will save lives. It needs to be implemented immediately with no further delay, and as such, I support a pilot project that implements the recommendations in this resolution immediately. Our crisis is too great. At the same time, Multnomah County chair of Peterson has put forward a longer time plan that is assertive and it will lead the county through a decision making process to get it right for the long run. It's imperative that should that process take place, that the city of Portland and the city of Gresham, be it that table to review the data

to be part of the dialog, to assess existing programs and solutions, and to evaluate best practices and other jurisdictions as Portlanders and their lives are relying on us. But the main message for today is we must change the model. We must support this temporary emergency solution because it is the right thing to do, and we should not delay it any further. It needs to be implemented right now. Today would be great. Thanks commissioner Gonzalez I vote I the resolution is adopted and because we're all starving now, we are adjourned. Okay. Thank you. Rebecca.