



# February 28, 2024 Council Agenda

5754

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

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## Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:30 am

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**Session Status:** Recessed

**Council in Attendance:** Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Naomi Sheffield, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

The Consent Agenda was adopted on a Y-5 roll call.

Council recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

Council recessed at 11:57 a.m.

## Communications

180

[Request of Jack Coleman to address Council regarding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure](#) (Communication)

**Document number:** 180-2024

**Disposition:** Placed on File

181

[Request of April Fletcher to address Council regarding stolen car appeal](#) (Communication)

**Document number:** 181-2024

**Disposition:** Placed on File

182

[Request of Alan Comnes to address Council regarding vendors supporting charter transition](#) (Communication)

**Document number:** 182-2024

**Disposition:** Placed on File

183

[Request of Long Nguyen to address Council regarding homelessness, illegal camping, and dumping](#) (Communication)

**Document number:** 183-2024

**Disposition:** Placed on File

184

[Request of Nora Kingsley to address Council regarding homelessness crisis](#) (Communication)

**Document number:** 184-2024

**Disposition:** Placed on File

## Time Certain

185

[Proclaim February 27, 2024 to be the 20th Anniversary of INCIGHT](#) (Proclamation)

**Document number:** 185-2024

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan

**Time certain:** 9:45 am

**Time requested:** 20 minutes

**Disposition:** Placed on File

186

[Appoint Amy Vohs and Kristian McCombs to the Development Review Advisory Committee for terms to expire February 27, 2027](#) (Report)

**Document number:** 186-2024

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Carmen Rubio

**Bureau:** Development Services

**Time certain:** 10:05 am

**Time requested:** 10 minutes

**Disposition:** Confirmed

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

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

187

[Proclaim February 2024 to be Art and Black History Month](#) (Proclamation)

**Document number:** 187-2024

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan; Commissioner Mingus Mapps

**Time certain:** 10:15 am

**Time requested:** 20 minutes

**Disposition:** Placed on File

## Consent Agenda

188

[\\*Pay property damage claim of Jackie Hu for \\$19,452 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving Portland Water Bureau](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

**Document number:** 191640

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler

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

**Disposition:** Passed

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

## Regular Agenda

189

[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

Second reading agenda item 172.

**Disposition:** Passed

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

190

[Accept bid of \\$7,371,394 from Iron Horse Excavation, Inc. for the Downtown Old Town Market Madison Sewer Rehabilitation Project \(Procurement Report - ITB 00002210\)](#) (Report)

**Document number:** 190-2024

**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 Gonzalez and seconded by Mapps.

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

191

[\\*Pay settlement of Grace Dietzschold bodily injury lawsuit for \\$25,000 involving the Portland Police Bureau](#)  
(Emergency Ordinance)

**Document number:** 191642

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler

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

**Time requested:** 15 minutes

**Disposition:** Passed

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

192

[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

Second reading agenda item 164.

**Disposition:** Passed

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

## Four-Fifths Agenda

192 - 1

[Ensure grant funding is available through the Small Business Stabilization Restore Program for small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the January 2024 winter storm](#) (Resolution)

**Document number:** 37653

**Introduced by:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio; Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

**Bureau:** Emergency Management; Prosper Portland

**Time requested:** 10 minutes

**Disposition:** Adopted

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea



**Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:00 pm**

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**Session Status:** Adjourned

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

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Anne Milligan, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

Council recessed at 2:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2:36 p.m.

Council adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

### **Time Certain**

193

[Authorize a non-binding term sheet with Rip City Management LLC and Trail Blazers, Inc. for Rose Quarter Operating and Lease Agreements](#) (Resolution)

**Document number:** 37654

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler

**Bureau:** Management and Finance

**Time certain:** 2:00 pm

**Time requested:** 1 hour

**Disposition:** Adopted

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

194

[\\*Amend Downtown Business Incentive Credit Code to expand eligibility \(amend Code Section 7.02.875\)](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

**Document number:** 191644

**Introduced by:** Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Carmen Rubio

**Time certain:** 3:00 pm

**Time requested:** 45 minutes

**Disposition:** Passed

**Votes:** Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

## Four-Fifths Agenda

195

[Amend Public Art Code to establish public monuments policy and review criteria \(amend Code Chapter 5.74\)](#) (Ordinance)

**Document number:** 191649

**Introduced by:** Commissioner Dan Ryan

**Time requested:** 1 hour

**Disposition:** Passed to second reading as amended

Motion to substitute Exhibit A: Moved by Ryan and seconded by Mapps. (Y-5)

Passed to second reading as amended March 6, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, February 29, 2024 2:00 pm**

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**Session Status:** No session scheduled

Portland City Council Meeting  
 Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:30 a.m.  
 Speaker List

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Keelan McClymont	Council Clerk	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Mingus Mapps	Commissioner	
Naomi Sheffield	Senior Deputy City Attorney	
Jack Coleman	(Communications)	180
Alan Comnes	(Communications)	182
Long Nguyen	(Communications)	183
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Scott Hatley	Executive Director of INCIGHT	185
Dan Floyd	Chief Operating Officer of Hood To Coast Race Series & Board Member of INCIGHT	185
Amy Vohs	Development Review Advisory Committee Appointee	186
Kristian McCombs	Development Review Advisory Committee Appointee	186
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Ross Caron	Analyst III	186, 192
Diana Shiplet	Project Coordinator, Charter Transition Team	189
Kathleen Brenes-Morua	Design and Construction Procurement Manager	190
Karren Bond	Sr. Claims Analyst	191
Caroline Turco	Senior Deputy City Attorney	191
Marc Poris Portland Copwatch	(Testimony)	191
Rachit Nerwal	Interim Planning Manager and Business Continuity Planner	192-1
Amy Nagy	Prosper Portland Development Manager	192-1
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Intisar Abioto	Artist and Curator, Black Artists of Oregon	187
Rupert Kinnard	Artist, Black Artists of Oregon	187
Stephanie Parrish	Director of Learning & Community Partnerships, Portland Art Museum	187
Alex Gebreab	Soul District	187
Maurice Rahming	Owner/Founder O'Neille Electric	187



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Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Keelan McClymont	Council Clerk	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Mingus Mapps	Commissioner	
Anne Milligan	Senior Deputy City Attorney	
Michael Jordan	Chief Administrative Officer, City of Portland	193
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Dewayne Hankins	President of Business Operations, Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management	193
Joe Alfone	(Testimony)	193
Darion Jones	Policy Advisor & Constituent Relations Coordinator	195
Aubrey Russell	(Testimony)	195
Henry Kunowski	(Testimony)	195
Stephen Kafoury	(Testimony)	195
Brooke Best	(Testimony read by Virginia Ehelebe)	195
Emma Colburn	(Testimony)	195
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Celita Holt	Revenue Division Interim Tax Division Manager	194
Mia Birk	(Testimony)	194
Jared Mees	(Testimony)	194
Jon Isaacs	(Testimony)	194
Glenn Traeger	(Testimony)	194

## **Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File**

**February 28, 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:** This is the session of the Portland City Council. Keelan. Good morning. Please call the roll. Good morning. Yea. Rubio here.

**Speaker:** Ryan gonzales here, here, here.

**Speaker:** Now we'll hear from our city attorney. Rules of order and decorum. Good morning.

**Speaker:** Good morning.

**Speaker:** Welcome to Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually. You must sign up in advance on the council agenda at Portland dot gov slash council agenda for 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 and 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 should address the matter being considered when

testifying, please state your name for the record, but your address is not necessary. Disclose if you are a lobbyist and if you are representing an organization, please identify it. For testifiers who are joining virtually, please unmute yourself. Once the council clerk calls your name. Thank you, thank you.

**Speaker:** First up is communications item 180 request of jack coleman to address council regarding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

**Speaker:** Mr. Jack, welcome. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thanks for being here. I appreciate it. Yeah. My name is jack coleman.

**Speaker:** I'm a Portland resident, having moved out here three years ago and moved closer to my adult sons. Uh grown to love Portland and today I want to speak about safety for bicyclists. Okay. All right. Well, almost without exception, on bike riders are passionate about cycling. And I am one of them. We love to bike. It's a great sense of joy. Bicycling is very often about renewal. People who take it up are doing it to get healthy, both physically and mentally. Uh, it's also very practical mode of transportation regarding that love and passion, the same cannot be said of motorists, and I'm one of them. Also um, we are not passionate about driving, particularly in an urban setting. It's a means to an end, an expensive inconvenience. We feel, uh, entitled to obstacle free travel, which often leads to aggressive actions and reactions toward cyclists. Uh, cell phones and other distractions make motorists, uh, even more dangerous. So whether it's an argument, near-miss, collision, injury or even death, uh, the motorist can dismiss this, uh, with a justification that the cyclist got in my way or they don't belong on my road. Um, for the cyclist who was hit by a motorist, the trauma both physical and psychological, are. And as well as recovery can be significant. There sense of joy for bicycling is often irreparably damaged and if the bicyclist is killed, the loss to all people connected to that person is beyond words. Uh, in 2018, my son, when we were still

living in pennsylvania, we were leading a group bicycle ride. Uh, he was supporting a new rider at the back of the ride who had gotten dropped off the back. Uh, the ride finished. My son did not return. I got a call saying he had been hit by a vehicle, and I didn't know whether he was dead or alive. So I drove up to the site where it was, the ambulances, the police stepped into the ambulance. They were cutting off his clothes. They had a neck brace on. They were checking for vitals. The driver had stopped. The cops were questioning him. Uh, he hit my son at 70 miles an hour. Uh, statistically, he should have been dead had he lived. Um but not obviously without, uh, ramifications. He had to have his shoulder reconstructed. Concussion rotator cuff, all kinds of things. Could have been a lot worse. Um, he's here today in Portland. Uh, still riding his bike. Uh, suffering from ptsd. He'll be out on the road in the hair, on his back of his neck. Stands up when he when he, uh, when he is riding and he's in the bike industry. Uh, so I told you that, um, by cycles are people. Bicyclists are people, not obstacles. Uh, Portland residents being seriously injured and killed regularly on our streets. I just want to say, please, you can do more. I say this to the council. You can do more to keep them safe, to keep us all safe. Thank you, thank you.

**Speaker:** We appreciate your being here. Sure. Commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Jack, before you go, number one. Thank you so much for coming in and testifying today and sharing your story. Um, you know, uh, like you, um, and I think everyone on this council, um, we believe that improving the safety of our transportation infrastructure is a top priority. And we continue to work on that every day. Um, I also know, I believe that your call for more, um, uh, more mindful behavior, especially when you're behind the wheel of a car, is, um, incredibly appropriate. I will tell you more than half of our fatal traffic crashes in Portland involve a. One or both parties were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Um,

and these are choices that also people can make better choices and that's a message that also gets out. Uh, needs to get out today to, um, so I appreciate you both calling for better infrastructure, calling for more mindful behavior. Um, I'm glad to see that, uh, in the last year, what we've seen bike ridership increase by 5. So we're moving in the right direction.

**Speaker:** May I comment on that? Yeah, sure. I don't think that's any kind of a solution to increase ridership when the safety of the riders who exist, uh, isn't fully, uh, dealt with. Right

**Speaker:** Uh, well, I hope that we can do both, i'll tell you.

**Speaker:** And I agree, you want to see it increased.

**Speaker:** You do definitely want. We want to see it increase. Uh, definitely. Uh, as the transportation commissioner, one of the things I'm trying to do is build a multimodal transportation system so you can get to where you want to go, uh, how you need how you want to get there. Um, as we do all of that, we need to make our systems safer to. And we hear you loud and clear and I'm glad to see that your son is or here that your son is, uh, doing well. And back on his bike.

**Speaker:** Well, one more thing. One of the challenges is you, you know, as, uh, riders increase often, they're inexperienced. They're new to the area. They're not in, uh, experienced in urban riding. And so you end up with more danger. Not less. Right? And you're having to keep track of people who are just inexperienced and not understanding.

**Speaker:** Well, I hear you, and I feel that, too. I'll tell you. I have two teenage boys, what, 15 and 13? And they commute home from school every day on their bikes. Um, there have been riding their bikes for as long as you can right from the very beginning, but they're still young and, um, we have, um, they've had some close calls. I know we all have skin in this game. Yeah. Uh, but I appreciate your advocacy

and your perspective. And I hear you and I think we're on the same page, and I am loosely affiliated with bike loud.

**Speaker:** I mean, part of pedal palooza and so forth. Got involved in leading rides and so forth since they got out here. So that's kind of my connection.

**Speaker:** Great. Thanks for your service.

**Speaker:** Don't go just yet, commissioner Ryan. I just have a quick question.

**Speaker:** First of all, thanks for being here. My pleasure. Encouraging and especially when something like that happens to your son. Yeah I missed the detail on where the driver was going. 70 miles an hour. Where was the actual incident?

**Speaker:** This was outside of scranton, pennsylvania. Kind of a road leading into the city. And we would do, uh, we would do road rides, weekly road rides out into the outside of the city limits and then back in. So we were returning into the city limit. Uh yeah.

**Speaker:** Not in Portland, not in Portland.

**Speaker:** No, no, I mean, I've lived in new york, in boston, I've ridden in all those cities, you know, and it's the issues are the same. But, you know, Portland has a great reputation for being a bike friendly city. It just needs some work on the infrastructure, the under the hood kind of things that are going to help everybody.

**Speaker:** Other cities. I'm sure you, uh, transportation commissioner Mapps knows this better than me because they're in this practice area all the time. I notice how they separate, um, the different means of transportation. And Portland has a tendency to commingle all of it together, for better or for worse. Yeah. Thank you. Yeah. All right, hold that thought. Thank you for being here.

**Speaker:** Appreciate you being here. Thank you. Next individual please communications item 181 request of April fletcher to address council regarding stolen car appeal.



**Speaker:** They canceled their request.

**Speaker:** All right. Thank you. Hopefully we'll hear from April at a different date.

Uh, 182, please. Next individual request of alan combs to address council regarding vendors supporting charter transition.

**Speaker:** Alan's joining us online. Welcome. Hey, alan.

**Speaker:** Alan you're muted.

**Speaker:** Yeah hi. Good morning. My name is alan combs I've spoken to you before. Uh thank you mayor Wheeler and commissioners for allowing me to speak. Um, I am here today because of the lack of movement by your city staff to respond to issues I've raised, and that's why I'm got on the agenda to. It is timely, but entirely coincidental that sophie peal, willamette week, published an article yesterday that raises the very concerns that members of your government transition advisory committee or gtac, raised, as well as I raised in public comments I made before gtac in December and January. Um, and I want to say as a, as a resident of Portland, I support using a reasonable amount of city funds to ensure our new methods of election are widely understood and improve the success of November's vote. I recognize the symptoms of systemic discrimination that require a reasoned, targeted communication to make sure underserved populations indeed vote. Our young people don't vote in Oregon and, um, of all kinds. But but so targeted communications make a lot of sense. Um i'll also point out that we'll have over 100 candidates running for city office, and they're going to do a pretty good job of on that very same goal as well. Um, the conflict identified by gtac members and residents like me and now willamette week is not hard to explain. When the city has entered into a \$675,000 contract pact with with the united way and Portland united for change, Portland united for change may officially be connected as a nonprofit. Uh, or sorry, maybe officially connected with the city as a nonprofit, but it has a

political arm. Um, uh, ufcw pac that is still active. Had transactions throughout 2023 and into 2024. In fact, the Portland united for change pac organized a protest outside your very city chambers in July of 2023 when then commissioner Ryan and commissioner Rubio sorry, commissioner Gonzalez, attempted to have a work session on some modest changes to charter reform that included, like making a real, uh, strong mayor instead of one that doesn't have veto power, which is what was voted in with charter reform. So with that, I ask you, why did the city enter into a contract where taxpayer dollars, uh, with an organization that's thwarting the efforts of the commission, is actually going to get paid to educate voters and get out the vote? I support the conditions that were indicated in yesterday's willamette week article by, uh, commissioner Ryan. Staff that there should be a prohibition on making endorsements. I think it should be further strengthened that the executive team of any such organization not have a person who's running for City Council or city office and nor should any common paid staff between the nonprofit and the political arm exist. Commissioner Rubio, you support, um, active dialog will use uh support for those reasonable restrictions. Um, commissioner mingus, you support uh, uh, open dialog. Will you support these restrictions or will you just have a affiliated organizations thwart what your other commissioners are trying to do through normal city commission activities? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, commissioner Ryan. Thanks, ellen. Thank you, thank you. A couple of commissioners want to comment, and thank you, alan, for being here.

**Speaker:** Yeah, we have been raising this. First time I had a meeting I think was in November, December. And, uh, we'll do everything we can to make sure that the contracts that go out are very objective and fair and not be associated with groups that have had, um, pretty strong points of view on the actual outcome of what we

voted on last November. So thanks for raising this up. And I think we still have time to do the right thing on this and have a fair contract. Thank you so much.

**Speaker:** And I do appreciate the efforts of gtac. They've, uh, I mean, it was their it's what their efforts made this transparent. Thank you. Okay.

**Speaker:** Thank you sir. Uh, next individual please. Item 183 request of long nguyen to address council regarding homelessness, illegal camping and dumping.

**Speaker:** Hi there. Can you hear me?

**Speaker:** Yep. Loud and clear. And we see you as well.

**Speaker:** Oh, okay. Uh, yeah. I apologize if you hear disney music in the background. I'm watching my daughter. Um so my issue is that we've been living here for about five years, and every single year we've had fairly major incidents with the homeless. Um, it's they just camped near our backyard right next to the railroad in a wooded area, no less. And there's fires that started that, like, sets the whole foresty area on fire. The fire department had to come out, like, twice in a month, three, four times in a certain year. Um, every almost every other day I come out to my front lawn and I see trash ran, um, clothes, tire shopping carts just dumped onto my lawn. And, you know, I have to clean it if no one else will. And they just defecate on my lawn and I step on it and ruin shoes all the time. And I'm wondering, like, why are we not employed enough? Like city staff to take care of this? Because if it feels like, yes, the rule is that it's illegal to do this stuff. But then every time I contact the police, um, 311, cleanup crews are like, oh, we're just understaffed. We, you know, we can't help you. I mean, they they don't outright say that. Most of them don't. Some do, but they pretty much say, you know, that you're free to clean it up if you want. And it's like, what is the point of me paying \$10,000 in, in property tax to get no services when my property is like, you know, vandalized and intruded on and it's just extremely frustrating. I have a daughter and every

time I leave the house, I feel like I have to worry if someone's going to break in, which there had been attempts like, like, like twice in a week, uh, people come to my property and they pulled out my lights. They kick my windows. It's crazy. And I have to worry about my house being broken into or people, you know, wrecking my stuff. And I don't know what to do, you know, like the fire department told me I need to contact the higher up, because if this keeps happening, when they start fires to barbecue their food during the summer, when there's like a no fire ban, my house could get burnt down and I'm not home to call in in time. It well could have been. And so I'm just so frustrated as a Portlander, I've lived here with my wife for the past 30 years, and we've always thought that we'd stay here forever. And I legit feel like we need to leave for our safety, and it's just kind of becoming not sustainable to pay these prices, to live in this county and not have anything done for us. So so I mean, that's, that's mostly all I needed to say. And i, I hope you guys have a way to help, um, employ this the staff better to help, you know, us citizens. Yeah. Mr. Winn, if I could comment on this, uh, first of all, thank you for your testimony.

**Speaker:** Any, um, your child's adorable, by the way. Uh, and so I know that you're concerned not only about your household, but your family. I empathize with you. And many, many Portlanders do as well. I want you to know that we have been very aggressive in trying to address the issues on our streets, and it's not just homelessness, although that's a huge component of it. We have created the safe rest villages. The task sites. We've generated about 800 shelter spaces. What's new is not only has the city aggressively worked to help get people off the streets, we now connect them with services. We navigate it. We connect them to behavioral health, mental health services, uh, public health services, job training, whatever they need to get back on their own feet. We also have six increase our livability

issues. The creation of the Portland environmental management office, the huge expansion of the impact reduction program, the work that we're doing in conjunction with the governor and the county chair, the state and the county on the fentanyl crisis, as well as the drug crisis generally, uh, I want you to know that while it looks bad and we are responding, we're responding at scale. I can tell you that over the course of the last 8 to 10 years, we have now invested hundreds of millions of dollars on this issue. And that's dollars that that were not invested previously that now compete head to head with police, with fire, with first response, with emergency management. And so we are we're trying to thread that needle what's improved and what gives me hope and what may give you some hope is the partnerships are finally there. This was seen as a public safety problem as recently as 5 or 6 years ago. And people would basically thumb their nose at the city and say, why aren't you guys just policing the streets better? And now we finally we have the state and the county at the table acknowledging that this is a behavioral health crisis that got at its roots 40 years ago, when this state by design decided to get out of the mental health business. And it's also as a result of our lack of treatment facilities for people who have substance use disorder, we finally have attention being paid to that as well. So I personally share your frustration as as the guy who hears all day, every day about this issue. And I know my colleagues do too, but but I actually feel really good about the solutions we have in place, the funding that we've provided, the partnerships that we've developed and the significant increase in practitioners who are out there on the streets trying to intervene, prevent, bring people in, solve the problems and get people back on their feet. So I don't want you to leave. I guess that's a long way of saying, I don't know you. Um, but I want you to stay. And I want people like you to be here and be part of the fabric of the future of this community. And I appreciate your patience up to this point.

**Speaker:** So can I ask?

**Speaker:** Thank you. What what is the response to employees?

**Speaker:** When I call, like, you know, various 311 departments and they say we just don't have enough staff. They're cutting our funding. We used to be like ten people. Now we're down to two and there's just no way to get out to like all these, you know, abandoned vehicles or like, you know, tents that are built up where there shouldn't be.

**Speaker:** Well, to be blunt. And I can afford to be blunt. Uh, I'm not running for anything. Um, that's an excuse. And it's not acceptable. There is some truth to it. There's no question that the problem currently overwhelms the resources that we have in the field. Uh, but we do have a Portland reporter function. We do have the impact reduction program. We have the Portland environmental management office. Get in touch with my team directly. I have staff here. Um, I'm pretty easy to find. Everybody knows where I live. Uh, get in touch with us and let's see what we can do. Let's see if we can't find a solution to help you and your neighbors out.

**Speaker:** I appreciate it.

**Speaker:** I appreciate you, uh, commissioner Mapps, then commissioner gonzales.

**Speaker:** Um, uh, mr. Win, thank you so much for, uh, testifying today. Um, I feel your pain and your frustration on everyone on this council is in Portland, and I suspect we all face challenges not too dissimilar from yours. Mr. Mayor. I also, I want to thank you for inviting mr. Nguyen to contact your office. That was going to be one of my suggestions. Uh, to is I encourage you to reach out to, uh, I was going to invite you to reach out to my staff to help you, uh, navigate the system. I sure hope that there's some resources that we can, um, bring to bear on your particular situation. Frankly the mayor's office is going to be in a better position to, um, actually connect you with the resources that we have on the ground. So I really do



encourage you to follow up on that. And I was going to do something vaguely unfair, but I think, uh, commissioner gonzales is already on it. When you told your story, one of the things that perked up my ears up was the concerns about fire. And, um, I hope that someone, uh. And mr. Commissioner Gonzalez can probably address this is, uh, how to navigate that particular situation. Um as a guy who's had to deal with a couple of fire emergencies in my time on council, the risks there are great. Um, so I hope that we can get you some very specific information on how to address that particular, uh, situation. Uh, but with that, why don't i, uh, lower my hand and let our fire commissioner, um, speak? Because I know, uh, um, renee would like to talk to you.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Gonzalez.

**Speaker:** So, mr. Nguyen, thank you for testifying. I want to hit on a couple points. High level. Um, we have created, uh, over a long period of time, an environment in the city of Portland that, um, simply attracts too much of this behavior. And I have to commend the mayor for taking real steps in recent years to, to try and clean up the mess. Uh, but we sit in a state that ties the city's hands on cleaning up camps. I wish city employees would mention that more, but we are actually limited by by state law and how we approach cleaning up camps. We're, uh, currently facing an injunction by a Multnomah County judge that prevents us from cleaning up further. Uh, we are spending 13 million a year just on cleanups, right now. It is eating our budget. Uh, this environment. And yet we're pushing forward. And so, uh, but we absolutely need help. I think sometimes the mayor has been too kind and doesn't take enough credit for the efforts. He's made. Uh, in a in possible environment right now, uh, at both the state and certain extent, county level. Uh, and it's really welcoming this, uh, behavior and certain aspects of it. We're still going to have to lean forward with compassion and getting people services and shelter. But we have

to stop this environment that attracts and perpetuates this. And so, um, I can speak to the fires in homeless camps issue. Uh it's a mammoth problem, you know, 40% of our fire deaths, injuries and fire volume is coming from homeless camps right now is absolutely clogging our system. Um, uh, but one of the challenges we face, uh, when a fire, uh, team is called out to a homeless camp is they are often threatened. Uh, it's unlike responding to a house fire where people are happy to see them. Uh in a homeless camp. Fire? They're often don't want to see the fire department there. They face physical threats. Uh, so it is a substantial challenge, uh, right now on how to navigate this. They're having to make some tough calls on what they put out and which and what they don't pull out, put out. And it's absurd. I mean, I'm telling you, it's a I wish we weren't putting them in that position. Those are all illegal fires. It's never legal in the city of Portland to have an outside fire. And yet we have to make choices based on safety of firefighters as to which ones that we hold the line on and which ones we can't. And, uh, they perceive that there's a threat to someone else's structure. They'll put it out immediately. Uh, regardless of the risk. But they the rest of the time, they have to sort of balance this risk of threats to firefighters, uh, versus the threat by the fire. So, uh, I'm, I'm as frustrated as you are by that situation. Uh, it is, uh, the bottom line, the only way we're going to get out of this as a community is we stop allowing, uh, unsanctioned camping. And when I say allow, I want to be crystal clear. The city of Portland has banned outdoor camping, is attempting to put in substantial restrictions on it. But we continue to face hurdles in the courts at the state legislature on cleaning up our city and, um, but we'll keep fighting and, uh, appreciate you testifying.

**Speaker:** So can I ask who outside of the city? Um, you know, you mentioned the county and the state. That kind of tying your hands and doing what the citizens

here want do. Is there a place for me to reach out to state your your state legislature?

**Speaker:** Sure. Sorry. We're having some sound adjustments here. Um when we're talking about the restrictions on the city's ability to clean up camps, there's three different statutes, uh, imposed by the state of Oregon legislature, uh, including house bill 3115. And for those who are listening home, you should all be paying attention to what house bill 3115 does. Uh, because it is, uh, really tying the city's hands right now and how we clean up camps, it doesn't mean we're not cleaning up camps. I mean, crystal clear. We're spending 13 million a year on it. Um but the frequency we can clean up camps, the method we have to hurdles we have to jump through, uh, are all impacted by, uh, three pieces of legislation. So I'd start with your state legislators. I mean, that represent your district and let them know that you're concerned about this, uh, that the state's facing real state is preempt the city's abilities to address these issues. Uh, and it needs to be fixed.

**Speaker:** Okay. Thank you. I'm just making some notes here. All right. Thank you. Appreciate

**Speaker:** Thank you, mr. Nguyen. Um, what? One more, commissioner wants to speak up here, but also my office, I think is already reaching out to you. I'm hearing from megan. So you'll you'll get something from miss. Is it an email you sent?

**Speaker:** Um. Sky is going to reach out to them.

**Speaker:** Oh, great. Perfect. Skylar, from our team is going to reach out to you today, commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yes. Good to see you again, mr. Nguyen. And you can also testify at the county. They have their meetings on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. I believe they have public testimony on Tuesdays. What address? I didn't hear that.

**Speaker:** But what's the address, commissioner? It's the question out there was what was the address? Well I know some.

**Speaker:** Your office. The mayor's office will give you the number to call at the county. You've been very compelling. It's the second time we've seen you. Your testimony is awesome. So I hope that you can deliver such truth also to the county. Thanks so much.

**Speaker:** Thank you, thank you. Uh, next individual, please. Item 184 request of nora kingsley to address council regarding the homelessness crisis.

**Speaker:** Welcome.

**Speaker:** Thanks for being here. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Good morning. It's an honor to get to speak to you guys today. My name is nora kingsley, and I was born and raised here in the pacific northwest. Since graduating from high school, I've been a proud Oregonian, continuing my education and becoming a working taxpayer. Here unfortunately, today I'm here to talk about the ongoing humanitarian crisis happening in gaza. I'm asking that you, your honor, and respected council members pass a resolution calling for a cease fire. I'd like to ask you to think of the people you care about most. Most in this world. Just don't think about them for a moment. If your federal taxes were going toward jeopardizing their existing base, how hard would you fight to protect them? What if every hour that you worked for your company, you were helping to fund the destruction of your beloved? What if every purchase you made, you gave a percentage toward the destruction of what you love most? Would you do something if you could? I'm asking you to look at this with your heart as Americans, we cannot deny the great power and influence that we hold over millions of people on the other side of the world. You all here in front of me. Your power holds an exponentially greater influence than mine and my fellow community members.

Seattle and even my small hometown have added their voice to the growing number of cities that have called for a cease fire in gaza. It is time for Portland to join the voice of our neighbors against the humanitarian crisis that we have helped to fuel. So I'm sure we would all agree that human life is priceless and sacred, and the earth is sacred. And every taxpayer in this country, with or without their consent, is funding the destruction of countless human lives. And if irreparable damage to our planet, gaza needs us. Gaza need is our voice. We live in a country where we as citizens all have a voice. We have opportunities to work for change and fight for what's right. But you five, as elected council members have a stronger voice, a power that is meant to represent us all here today, meant to represent our city, Portland must pass a resolution calling for an immediate cease fire as well as the release of all hostages. Now, three months ago, on November 20th, our senator jeff merkley made his stance heard. He said, too many civilians have died, and we must value each and every child equally, whether they are israeli or palestinian. Since his statement twice as many more innocent civilians have died in gaza, a ground invasion of rafah, where more than 1.5 million palestinians are taking refuge, is imminent. That's more than twice the population of Portland gathered in a tiny area. Mayor Wheeler, you made a statement in a recent council meeting that you were hopeful for peace. Please demonstrate that with action by calling for a ceasefire in gaza and release of all israeli hostages. It's time to take a vote today. Thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Um, and I have a question, actually.

**Speaker:** Please, um, and I truly don't know the answer to this question.

**Speaker:** And so I'm and I don't want to put you on the spot. If you don't know, you don't know. I might not. I heard so substantial rumors through credible news sources as late as Friday that the cease fire that you are looking for and the hostage

release are imminent, potentially as soon as this week. Have you heard anything to that effect? I have heard rumors of that, but there have been countless rumors for months that that may be coming.

**Speaker:** Every single day. Hundreds of palestinians are dying. If a cease fire comes tomorrow, would you not be embarrassed that you hadn't voiced your support for that? And been on the right side of history? You want to be the mayor of a city that had no say in that. To be clear, yes, I have not been silent on this issue.

**Speaker:** And again, i'll refer you to the previous statements I've made. But i'll i'll say it again. Yes, I want peace in the middle east. I want the fighting to stop. I want the hostages returned. I want there to be a credible, sustainable, long terme solution for peace between gaza and israel so that they can coexist peacefully. Now, I'm not there. I don't get to participate in the negotiations. Yeah frankly, I wish I did. I actually think this is probably one of the most important things happening on our planet today. And it speaks volumes to the ability of people to be able to get along and coexist, even if they have different views and philosophies. Um, so that that is the direction in which I'm pulling. I'm not obviously privy to the day to day activities. Is perhaps our united states senators are. I'm here working on the good work of the people of the city. But but I hear you, and I want you to know I share, uh, the desire that I think we all share for this to end and for there to be peace.

**Speaker:** Thank you.

**Speaker:** I appreciate your being here.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Absolutely. Thank you. Could I say one more thing? Yeah. Shortly you bet. Um, you know, I don't mean to undermine the powerful statements that you have made. I do really appreciate that. Um, some of the statement that you've made, you know, that I agree with all of them. It seems like more the sort of thing that that community members would voice as their opinion, while they feel



slightly helpless to what they could do, but they feel, I want peace in the middle east, that they feel. I wish I could do something more, but you guys here are the council members that can make more of an impact than just a statement. In a council meeting, but you can make a statement and a call to action to the united states government that is your power and you can't just send thoughts and prayers. That's not your job. Thank you, thank you. Take care.

**Speaker:** Appreciate you being here. Thank you. It's good seeing you. You too. Oh, god. And that completes communications. Correct. We'll move to the consent agenda of any items been pulled off of consent.

**Speaker:** No items have been pulled.

**Speaker:** Please call the roll on the consent agenda.

**Speaker:** Yea. Rubio a Ryan I Gonzalez. I mueller I the consent agenda is adopted will move to the first time certain item please 185 proclaim February 27, 2024 to be the 20th anniversary of insight colleagues.

**Speaker:** Today I have the honor of introducing this proclamation celebrating the incredible work of insight. 20 years ago, in February of 2004, scott hatley co-founded insight. Insight is an organization committed to unlocking the potential of people with disabilities through education as well as employment opportunities. Scott is a long time Oregonian, a fourth generation Oregonian, a product of our local public school system and a university of Portland alumni guy. He also happens to be the executive director of insight. Scott, we really appreciate you being here today. I appreciate the work that you and insight have been doing for now, 20 years. Your leadership has directly contributed to the better path for our fellow Portlanders who are too often overlooked or left out. I'm now going to pass the microphone to commissioner Ryan, who will say a few brief remarks before turning it over to scott.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Ryan, thank you, mayor scott. It's so wonderful to see you here today as the founder, as the inspiration and the builder of insight's mission. And hello, mr. Dan floyd, a board leader of insight and a community member who is now also on the Portland children's levy. We approved that a few months ago. There he is in person. It's my honor to turn the microphone over to you, scott and dan. So go ahead and come forward. And the floor is yours.

**Speaker:** All right, well, fantastic. Um, I just wanted to say how honored we are to be able to receive this recognition from all of you. Um and we really could not have been at this spot. And being here 20 years later without the full support of the community and all the sponsors, all the donors, all the partners that we've had, even past staff members, current staff members, past board members, current board members, um, and just being part of this journey with us. Um, so as I saw in the early remarks, uh, you know, insight is a product of the city of Portland and Portland and we hatched the idea. The co-founders, um, with disabilities and also just passionate about the community. Um, and what we're doing, um, saw the need for the work we're doing in insight. And so we launched it, um, not too long after we graduate. And, um, it's been quite the journey. Um, for me personally, I grew up with muscular dystrophy. Um, some of you on the council have heard my story. Um, and I was diagnosed with four and a half, and my parents were kind of at a crossroads there. It's they had been played this hand of cards that was maybe not the best hand. Um, and so they had to kind of pick up the cards they had and play it the best they could. And so that's what we've always strived to do. And it's worn off on me, is to just leverage the obstacles, turning lemons into lemonade, um, all the way to awaken opportunities. Um, and so university of Portland insight has been that opportunity. Um, and I would say I was fortunate I grew up just outside of the city, in the suburbs, and there was that expectation culture and that really applied.

And i, you know, everybody I knew was going to college. And so I'm just kind of like, okay, I'm going to keep going. I didn't want to be left behind. Um, and so the insight journey we started, actually, and you'll appreciate this, commissioner Ryan, um, we gave our very first scholarship, um, to a student at roosevelt high school, and she, since graduate a long time ago, went to Portland state, also here in Portland. And then, um, ended up working is at the Portland public school district, uh, in the admin office. And so cool to see that. And now, since that first one, we've given over 1000 scholarships and close to \$1 million of impact, um, and scholarship dollars going to post-secondary. Um, we've served about 11,000 people over, um, students, job seekers, um, individuals with disabilities over our period of time. Um, and had hundreds of employers from the city of Portland, um, that have helped support the students and job seekers. We've had, um, so I just want to take a quick moment to just talk about the context of why insight's doing what we do. Um, and so we all most of us, I think, in this room or all of us have been alive when the ada Americans with disabilities act was passed back in 1990. So we're approaching 35 years here and, um, the fact of the matter is, um, you know, I think that I believe the ada achieved the objectives that the founders and the authors intended as far as the built environment, all accessibility. And we're at a fortunate time for people with disabilities to be living right now with all the technology and all the built environment. But I still think we're just scratching the surface of the piece that I would call changing hearts and minds. We there's still more work to be done there. Um, in case in point, the 2022, um, stats from the bureau of labor showed that only about two out of ten people with disabilities are actually in the workforce full time, versus seven out of ten individuals with no documented disability. So um, for us, we really feel like it's the work that we can do to help that. And we see it as twofold. First, how do we help people with disabilities leverage the obstacles they face on

their life? So providing the resources, the tools, the programs, whatever they need to totally be able to go after their dreams and awaken their opportunities. And then the second fold, which I think is as valuable, is the piece on the changing hearts and minds. How can we change culture in the community and I still think there's a bit of discomfort around disability. We'll often say that it's the one minority anybody can join in a split second. And so with that being the case, we want to kind of build the case and create the invitation for people to have more awareness and engage with us. Um, and so we feel like that's the important piece. The invitation part, not because I think, um, you know, we just because we've become adults, it doesn't mean we don't still have those six year old questions that have curious cities, but we don't always have the environment or the place to figure out how to ask that. And so we want to just promote that dialog. So um, as I just wrap up, I just, uh, you know, it's been 20 years. There's so much more work to be done. And um, we're excited for what's ahead in the next 20 years. Great well done, mayor Wheeler, City Council dan floyd and I am a longtime board member of insight and happy to be here today.

**Speaker:** I also want to thank you for your your leadership. Obviously, you've got a incredibly difficult job and thank you for that. And thank you for taking the time today to hear from us. And, mayor Wheeler, you hit on a lot of the points I was going to make about scott and being from Oregon and staying or staying in Oregon and scott did such a good job about talking about the organization and, and all the contributions that it's making. But I think it's also time that we recognize scott and scott didn't talk a lot about himself. But to remind the people here today and the organization that scott is the founder and he's, uh, a great living example of what the mission is all about. And again, from, like you said, he's from he's from the public schools here. He went to university of Portland, stayed in the community to

inspire and to lead and because of that, 20 years in the making and so much more that scott wants to do also, it's such a big moment for insight. This, this entire year. And the celebration will go on. But to this particular moment is a huge moment for insight, and we thank you for that. Um, finally, just as far as the insight is concerned and scott being a living example of that, do you just see what scott does and, and he he talked about his parents and a hand that they were dealt. Scott is representing people with disabilities, both visible and invisible. And he's showing that you can have impactful relationships, graduate high school, graduate college and have a fulfilling career. And then stay in the community and lead. So I want to recognize scott and insight and thank you all for your leadership as well. And scott made me say all of that.

**Speaker:** Yeah, he he would be he'd be very comfortable with saying that.

**Speaker:** But I think commissioner Ryan, commissioner Rubio know that scott would never do that himself. And he deserves a ton of recognition. And we appreciate you. Thank you. Scott.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Oh, thank you very much. I just want to take a moment to thank, actually, why don't I start with commissioner Ryan and the mayor for sponsoring this proclamation? And I want to thank scott. Um, and, uh, insight for all the work they do. And they also want to say this, um, I'm delighted to join this council in celebrating the 20th anniversary of insight. As we learned today, insight was founded, I think, on February 27th, which must be the, uh, yeah, the 27th and 2024. Uh, you folks serve, uh, more than 11,000 people with disabilities here in the Portland area offering programs and everything from education to employment to independence. Um, this work is important because, as we have heard too often, Portlanders with disabilities face barriers when trying to participate in the civic life

of our city. And too often, our Portlanders with disabilities confront obstacles when trying to get a good education. As we heard vividly and too often, Portlanders with disabilities face barriers in the workplace. In fact, um, today, unemployment rates amongst the disabled are three times higher as we've heard than, um, unemployment rates for the population at large. And when, uh, folks with disabilities do find work too often they are paid less than their, um, able bodied coworkers. Um, and that is true even here in Portland, where about 22% of residents live with some kind of disability, and about one third of disabled Portlanders live below the poverty line. Now um, colleagues, I think these just difficult facts are why it's important that we reinvigorate our efforts to eliminate the barriers that block disabled Portlanders from fully participating in our labor markets and our educational systems, and in our civic life. And that is why I am proud to join you in celebrating the 20th anniversary of insight. Thank you for all the work you do, and thank you for being here today. Thank you commissioner.

**Speaker:** Uh, Rubio, thank you.

**Speaker:** Um, I want to thank commissioner Ryan for bringing this important proclamation forward. And also, I want to thank you, scott and dan, for your very thoughtful remarks today and for the past 20 years. Insights work has consistently centered this very important segment of our community. And you've reached thousands and thousands of Portlanders and Oregonians, um, and you have programs that are tailored uniquely to our community. And that's what makes insights special and really stand out. And I've had the honor of knowing scott by way of introduction from commissioner Ryan on our community work and dan on our work together in years past. And, um, yes, I agree with you, dan, that scott is highly competent, very thoughtful leader who does not, um, who's so humble about all his tremendous accomplishments. And Portland is so incredibly lucky, and we're

so proud to have you in our community. And leading on all our behalf. Um, we're a better city for it. And you're a thoughtful advocate who leads with integrity and with grit and with perseverance. And so, um, we should all strive to be like you. I was impressed then and continue to be impressed by your work. Insight's work to eliminate the stigma surrounding this community and raise more, um, awareness around people with barriers, um, that offer the same, if not more, value to a lot of programs and contribution in the in the community. Um, and there's really an opportunity cost for all of us when we, when we miss out on this inclusion. So so, um, you've proven that you've proven that when we foster that family clarity, we remove the fear that that leads to judgment and exclusion. So I just want to thank you, scott, and insight, for consistently being that leader that we need at the state level and the local level level for these critical issues in Portland. And bravo for showing that we can all improve the lives of people with barriers through action, through radical inclusion and culture culture change. So thank you, thank you, thank you, commissioner.

**Speaker:** Commissioner gonzales, I just want to thank the mayor and commissioner Ryan for bringing this proclamation forward. Uh, thank you, scott and dan and the insight team for the work you do every day to make a difference in the lives of so many, uh, living with a disability can present many challenges. And facing those barriers of overcoming those obstacles is truly a team effort. And with aspiration and not just grievance, which I'm going to circle back to in a second. Uh, Portland is so fortunate to have insight as a resource for many who face these each and every day, from helping folks build their own independence, uh, offering critical lifeline like, uh, scholarships, employment connections, financial and housing assistance. Insight truly does it all, and we are fortunate for their contribution to our city. Um, do want to highlight congratulations on 20 years of dedication to this,

cause I know I speak for all Portlanders when I express my sincere gratitude for all you do and just looking at your own language, uh, reaching their full potential, uh, the emphasis on that for each human being, every Portlander. Uh, I don't know if we can say that enough, uh, and emphasize that enough moving the world, expecting great contributions with people experiencing disabilities. Again these aren't my words. These are your words. And it's beautiful. Uh, and we need more of that theme for those suffering. Uh, both with disabilities and those without in our city. So thank you for being leaders and aspiring and pushing and reaching. I'm happy to support this proclamation today. Our city is truly a better place because of your efforts, and we thank you immensely. Thank you, thank you.

**Speaker:** And before I turn this over to commissioner Ryan to read the proclamation, um, I want to make very clear, commissioner Ryan led this effort to bring this proclamation for this morning. Although I am very, very grateful for it and strongly support the intent behind it. And Scott, as with everybody else, thank you for your continued leadership. You've done amazing things and you have amazing things ahead, and we're glad to have this opportunity to share it. Commissioner Ryan, thank you so much, mayor.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Colleagues. It's uh, you can tell we're we're just so honored that you're both here today. And it's a pleasure to see both of you. Um, when the milestone came to my attention, I was struck by the fact that you, Scott, have been out there doing this. As we know now for 20 years. And then I didn't realize I connected with you towards the beginning of that at that building. So it's one of those moments where you just kind of pinch yourself and realize one life goes really fast, and then two, what, um, how what a gratitude you have when you connect with someone like yourself and stay in relationship with you over these last 20 years, your hard work and dedication you've built in the community for people



who don't always have a voice is so consistent. Your humility, um, is such a missing trait in leadership today and needed and wanted. So thank you for just being you, letting the light come to you and everyone around you. Um you just give so much hope and inspiration to people who didn't have it before and the data is really impressive. Your impact is also rippled beyond Portland and I think we speak for all of us that you really make Portland proud, that we have insight located in Portland, but it's having a reach well beyond, um, I know it helps when you continue to cultivate that amazing board members and will count dan floyd as one of those. Right? Okay um, anyway, what an incredible achievement. And I want to also pause for a moment and thank the parents of people with different labels, different abilities. I can't recall your mother's name, but she's behind you, right?

**Speaker:** No, actually, she's not here today.

**Speaker:** But she's not here today. She might be watching online. Okay. All right. Mom and dad. Um we really salute you. I've seen them so many times out in the community, and they're so proud of you. And they always show up. And I know in my life, um, my, my friends that have children that have the same, different able challenges, um, they really do go an extra mile and of course, they just do it. But I think we have to continue to always give them proper attention at this time.

**Speaker:** Well, and I wouldn't be where I am or able to do what I did without my parents and the support they provided and making sure I've gone everywhere that I need to go. So I appreciate that.

**Speaker:** Shout out. So this is like, if you're watching, we're really sending you a lot of love right now. Um, I also was struck by the two out of ten in the workforce right now. And that's something we all should aspire to see in the next milestone. Go up and let's let Portland be the leader nationally on something like that. That would really be good for our city. And with you in leadership, I know that we can get there.

We all came together when we were talking about community around a mission that was about all children and youth by age 25 would have the skill sets to be economically mobile for the rest of their lives. And that's true freedom. And um, you always inspired that by the work that you did at insight. So it's an honor to know you. It's an honor to call both you and dan, my friend. And with that, I go, I will now read the proclamation. The warehouses begin, whereas the city of Portland affirms and is committed to the principles of engagement, inclusion and equity of opportunity for all persons with disabilities. And whereas insight works to achieve its vision of moving the world, expecting great contributions with people experiencing disabilities, and has been actively striving to meet its mission of unlocking the potential of people with disabilities. As a nonprofit organization. Organization. Since it was founded on February 27th, 2004, and whereas insight has been intentionally working to change hearts and minds, leverage obstacles, and unlock potential with people experiencing disabilities and whereas insight has established a strong record in the Portland community, serving over 11,000 students and job seekers with disabilities through scholarships, internships, job placements, coaching services, career events, and more. And whereas it takes the collective effort of the entire community, including government, business, nonprofits and educators in Portland and throughout the state of Oregon, to work together to bring forth greater disability awareness and work toward greater success for all Oregonians. With disabilities. And whereas, as the current executive director and insight co-founder is a fourth generation Oregonian graduate of Oregon public schools and graduate of the university of Portland, and whereas, as February 27th, 2024, 2024 celebrates the 20th anniversary of insight, an organization doing this work and founded on unlocking the potential of people with

disabilities so they can fully reach their potential through education and employment opportunities. Now

**Speaker:** Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the City of Roses, do hereby proclaim February 27th, 2024 to be the 20th anniversary of insight in Portland and encourage all residents to observe this day. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, thank you everyone.

**Speaker:** We do a photo with them.

**Speaker:** Sure. Yeah.

**Speaker:** Or should we do it? Okay

**Speaker:** Yeah, we are.

**Speaker:** Yeah yeah, yeah. Up there. Yeah. So that that's the emergency declaration or that's the emergency management.

**Speaker:** Yeah. These, uh 186, which is a report court appoint Amy Rose and Christian McCombs to the Development Review Advisory Committee for terms to expire February 27th, 2027.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Rubio, thank you, Mayor.

**Speaker:** Colleagues, today, I am pleased to bring forward two appointments to the Development Review Advisory Committee or DRAC. DRAC was established in June 2001 as the city's primary advisory body regarding development review. The DRAC seeks to foster a timely, predictable and accountable development review process and advocates for the consistent and fair application of regulations. The committee is composed of 17 members representing groups with interests in development and development, review processes. As DRAC members are appointed by the City Council to one three year terms, with the possibility of serving a second three year terms. I'm pleased to present Amy Vose and Chris McCombs for appointment to

three year terms as drac members, so i'll now turn it over to drac liaison ross.

Karen.

**Speaker:** Good morning. Good morning, mayor and commissioners. Thank you, commissioner Rubio. Uh, my name is ross crone. I'm an employee with the bureau of development services, and I am our liaison to the development review advisory committee. Um, just a couple of quick comments about, uh, our current membership levels. And then just a little bit about both. Amy and kristen. Kristen um, uh, who are both, uh, in attendance today. I'm presenting if there are any questions, they're available to answer those. Um with these two appointments, the drac will be all members will be all seats will be filled. Uh, we do have an may six vacancy. Coming, coming up, which we're actively recruiting for and have other recruitments, uh, in the book. So I will be coming in front of you again here in the near future. The first, uh, uh, appointment we have today is amy vose. Um we're asking to nominate amy to the land use planning professional position. Amy is a principal architect at the sage architecture. I may have mispronounced that name. Um, and has been based in Portland since 2006. She does a lot of long range facility planning for local schools as well as other large public sector clients. She works in both in the architectural as well as land use planning realms. In the project, she works on and amy looks forward to providing feedback on how to make it easier to move projects through the permitting process. Kristen mcombs is nominated to the public works permit customers position. Kristen is a professional civil civil engineer and senior member of uh humber design groups, or hdg. She brings over ten years of experience with the city's public works, as well as building permit process. Uh, kristen? Kristen is well versed in the ongoing efforts to make improvements to our permitting system, as well as contributions to numerous affordable housing projects. She's also been an active member of the development

review advisory three committees public works subcommittee, um, both of these candidates bring a wealth of relevant experience and important perspective to drac, and we are pleased to present them for appointment. And if there's any questions for me and, uh, that is the end of my presentation, commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Oh, it was up from the last one, but how many, uh, are open in may?

**Speaker:** There's six.

**Speaker:** Six. Okay and a little bit of a attachment because I recruited some of them. Sure. Um, maybe i'll find out from you, commissioner, which ones are turning off. So yeah. Proud of the work that you all do at that track. Yeah I think that's all.

**Speaker:** All right. Very good. Do we have public testimony on this report? No.

**Speaker:** One sign up. I'll entertain a motion to accept the report.

**Speaker:** So moved.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Mapps moves. Second. Commissioner Rubio seconds. Any further discussion on the report? Seeing none. Please call the roll. Rubio.

**Speaker:** Uh, thank you, ross, so much for your presentation. And thank you to amy and christian for their service on this committee. I vote I on these appointments, Ryan.

**Speaker:** Bridge. Crane. What's up?

**Speaker:** Uh, if you look at the smart sheet, number 186, I don't know why it's in reverse order.

**Speaker:** Are you signed up to testify on this item? Yes okay. We'll suspend the vote. Go ahead.

**Speaker:** Um. Thank you. I do, uh, unlike some of the testimony we had on last week's, uh, I thank these people and I do want to encourage you on these items to. Maybe when somebody has become, uh, professionally credentialed to go ahead and I don't know if it's a city wide style manual policy or something, but add their

credentials. So if somebody is a professional engineer, we can have p after their name. If mrvos architect has joined the academy of architects to put the aia in there, gives us a little bit more fluid confidence. The other thing of course, is the difficulty of their jobs is within your hands and the hands of the future City Council. As far as the complexity, lack of complexity of various design guidances and waivers is, um, an and the uh issue that's most in my mind is that previously this council has says there's going to be some accommodate person for primarily corporate landlords who try and adjust their properties to maybe have other residential functions. Um, but we're spending. \$16,000 on pods. While commercial real estate space is vacant and, you know, the governor had a 45 person commission led by the chairman of standard insurance. I assure you that there are working toilets on empty floors in standards building that could give better accommodate option than the horrible things that happen at tpi's mass congregate shelters, converting a these people. I'm sure if you asked them, could tell you that converting an office building to luxury apartment is complicated because people like to control where the water flow and stuff goes, but putting people in cost effective shelter, exercising your fiduciary responsibility to not spend as the county does \$70 on an individual every day to put them in a in a hotel owned by an out of state landlord and contract to do that for five years long. Listen to the people that are don't just have them do their dry work, but build smart, humane, cost effective solutions for the problems the city is facing. Uh, thank you very much. Thank you. And we'll continue the roll.

**Speaker:** Ryan. Commissioner Ryan, back to the vote.

**Speaker:** Okay, I approve all these appointments. I would I Gonzalez, I just want to thank folks for stepping up to serve the city of Portland.

**Speaker:** I vote I Mapps yeah.

**Speaker:** I want to thank everyone for agreeing to serve on these important committees. I vote yea Wheeler, this is, is, uh, an important committee.

**Speaker:** It's a technical committee. It's difficult work. The pay is no good. We're grateful that people are willing to step forward to serve. So I certainly support these appointments, and I'm appreciative that people want to take the time to help this city move forward. I vote I the report is accepted, the appointments are approved. Thank you very much. Thank you all and colleagues. Uh, 187, which is our proclamation of black history month. We're going to move it slightly later in the agenda so we can have it right before the reception. Uh, that has been a request. We'll see if we can get through the rest of this agenda as quickly as possible. Uh, item. 189 from the regular agenda, please. This is a first reading of a nonemergency ordinance.

**Speaker:** Um, amend title 15, emergency code to align with the amended city charter approved by voters in Portland. Measure 20 6-228. Yeah

**Speaker:** Uh, folks. Sorry. Um it's extremely rare, I know, but from time to time, I do make mistakes. Uh, this is a second reading of a non-emergency ordinance clarifying the rules of the executive and legislative branches and managing emergencies in the city of Portland. Uh, I certainly want to thank the charter transit team project coordinator diana shiplett and director of Portland bureau of emergency management, shad ahmed for joining us last week to walk us through the changes. Is there any further business on this item?

**Speaker:** Yeah, I actually have some, um. Mr. Mayor, after first reading, I think it has become apparent to me that there were some conversations that should have taken place between, uh, our infrastructure bureaus and, uh, the folks who were designing this particular, um, um, ordinance. Uh, those conversations didn't happen operationally. I think where we're at is our emergency c, um, planners. Um, and are

there our operations folks on, uh, certain types of emergencies are not exactly on the same page. Uh, this is a process problem. Um, uh, and, um, we need to have more conversation around this. My recommendation, um, would be that we pass this and then I would ask probably the mayor and commissioner gonzales, uh, to support staff level, continued staff level conversations so that the folks who are planning, uh, emergency responses and the folks who are actually on the ground can work together.

**Speaker:** I wouldn't have any objections, but do you have any concept of the, uh, substantive concerns with the code language that are, I think, in particular ?

**Speaker:** Um, number one, I think there was, frankly, my infrastructure people weren't tuned in to this particular ordinance until very late in the game, as in, after after the first reading. That's frankly something my office should have done better on to make sure that our teams work together and then there seeing some concerns around, I think, um. Literally just flow and how things operate on the ground when you're actually dealing with a snow emergency or an earthquake or whatnot. Um, I unfortunately, I'm not in a good position to offer an articulate, uh, explanation of what the concerns are, but I know we skipped a step in terms of having appropriate dialog at a staff level. I'll take responsibility for that. I also want to raise the red flag here and say there's some more work that we need to we need to do. We can move forward with this. But I do hope that we can have, uh, continued conversations. So infrastructure and the rest of the city can be on the same page. Great

**Speaker:** Uh, diana, do you have any comment on that?

**Speaker:** Hi. Good morning, mayor and commissioners. Uh, yes. We I did receive an email. Yes oh, sorry. My name is diana shiplett. I'm a project coordinator with the charter transition team. Uh, and I did receive an email yesterday from the



infrastructure bureaus regarding this, and I have responded to it mostly it was a lack of clarity on the differences between our current form of government and the future form of government, but I'm happy to continue to meet with them and to adjust any questions or listen to any questions and hopefully respond to them as we move forward.

**Speaker:** Would that be helpful?

**Speaker:** Yeah, let's keep these conversations going. Um, my I should have done a better job to make sure that we were communicating with diana and my teams understood what was going on in this space. Didn't happen. I could have let it go. But frankly, when an emergency happens, I really want our planners and our operations people to be on the same page, and we should just pause us and have those conversations now. Um, frankly, before the earthquake comes. Okay good.

**Speaker:** Just include parks in the infrastructure. Sure.

**Speaker:** Absolutely. Yeah. Thanks

**Speaker:** Good. Uh, so, diana, you've you've heard the request. It seems like a reasonable request. And we'll take it from there. This is the second reading of an emergency ordinance. Any further business seeing? None. Call the roll yea. Rubio.

**Speaker:** This is an integral part of our city's government transition. I want to thank shod diana and the rest of the transition team for bringing these amendments forward. I vote aye. Ryan

**Speaker:** Yeah, this is definitely a system that needs improvement. So I'm glad we're acknowledging that and I'm glad we're focused on it. The proof will be in how we deliver and implement this. So I vote yea Gonzalez, this is an important step in charter reform implementation.

**Speaker:** It's essential for community resilience and our ability to respond to the crisis that may come. I vote yea Mapps um, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who worked on this.

**Speaker:** Uh, and I also really appreciate diana, my colleague who's, uh, um, for being open to having continuing dialog about how all the bureaus in the city can work together in the case of an emergency. I vote yea and I look forward to those conversations happening. Wheeler I appreciate commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Uh, comments with regard to the infrastructure bureaus, I think more collaboration and communication can only improve things. So I think it's great. I vote yea the ordinance is adopted, item 190. This is a report accept bid. Of \$7,371,394 from iron horse excavation incorporated for the downtown old town market, madison sewer rehabilitation project colleagues, the bureau of environmental services needs to rehabilitate or replace 9500ft of deterioro and sewer pipes, maintenance holes and service laterals throughout the city's downtown sewer system. We've seen this in other parts of the city. We have biko taylor here to give us a brief presentation on this item.

**Speaker:** Good morning mayor, commissioners. Um, hello. Um, I am presenting for biko. I'm kathleen brennan murua, uh, for the record, and I'm here to recommend authorization to enter into a contract with ironhorse excavation incorporated. Doing business as oxbow construction for the downtown old town market. Madison sewer rehabilitation project, City Council approved ordinance 191487 on October 18th, 2023. The engineer estimate for this project was 9,076,000, and the confidence level was high. Procurement services issued the invitation to bid on November 3rd, 2023, and three bids were received on December seventh, 2023. Iron horse excavation incorporated submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount. Of \$7,371,394, which is approximately 19% under the

estimate that the city's aspirational 20% subcontract and supplier utilization goal applied to this project. To this contract, iron horse has committed to cip contract approximately 21% to contract was certified by the state's certification office for business inclusion and diversity, as identified in the report, before you iron horse is self performing the remaining 79% of the work. Iron horse is located in troutdale, Oregon, is a state certified woman owned contractor and is in full compliance with all city contracting requirements. Um, unless you have questions about the project, I believe the project manager, jay brannan, is in attendance. If not, I recommend that you accept this report and authorize execution of the contract.

**Speaker:** Any questions?

**Speaker:** Public testimony?

**Speaker:** Uh, no one signed up. I'll entertain a motion.

**Speaker:** So moved commissioner Gonzalez moves. Commissioner Mapps seconds. Any further discussion on the report? Seeing none. Please call the roll.

**Speaker:** Thank you for your presentation, kathleen. And I'm also heartened to see this entire project be awarded to a firm that exceeds our city's aspirational goals. I vote I Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yes, thank you kathleen, good to see you and thrilled that we did reach the cobid requirement at 20.72. I vote yea Gonzalez i, I Wheeler I the report is accepted.

**Speaker:** Item 191 emergency ordinance pay settlement of grace bodily injury lawsuit for \$25,000 involving the Portland police bureau. Deputy city attorney caroline turco and senior claims analyst karen bond are here to walk us through the ordinance. Welcome. Thank you for being here.

**Speaker:** Good morning. I'm karen bond, the senior claims analyst and risk management. And with me today is caroline turco, who will do the presentation.

**Speaker:** Good morning mayor. Good morning. Commissioners my name is caroline turco and I'm an employee with the Portland city attorney's office. This case involves a police use of force arising from the george floyd protests in the summer of 2020. The the plaintiff, grace deshield, was attending a protest with their mother died at peninsula park. They had foam shields with them and were asked to hand them over as officers had instructed the protesters that weapons were not allowed in the park. Deka refused to hand over her shield and stood on top of it. A police officer pushed her off the shield and she fell to the ground. At the same time, grace died. Shield swung there shield at the officer and hit him. Hit him in the head. Grace was arrested and taken to the ground in the process, deka and grace filed their lawsuit alleging first and fourth amendment violation as well as state law claims during the pendency of the case, deka passed away for unrelated reasons given the risk of an adverse jury verdict. The parties attended a judicial settlement conference and reached a mutually agreeable settlement. Under the settlement, the city will pay \$25,000 to resolve this lawsuit. The city attorney's office and risk management recommend that the City Council approve the settlement. I'm happy to answer any questions. Council has otherwise. This concludes my remarks.

**Speaker:** Any questions?

**Speaker:** I have a question, commissioner Gonzalez, just to clarify.

**Speaker:** So there was an alleged assault of a police officer in this incident? Yes and is that the plaintiff in this case or was I want to be clear on who we're paying under the terms of this settlement?

**Speaker:** Yes. There was, I suppose, um, complicated situation in in which, um, a foam shield was swung at the officer. So while that would be aggressive behavior, I wouldn't say that it was very injury producing behavior.

**Speaker:** Did it? Did it make contact with the police officer? Yes what's a phone shield?

**Speaker:** Oh I'm sorry. Foam. Foam shield.

**Speaker:** Okay. Got it. So trying to visualize what that is, but, um. Okay. I have the degree of discomfort on the settlement. Candidly, in, in light of those facts, but, um, I don't typically comment on settlements, but i, uh, um, just bearing a level of discomfort, uh, that we're paying out in this situation, uh, under. And these are complex settlement decisions, but i'll leave it at that.

**Speaker:** Are there any other questions ? No.

**Speaker:** I mean, uh, I'm i'll share your discomfort, commissioner. And I realize what legal counsel is doing here. Legal counsel is trying to limit our liability potential. And once something goes before a jury, we don't know what it will be. And so there. Managing risk, if you will. Um, in that regard. And it's unfortunate, but as a government enterprise, we are not a sympathetic defendant. And that's one of the realities that we have to work with as we weigh these issues public testimony. It looks like mark has something to say. Yes

**Speaker:** Mark paurus welcome, mark.

**Speaker:** Thanks. Good morning, mayor and commissioners. My name is mark paurus. Use he him pronouns and I'm with Portland copwatch so we understand the parties have come to an agreement. We have no objection to the city paying the \$25,000 to settle the bodily injury lawsuit due to the harmful actions of sergeant brant maxey and other unknown Portland police officers, we appear before you today on this police brutality settlement with the hope you'll discuss both the policy decisions that lead to these sorts of decisions and the lessons the city has learned in order to come closer to providing constitutional policing for Portlanders. This settlement raises the total just for 2020 protest settlements to over \$2.55 million,

according to court records. The plaintiff in the case and her mother were both nonviolent medics attending a daytime protest against police violence on September 26th, 2020, at peninsula park. While the plaintiff and her mother gathered supplies near the west entrance to peninsula park. They, along with several other individuals, were handed foam shields and other gear for protection from law enforcement. Less lethal munitions. As the group gathered supplies, multiple Portland police officers aggressively pushed protesters and confiscated their supplies, including the shields. As the plaintiff's mother was asking officers whether such confiscation was lawful, several additional officers, including sergeant Maxey, approached. Sergeant Maxey, came from behind the plaintiff's mother violently grabbed her jacket and shoved her to the ground where she landed on her side, injuring her shoulder, back and neck. The plaintiff attempted to assist her mother and was ambushed by multiple police officers carried into the street, where several officers knelt on her back, handcuffed her, and violently twisted her arms. She pleaded with the officers to stop. In response, they slammed her head to the pavement. The entire incident was video recorded by multiple protesters and members of the press. The plaintiff was then arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and aggravated assault. She was found not guilty in her criminal trial court records reveal that the plaintiff's mother was also originally listed as plaintiff in this case, and as you heard, she died unexpectedly in May of last year, a little over six weeks before the incident. Sergeant Maxey stated during a KGW interview that he would soon be overseeing the in-service training for police officers. So just as with sergeant Lum, sergeant Maxey is another police officer who's been responsible for police brutality claim and then gone on to train other officers in the bureau, we appreciate the compliance officer, community liaison for the settlement agreement is now reporting summary information about police misconduct, settlements and

jury awards. However, the draft q3 report included data about the amounts paid out with analysis of just the average cost per incident. This completely ignores the intention behind reporting on the money paid out by the city for unconstitutional policing, which is to change police officer behavior and put safeguards in place to keep these things from happening over and over again. In the spirit of learning from our failures, we would appreciate council asking the city's attorney whether sergeant maxey was informed that this case has been settled for \$25,000, whether or not he received any discipline for his actions that led to the settlement, and whether any trainings or policies have been informed by this settlement. We also hope you'll join us in encouraging the council and the independent monitor who will be appointed to use these incidents to actually improve policing in the future and avoid future liability. Thanks

**Speaker:** Thank you. Any further public testimony that completes this. All right. Very good. This is an emergency ordinance. Call the roll yea. Rubio. I Ryan, i.

**Speaker:** I Mapps I Wheeler, I just want to remind people that we didn't used to take public testimony on settlements.

**Speaker:** A settlement is between within the parties, and we don't know what happens in those meetings. That happens behind closed doors. They have reached a settlement. But our legal counsel has advised us to accept that settlement. Um sometimes during public testimony, we what we hear does not comport with either the facts of what we know or, frankly, what was discussed in the settlement agreement. I just want to make that disclaimer that there are things that are being said during public testimony that are completely separate from this settlement, and they may not be factual or accurate. So with that disclaimer, I vote I the settlement is approved. The ordinance is adopted. Thanks for your good work. Thank you. Appreciate it. Next item 192 a second reading. Amend and floating structures code

to clarify permitting requirements. For repairs to existing floating systems. This is a second reading of a nonemergency ordinance. Is there any further discussion on this item? Seeing none, please call the roll review.

**Speaker:** I want to thank Dave Tebow for his presentation on this ordinance and the engagement that has been done with the River Community Advisory Committee to bring their recommendations forward to Council, and happy to support this work and vote. I, Ryan, I Gonzalez, I Wheeler, I the ordinance is adopted and before we get to our uh procla session, we have just one more item, the 4/5 agenda item 190 2-1.

**Speaker:** Ensure grant funding is available through the small business stabilization restore program for small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the January 2024 winter storm.

**Speaker:** Colleagues.

**Speaker:** Early in the pandemic, we launched a series of grant, loan and technical assistance programs to support small business owners as they work to keep their doors open and stabilize their businesses during COVID. Those early efforts set the framework for subsequent city programs that are in place today and provide much needed ongoing support for small business owners throughout the city. The winter storm we just experienced recently in January added additional stress and loss to local businesses. I declared a local emergency effective January 12, 2024, due to the winter weather impacts to the Portland metro area. Declaring this emergency with the assistance of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the state and the small business administration set our response in motion and enabled us to coordinate our resources and make the full spectrum of services available to our small businesses, including grants, SBA loans, as well as technical assistance. I want to thank Commissioners Rubio and Gonzalez for their leadership, along with



prosper Portland and the Portland bureau of emergency management. I'm very proud of what we've been able to accomplish in response to these emergency situations. I'd like to now pass this over to commissioner Rubio to talk us through this resolution. Commissioner, thank you, mayor.

**Speaker:** This January winter storm was felt by many in our community and was particularly harsh on its impact in our small on our small businesses. As the mayors mentioned, the small business stabilization and restore grant program has been supporting small businesses experiencing hardships throughout the pandemic, and I'm happy that we can expand that support by making funding available to pay for some of the most common costs that businesses need to cover from the winter storm, including lost revenue from being closed, interior and exterior repairs. Inventory loss costs and equipment replaced. But these dollars are clearly needed. But I'm pleased we're able to allocate this additional funding. But I do want to acknowledge that even with these additional resources, we will likely be able to only serve about 10 to 20% of the demand and of the need. And I hope that we can continue to work together to find other sources of funds to meet our current and future needs. As the impact of climate change continues to bear down on our community, it's incumbent upon all of us to come together in partnership before, during and after weather emergencies and other natural events and through creative partnerships and collaborations, we'll be able to take decision action, decisive action to support our communities and local businesses and swiftly respond with meaningful support. So I want to thank our partners at the independent restaurant association for their call to action and the collaborative approach that we've been able to take to get to this moment, help small businesses recover and thrive is our top priority. So I'll now hand it over to commissioner gonzales.

**Speaker:** Thank you, commissioner Rubio. This effort is a great example of what is possible when our bureaus collaborate efficiently. We deliver resources within our community. I want to thank the bureau of emergency management for collaborating with prosper Portland with this work, and for identifying additional funding for this grant. I appreciate our partnership with the state for declaring this winter storm an emergency, which allows us to mobilize resources, including the small business administration. I also want to thank our federal partners at the sba and prosper Portland for utilizing existing programs to get funds into the hands of our small business owners as quickly as possible. Our resources do come with their own restrictions, and I'm glad that we can partner with prosper Portland and ensure the greatest flexibility in delivering aid to our community. With that, I will pass it to ruchit narwal from pbem and ami nagi from prosper Portland.

**Speaker:** Thank you, commissioner. Uh, good morning everyone. My name is richard narwal. I'm planning and preparedness manager at Portland bureau of emergency management. Would you please move to the next slide? Uh, and as I said, thank you. Commissioner Gonzalez and commissioner Rubio, for giving us time on the council agenda today to discuss the need for continuing council support for recovery efforts from the damage caused by the January 2024 winter storm. Pbem has been coordinating a city wide recovery efforts as several city bureaus are engaged in four key recovery areas that you can see on. See on this slide deck. As you can see, the damage or damage assessment, bts has been leading that work for the city. That work has been completed, parks and pbot has been coordinating for debris management and clearing the debris from right away with parks. Portland parks still working on processing and collecting, collecting debris from their property. The city is also currently coordinating with the state on fema public assistance process, and we'll be sharing more information on that with

bureaus in coming in next few weeks. The main reason why we're here today is to discuss small business efforts that our city has undertaken for small business, economic recovery from the storm. Several businesses reported direct or indirect losses to their operations during the January winter storm. Over 600 businesses self-reported damage. In a survey conducted by Oregon department of emergency management and in response, small, small business administration declared an emergency to support these businesses is why we are here today. We are here today to request council support to increase funding for small business restore grant in response to winter storm impacts by reclaiming arpa, which is American rescue plan act allocation and allocating an equivalent amount of unrestricted general funds to prosper Portland during the spring crisis. To talk about why we need to do this and how this funding will be used, i'll pass it to, uh, i'll pass the mic to amy.

**Speaker:** Great. Thank you so much. Uh, good morning everybody. Commissioners mayor, my name is amy nagy. I'm the development manager at prosper Portland, and my team oversees the administration of the restore grant. This grant is something that has been in existence in one form or another for quite a long time as the as the pandemic has pursued or persisted. Um, we offer financial support to assist small businesses, to help them remain open and operational, while also maintaining a healthy street environment under the current program, there are grants are up to \$25,000, and those are for costs associated with security and prevention. Ensuring premium increases. Deferred rents, interior repairs and inventory loss that have been due to break ins and hearing from our small business community about the impacts of the winter storm and what it's had on them. We've expanded the eligibility for this award cycle to cover some of the most common costs that these businesses are incurring and need to manage right now, those

costs include the revenue loss for that week of the storm, both interior and exterior repairs from the storm, damage, as well as equipment replacement that may have also resulted from the storm. Business owners also may receive up to \$25,000.

Next slide please. This grant is for both small businesses and nonprofits that are operating a brick and mortar location that have a ground floor customer facing storefront, food trucks that are operating in the city may also apply to be eligible for this particular winter storm funding. They must have been impacted by the winter storm in January of this year to employ three people or more, including contractors and have had a gross revenue up to \$3 million in 2019 or 2022. Next slide please.

The application window for this is still open. And to date we have received more than 900 applications. Specifically seeking winter storm assistance. A cursory look at these applications show that over half of these are from restaurant owners. We will use a prioritization criteria that includes number of employees supported, as well as a scale of revenue impacted based on the gross revenue losses during the week of the storm. We anticipate most of these applicants will be seeking grants to cover their revenue loss, which on average will likely be about \$8,000 and will bring our estimated need to over \$7 million. This is this actually has the potential to exhaust all of the restore grant resources that are intended to take us through the end of this calendar year. In just responding to the winter storm currently, we have \$500,000 in general fund resources that we're making available now. However, given this demand, we are here to request that council help us to increase that amount of funding to support more small businesses by reclaiming the arpa allocation that currently funds our restore program and allocating it the equivalent in the general fund. Next slide, please. So with that, the action needed for today, there's a resolution that you have that states the council will and is intent to support our programing. It will allow prosper to continue to receive our

applications and evaluate them. And then during the spring, uh, bump process, we'll have once all those applications are, are completed and review, we'll have a better idea of the total amount that we'll need to put forward in an ordinance and then do the necessary updates in the igas in order to make the transaction possible. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Very good. Thanks any questions at this point?

**Speaker:** Yeah. Commissioner Mapps, if I do, um, amy, can you I don't understand the money flow here.

**Speaker:** Can you can we do that again?

**Speaker:** Um, where is the money coming from? Are we.

**Speaker:** It seems like we're adding. We're taking arpa dollars that were allocated for something and then moving it around. And frankly, I'm having a i. I'm not tracking all of it. Can you repeat for me how this is going to work? Yeah that's no problem.

**Speaker:** You're right that the current the current funding source for restore is arpa. Um, there is uh, arpa is not, at this moment viewed to be, uh, an eligible use to cover winter storm events. And so we want to make sure that we can serve the small businesses. And to do that, we would need general fund dollars. So so under what would be allowed kind of in the reclaiming of the arpa allocation. Um that that is an allowable use for to actually use for other deficits within the city and then put forward the general fund in order for us to issue the grants, administer the grants.

**Speaker:** Mr. Mayor, where in the I guess I'm I'm struggling with the general fund piece or when and where does that come into play?

**Speaker:** And I didn't receive a briefing on this all of this happened kind of fast. So I'm I'm authentically catching up. Uh, there's probably some conversations that

should have happened earlier this week or last week that didn't, um, so are you seeking a future allocation from the general fund ?

**Speaker:** I can speak to that a little bit. Uh commissioner Mapps. So the general fund will be made, allocated during the spring bump process. What this what we are asking today is just the count. The council is in support of that strategy. It's there's no net change to the city general fund. This with the there's there will be no net, uh, impact to the city budget. We're just the reason why we need to do it this way is to kind of expand the eligibility of businesses that can apply to receive this grant. So we'll just taking that fund back and then reallocating would then expand, uh, with an expanded use.

**Speaker:** Okay. So you'll come back with yeah, we, we may need to come back after the spring break process or during the spring bump process for, for one or, uh, for if there's an approval needed at that stage.

**Speaker:** What if there's no new money in the spring? Bump a this there is no there's no it's the money that already is there.

**Speaker:** We're just taking it back and re rereleasing it, uh, to prosper there is there is no net change to the to the overall cost or, or the budget of the even prosper Portland.

**Speaker:** Okay. Um, and one think I appreciate the clarification and one more question.

**Speaker:** So there's kind of two tracks here. One, uh, restore dollars, I believe it's called to help businesses that are hurt by vandalism and whatnot. And one for storm. Are we reducing the amount of dollars that are available for people who suffer vandalism in order to do the storm thing, or do they both kind of continue? Um, at current levels?

**Speaker:** It's a great question. They're both eligible under this cycle. So folks, that are experiencing kind of and wanting to cover costs under what has been the standard program, um, are eligible to apply it and have been applying and will be considered for an award and then this was the one opportunity that we could do to respond quickly to the businesses call for support. And so we're trying to tap into this existing program and expand the kind of eligibility cost to cover to support them as well.

**Speaker:** Okay. Thank you very much, commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yeah, thank you, mayor, and thank you both, commissioner Rubio and commissioner gonzales, for bringing this to our attention.

**Speaker:** Um, i, we received a lot of emails we all do about the challenges of working this system and, um, so I just want to hear what type of, um, updates you've done to your staffing model, to your customer service. Um, when, when they'll be even a bigger increase to respond to the people who are reaching out to prosper for this, commissioner.

**Speaker:** I'm sorry, are you directing that to me?

**Speaker:** Uh, yes, it would be.

**Speaker:** Amy. You're with prosper Portland. I am, and you're the entity that manages the grants, right? Absolutely. Yeah

**Speaker:** So we have a team, um, already in place that responds and works with small businesses on their applications. Um, luckily, we've been providing some of these, some form of these grants since the pandemic began and have been able to build out our infrastructure as well as our kind of human resources to respond. So we continue to kind of automate on the application process and then have people available to talk with businesses directly. Unfortunately, as as commissioner Rubio highlighted, though, there will be we won't be able to serve everybody with the

existing resources that we have in light of the demand. Um, and so part of this is an opportunity to increase the impact that we're having and serve some. And then also a call for, for, I think greater support and potential future\$ um, in order to continue to work with our small businesses and get them their resources.

**Speaker:** Great. Any further questions, any public testimony?

**Speaker:** No one signed up. Please call the roll.

**Speaker:** Rubio, I want to thank both rasheed and pbem and amy and prosper for their great work on this, and also commissioner gonzales for his partnership on this project and as a team explained, the need far surpasses the available funds to meet that need.

**Speaker:** And now that we have the data and the documented need, we'll be working with this team to continue looking for additional avenues of redress that to meet that need. And, um, it's also clear that the city can't do it alone. And I'm directing prosper staff to work with pbem and reaching out to our partners at the state and county level to identify additional sources of support. Um, so with that, I will turn it over to my colleague for closing comments.

**Speaker:** Uh oh. I'm sorry. We were in the middle of the vote.

**Speaker:** Yes. Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. Uh, I strongly support this strategy, and I would like to say thanks again. I vote yea. Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yes. Um I think we all know that government services must persist. Uh, well, after the storm ends and the storm isn't over for us until we. Until we finish that job. I know we're experiencing that a lot with trees and parks and with our small businesses who were, um, having a lot of economic deprivation. Um, added on because of the storm. So I'm grateful that you two came together and, uh, put this together. I do hope that we can improve our customer service for our prosper



to respond to that need. I vote yea gonzales, I want to thank commissioner Rubio as well as for your dexterity there.

**Speaker:** I think our order got disrupted a little bit, but I'd just like to echo what you stated. We need to continue this absolutely vital program for so many of our local businesses. Loans are not a viable option. Grant programs like these are what is needed to aid businesses around our city, county, and state. I'm directing pbem, uh, to continue working with prosper staff and reaching out to county and state partners to see if they have additional funds to make sure we are doing everything we can to continue this crucial investment in our region and our small businesses. Thank you, pbem, and thank you, prosper Portland for your exceptional work on this project. I'm happy to vote. I on this resolution and look and look forward to looking at how the county and state can assist this program and expanding. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mapps.

**Speaker:** Um, I want to thank, uh, commissioner gonzales and commissioner Rubio for bringing this item forward. Um, I got to speak to my staff and maybe other staff. I wasn't aware this was going to be on the agenda today. Um so some communication has fallen down. I wish I had had more time to unpack what was happening here. I appreciate the understanding that we got, um, from amy. Um, and I trust my colleagues. I'm certainly aware of the challenges posed by that storm. Um, that is particularly true as an infrastructure person. So I'm going to vote. I i may want to circle back, uh, with my colleagues to learn more about how, especially the color of money on this one works. Thank you. Wheeler, I want to thank commissioner Rubio and commissioner gonzales for bringing this forward.

**Speaker:** I appreciate it. Uh, many of us have had the opportunity to meet with our regional sba administrator in the last week or so. Uh, I had the opportunity to meet

with him yesterday. Was what I learned was that this is not a problem. Unique to Portland, that small businesses is all around the country are continuing to struggle well beyond. And the time period where we thought the economy would return to some semblance of normalcy. It is certainly acute here. Uh, I had an opportunity last week to meet with some of our most successful restaurateurs who told me that the situation that they're experiencing is dire. Even some of the restaurant that are packed every single day due to the economic forces, inflation, lease costs and the like. And so this sort of support continues to be necessary if we believe that small businesses are critical to the future success of this city and being reminded that 80% of the people in this city are employed by small businesses, this underscores the critical nature of this resolution. I am very appreciative, again, to my colleagues for bringing it forward. I support it, I vote I and the resolution is adopted. All right, without further ado, thank you for everyone here who has been so patient regarding item 187. A very important proclamation. Proclaim. February 2024 to be art and black history. Keelan there's been a can we take a three minute break? There's I'm sorry and that that goes for everyone in the audience. Um, we'll take a three minute break. We're in recess for three minutes. Switch there. There it is. Um, item 187, please. A proclamation proclaim.

**Speaker:** February 2024 to be art and black history month colleagues.

**Speaker:** Good morning again. This month we have the honor of recognizing black history month in the city of Portland. Black history month gives us an opportunity to recognize and uplift the very significant and important contributions of black Americans and all that they have done through our society throughout the history of this country. This month gives us time to recognize the black leaders who led social movements, often risking their lives in the name of justice and equality. It's also time to reflect on the countless barriers faced by black Americans, especially in

Portland and in Oregon, where discriminatory policies stood for decades. We must use this unjust history to strengthen our collective understanding and to create a better future for us all. I also want to thank and welcome those of you from our community who've joined us today to recognize this important proclamation. And with that, I'll turn this over to commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Uh, thank you very much, Mr. Mayor.

**Speaker:** Colleagues, I'm delighted to join you in proclaiming February to be Black History Month here in Portland, Oregon. We have a packed agenda this morning, so I'll keep my initial comments brief. Uh, my job right now is to provide everyone with a quick run of show for this morning's presentation. Um, after my overview of today's, uh, run of show, I'll hand the floor over to commissioner Ryan, who will provide more context on today's proclamation. I believe commissioner Ryan will then conclude by handing the mic off to, uh, Courtney Capri, who will lead us in song, and then we will hear from a distinguished panel of community members who will address council on themes related to Black History Month. And after those presentations, members of council will have an opportunity to share their comments on today's presentation. And then I will read most of the proclamation. Uh, but of course, the mayor will read the final paragraph, which is traditional, and then I hope that council can take a brief recess so we can take a photograph with our guests, uh, and with that, uh, commissioner Ryan, I will hand the floor over to you. Okay

**Speaker:** Thank you, commissioner Mapps. And how wonderful to have so many people in the audience that I just happen to know. And I'm excited to hear your voices and actually, not mine. And you know, I want to mix this up a little bit. I think, um, we need to be grounded in song. So, um, could we start with, uh, Courtney

coming up and leading us in song? All right. And I think some of us, even have the words, although. Turn your microphone. I'll turn my microphone off. But thank you.

**Speaker:** You don't want to hear me singing.

**Speaker:** I don't want to hear you singing. Actually, I do hear you singing. That'd be fine. It's not.

**Speaker:** I voted for you.

**Speaker:** Oh, thank you so much.

**Speaker:** I appreciate your accountability. Uh I heard that there was a lack of time, so I'm just going to do the first verse. I'm glad we have the sheet here. I encourage you to take this home and read these words. It's very, very, very important. So here we go. You can stand.

**Speaker:** Lift every evil place and sing to earth and hell.

**Speaker:** Heaven and ring, ring with the whole harmony. Oh lovely to meet. Let all we rejoice. Sing from heights high. As they pass me skies. Let it resound loud as those living sea. On the cloudless day. Oh lord. Full of the holy. Have your presence warm. Us we sing. Are eyes. We see. Shine of holly day. Be gone with us. More on till the glory. He is one. Are i? Hi. Thank you so much for I'm having a senior policy advisor for karen jones.

**Speaker:** Before I do that, say, it's so wonderful that we're going to concentrate on art today and it will be great to have the guests come up and tell their stories. Take it away, darian.

**Speaker:** Yeah. Thank you. Uh, commissioners council, uh, my name is darian jones. I'm the senior policy director of arts, culture and equity for the city. And today I'm excited to welcome some of our distinguished guests here to speak a little bit about their experience as black artists and black Oregonian in support of the proclamation this month. So first, i'll have intissar beardo come up to the dais. Uh

intissar is a Portland based artist and curator of the black artists of Oregon exhibit. Welcome. Um, this is so special.

**Speaker:** Um. Thank you to everyone here. And I always want to, um, acknowledge everybody in the room. And also, you know, when we're thinking about african and, and black, african and diasporic practices, we're also thinking about the people before us, the ancestors who have been here, who are still here with us, behind us, alongside us. Um, and I think for me, black art, you know, I'm coming from a black arts family based in tennessee, based in memphis. My mom, um, um, my mom, midnight ibeto is my cosmic muse. Um, my baba akpabio, who is an arts educator for, you know, and we're coming from from a family of black artists, black educators, black activists, and, and black practicing rs of life and liberation are everywhere. And so being here in Portland, um, it can't help but be about art. It can't help but be about liberation. It can't help but be about community. So I'm so excited, uh, to be able to be a part of celebrating in community with, with and alongside community black arts practices of caretaking for black life. And so, you know, with black artists of Oregon, um, black people have wherever black people are, we are artists. We are artful, we're artful in our living and we're artful in our craft. And I just I don't have a lot of words to say. I know there's a whole exhibit that people can go look at and after the exhibit to know that this is not, well, black artists of Oregon at the Portland art museum, and that's coming from black arts elders and black youth. And I just want people to go see it. But to understand that that is not the end when this show closes, that it's a beginning and we will respect black artists, we will respect arts workers, we will respect arts community, their influence, their their education, their dedication, and that we will be represented in every place that's about us. So this is for us. This is for us, this is for us.

**Speaker:** Awesome. Thank you. Antifa. That was really beautiful. And next i'll have rupert kinnard come up, who is a Portland based artist and work is also in the exhibit that's going on right now. Welcome

**Speaker:** Good morning. I'm very honored to be here and one of the main things i, I would want to convey is that I so appreciate the city of Portland in acknowledging the work that, um, is theater has done and satire has done with this exhibit at the Oregon art museum. Um, I just really want to be really clear and share some something that I've said to intisar a number of times, which has to do with with my being included as a part of the exhibit, as a cartoon artist. And what that speaks to for me is that she was really, really dedicated to making sure that that exhibit covered every form of art. And one of the other things I was able to, um, she was also responsible for was my designing the children's activity guide for the exhibit kit. And I mentioned that because as. Because every time I've gone to the museum and I've seen young people interact with that exhibit, it has so lifted my heart. And so just any acknowledged moment of the work that she's done on that exhibit, um, at one point she invited me to be a part of the show, and she came by my home and we choose we chose some, um, images for the exhibit and I kind of lost track of what was going on. And the day that the exhibit opened and I went into the art museum, I was blown away by the sheer scope of what she was able to pull together. And so in any, any of the work that she's done, I'm just absolutely grateful for it. So um, thank you. Thank you for allowing me to be here and say a few words. Thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Next, we'll have grace cook anderson come up. Who's here in place of john goodwin? Uh, as she's the curator of the northwest art at the Portland art museum. Grace instead, all right, I know there's been a few shifting schedules today. Grace is home with a cold, so I am filling in for the Portland art museum.

**Speaker:** I'm stephanie parrish. I am the director of learning and community partnerships, and it is a just, pure joy to be here today to honor into abierto. Into our I think we work together for about a decade ago, um, I invited intizar to do an artist talk at the museum and it opened up this amazing portal to what you are seeing today. The black artists of Oregon exhibition. And it's just been an incredible honor to work with you in every way, shape and form. I don't want to cry here. Um, but your passion, your, um, intentionality, everything you bring to all of your work, to the people you bring around you, and just the joy. The pure joy. So I encourage each and every one of you on this council to walk through those doors at the Portland art museum. We are free next Thursday, all day from 10 to 8 p.m. Last month I think we had 4000 people come to the museum. All shapes and sizes and walks of life and intizar will probably be there to greet you. I'll be there to greet you and you'll have a great time. Um, so please, please tell everyone, come one, come all, and let's just celebrate this amazing exhibition and this amazing curator. Thanks, intizar. Thank you.

**Speaker:** We have two more invited guests today. Uh, the next is alex jareb, who's from the seoul district. He's here on behalf of the director, john Washington. Thank you. Alex.

**Speaker:** Hello, everyone. My name is alex gebreab. I'm the business navigator for the seoul district business association, a nearly 50 year organization. Um, that is, uh, in the north northeast business. Uh district. Uh, today I'm here on behalf of, uh, john Washington, who couldn't make it as he is attending a ceremony for, uh, the, uh, housing, uh, project that they're partnering up with, uh, pci. Uh, so on behalf of john Washington, ladies and gentlemen, uh, distinguished guests and fellow advocates for black history month, I stand before you today as john Washington, the executive director of the seoul district business association and the ceo of

blossom media. It is an honor to be here speaking at this momentous event led by commissioner mingus Mapps. Black history month is a time for us to reflect on the remarkable contributions and achievements of black individuals throughout history. It is a time to celebrate our resilience, our strength, and our unwavering commitment to progress. Today, I want to share with you a message that is unacknowledged black, and it is in its tone, but also serves as an inspiration and motivation and an educational reminder for us all. For several years now, uh, floss and magazine, I have made a priority to commission black artists to create our magazine covers. Why why? Because I believe in the power of represent asian. I believe that when we showcase the talents and creativity of black artists, we not only uplift their voices, but also inspire our generations to come. We reclaim. We are reclaiming our narrative, one cover at a time. And my role as executive director of the seoul district business association, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of artistic expression and community engagement on our district's identity and the small businesses within it. Through various art installations and events, we have created a vibrant and inviting atmosphere that attracts visitors and supports, uh, local businesses. Imagine strolling through the streets of seoul district, surrounded by vibrant murals that tell the stories of our heritage and showcase our collective journey. These murals serve as a visual representation of our community's strength and resilience. They become. They become landmarks that draw people from all, all walks of life to explore and experience the distinct character of our district. As visitors, as visitors immerse themselves in the spirit of the seoul district, they are naturally drawn to the local businesses that embody the essence of our culture. From restaurants offering authentic flavors of our cuisine to boutiques showcasing the craftsmanship of local artisans, our small businesses thrive with the increased foot traffic and exposure



generated by the artistic energy of the district. Moreover the art and cultural expressions within our district foster a sense of pride and ownership amongst residents when we see our stories represented through various art forms, it instills a deep sense of belonging and connection. The pride translates to, uh, unwavering support for small businesses within the district as residents become ambassadors, spreading the word about the unique experiences that await in our community. I want to take a moment to highlight two pieces showcased in the seoul district. In particular, that have resonated deeply with with me. Still, I rise by renowned artist. Uh arvie smith. And still here by sharita towne. These powerful, these powerful works of art and encapsulates the struggles and triumphs of our ancestors and serves as a reminder of the strength and resilience that runs through our veins. They are a testament to the indomitable spirit of the black community and a call to action for us to continue the fight for justice and equality. In closing, I want to express my gratitude to commissioner mingus Mapps for providing us with this platform to amplify our voices and share our stories. Commissioner dan Ryan dan Ryan for prioritizing peacemaking as part of the economic narrative. Let us seize this moment to come together, to uplift one another and forge a brighter future for us all together, we can harness the power of artistic expression and community engagement to shape the identity of the seoul district and empower our small businesses to thrive. Thank you and may we continue to March forward with pride, purpose and unwavering determination that knowing that our collective efforts will bring positive change to our beloved city of Portland. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you for reading that, alex.

**Speaker:** On behalf of john Washington. And our final guest is online today. I see marissa is here. Morris rahming is the owner and founder of o'neill construction. Uh, welcome. Morris

**Speaker:** Welcome. Thank you. Thank you for having me. Uh, mayor, commissioners. Uh, my name is morris rahming. I'm the owner of o'neill construction group. Howard jacobs, masonry and o'neill electric. One of the things that I want to say is that, you know, there is a lot of people that came before me, but I did want to share my story to give just grounding on the work that you all do. Um, many of you know that I am from single mom, from a let's just say we I know what food stamps look like. I know what poverty looks like, and construction was a pathway out of poverty for myself. Um, and so by being able to get into a pre-apprenticeship program and they get into an apprenticeship program, become a journeyman, and then become a contractor, that was my pathway. Um, currently, o'neill construction group has been in business for over 25 years. It's a company that me and my wife founded. We have over 150 employees. Um between electricians, carpenters, masons, laborers and extremely diverse team, um, and, you know, we're, we're a proud union company as well. So we are signatory with a lot. We work with them to increase diversity in the industry. Um, and so what we do today matters. I know that the city adopted community benefits agreements. Uh regional workforce agreements that actually help with metro to look at regional approaches to have more inclusion of black owned businesses as black workers on the job site, and making sure that we're paid a fair wage for that work. Um, so it's not just about the contractors, it's about the workers. Right? Because we need to create these pathways. We need to create these new opportunities for people. Um, I look at, um, basically the wastewater treatment plant that we worked on, bull run, all these opportunities to create a more vibrant city. You all done right? There's still a lot of work to be done. You know, whether it's bonding, whether it's value added resellers. There's barriers that we collectively need to work together to work through. Right but I want to just thank you all for actually doing this. What you're

doing is you're creating more opportunities for black people to be able to participate. Black businesses is to be able to participate on city work. 25 years ago, it was just a goal of percentage and no one disaggregate did anything. Today you guys are doing that work. I am very humbled and very proud of the work that you all are doing and continue to do, and I just thank you for this opportunity to speak today as a business owner, as a black owned business owner, I don't just speak for my company. There are a number of companies, whether pacific market based, and I could go on that are black owned business or that are northwest infrastructure that are succeeding and excelling because of the work that you guys, the legislation, the rules that you guys are passing in order to make sure that we have the opportunity to participate. Thank you for that. Um and i'll i'll stop there. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, mayor, that concludes invited testimony.

**Speaker:** Very good council comments before the proclamation. Commissioner Gonzalez, I just want to I want to thank, uh, you for the opportunity to join in the celebration of black history month and the arts of black artists around the state of Oregon.

**Speaker:** This is truly necessary, not just for the education, but for the understanding and acknowledging the hard but important work that black artists have done and continue to do here in Oregon. This month and year. Let's continue to celebrate art and black history month, not just in words, but with our actions. By supporting local black artists and businesses, art that has contributed to making the state vibrant in spite of historic exclusionary laws and discrimination towards its longtime residents. Making sure our black artists are being supported with resources to help them expand their reach, not just in the state, but nationally and internationally. For all the hard work ahead of us that's required to restore Portland's safety and livability, we need to engage with black voices in

neighborhoods, churches and businesses and to be responsive to their concerns as a city. And then let's do it again in March, April and May, uh, every month. Because this can't be just a one time deal. But a permanent part of who we are as a city and people. We celebrate the contribution of African Americans who transform to this very day, this nation, despite what they have endured. I would like to thank all the artists, artists and creatives that turned out and made this presentation, not just possible, but inspiring. I know I'm looking forward to attending the Portland art museum's Black History Artists of Oregon exhibit before it ends. Thank you all for being here tonight. Today, it's not quite tonight, Commissioner Rubio.

**Speaker:** Um, thank you, Mayor Wheeler. And Commissioner Mapps and Ryan for bringing this important proclamation forward and, um, into sorry, I just love your energy and your heart. And I'm just going to quote you back to you right now because I read something that you that you wrote and I wanted to reference here, um, because it's so strong, um, as attacks on truthful tellings of Black history take place nationally, we know Black art history, be it Black art history is Black history, Black art history is not only a tool of education, but a tool to affirm and support Black life and living today. And that's very, very powerful for me to read and to hear. Um, because as we all know and everybody we say it all the time, but this month it shouldn't just be about this month, it should be every month. Uh, we need to acknowledge that that long standing story and those impacts and racist policies and systems, how they've had how they're bearing out into what what is happening today. Um, and it also speaks to the history and the voice and the stories that have been attempted to be erased from our collective history, but have not been successful in being erased. And we also see the Black joy and liberation and strength as well as you. You referenced, um, and so in the exhibits, um, if people have not gone, I would strongly encourage you to go. And I truly believe that if you

love this city, if you love Portland and you care about our collective future, it's important to go there because it is the nourishment and the truth that our hearts and souls need right now and as our as an art, we need to be recognizing black contributions and economic development and advocacy. Nonprofits, education and leadership, and the history of our elected leadership in this city. Despite these barriers and these challenges, um, it's essential for us as a as a healthy community to recognize us, um, recognize these things because when black families strives and black community thrives, Portland thrives. So I just wanted to thank courtney for singing the song, leading us in song and thanks to each of you who have have commented and who show up despite the challenges of living in this city and thriving in the city, you are here today and that honors us and that honors our city. So more than ever, we need these illuminating moments and stories. Um, so thank you for shining so brightly. Well I want to thank our guests and thank you so much for being here.

**Speaker:** Rupert, it's good to see you. Um, I can't remember who was here from, uh, Portland art museum. That's you. You're not grace, though. Stephanie.

Stephanie all right. Thank you for being here. I love the connection between the two of you up here. And alex and maurice rahming. I want to also thank courtney capri. One of my better moments was to not lead this, but to have you come up and set the right tone for this very special item. Thank you so much, courtney. I also want to recognize the city staff, particularly you, darien jones, for making sure that we really steward this process and that we really included the right voices today. And it was definitely a powerful storyteller. And these are moments that we need and desire at the dais, at City Council meetings. Uh, last year I was fortunate to go to the black artist of Oregon exhibit a few times. One was when a lot of people were there quite frankly, I didn't see as much as I'd like. I went back by myself and with two other

people, and it was really moving and so moved that we turned it into our holiday party. Right? Yeah so our staff had our beginning of our holiday party there and it was profound. It put us in a really different place and when you're doing public service work, i'll speak for myself. I think some could share this. We it's a very noisy, aggressive, very petty, um, sector at times. Um, a lot of misinformation, passion, not enough direct, authentic communication. And so our skin has to become hard to survive. But it's so important that we take time to keep our hearts soft so that we can compassionately lead. And art does that for me. And that exhibit in particular came at such the right time. So thank you so much for the healing. Um, and inspiration that that exhibit provides. I went way off script where I'm like, um, so basically from arts and culture to science and technology to activism and leadership, black Americans have made a lasting impact on society with so many deep, deep obstacles. And like maurice rodney mentioned, um, he's building generational wealth. He's coming from that single mom to building a company and thriving and that is such a great story. So it was wonderful to end with maurice telling his story. I always go to I go to authors. James baldwin, um, he once said all art is a kind of confession, more or less oblique. All artists, if they are to survive, are forced at at last to tell the whole story, to vomit the anguish up black history, which goes beyond February, is an opportunity to celebrate the stories of black Americans. Please go read a book, go to a play, watch a movie and go see the brilliant exhibit that's currently at the art museum and build that perspective. I'm humbled to support this proclamation. Thanks.

**Speaker:** Thank you. With that, i'll turn it over to commissioner Mapps to read almost all of the proclamation.

**Speaker:** Uh, thank you very much. And uh, before I read the proclamation, I do want to, uh, number one, thank our guests for, uh, offering their thoughts and song

today. I want to thank everyone for being, um, uh, in the crowd and online for watching us. I want to thank my colleagues for their comments. Um, and I frankly, I was going to avoid giving, um, a speech here because I know you all have been patient, but I do since we're friends. I did want to kind of share a little bit of a journey I've been on as we've been preparing for, um, today's presentation. Uh, those who know me know that I am historically minded, uh, and that very much motivates who I am and why I do what I do. Um and I have been thinking about today's proclamation often. Uh, one of the things, one of the questions that has been rolling around my head was, um, were my. Great grandmother's. Parents, slaves? Uh, those of you who know me or have been watching council, um, proceedings for a couple of years have probably heard me talk about my great grandmother. She lived to a ripe old age. Uh, well, more than 100 years old, so I got to know her a little bit as a young man. And, uh, I've talked to her. I've talked about her in this room. Big mama. Uh, and when you hear me talk about big mama, I'm usually tell a story about how I would go and visit her in Texas and some of my most vivid memories about big mama was that she had guns everywhere. Uh, she had guns. Guns? I'm not joking. She had guns in her cookie jar. She had guns under the bed. She had guns in the closet. Um and the reason why she had guns? Uh, because she lived at a time. And in a place where the klan might show up and would show up. Um and I so, so in order to. And I kind of remember and frankly, I do remember her kind of talking about people in her life, uh, who were slaves, which is kind of a remarkable human chain to think that I know someone one in fact, my someone who's during close to my to me, someone who made me possible and I had conversations with and went fishing with and cooked with, um, and she had a lived experience of slavery. And so, uh, um, the question I kind of have been wondering and trying to remember, if I remember correctly, is where her parents lives. And so

that resulted in a mingus Mapps family sort of text chain, as we're kind of, uh, hunting down that question. And the answer to the question of whether or not her parents were slaves, um, basically boils down to one. When do you think emancipation came to texas, which actually is a complex historical story, and we won't get it or, uh, well, texas is also quite interested. Uh, um, uh, and actually, I'm glad you brought up, uh, um, Oregon because that's the other when I think about that story, um, another sort of personal history story, I think about is my grandfather. I think some of you have heard me talk about my grandfather here in this room, too. Uh, during world war two, my grandfather was in the army, and on occasion, he would come up to Portland, um, on r&r. And in Portland, um, during that time, even when you were in a military uniform, he could not get served at restaurants except for chinese restaurants. Um and then you flash forward a generation or two and you get to me, um, who has the unique distinction of being the fourth african American to serve on this council? Um, i'll let all of you ponder the moral meaning of that trajectory. Um, I think it does support the work of martin luther king, who said that, you know, I'm going to paraphrase here, but the arc of history is long, but it bends towards justice. That's been my experience, too. Um, I'm aware that we are all here for just a very short time, and the reasons why we are here has a lot to do with the people who got us here, and also the people who will come after us. And so that is, um, some of the things I'm thinking about, um, this afternoon as we come to celebrate this important event. And with that, I have the great honor of reading this proclamation. And it goes like this. Whereas the city of Portland stands united in commemorating black history month this February, joining the nation and honoring the rich legacy and contributions of the black community in Oregon. And whereas us, as the city embrace the 20 2024 black history month theme, black Oregonians and the arts, and whereas, as the city of



Portland celebrates and recognizes Oregon's black artists and black arts communities, Portland based artist intisar abierto and the Portland art museum for their collaboration on the black artist of Oregon exhibition, which spans the 1880s to the present day and showcases black Oregonians artistic heritage and provides a distinctive historical and educational journey in Portland. And whereas the black artist of Oregon exhibit has illuminated a broad spectrum of black artistry to thousands in Portland and beyond, featuring works from 69 artists and more than 200 objects can featuring the unique experiences of the black diaspora and the pacific northwest, highlighting the lasting legacy and impact of black artists in Oregon and the arts and whereas intisar abierto, both as a photographer and the curator of the historic black artist of Oregon exhibit at the Portland art museum has significantly enriched Portland's arts community. Beginning her journey with the black Portlanders blog, which transformed into gallery installations vividly showcasing the diversity within Portland's black community. And whereas, as abiertos dedication to highlighting the beauty of black people against the backdrop of the city's history of displacement and gentrification led to a unique collaboration with the Portland art museum. And whereas black artists of Oregon is a testament to the many individual black artists elders who made the exhibition possible through their work over the decades, forming the foundation of the showcase and highlighting the enduring legacy and impact of black artistry. And whereas black artists have used art to preserve history and community memory, as well as create a shared narrative and understanding. And whereas Portland parks and recreation's interstate firehouse cultural center was founded in 1982 and applaud that by Portland's first african American elected official, commissioner charles jordan and has served as our cultural home for the black community in north and northeast Portland. The ifcc has recently hosted a residence program for black

artists and arts performances. As works continues on a feasibility study to guide the future of the center. And whereas the city of Portland acknowledges the innovative spirit of black Americans nationally who have thrived amidst systemic adversities and whose resilience continues to shape the civil rights movements and pursuit of social justice and equity and whereas we recognize the profound influence of the black voice, unwavering in its pursuit of justice and equality, we crafting a narrative of strength and empowerment and whereas the city is committed to supporting the achieved its successes and contributions of black Portlanders and embraced as the essence of black history.

**Speaker:** Now, therefore, i, ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland, Oregon, the city of roses, do hereby proclaim February 20th, 24 to be art and black history month in Portland and encourage all residents to celebrate this month. Thank you everybody.

**Speaker:** Mr. Mayor, could we take a recess and do a photo?

**Speaker:** Ah.

**Speaker:** In fact. Adjourned. All right. And we can do a photo right out front.

## **Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File**

**February 28, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.**

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

**Speaker:** Keelan. Good afternoon. Please call the roll.

**Speaker:** Good afternoon. Yea. Rubio. Ryan Gonzales here. Maps. Here Wheeler here.

**Speaker:** Now we'll hear from legal counsel on the rules of order and decorum. Good afternoon.

**Speaker:** Good afternoon. 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](https://portland.gov/council/agenda) info session 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 refuse 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 wants 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 to 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.

**Speaker:** Thank you, thank you. Item 193 is a resolution.

**Speaker:** Authorize a non-binding term sheet with Rip City Management, LLC and Trail Blazers Incorporate for Rose Quarter operating and lease agreements.

**Speaker:** Colleagues, today, we're considering a resolution to approve the general terms of a new agreement with Rip City Management and the Portland Trail Blazers. This agreement will keep the team playing home games in the Moda Center until at least 2030. This is the first step in the process. I will also direct the office of management and finance to move forward with the due diligence necessary to complete a bridge agreement. Within the bridge agreement, we're considering today the city's goals would be to subsequently develop and agree to another mutually beneficial long-term agreement that would support the success of the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland for decades to come. The existing 30-year terms of the original agreements that led to the construction of the Moda Center expires in 2025, six additional commitments and extending the successful public-private partnership at the Rose Quarter is of utmost importance, and I've been closely tracking this issue for well over a year. The economic, social and cultural impact of the Portland Trail Blazers and the Rose Quarter to the city of Portland are metropolitan region and indeed the entire state of Oregon cannot be overstated, noted the Rose Quarter campus generates an estimated 600 million in annual economic impact each and every year, and most of this activity is directly linked to the activities of the NBA franchise managed by Rip City Management and led by the activities of the Portland Trail Blazers. The Rose Quarter supports close to 6000 jobs and hosts hundreds of events every year, attracting approximately 1.7 million people to Portland's central city. These are extremely impactful numbers, critical to

the economic and cultural vitality of our city. I'm pleased with the work of our chief administrative officer, Michael Jordan, and his team and what they have done to get us to this point, and I'm very happy to see the results of their hard work presented today. So with this, I'll turn this over to Michael to present the resolution and then make the introductions of our esteemed guests.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and members of the council for the record, my name is Mike Jordan. I'm the chief administrative officer for the city. And thank you for having us here today. The resolution before you approves a non-binding terms sheet between the city and the Portland Trail Blazers. The terms sheet attached to the resolution as exhibit A lays out the framework for a new set of agreements to be drafted in the coming months. That will allow Rip City management to continue operating Rose Quarter, including the Moda Center and the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, through 2030, with an option to extend to 2035. The terms sheet is the product of roughly a year of regular conversations and meetings between the city and representatives of the team, and the ownership. The city and team agreed early on that both parties would like to see a long-term agreement that included provisions allowing for major renovation of the Moda Center. However, a few months ago it became clear that the long-term agreement both parties desired could include additional partners and additional funding sources beyond those in the city's immediate control, which were unlikely to be secured on the timeline of the current agreement. So this bridge agreement emerged as a mutually beneficial solution. It extends the team's commitment to Portland and to the Moda Center until at least 2030, provides for meaningful investment into the arena and, perhaps most importantly, allows time for the city and the team to seek additional partners in a major renovation project and a long-term deal. It's important to remember that today's resolution is only the first

formal step in putting this agreement together with the City Council and rip city management's approval of the terms sheet starts off essentially received the green light to start on a great deal of technical and legal work to pull the necessary documents together for consideration and approval by the council later this summer, with that, I want to turn to the floor over to Carlisle to give a brief overview of the terms and the deal, and I want to take this opportunity also to thank Carl for, um, he's the one who's done most of the heavy lifting so far. Um I'm a window dressing at meetings, and he does most of the work. Uh, and so I just want to shout out to Carl. Thanks, Carl. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Michael. Uh, yes. Good afternoon, mayors and commissioners. Um, I'm Carlisle, a spectator. Venues program manager with the office of management and finance. Um, so I would like to provide, uh, just a brief overview of the key deal points in the terms sheet that's included as exhibit a. Um, we also have members of our legal team available here. If there happen to be any technical questions of that nature. Um, as you've heard this bridge agreement would be finalized in summer 2024 and would extend the Trail Blazers commitment to play in Portland through October 11th, 2030. The Trail Blazers would have the option for an additional five year extension through October 11th of 2035. Uh Modus Center ownership would be transferred to the city sub um, subject to the city conducting due diligence on the condition of the arena. Um, it's worth noting that the eventuality of this ownership transfer of the arena at the end of the original terms was contemplated in the original 1995 arena ground lease. I would also note that public ownership of similar facilities is common, and an important step to allowing public investment into the building. As a reminder, the city already owns Providence Park stadium and the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and both are operated by private enterprises on the city's behalf. The city would continue to have full responsibility for operating

moda center and the veterans memorial coliseum, and funding and completing moda center capital repair, maintenance, and improvement projects, and maintaining the arena in a first class manner. Rip city and the city would agree on a five year plan for specific capital projects to be implemented at the arena for the annual city contract to the arena capital projects would be capped at the amount of city revenues generated by trail blazers home games during the prior fiscal year. The city um contribution would. Also be matched by rip city management. Thus, the city is obligated to contribute no more than 50% of the actual expenditures by rip city on arena capital projects. This arrangement provides the city a high level of certainty of having sufficient funds to meet the obligations in any given year. Uh. In addition, the city would continue to receive revenues from non trail blazers events at the rose quarter to demonstrate the team's owner, the team ownership commitment to reaching a long terme extension. Even if the moda center ceases to be the nba home of the trail blazers, the city would be repaid for its investment in capital projects during the bridge agreement terms the city and rip city would continue to discuss potential. Redevelopment options for the rose corridor as part of a long terme agreement, and the potential to utilize tax increment financing as a tool to support such redevelopment. Rip city would prepare a signage plan intended to activate the rose quarter, subject to approval of the city sign. Simultaneously with transfer of moda center ownership, the city would acquire for fair market value, the cozy property, a parcel of land that sits under a portion of the moda center that is owned by rip city. This acquisition was also contemplated in the original 1995 arena ground lease, and that document contains procedures for establishing the appropriate price of the property. You will note that these terms do involve some additional financial commitments from the city. Uh, most notably, the purchase price of the cozy property and the new annual contribution to capital

projects at the moda center. As you know, the city meets all financial obligations related to providence park stadium and the rose quarter arenas, uh, with resources from the spectator venues and visitor activities fund. This fund receives resources from ticket user fees on all events. At the stadium. Veterans memorial coliseum and moda center, as well as parking fees from event patrons, parking in the city owned rose quarter garages. It also receives a small annual allocation from the visitor facility trust account, which is funded by a portion of vehicle rental fees and transient lodging taxes. Within the city of Portland. We're confident that even with these new obligations, there are sufficient resources in the spectator venues and visitor activities fund to meet all existing obligations during the terms of the bridge agreement. While still maintaining adequate reserves for use in case of unexpected. Circumstances uh, with that overview, i'll now turn it over to dwayne hankins, president of business operations with the Portland trail blazers and rip city management. For the team perspective.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Carl. Uh thank you, mr. Mayor. Thank you. Commissioners appreciate your time. As carl said, my name is dwayne hankins. I serve as president of business operations for the trail blazers and rip city management, among other responsibilities. In this role, I oversee the trail blazers facilities, including the moda center, the current moda center lease between rip city management and the city of Portland expires next year. And I'm here to support the short terme or bridge agreement that will give the blazers and the city, as well as other stakeholders, more time to pursue a comprehensive of long terme lease to keep the blazers in Portland for years to come. Trail blazers are a unified force, bringing civic pride and identity to the region and state, and contributing to local charities and important causes that make the team indispensable to the community. In fact, professional sports was rated as the top amenity in Portland in a recent survey administered by



governor kotek, central city task force a task force I'm honored to serve on moda center and the blazers are vital to Portland's recovery, attracting nearly 1.5 million visitors to sports and community events each year. Moda center, including the visitors it attracts and the blazers, generates \$600 million in annual regional economic activity and support countless jobs at the local and state levels. As Oregon's largest gathering place approaches 30 years of age, a significant investment in moda center is needed. It is the oldest nba arena to not have undergone a significant renovation, and a market rate public private partnership is crucial to secure the team's future in Portland and create a foundation of championship ready infrastructure, public private partnerships are standard in the industry and have been, excuse me, utilized repeatedly to successfully build and renovate dozens of arenas around the country and revitalize communities. Why is a bridge extension important? It provides all of us more time and the opportunity to develop this long terme public private partnership. The investment would improve and extend the useful life of this unique community asset and maintain its competitive position in the nba and as a venue for concerts, family shows and other events in the pacific northwest. In addition, a successful renovation would be central to revitalizing the rose quarter and surrounding area into a vibrant, transformational destination that will create more jobs and tax revenue. Accessible spaces and would support efforts to restore the black community unjustly uprooted decades ago. A renovated arena at the center of a reimaged neighborhood would foster economic development, civic pride and a positive outcome for the community and Oregonians not just on days when there are events at the rose quarter. Because our goal is to create a thriving area 365 days a year, the city and the blazers have jointly reached the conclusion that more time is needed to structure a comprehensive, long terme lease extension and as such,

we've agreed that the bridge extension is a critical first step and provides the opportunity to pursue this long term agreement that would keep the trail blazers in Portland for years to come. And finally, I also want to thank you guys on the city team for your collaboration over the past several months, and I look forward to our continued work ahead with that. I urge you to adopt the resolution. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Is that the end of the presentation?

**Speaker:** I guess so, yes. All right. Very good.

**Speaker:** Council questions then. All right. I want to jump in. First of all, just with, uh, applause. Uh, to all of you, uh, I want to thank you, Carl, for, uh, really taking this up on behalf of the city. Uh, Dwayne Hankins has been an excellent partner and has done an exceptional job in his role as president of business operations to ensure that we continue to have open communications, solid collaboration, that we work through some, frankly, very challenging circumstances. Uh, with the passing of Mr. Allen, the owner of the Portland Trail Blazers and, and other issues just related specifically to the city of Portland. And I feel you've done an outstanding job of navigating those challenges and have looked with us towards a positive path forward. And it didn't have to be that way. From your perspective. But you made it that way. And I really want to acknowledge that. So uh, thank you all. Uh, if there are no further questions, I'll just ask at this point, if we have any public testimony on this item, we have one person signed up. All right. Good. This this could be quick and to the point.

**Speaker:** Joe Alford. Hardesty

**Speaker:** And if I may, I feel more comfortable.

**Speaker:** That's fine if you prefer to stand, but please, just state your name into the microphone for the record. And if you could just pull it as close as possible so people on TV can hear you. Thank you sir.

**Speaker:** Uh, yeah. Hi. Hi my name is joe alfon. A l f o n e. Uh, I'm from new orleans. I've lived here for two years now. Uh, as an english teacher in china, russia and south korea for a number of years, I've lived all over the country. I've been to many world cities and traveled extensively. Um, but yes, I'm a Portland resident and I have something I'd like to say regarding this issue.

**Speaker:** Great. Okay, great.

**Speaker:** We're in the right place.

**Speaker:** Uh, do I have to speak into the microphone?

**Speaker:** It's helpful just because there's people on who can't access us in person, so they listen.

**Speaker:** Oh, that's better, that's fine.

**Speaker:** It's. Yeah, it's working.

**Speaker:** Yeah. Great.

**Speaker:** Good. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Um, so anyway, uh, yeah, I'm an hourly worker at the at the motor center. Although my concerns are probably, um, beneath your pay grade. Um, I'm still here to, uh, express, um, sentiments that I have, um, regarding, uh, my thoughts on the extension of the lease, the five year lease of the motor center. Um, I provided, um, two documents here. Uh, one of them, which is a statement that I'm going to quickly read today. Um and I know ellen got three minutes here, but, um, if I may, um, that. Well, I'm already at two minutes. Okay, let me just read my document. Okay, great. Um. And you can also submit it for the record I have. Yeah I stand here today in opposition to giving away the keys of the city to an untalented money grubbing, nepotism baby running roughshod over the city of roses. I believe that the city is making the wrong decision and forcing new taxes upon the working class residents and families of Portland to essentially foot the bill for renovations

on the moda center and the rose quarter for the do nothing greedy whim of the nepotistic sibling of talented pioneer microsoft co-founder paul allen. She wishes to siphon off as much money as possible from his giving pledge wealth, commitment to philanthropic causes. This vote today is not a guarantee of keeping the trailblazers in this city. No, this is nothing more than giving rip city management a golden parachute to vacate the city after the resumption of a mere five year lease, the current city government are pawns, being manipulated by a nepotistic sibling that has proven her only wish and desire to increase her stake of billions of dollars. She inherited from her pioneering brothers. Hard work and talent. This agreement is shortsighted. There is no long term plan. It is not a 30 year agreement like that which was signed in 1995 to keep the trailblazers here for a generation. No, this is a money addiction. Power play by rip city management executives that have no allegiance whatsoever. To this city. As a concession stand worker attendant at the moda center, I have seen just how cold a greedy. And how inefficient the moda center and the veterans memorial coliseum are being run by corporatists that are disinterested in concerns for the community spirit sensibilities such as providing a timeline for the return of the korean war and world war ii memorials. My father was a korean war veteran, uh, healthy food and nutrition options, and the overall safety and well-being of the people that work there. I provided a recent ten point email, ten plus point email that esteemed vice president of hospitality strategy and moda center hr officials and I discussed yesterday during an hour long, empathetic, varying personalities, inclusive of community spirit, caring and nurturing, productive, genuine conversation. These are some of the real concerns of real working class people like myself, that are the backbone pillars of this city that cook the food, sweep. Mop the floors, provide security and hospitality. Ushers that keep the facility afloat i.e. Hourly wage workers that. Without us there is no moda center

or vmc, not vice versa. As out of touch city government officials and their millionaire and billionaire. Paymasters like jody allen and her cohorts that swindle the general public with their money grubbing lust for tainted greed. Money would have us all believe. Um, no, thank you. I ask you to vote no on this proposal and legislation. Um thank you, thank you, commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Uh, thanks. And transition.

**Speaker:** Um, I will leave these documents here, okay?

**Speaker:** Keelan. And she'll make sure we all get a copy. Great

**Speaker:** So great. Thank you for your time. And um, very nice to meet you, mr. Mayor and City Council. Thank you. Thanks okay.

**Speaker:** Um. Great presentation. Just have a couple questions and so this is the time to ask questions, right? Yeah

**Speaker:** Uh, maybe michael and carl and then, uh, if the rip city folks plays or folks need to come back up, we won't make you at this point unless you need to. I think you mentioned some of this, but I might have missed it.

**Speaker:** But I just want to hear what some of the points are that we have to cover between now and the next six months. Is that what I was told?

**Speaker:** Um, yeah.

**Speaker:** It's quite a lot of work. Okay. Um uh, the highlights, the highlights would, would be we, um, the existing legal documents need to be updated and, and, um, and reconfirmed and there's a, there's a set of somewhere between eight and 12 probably agreements that are, that are part of this sort of suite of rose quarter agreements, and they need to be gone through and updated to reflect this new arrangement. One of the things that does have to happen is the original ground lease will be transformed with the ownership transfer into more operating agreement, sort of more like what we have at the stadium and at the veterans more

coliseum. So most of the business points and terms will remain the same. But translating those documents into something that will work for this five year bridge, uh, deal is a fair amount of work for our legal team. Uh, in addition, we have some due diligence work to do on the arena itself. So we'll have a team of, you know, architects and engineers coming in to do an assessment. So everybody has, um, you know, a full understanding of the condition of the building and any challenges there might be there. Um, and we have some negotiation to do on various other business points as well.

**Speaker:** Now that's helpful. So, Carl, the additional parties that necessary that are necessary to meet with that require additional time, um, it's mostly legal. Or are there different parties besides. Oh uh, so I think I think if. I'm not mistaken, you're referring to you're referring to, um, in the terms of the long term deal.

**Speaker:** That's aspired, uh, bringing additional parties to the table there. I think we're really talking about the state and possibly other. Other. You know, entities as well.

**Speaker:** I just wanted, for the record here, some of those additional parties were not that it wasn't important to talk about the legal translation. Right

**Speaker:** Well, and so I guess, yeah, I misunderstood that. So the work that needs to happen before we can execute these, these documents for the bridge agreement is, is the legal work the long term agreement is starting. Those other conversations with other entities. Okay

**Speaker:** And that includes Albina Vision Trust.

**Speaker:** So, uh, Albina Vision Trust and the, the team management are in regular communications.

**Speaker:** I think if you want to ask a specific question of Dwayne, that that might be appropriate about that relationship, but they're one of the invested parties in

this dialog. They're in regular communication about all this. Yeah that's that's all all right.

**Speaker:** Very good. Any further questions, commissioner?

**Speaker:** Yeah, I have a couple of quick questions. Um just bottom line by passing this resolution today, um, how long can we be assured that the blazers are going to definitely be stay in town? Question

**Speaker:** I think that may be a question for the blazers.

**Speaker:** Yeah.

**Speaker:** The tough question actually, my next question I have two questions. By doing this we provide ourselves with security on both sides of the table that the blazers are going to be here. I think everyone at the room wants to make sure that the blazers are here for generations to come. And I want to make sure that this is part of what we're achieving by this resolution today. And the second question I want to ask is, and it's been referenced here, um, what's the relationship between the resolution we're passing today and this larger vision of reimagine and revitalizing, uh, the neighborhoods surrounding the moda center? Can we impact both of those two? Uh, just so people, especially people at home, can, um, track what we're doing?

**Speaker:** Yeah, absolutely. I think I can take that answer with to one answer to both of your questions, which is really this is the first step to what will be a long terme extension that will work on with with the city. And again, other key stakeholders. And so, you know, we realized we needed more time. And so the goal really is to get to work on that as soon as we're done with this document and start to build that out. And then as for the rose quarter as a whole, again, this was a really key first step. And, um, going to commissioner Ryan's comments, we share the vision with albina vision trust that I said earlier, which was we want that district,

that neighborhood to be a thriving place, 365 days a year. And so having the rose quarter and the moda center. At the center of that, with 1.5 million plus visitors a year, is really key to making that happen.

**Speaker:** Great. I love those answers. Uh, no more questions, mr. Mayor.

**Speaker:** Very good. Commissioner Ryan, I just forgot to put my hand down.

**Speaker:** All right.

**Speaker:** Very good. This is a resolution. Please call the roll yea. Rubio.

**Speaker:** Um, thank you for this presentation. And overall, I'm very supportive of this bridge agreement. For the last 30 years, we've been proud partners with one of the most significant, significant parts of our city, which is the Portland trail blazers. Um, we're very, very proud of this team and very happy to see the future that we're crafting together to make sure that we keep this team in our city. And with this agreement, we can be that bridge that allows us to work together towards that long terme agreement. I also want to give a special thanks to jody allen and the paul g. Allen foundation, not only for their continued investment in this team and the facilities, but for the support and commitment that they've demonstrated for this team and to blazers fans and for our city. And I also want to echo the mayor's comments and appreciate dwayne hankins for his exceedingly collaborative and steadfast partnership in reaching this agreement and for a vision that really centers community in creating an entertainment and community hub and really for aligning this vision with the albina trust vision as neighbors, that's really important. And. That really comes through. I also want to give a big thank you to carl and director jordan for your leadership and stewardship as well. Throughout this process. And finally, I want to appreciate also the broader team at moda, which is everybody who's behind the scenes, all the workers that come in day in and day out in the thousands, hundreds or maybe thousands, um, that make it successfully run, um,



every single day. So I'm very excited about what the future holds for blazers and for the rose quarter and our desire to make this a world class hub. So happy to vote. I, Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yes, um, this is a good day. I'm glad that we're here. Um, carl and I have had a few conversations. Uh, I think my colleagues know when I'm distracted. It's usually because I'm looking at a sports ball score. So I tend to be. I have six older brothers. Was the only way to survive. Um, so I'm a big sports ball fan. And first time I skipped school was in 1977. Um, to go to the championship parade and we all know that's what we really want. And and so, um, you know, this feels like what we have to do at this moment to hang in there. Um, and, and it was helpful to hear just a little bit more about the nuances. We had a good conversation. Was that yesterday? Thanks for coming into my office yesterday, dwayne. And, um, it seems like we we're doing the best we can with what we have at this moment. And we had we had dialog around when in fact, there could be a change of ownership because. Rest in peace. Paul allen has been over five years. I think that that's just the uncertainty that's out there. So um, it's not an elephant in the room. It's just a fact. And so I want to make sure that we had, um, something written that would allow that negotiation to take place without it being in the way. And so that was cleared up. And I just can't imagine living in my hometown without the trail blazers. Um it's been a real challenge for all of us to hang in there through four quarters of games. I almost don't want to see the alerts at half time anymore. Um sorry. That last night was one of those games, right? Yeah um, so we have to do everything we can to keep our beloved team here in Portland. It's, um. It's a big deal. I vote yea gonzales trail blazers have been central to our city's identity for decades.

**Speaker:** They contribute not only to our community spirit and social fabric, but to our local economy, generating 600 million annually and supporting 6000 jobs. They

are critical, critical part of both our city and the broader metropolitan region. The agreement ensures that moda center remains the home court for the trail blazers at least until 2030, and hopefully well beyond that, while also funding major renovations. There over the course of the next decade. It also affirms the commitment between the city and the team, not just to each other, but also to our collective future and recovery as a city. As we look to build our future as Portlanders together, I want to thank the mayor's team as well as the team at rip city management for all the time and efforts that went into this agreement, one that works to build for the long terme while the city looks to revitalize the area around the moda center and create a district that is accessible, dynamic and vibrant, I also want to thank blazers ownership for their commitment to the city of Portland. I vote I maps.

**Speaker:** Um, I'm delighted to support this resolution. Colleagues. Um, i, I believe that because the actions we take today are an important step towards keeping the blazers in Portland for generations to come. I am truly proud to play a very small role in making that happen. I'm also going to vote in favor of this resolution because I believe the actions we take today will be an important step towards reimagining and revitalizing the neighborhoods around the moda center. And so I'm very proud to, um, be play a small role in, uh, keeping that discussion going. And while i, um, I often, if not always agree with my good friend dan Ryan, I also I do want to push back a little bit. This is a great time to check out the blazers. Um, I will tell you, we have a young team. We have a fun team to watch. I will tell you, um, it is at this particular moment in time. It is frankly, more affordable to go to a blazers game than any time I can kind of remember. You can literally take your family to a blazers game for less than it cost to go to a movie. Um, I also really want to encourage you to take public transportation there. So if you take public

transportation into a blazer game, go watch, uh, get a couple of good tickets, uh, and a hot dog or two. Um, I did that very recently and had just a really wonderful time. So if you haven't been down to the moda center, uh, you should really check it out. And I would also say, you know, this is a rebuilding year, um, for our team, which actually is a fun time to watch these young kids kind of grow. And it will be even more exciting in years to come. So this is the best time ever to be a blazers fan. And I'm proud to be a blazers fan, and I'm proud to vote I on this resolution and I can't wait to see, uh, the exciting things that are going to happen in this space in the years to come. Wheeler, I can't top that.

**Speaker:** I mean, that's that's the best pr you can get. Dwayne. Yeah it didn't cost you anything, but, uh, commissioner, not me.

**Speaker:** Yeah, he's he's 100% right.

**Speaker:** I've. Odai. Thanks. Thanks for all your hard work. We really appreciate it. Resolution is adopted. Look forward to continuing to work hard together. Thank you. Thank you. Uh, so, colleagues, we're on a time certain schedule, but if I'm correct, we can still do the 4/5, can't we? That doesn't have a time certain attached, does it? No it doesn't. They're not. They're not here. Uh, yeah. Why don't we? Because otherwise we're just going to be cooling our heels for 28 minutes. Uh we'll take a recess.

**Speaker:** When do we come back? I haven't decided yet.

**Speaker:** It depends how quickly. We can get. All right, uh, what's the next one? Don't go far away.

**Speaker:** He just got.

**Speaker:** Oh, you're here either.

**Speaker:** We're on recess like a five minute.

**Speaker:** Do you want a five minute break? We'll take a five minute recess. We need 515 at.

**Speaker:** I'm good. I was just talking. With a constituent. You need five. Okay, let's just.

**Speaker:** We'll give you a couple of minutes to settle in. Uh we'll reconvene at 235 or in recess. Look at awfully confident for a monument discussion.

**Speaker:** Amend public art code to establish public monuments policy and review criteria. All right, commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Thank you, mayor Wheeler. And also, I want to acknowledge, uh, commissioner yea. Rubio. Uh, she got this work started. Um and it was and it was handed off to me at the beginning of 20, 23. And I'm excited that we're actually at a place where we're going to have some a code package for public monuments. It was something that was not there. Um, during the unrest of 2020, when, um, we could have used it. I think all of, you know that for nearly four years, our city has grappled with this monuments issue. The events of 2020 only underscore our city's need for a more structured approach to how we manage and respond to concerns about public monuments. In my first year as a city commissioner, I took initiative to bring solutions to this conversation, and in 2021, when I introduced the resolution to fully restore and return the thompson elk fountain, which I'm happy to report is finally moving along. And thank you, water department, for playing your part to see that through. Anyway, what happened with that is the City Council. The City Council unanimously supported that effort. Yes, it's a lot easier to discuss animals over people anyway, onward. Um, and I believe my colleagues will also support this policy, which creates a complaint process for public monuments owned by the city. This is about giving Portlanders a formal and constructive way to express their

views and participate late in the decision making process regarding our public monuments. The policy before council today establishes a complaint system for monuments, which does three things one. It defines public monuments in the city code as distinct from other forms of public art. Two it identifies several types of criteria for public monuments, which could be considered for review and finally, it establishes a process for public input and review of the monuments in the city. This policy is a step forward towards more inclusive and thoughtful stewardship of our city's cultural and historical symbols. So with this, I now turn it over to my staff member, darian jones, who will delve into the details of this policy. Darian, thank you for being here. Thank you for the many, many, many, many hours of work you put into this. And turn it over to you.

**Speaker:** Yeah. Thank you, commissioner and council, for the record, my name is darian jones. I'm the senior policy director of arts, culture and equity, and I appreciate the opportunity to share this code package with you all today. And I'll let the clerk pull up the slides so as this council is aware, in 2020, the city of Portland, like many cities across the country, participate in a national conversation focused on the reevaluation of historical monuments and a clarion call from the public for greater introspection about who and what is memorialized in public space. There are about 170 outdoor sculptures shared between Multnomah County and the city of Portland in the public arts collection during the protests in 2024, statues were toppled. Presidents abraham lincoln, george Washington, theodore roosevelt, as well as Oregon publisher harvey scott. Can you pull up the next slide, please? Another statue promised land, was also damaged in 2020, and as a result, the city placed all five monuments in storage. I would also like to add that in 2021. Oh, sorry. Rereading that in response to all of this, the city arts program launched the Portland monuments project to develop and implement a thorough and inclusive

engagement strategy and action plan centered around community dialog and public input. The city applied to the mellon foundation in early 2023, and. For funding to support the work and was awarded a \$350,000 grant at the same time. In early 2023, the city arts program commissioned lewis and clark college to convene the Portland monuments and engagement process committee to produce the public engagement report around monuments and memorials in Portland. This was accepted by this council in July. The report outlines specific public engagement recommendations for the city. This included a website dedicated to memory and memorial work, walking tours and public talks and conversations, arts program, and the creation of a monuments archive. The report also recommended that the city adopt a monuments review guidelines as a tool for decision making about the five toppled monuments or removed monuments, and about monuments that may be contested in the future. This is perfect as we move into the next slide. The policy for City Council consideration today provides updates to title five, specifically 5.74085 of the public monuments review policy. The policy was informed by work of the new york city's mural advisory commission on city art, monuments and markers. In 2018, and on the monument review guidelines that were drafted by rac in 2021. It was also informed by monuments policy as adopted in cities similar to Portland, including chicago, san francisco and Vancouver. The first draft of this policy was open for public comment on January 30th, and after extensive community partner input, a revised policy was published on February 23rd. Last Friday and more updates were made to the policy just yesterday afternoon. The. Public monuments and review policy seeks to outline criteria for review of monuments, and identifies ways for complaints to be lodged with the city, specifically with the city arts program. If a complaint comes in the city arts program will return and determine if it whether its further review, if it is recommended for

further review. The city arts program can take action using one of two routes. The first is for the city arts program to perform research and conduct public engagement activities that will inform and report to the City Council. This report would provide recommendations about the monuments in question. However, it's important to note that if a monument were removed, such as the case of the five from 2020, the report will require further public engagement. Activities in the addition of interpretive and educational elements to the monuments. If they were removed by public request and recommended for return. The second option would be a recommendation to form a monument advisory commission to review the specific monuments and questions the public advisory commission would work with the city arts program to conduct public engagement activities and research related to the monument. The commission would be responsible for working with the city arts program to produce a report with recommendations to the City Council if a review is not warranted because the criteria outlined in the policy are not met. The city arts program has 90 days to respond and issue a response to the complaint. The policy, to be clear, does not make a decision on any one monument. Rather it creates a way for the community to peacefully engage in the process. And with that, I'll take any questions in the next slide. Questions

**Speaker:** How does this dovetail with the policy that you're currently undertaking around monuments generally? What is this doing that that process this won't do.

**Speaker:** Yeah. This creates a way for the public to respond if there are more monuments that have considerable complaints that come up in the next year. Um, separately, the Mellon grant is to support public engagement and creative programming around monuments in general, and this is supporting. That by creating a process that the public can engage through those actions.

**Speaker:** What constitutes a complaint and how many complaints would trigger action?

**Speaker:** It's a good question given there are nine criteria that could warrant a complaint and. It's based on those criteria that the city arts program would review the complaint and then decide if it warrants further review. An example could be 50 Portlanders coming to City Council to make it known that they would like a public monument removed. Another example could be a series of letters that the public sends to City Council asking for consideration of public monument to be removed.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Gonzalez what's the timing for restoration of the Washington monument or others described here?

**Speaker:** Yeah, that's a great question. Commissioner Gonzalez. Uh, our office is working with the city arts program to produce a report very soon. Once this policy is adopted by the City Council, that would recommend the return of the three presidents and start the process to look at deaccessioning some of the other monuments use the process to actually get the presidents back up in the public is a little bit different. Uh, the regional arts and culture council, which is currently contracted as our public arts agent, has been working, uh, to get the insurance claims submitted a lot last year. They had those filed earlier this year. The city has not yet received those funds yet. Once we receive the funds. The repairs on the monuments will begin and then they will go back into the public. We anticipate that once we receive the funds, it will take at least nine months for the repairs to be complete and for those monuments to go back up. Yeah I think I'm good for now.

**Speaker:** Thanks. Any further?

**Speaker:** Uh commissioner Mapps. Yeah

**Speaker:** Um, just thank you for the presentation on, um, I have a question on the monuments review commission in which we propose to set up who appoints that?



**Speaker:** Yeah, that's a great question. Commissioner Mapps. Some of the pieces and parameters around that commission are still under works on the city arts program. Um, to be able to make that recommendation on there would need to be a process for recruitment as well as ways to identify those members later this year, there will be more code packages from the city arts program as it transitions into the office of arts and culture. We know that contract with the arts council rack is expiring, and the city will likely need an arts council. We would like to look towards creating that arts council and potentially additional revisions to integrate this committee into that one going forward.

**Speaker:** Okay, okay. Um, that's helpful and we'll watch that. And I hope that we can be, uh, I hope we have inter office conversations as we think about that. Um, I think you mentioned that rack is sunsetting. Is that or. Can you bring us up, remind us again how what the city's current and medium term relationship with rakkaus. Yeah, absolutely.

**Speaker:** The regional arts and culture council is an independent nonprofit that's contract with the city of Portland. Our uh, annual contract expires on June 30th. And the city still wants to support and working with the regional arts and culture council, which is why we're in negotiations around a bridge contract for the public art program, which this would specifically be impacting. So the public art program, we're insulating through additional bridge contract work over the next year to continue that program. Okay, great.

**Speaker:** And that kind of gets to the question that I was, um, trying to set up here, which is, um, I believe some sections of the ordinance before us today refer to rack. Um, but, uh, section five, I'm told, uh, makes makes references to rack to do those timelines. Uh, yes. I think in a way that makes sense. I, I'm still not quite sure.

**Speaker:** Yeah. Sorry for cutting you off, commissioner. Oh, no. No. Go ahead. There will be more code packages. Our attorney, nancy, from the attorney's office is here today, and she's currently working with different bureaus bts others. Uh to find where rack is in the city code. And we will be doing a complete overhaul later this year before the July 1st date comes. Expect us back here.

**Speaker:** Okay. Uh thank you very much. I may jump back in with another question, but i'll let commissioner Rubio go.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Rubio, thank you.

**Speaker:** And, um, I had a similar question about the commission. So thank you for your your question, commissioner. Um, can you talk to me or you and you probably said this, but just for my, um, understanding, what is the effective date of the policy ? Once, once it goes into once we vote it in, what would the immediate my understanding is this policy would come back for a second reading on March 6th and then if it were adopted by council, be effective on April 6th or April 7th. Okay. So fairly soon. And so, um, so second follow up question is then is what is the timeline for the committee because it will have to be set up for this in effect, for this policy to be implemented or not.

**Speaker:** The city arts program would have to make a recommendation to appoint a committee, and it would also have to be able to articulate those parameters for, uh, adopting and recruiting the members for the committee as well. So in terms of like the lining up of that, does one is one dependent on the other, not.

**Speaker:** No, not at all. Okay thank you.

**Speaker:** I have another question. So, um, first of all, let me just say I think it would be a thankless task to serve on this committee. Um, this strikes me as, as potentially divisive. And I understand what you're trying to do here. And I get it. And you're trying to bring complex, difficult decisions into the public sphere. And I

support that. By the way. But let me give you an example. Abraham Lincoln, I think he was a great leader. But I know for a fact that there's people in this community who do not think that they have very different opinions than I do on the greatness of Abraham Lincoln. How is a committee going to be able to resolve that conflict? It's a question of history, perspective, background, tradition. Um, from my perspective, great leader. But somebody else might have a legitimate concern based on their own perspective, which is very different than mine. How does a committee resolve that conflict?

**Speaker:** Yeah, the committee will likely, uh, undertake a series of research opportunities to meet with community members and be able to produce a recommendation that speaks to that. I think in the case of Abraham Lincoln, uh, for the city of Portland, we've had at least three and a half years of engagement around this topic. I would say it started with the South Park master plan in 2019, where members of the Native American community were specifically engaged by the Nayak group at the city, uh, to ask about their perspectives and experiences on those monuments. And there was an overwhelming sentiment that there should be more Indigenous monuments and monuments of Black community members, but also when these monuments are up that have already been erected, they should also have greater context and clarity that talks about the full story and honors the times in which people lived. Because it's easy for us to look back in time and criticize the behaviors of folks today. But we also need to be able to talk about the where the world in which they lived. At the same time.

**Speaker:** Yeah, yeah, no question about it.

**Speaker:** I mean, wait, wait till our great grandchildren dissect our society today. They're going to have a field day. Um so if this is truly about education, I think

that's great. And I think that additional context would be helpful. Commissioner Gonzalez did you have some more?

**Speaker:** Commissioner Mapps I wasn't sure that, um, I was going to ask another question, but I've been chatting for a bit.

**Speaker:** I thought I'd create some space for you to get in here.

**Speaker:** Well, I'm just thank you. I'm just jumping into some of the language, so. And I think you used the example that speaks to a1 what this is, there's a sustained and significant adverse public reaction or reasonable large scale community opposition to the public. Monument how do we allow citizens of Oregon to or Portland to speak out on a particular monument that they find objectionable, but don't make decisions by, you know, the mob ripping things down? Right? When I look at this language, I mean, what we're partially responding to is what occurred in 2020. And, um, you had depending on how you describe it, you know, protesters, vandals, the mob making decisions about what statues they found objectionable, a relatively small group getting to make that decision for everyone else. And so I'm just curious how how do we how do we define a1 here?

**Speaker:** Yeah, that's a great question, commissioner. And it was open to be a little bit subjective because we know that sustained and adverse could look different for different community members. I think it's really important to note that this policy doesn't endorse the actions of 2020. And anything such as, you know, damage to public property is a crime under Oregon state statute. What this seeks to do is provide an avenue for people to know that there is actually a process to express these complaints to the city and encourage them to use that process versus vandalism or criminal behavior.

**Speaker:** Got it. And then just playing through a4, the subject or impact? Well, actually I'm just going at three. The community members most affected by the

monument's historical and cultural contexts have expressed a negative impact on community well-being. So applying that to abraham lincoln, for example, would indigenous communities, because we, the ones who define the context or would it be the black community that would define abraham lincoln's context? Who defines that? I think it would be the sorry, commissioner.

**Speaker:** I think it would be the community. The complaint that we would receive from the community and reviewing of that complaint would let us know who's the complainant.

**Speaker:** Okay. This is a tough area. There's no two ways about it, right? I mean, there's a lot of opinions. It's hard. So it's uh uh uh, but i'll pass the mic to commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Um, do we have public testimony on this? Yes uh, I'd like to hear public testimony. Um, and maybe some of my questions will be addressed there.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Rubio.

**Speaker:** Um, I just have a quick question about, um, so, um, well, yeah, maybe i'll wait till public testimony.

**Speaker:** Public testimony? How many folks do we have signed up?

**Speaker:** We have seven people signed up, three minutes each.

**Speaker:** Name for the record. Keelan. I'll call you up in order for, uh, if you're online. Same deal. Just name for the record, please.

**Speaker:** I did thank you, mayor. First up, we have stephen kafoury.

**Speaker:** Not here for the meeting.

**Speaker:** Caught him off guard on his way.

**Speaker:** Okay, we can call him if he shows up later, we'll call him.

**Speaker:** Yep. Okay, good.

**Speaker:** Uh, next up. Brooke. Best brooke.

**Speaker:** Brooke is out of state on a family emergency, and testimony is also on her way.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Uh, aubrey russell, come on up.

**Speaker:** Welcome, aubrey. Um

**Speaker:** Uh, hi. Aubrey. Russell, in making a policy to remove monuments, you might want to consider these questions. Public opinion. A time frame. Who's on a monuments review commission? The answers are public opinion is essentially left out. There is no stated time frame, and we don't know who might be on a review commission. First, public opinion in public opinion is not mentioned in this policy. Neither is public meeting, public comment, public notice meeting, public testimony, online survey, online comment or polling. Public public opinion. And it's generally understood meaning is absent since City Council will be getting a recommendation from the city arts program about potentially removing monuments, you might like to know that the recommendation is based on an understanding of public opinion. Also, you will vote on this recommendation. So you might yourselves like to know what the general public feels. We've heard lots about the city arts program and darian jones recruiting partners to monuments work, but you will want to ensure that you have an accurate, unbiased view of public opinion. Second time frame in this proposed code, there is no time frame for responding to public calls to remove monuments. Next there is no time frame for the city arts program. Um, to initiate a process. Next, there is no time frame for conducting public engagement. And finally, there's no time frame for presenting a report to City Council for your benefit. There should be a precise time frame. Third, the monuments review commission, the draft code does not say who will appoint the monuments review commission. I

believe that the mayor should appoint the monuments commission person. I think the commission would benefit by including two former elected public officials, a professional historian and a representative representative from a historic preservation group, flq, in its last state historic preservation report suggests, noted that a preservationist be included in a, quote, open forum as part of a, quote, robust public process. But your proposed policy does not include that or a representative representative from the hlc itself, if which they also suggested. Finally I want to revisit number one, public opinion. I'm not saying that the city staff has to follow public opinion, but the sorts of curated community views that the city arts program tends to favor can be augmented by knowing what the broad public thinks. This makes. Well, um, have more knowledge, is better than intentionally having less knowledge when making a recommendation. Making a decision. This is the wrong policy. Now for removing legally protected historic resources. Thank you, thank you. Next up we have henry kunowski.

**Speaker:** Welcome, henry. Okay thank you.

**Speaker:** Good afternoon, mayor council. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My, um, I also want to express my appreciation to darian jones for his excellent work with the community members to bring this issue forward. Uh, I've had many conversations with him, and, uh, basis of those conversations have been centered around a comment that commission owner dan Ryan made during his press release of this proposal, which was his goal, is that this is a successful process. Yes. And we share that that goal with him. Uh, the proposed amendments to the current city policy, uh, public art policy as proposed, uh, from commissioner Ryan's office and the city arts program, uh, specifically. Chapter 574.85 public monuments criteria is an ambiguous, ambitious undertaking that had its beginning in 2018 and was memorialized in a July 22nd, 2020 confidential memo from rac. In that memo, a

five phase process was discussed to decide which monuments and sculptures are to be removed and that policy involved into a new designation. Excuse me? Uh, policy d proposed by rac, which has now been modified to become the current proposal policy for considering monuments and artwork for possible removal. All currently there are ten monuments and sculptures that are listed on the city's 1984 historic resource inventory, with a rank one status, giving it significant, identifying it as a significant resource, and these ten are also noted in the Oregon historic sites database as considered eligible or contributing to the national register of historic places. There are a total of ten monuments that are listed as significant and could be subject to removal, outlined in the proposed arts policy amendment, should a complaint be filed at this juncture in the proposed arts policy amendment, what is being called the five monuments lincoln, roosevelt, Washington, scott and the promised land statues would be considered under a later process. As yet, to be determined. The principal concern with this current proposal is that it fails to address past omissions to follow extant city code, primarily title 33 demolition of historic resource uses and demolition delay. Although the current amendment to the proposal under 574085b uh invites the Portland historic landmarks commission to follow uh its own rules and purviews for consideration for demolition delay for continued for continued continuing. Excuse me contributing resources uses for these significant resources. The city already has a process under title 33 and this code interface. How will this code interface with the current proposal? They're at conflict with each other in terms of process and authorities. And finally, the proposed amendment does not reconcile the current 15 citations of the current rule and responsibilities held by rac with the contract extension in current in is currently being discussed between rac and the city will these remaining 15 charges for rac become the basis for a contract extension? The proposed art



amendment also does not address several city code capital asset and disposal of capital assets or state administrative rules, so statutes or federal nexus. Uh, dealing with historic structures. Should the current amendment pass City Council, how will the authorities cited above be addressed? So as to avoid conflict during the policy amendment implementation? And which other laws and rules take precedent? Finally there are so many organizations nonprofits involved in the process moving forward that could be a likely will be part of the consideration that none of these, that none of these individuals and organizations is related to an arts commission or ad hoc group. Uh it's recommended we're recommend that those be excluded from receiving any contracts or payments from the city for their work on these advisory committees. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Speaker:** Next up, we have emma coburn.

**Speaker:** Can I come up? I understand that my name was called I just got here, mr. Mayor. Yeah.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kafoury, come on up. Thank you. So much. If you could just say your name for the record, we all know who you are. But thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Says right here my name is stephen kafoury, and I'm a member of an informal coterie of activists who love our city and want to protect our public assets. Uh henry is one of our members. I've sent you all a list of our members and their contact information. I want to make it clear that none of us are gaining financially in any way from our activities. Uh, we're here to discuss the fate of the monuments torn down by vandals. Almost four years ago. So what we have here, ladies and gentlemen, is as vandals for city of Portland, zero. And I hope that you have. I know that you have the opportunity, and I hope you take that opportunity to change that statistic soon. I first want to acknowledge the work of darian jones. Darian has been working very closely with us. Uh, he's been very

supportive and very communicative. Uh, he returns our emails within a day or two. And he's been very helpful in every step along the way. He's told us on many occasions that the policy you were evaluating today is a separate policy from the decisions that you will make on repairing and replacing the monuments that were damaged by vandals, he has stated the only connection between the two of them is a requirement that this draft policy must be adopted before the arts program makes a recommendation to you on the five statutes in question. So while we do not understand the need for that first step, second step, we are fine with it happening. So long as it does not delay the replacement repair and replacement of those five statues as or at least recommendation on the repair of those statues is um is indeed necessary. Uh, the hope that you will then vote on this report to accept it. And then as soon as that's done, sometime in March, as we've been told by darian, several times that you would take a recommendation from the arts program on the fate of those statues. In addition, we're asking very specifically that an estimate of the cost and repair of replacements for these monuments be made public. We've heard some numbers floated around. We've not seen anything public if rack. Secondly if rack is not yet applied to the city insurers for reimbursement, and we understand that has not happened, we would like the city to take over one of you and make sure that happens, as there's no excuse for waiting all these years to not find out. First of all, how much is going to cost to repair, repair and replace them. And secondly, to talk to the insurance people to find out how much they will give us, um. We would also like to ask that if there's going to be any additional additive in information, interpretive pieces to go along with these and we understand that there will be and we're very supportive of that, that the development of these additive inform informational pieces, not delay the replacement, get those things back up. Once they're back up. We'd be happy to

work with you on on. We have a lot of people who have a lot of knowledge in our group. Help you, work with you on developing some interpretive information. We are grateful for this council's actions in repairing and replacing the thompson elk fountain. We hope that you will react in the same manner as you did with these. And let us again offer our technical assistance, which our group has a lot of. Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Brooke. Best. Welcome, brooke.

**Speaker:** Thank you for being here.

**Speaker:** I'm actually not brooke.

**Speaker:** Oh, okay. Uh, for the record, please. Good afternoon.

**Speaker:** Uh, mayor Wheeler and members of the council. My name is virginia ellerby, and I'm testifying on behalf of brooke best, who is unable to attend today's session. Both of us are members of the group that stephen mentioned. Has been working on this issue for the past few years. This testimony addresses the criteria section of the proposed policy amending city code chapter. 5.74 on public art. Commissioner Ryan has stated in a press release that the intent is to create a citizen complaint process for reviewing city owned artwork and monuments. Our group supports this goal, but believes more work is needed to ensure Portland residents find the criteria easy to grasp and the complaint process less easy to follow. The current draft, for example, does not indicate how one files a complaint. Will a letter to the city arts program suffice, or will residents need to fill out a special complaint form several of the nine criteria listed, moreover, need to be reworded to achieve commissioner Ryan's goal. We believe most of those proposed, particularly the ones reflecting the criteria developed in rak's 2021 deaccession proposal, seem more relevant to a city initiated review process than a citizen driven one. For

example, the first one talks about sustained and significant adverse public reaction to a monument, uh, as grounds for a possible review. The city arts program presumably has identified yardsticks concluding that the sustained and significant benchmark has been met. But the proposed code does not spell out for residents what yardsticks will be used to assess whether that benchmark has been met. If you're interested, I can explain later why that omission is problematic and provide other examples of proposed criteria that should be reworked and recrafting the proposed criteria so they more clearly support a citizen based complaint system is quite doable, as philadelphia has demonstrated for each of the three public complaint criteria for listed philadelphia lays out the standards that will be used to determine whether the citizens complaint merits a review of the artwork in question. One of them, for example, says that the sources and the strength of the historical evidence cited regarding the behavior of the individual people being memorialized that runs counter to the city's values must be clear and unambiguous.

**Speaker:** Thank you, thank you, thank you, I had one follow commissioner Gonzalez.

**Speaker:** I'm sorry, the last part you just quoted. What was that from?

**Speaker:** Um, that was from philadelphia. Has a public art review model, and it was a quote from that, if you don't mind sending that to my office, I'd appreciate it.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Next up, we have emma coburn. Welcome.

**Speaker:** Thank you for being here. Thank you. To provide comment.

**Speaker:** Portland is weird.

**Speaker:** Some people want to keep it that way. Others embrace change. As someone raised here, the weirdness of my family runs deep and isn't going or coming because of a bumper sticker. So I say bring on the californians because truth be told, a lot of the weirdness that happens in Portland could stand a change. For example, Portland's monuments are weird when I'm out and about with my family. Monuments to settler culture intrude into our afternoon. Sometimes I stop it and break it down to my kids. Why their presence is inappropriate because looking past such ignorant eyesores is not a privilege. And if it were, I would not choose to regenerate it. But sometimes I don't stop because we're late for dance rehearsal or whatever other regular old thing we're doing. Just trying to live a normal life in everyday neighborhoods where my kids can feel safe and proud to be who they are, where they are. My kids are black, indigenous and german, but that most simple mother's mission gets interrupted by monuments to people who supported the oppression, erasure and marginalization of our ancestors as 70% of the figurative statuary that comes up when you search Portland monument on google maps. My memorialize. Yes, you guessed it, white men. And that's weird, because according to 2023 demographic data available on the census bureau website, only 32% of people living in Portland identify with that specific combination of racial gender attributes. Even in your body. Is 3/5 out of compliance with the ledger that the majority of our monuments speak for? And what are our monuments saying? Let me read you a few titles. Paul bunyan, the coming of the white man, promise land. It's weird to live in a place where in 2024, we have to explain why such homages to settler colonial culture are inappropriate. Yet this is what this document point proposes to instruct publics to do. Under this policy, we would have to create a council of volunteer peers from, as it states, the most affected communities to explain to your body why these monuments have no place

in our city ledger. It's so weird to task disadvantaged members of the community with the burden of convening a volunteer commission to explain to your body who is sitting on payroll, why it is harmful to public health, inconsistent with public opinion, and just generally, morally and appropriate to keep erect such statues at risk of overusing the word weird? Uh, webster tells me I can substitute alien alienating so Portland monuments are alienating. That's why in 2020, two of them came down in a healing ritual practiced by members of our community indigenous to these lands on the indigenous day of rage, three more came down in other ways. I did not participate, but I rejoiced at home with my kids because they deserve to grow up in a landscape where monuments inspire awe. In all of in all that we are and have been, rather than alienation and the actions of the toppled five are alienating. Washington profited off the enslavement of our african ancestors and scott perpetuated such anti-black taste in publishing. Roosevelt and lincoln endorsed in different ways policies rooted in the obscene mythology of indigenous extinction. An indigenous people are not extinct. They spoke to this body earlier this month about not resurrecting monuments that glorify the people who oppress, erase and marginalize our ancestors. It is unclear how this policy interacts with the toppled five. Yet regardless, this body ought instead to draft a policy on monument review that is rooted in the serious work of reparations for funding listening sessions with indigenous led, community based organizations. About this document or another document altogether to create public policy that is truly public on monument review would be one such step towards repair for many people who are here today. Would be happy to discuss this with you further. Rather than pushing through a policy that does not reflect the public needs or opinions. My name is emma colburn and this has been a public comment against adopting draft. 5.74.09 public monuments review policy. Thank you, thank you, emma.

**Speaker:** Next up we have stephen griffith.

**Speaker:** Welcome, stephen. Yes thank you.

**Speaker:** Uh, it's a pleasure to be here today. My name is stephen griffith. Uh, I am a resident of Portland, a former school board member and member of this community. The last time I testified before City Council was 30 years ago. Uh, and it's always a good sign to see two former members of the school board come out to a different public body and just, uh, try to offer thoughts and help you do the right thing. Um, I have not been intimately involved in the monuments, uh, issue, and someone asked me to if I would simply look at the draft policy and just see what I thought. So I offer these comments, and I have submitted my own, uh, with as neutral and as good a spirit as I can just to help us get to a good place. I think it's terrific to have a process by which, uh, both remove and unremoved monuments, uh, those which are now in existence and those that may come in in the future to have them reviewed to see whether they're appropriate and so it's a really good thing. And I want to and my first suggestion is the way it's written, it's not really clear that the, uh, monuments will be processed, not only those which are removed, but ones which are unremoved and those which are in the future. And so I think you want to be sure that the language captures the universe there. Uh, my second thought, just based on that is, uh, there are a couple of references to the affected community. It never mentions who the affected communities are. Um, the way it's phrased, it talks about those who have been the victims of historical slavery and genocide and colonialism. Okay. As an historian, you can kind of pull that out as blacks and native Americans. But in fact, there have been other communities that have been marginalized in the past. And I think that they should also be included. Uh, those are the subject to discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, uh, sexual orientation, disability. And so, uh, this would be a terrific point

to open up the criteria for and not just make it about one or 2 or 3 communities, but list the kind of criteria that are used. For example, in some of the federal civil rights, uh, statutes. Uh, I didn't see any justification for, um, there's talks about the, uh, whatever it is, the city arts program or its designee. I didn't see any justification at this point to validating the designee and just saying, well, it's up to the city arts program. So that can be a future issue. But I wouldn't put that in the policy right now. Um the other thing is, there are no timeline lines, and I think it's been, as Stephen Kafoury mentioned, it's been four years now and, uh, you've got an idea. Now, what you want to do and so one of the signs that we know what we want to do is we want to do it by a certain time. And so I think it would be very helpful, uh, upon the acting on the initial report, to say that the final report shall be due back to the City Council by a time certain, uh, I don't know enough about the, uh, how much work is involved in my own mind. And just reading, thinking about it, it would be like that initial report. I think everybody knows what the monuments are that are going to trigger this, have it due within 30 days. And then what about the actual final report? I suggest six months. There isn't any reason just to have it, uh, extended forever. I also had a number of other. I spent some time, um, uh, suggestions about the individual criteria. I think at least one, if I can intrude just a little bit. I think there's one set of criteria that are not worthy of being consideration. You should rule out. And those are the cost to protect the risk or monument or the cost to avoid. Um uh, any damage by bigots who may be attracted by it. That is not I don't think the city of Portland is at that point yet. I think if a window is broken, you fix it. You don't worry about the next break. And I think you can pull those criteria out without any damage at all to the other good criteria. Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you.



**Speaker:** Jared Essig. Welcome Jared.

**Speaker:** Good afternoon, Mayor Wheeler. Commissioners City of Portland and Multnomah County. My name is Jared Essig. I'm a representative of the Rose City Iron Front in defense of constitutional government and rule of law. We do favor republican democracy and defend it against fascism and against totalitarian communism and we seek radical reform rather than violent overthrow of the government. Part of that radical reform removes radical rethinking. Our monuments. To that end, um, I've engaged in a political action to deaccession these monuments. Back in 2020, my change.org petitions are the manner in which I provided a complaint process, and they're submitted as written testimony to this agenda item. And I encourage you to read them in detail. And, um, for whatever our process gets built, they'll be they should be in that, um, uh, that process of consideration as well. Now, um, there's a large building just west of, of the plaza or just east of the plaza that houses the county jail. And the arraignment court and the police headquarters. It's known colloquially colloquially as the Injustice Center. But on it are two very interesting quotes. One from George Washington and one from MLK Jr. The quote from George Washington says that the administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good governance. Now, anyone who wants to put up that statue of George Washington, I challenge you to honor George Washington as well as I've just done right now, or to artistically reproduce him as accurately as I've done just right now. There's a quote from MLK Jr that says, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Now, I don't support putting up statues of MLK Jr or indigenous braves either to recite their honor, their notable sayings and recount their valorous deeds. If you wish to honor great men of the past, I learned this from my Jewish friends, Moses Maimonides in particular, for let me tell you something great that Abraham Lincoln did the 1862 Homestead Act, which opened up millions

of acres in the west to settlement. Uh, just last week, commissioner beeson over at Multnomah County called this the biggest affirmative action program in the history of America, the greatest entitlement. And, uh, um, the biggest welfare program ever issued by the American government. And it might be kind of embarrassing to admit, but I he might be right about that. So if we're going to honor abraham lincoln, let's provide that historical context right now. There is an urgent issue that Portland is facing of public safety, murder epidemic, gun violence, like many other cities, a culture of incitement to violence is the probable cause. But city leaders have mostly ignored this. Predictably asking for more da's, more police, security guards, etc. I propose instead that we stop valorizing and promoting the force of arms and gun violence and stop promoting it through public statuary that fetishize uses, brandished weapons, specifically deaccession the spanish American soldier monument that stands in the downtown Portland civic plaza with its brandished gun. We can remember the actions in guam, the philippines and the cuba in a different way. Look at the salem capital has a world war two memorial as an example of how to create public statuary, or the vietnam memorial in Washington, dc. If you want to memorialize the past, that's how to do it. Thank you for letting me testify. Thank you.

**Speaker:** That completes testimony. All right.

**Speaker:** Great. Further thoughts before I move this to second reading, I've just got one. Oh, sorry. Is there somebody else.

**Speaker:** No, no. There is an amendment that was proposed in the agenda updates memo. Just want to flag that in case you wanted to move that amendment. Uh the amended version that was posted last week.

**Speaker:** Yes. There was the policy was updated last Friday. And so we need to substitute.

**Speaker:** Yes, it needs to be substituted.

**Speaker:** So there's a substitute that's on the agenda. I think we need to move the substitute.

**Speaker:** The whole ordinance is that correct?

**Speaker:** No. Just the exhibit.

**Speaker:** So on Friday there was the, uh, proposed policy that was posted. In addition, there was also an exhibit that was a revision of that policy. It's been posted since Friday, but we have to officially substitute it into the record, I believe. Okay

**Speaker:** Uh, commissioner, do you want to make a motion so moved. Second, we have a motion and a second to add. Can you describe it again? Just so we're all clear? Yeah I'd be happy to.

**Speaker:** Um, so initially just.

**Speaker:** Is this a substituted amendment or an appendix? What is this?

**Speaker:** Yes. It's a substitution of the policy that was posted. The policy that was posted was the draft from January 30th. And the correct version is the amended version that incorporates the public's feedback and edits. And that's the version that's being processed right now.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Very good. Any further discussion? Commissioner Mapps, you had your hand up.

**Speaker:** Um, let's keep moving.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Uh, call the roll, romeo.

**Speaker:** Hi, Ryan. Thank you for putting this out.

**Speaker:** So early to give the public a chance to engage with this policy. It was, uh, beyond what we usually do with any of our work. I would I Gonzalez, i, i, I the amendments on the table.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Mapps.

**Speaker:** Uh, yeah. I just wanted to express my appreciation for commissioner Ryan for bringing this forward. I also very much, um, appreciate the public testimony, uh, that we heard today. Uh, there, uh, I think there were a lot of good ideas that were out today. There's a lot of stuff I'm still thinking about. Um, I just want to say that over the next week, between now and when this comes back to council, I'd like to probably engage in commissioner with commissioner Ryan's office about potential amendments. Uh, frankly, at the moment, I don't, um, I think we definitely have some questions. We want to, uh, pin down, and we may have, um, some friendly amendments, but I hope that we can have these conversations in the spirit of collaboration.

**Speaker:** Uh, we will, and I know that we've been in spirited dialog about this for some time, especially the last two weeks with the staff staff. So to continue that, uh, I just want to really thank darian for your patience and persistence on this. Um, I think it's okay to say that this was a stinker of an assignment that was handed off to me in 2023, and it really needed a lot of development, and I appreciate that. Commissioner Rubio brought some outside intelligence to this. And the spirited dialog on monuments is exactly what we're supposed to have as a community. Um, we must move beyond the denial and the whitewashing, if you will, and from also the retaliation and revenge. It's like there's this wonderful world in between those two, and that world is a holistic restoration of truth and reconciliation. It's the honest history that we all want and deserve as Portlanders. So I look forward to

moving this forward, and then we'll have the big part two coming up by by the end of March.

**Speaker:** The report all right.

**Speaker:** Thanks, mr. Rubio.

**Speaker:** I just wanted to, um, lift up also what was referenced in, um, testimony.

**Speaker:** It was connected to my previous, uh, question about a historian. Can you talk a little bit about just really briefly, um, and I had talked with commissioner Ryan, so I know that there's interest in that, but want to really underscore the importance of having a historian that tells the full picture of, you know, of an historical context of surrounding some of these monuments. Can you talk about what the plan is for that?

**Speaker:** Yeah. The we will be developing the recruitment process to identify how to select those members and identify them. I know some other council offices have proposed ideas around, uh, this council identifying members and being able to select them in the process going forward. Um, the city yards program will need time to stand up this commission and the process for it, just like the police accountability commission, I wouldn't expect this to be up and running. Once it's adopted. We'll be building those systems to move it forward as well, too. Okay

**Speaker:** I'm speaking specifically about the historian on that. So they're going to be on the committee or is it going to be a consultant to. Yes I want to know where that where it's going to sit in the contract that you signed with lewis and clark or any I'm not speaking in particular about that. I'm just saying we had talked before about the importance of having that perspective, moving forward and what you're doing. So I was just curious about why where that will come in.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Rubio can I ask a clarifying question?

**Speaker:** So are you asking is there going to be an historian on the monument review committee?

**Speaker:** Not specifically the committee. I'm just anywhere in the project. Like, yeah, maybe it's the committee. That's the answer to one of my questions. But um, I believe if I'm hearing the question correct, if is there a historian on the monument advisory review board or is there a historian on the monuments work in general and what is the plan to have a historian on the monuments project in general, whether it's on the advisory or anywhere else?

**Speaker:** Yeah.

**Speaker:** Um, we have commitments from the Oregon historical society to work with us as partners. We've also gotten commitments from the ladies of mount vernon association, which owns george Washington's home in virginia. And there will be helping us with the interpretation and creative elements for the future part of the project. Um, in terms of the advisory commission, we would like to work with the city arts program to be able to identify ways to recruit those people with the historical expertise for that public advisory board.

**Speaker:** So i'll just say this at my peril. Admittedly um, there is no consensus on history as we become a more diverse society, looking through the rear view mirror becomes an almost esoteric exercise. And I have a concern about this process. My concern is that this just becomes one more way that we become divided and angry at each other and start casting stones, and I hope that's not the case. Um you know, we heard seven people give testimony today, and I heard an entire spectrum of perspectives and again, I sort of get back to my question on, um, whether it's the City Council or whether it's a delegated group of people, whether it's historians, whether it's artists, how do you reach a consensus opinion? Because it won't be objective. There might be objective elements, but at the end of the day, you have to

pick winners and you have to pick losers. And I'm sitting here thinking whether or not we should have. I mean, I don't think anybody is opposed to the elk, right? I mean, at least I maybe somebody is. I haven't heard of anybody who's opposed to the elk. Bring back the elk. That's what everybody's saying. And animals are fine. Animals are fine. Where we run into problems is when it's people, when we are honoring people on public spaces. That's where it starts to get really messy and really divisive and so I'm going to think on this question over the course of the time between this first reading and the second reading, and it's purely an ROI question, is the return worth it to honor people on public property, given the cost that it imposes to our community in terms of divisiveness, separating as fragmenting as frankly just us off and leaving this set open today, I have two thoughts. Number one, I'm not convinced yet that the ROI is positive. Second of all, I heard uniformly from across the spectrum that you did a great job of listening, and I want to acknowledge that that's that's hard to pull off. This is as close to a police accountability conversation as we have. There's no other bodies that are as emotional people invest in as heavily opinions are as diverse as police accountability and oversight. This comes very, very close in my mind. So it's going to have a need to have that same level of thoughtfulness and sensitivity. And what I'm hearing is you've listened really well to different opinions, and I just want to acknowledge that public employees get a lot of grief from the public right now. And it sounds like you really did a nice job. And I want to just personally acknowledge that and thank commissioner Ryan, uh, for deploying you in this way. Uh, so I'll be listening, asking a lot of questions between now and next week, but I just hope that this is something that brings us together and not something that ultimately turns out to be one more way that Portlanders find to divide ourselves. And if I if I could respond to mayor, I totally welcome that.

**Speaker:** And just want to reiterate that the policy isn't a monument removal policy by any means. It's just to review who the monuments and public art that we have in the collection, and to consider the public's complaints. I think you just spoke to something really eloquently, mayor, about the future in terms of how do we come together as a community. And this isn't an ascension policy for creating monuments, which a lot of people have also talked to us about. This was specific about the issue at hand. We do hope that the public engagement activities in the mellon grant and those future activities allow for those conversations to happen so that we can actually talk about history and the full context that it is.

**Speaker:** Yeah. Thank you. I appreciate it. Uh, great. I was going to ask about where's kerry tymchuk in all this? Uh, because he's probably the first guy I would ask for a perspective on this. And it sounds like you're already working with him in the Oregon historical.

**Speaker:** They're one of our advisors. Yeah I was pleased to hear that.

**Speaker:** Great. Thank you. If there's nothing else, this, uh. Thanks, everybody. You testified this is a first reading of anonymous agency ordinance. It moves to second reading. Thank you. Thank you. Uh, next issue. Where did I go? Uh, 194. We can now do that. Absolutely. 194 this is an emergency ordinance to amend downtown business incentive credit code to expand eligibility. Colleagues, this next item is an emergency ordinance to expand the geographic boundaries for eligibility in the downtown business incentive tax credit program to all subdistricts within the central city. This is an important enhancement to a first of its kind program that's shown early signs of success and is needed to further encourage employer investments. Positive foot traffic, and vibrancy throughout a revitalized central city. As you all know, the City Council originally created this program through unanimous approval in September of 2023. This incentive initially targeted the four



subdistricts of the central city, where econorthwest had indicated the most acute economic distress based on vacancy, foot traffic and employment data at that time. We promised to closely monitor the program performance and to enhance it with agility as we move forward. Based on the early successes of the program that we've seen to date, which our colleagues from the revenue division will speak to, more momentarily. Uh, we're now acting again. Decide to expand it into other areas where the opportunity exists. To be clear, our earlier action was not taken to undervalue the challenge of commercial vacancies throughout our central city, but rather to acknowledge our own limited resources and our need to learn more about this first of its kind innovation. This incentive is working as a leverage point for taxpayers that but for meaningful tax exemption like this may choose to relocate outside of our city and community, bringing their investments, their employees, and their community involvement with them. The positive foot traffic these employers drive is critical for small business spending, public space activation, and community vibrancy. As we also know, incentivizing commercial leases in this manner is not a panacea to the challenges that our central city faces, which is precisely why it's paired with many other community safety and livability initiatives. In my administration. Central city recovery plan. Clearly, public safety and livability are foundational to revitalizing our urban core, and these remain my top priorities as mayor. We appreciate all the constructive feedback that was shared last September, and since that time, in response to this program, the expansion proposal before us today is due in large part to that feedback and to those requests from the community. Thank you to my colleague, commissioner Rubio, for co-sponsor. Bring this item with me. I also want to acknowledge jillian schnee in her office for their partnership and collaboration. I also want to appreciate the work of ken maguire in the city attorney's office, as well as tyler

wallace and solita holt in the revenue division. I'll now turn it over to commissioner Rubio for any opening comments she'd like to make before we welcome the president asian from our invited expert from the revenue division, asian commissioner. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mayor. When we passed this item in September, I expressed that as a commissioner in charge of community and economic development, it was my intent to show our community that we were doing all we can to ensure that we were a safe and thriving city for our businesses. Big and small. And I'm really pleased to see the interest that this program has had and that it has. It has become a key tool for retention of employers in our central city. Before I hand it off to andrew and the other city staff to speak into about this in detail, I just want to reiterate that we are on a path to recovery because we have core great people working really hard, including everyone in this room whom who knows and believes in Portland's best and highest potential, and who are willing to try new things to get us there. So with that in mind, I will pass it on to staff to start the presentation.

**Speaker:** And before selita give her presentation, I just want to acknowledge that I understand there are some people who need to testify and leave fairly quickly. So after the staff presentation, we will hear public testimony before we ask questions if that's okay. Callie okay. Selita holt, interim tax division manager from the revenue division. Welcome. Thanks for being here.

**Speaker:** Thank you.

**Speaker:** So good afternoon, mayor and commissioners. Thank you for having me here. I'm selita holt, the interim tax division manager at the city of Portland revenue division. Our office administers the downtown business incentive credit, and we call it dba for short. So i'll be saying dba throughout the presentation. This emergency ordinance is to expand the geographic boundaries to all subdistricts within the

central city. The current eligible dba boundary include the following subdistricts. Lower albina, downtown lloyd, and old town chinatown. If expanded, the districts will include central eastside, west end, pearl, goose hollow, university, south downtown, and south waterfront. There is no other material changes to the program at this time, so right now I'm going to start off with a brief recap of the program. So the incentive offers up to \$250,000 tax credit per business. It's limited to the lesser of 1% of the city of Portland income. Subject to tax as shown on the business license tax return in the year of origination, or \$30 per square footage of the lease space, and the program is capped at \$25 million. To qualify for the credit, a company must lease new space or extend a lease for at least four years during 2023 or 2024. In the district, or they must own and occupy a building within the district. They also must keep at least 15 full time employees physically working half time in the district to claim the credit, a business must first apply for the credit and then, once the application is approved, the credit is then divided by four and the business will claim one fourth of the credit over four consecutive tax periods, beginning with either the 2023 or the 2024 business license tax return. The due date for submitting the application for the tax year 2023 is January 31st, 2024. So that is expired now. But if this ordinance is passed, we will extend the due date and the due date for submitting the application for tax year 2024 will be January 31st, 2025. So I did bring a report to show you guys and council clerk can you share that? Thank you. Okay, so I was warned that this might be too small. So sorry. Um let's see. So as of last Monday, we received 61 applications, of which 17 were approved, ten are currently being reviewed and 34 were denied. Of the 17 approved applications, the total maximum approved approved estimated credit is 5 million, meaning we have \$20 million remaining to be distributed and the 2023 returns have not yet been filed. So this is not the actual dvd credit, but an estimate based

on square footage. We will have more concrete numbers when the returns are filed, and right now, the downtown district had the most applications and the most approvals, with a maximum approved credit of 3.16 million. Of the 34 denied applications, there were, they were denied for one or more reasons. One of the largest reasons being that they were not within the boundary. In 24 of the 34 denied businesses were not within the boundary, the less frequent denial reason was due to the business having less than 15 employees. Industry type. So there are 40 different industries that the applications represent. The largest number of applicants are full service restaurants, office of lawyers.

**Speaker:** I'm sorry to interrupt.

**Speaker:** Yeah, yeah.

**Speaker:** Is there some of the commissioners are having trouble seeing this? Is there a way to expand this? Maybe

**Speaker:** Yeah. Let me let me see if I can zoom in.

**Speaker:** You read the denial reasons. You read two of them, but I just can't see. Yeah.

**Speaker:** So the denial. So this is not all inclusive. This report right here. So the denial reasons are on this report. Um, or actually. Okay never mind. They are. So they're on the second row. Are yeah. And so the first column second row. So denial reason. So there's less than 15 employees okay. Can you guys see that.

**Speaker:** So less than.

**Speaker:** So less than 15 is the smallest. Yes. And then um okay. Yeah. Not within boundaries. One of them. And then the lease commencement not met is another one.

**Speaker:** Why was the decision made that you had to have more than 15 employees? Yes

**Speaker:** Um, is that something you want to answer now or wait till later on?

**Speaker:** I've always been curious about that.

**Speaker:** Well, actually. Go ahead. Yeah. So um, in the past, we did talk about having, what, like 2 to 5 employees, but then we realized that it would just be too many businesses.

**Speaker:** And then we there is a correlation between the number of employees and the size of a business. And so it seems like they wouldn't have, um, had much of a incentive for, for doing the dba credit and staying in the city because they already pay like a minimum tax or close to. So we thought the, the it wouldn't provide enough incentive for them to participate. Okay. Get start intuitive because we all know that our small businesses have probably suffered the most, and they're the ones that also had to come back.

**Speaker:** They couldn't stay home on zoom. They had to show up and serve their customers.

**Speaker:** So that's why we're thinking 15, because they would bring more foot traffic to downtown. And so they could possibly visit those smaller businesses. Okay okay. Um so left off at the less frequent denial reasons was due to the business having less than 15 employees. Um, then we talked about the industry type, and this is actually shown on the bottom of the report. And so there's 40 different industries that the applications represent. Um, and so those full service restaurants, um, lawyers and office of lawyers, hotels, motels and then restaurants and other eating places, and the largest approved are hotels and motels, and that doesn't show it on there. Um these right here that is just showing the total number of applicants. Okay yeah. Employee size. As for the size of the businesses, um, um, based on employees, unfortunately, we don't have the total number of employees a business has. Um, what we do have is, um, that we know that only three

businesses were denied for testing, that they don't have 15 or more employees. So that means of the 61 applicants, 58 had 15 or more employees, other three denied. Um, if we extrapolated their credit based off their 2022 income subject to tax, because we don't have the 2023 data, um, their total allowed by credit would be only \$559 total. Income size. On the report, there's a section that shows Portland apportioned net income. So that's let's see the third row on the left side there. So we haven't received like I mentioned, the 2023 dba returns today. So the net income is based off the 22 returns. So larger businesses so that those that had income of 500,000 or more Portland net income, they had 17 total applicants. Six were approved. So that's a 35% approval rate for the smaller businesses. So those that had less than \$100,000 Portland net income, they had 34 applicants. Seven were approved. So that's a 20% approval rate. So like I mentioned earlier, one of the major reasons why some of these were denied was because they weren't in the district. So we do expect that 20% to increase. If this ordinance is passed. Outreach so originally we did send a direct mailer to over 119,000 businesses. We do not plan on doing that. This go around. Um, it was not widely popular amongst our business. Income tax filers. We had a huge complaint on why am I getting this letter when I'm not in the district. I don't rent downtown or, you know, I don't qualify for any of the criteria. So instead we were we will work with the mayor's office on communication plans, like currently we're thinking of sending emails because we do have a specific email where people have submitted their their questions and comments. Um, so we could reach out directly to them or we're thinking something social media related. And additionally we plan on either reevaluating re evaluating previously denied applications or reaching out to customers that were previously denied and have them reapply. We and that concludes my presentation. Thank you. And i'll stay

for questions. But I know you guys need to have other people come up and testify. My hands up.

**Speaker:** So, commissioner Ryan, okay.

**Speaker:** Thanks. Um, so to comply by those businesses that are receiving this relief is there. Um, let's see, do we have them comply by saying that our employees will return to the office full time?

**Speaker:** Yeah. So there's an application on that application. People self assess attest. So they'll say I have 15 employees and I and they work downtown half time and they're full time employees.

**Speaker:** So one of the denial would be if they're less than half time we don't.

**Speaker:** Yeah. So it's they're telling us like we haven't gone in and reviewed anything. So if they say that nope, we don't have this. We don't meet this criteria. Then they're they're denied.

**Speaker:** For that reason, you probably figured out I'm connecting the dots on why we're not giving this to smaller businesses. Because I was told, I believe you, that this would help get more foot traffic. So they would actually go to those small businesses. So I think it's really important that we figure out how to regulate that, that they actually are back in the office. Okay.

**Speaker:** So does that complete your presentation that completes my presentation testimony. Yep.

**Speaker:** We have.

**Speaker:** Thanks, selena. Thank you. Yeah.

**Speaker:** Uh, we have five people signed up. First up is mia burke online.

**Speaker:** Welcome. Mia, can you hear us? Okay.

**Speaker:** Yes. Great. Hello. Hi

**Speaker:** Hi, everyone. Uh, hello, council. Thanks for the opportunity to testify today. Hey, I'm the co-owner of a building and essentially side 711 southeast grand avenue. Just on the other side of the morrison bridge. Back door to river city. Bicycles it's called the nathaniel hawthorne building. It's a 10,000 square foot building. It's on the historic register. Built in 1892. I'm also the co-founder and former ceo of alta planning and design, a groundbreaking consulting firm specializing in creating active communities. I started alta Portland office in the kitchen of my 1000 square foot house on southeast clinton. Back in 1999, so we've been in Portland for 25 years since then, alta has grown to 250 staff in 25 uh cities. As you may have heard, alta recently relocated downtown as a huge fan and supporter of alta. I'm proud and happy for them, and I'm happy for downtown. It's smart business on their part to move where they got a tax credit that was not available to them in the central east side. As the building owner, however, I'm pretty bummed we bought the building as an investment in the central east side 15 years ago. Just before the streetcar went in, we lovingly renovated down to the studs, reusing or recycled 98% of the parts and pieces and compliance with costly historic oversight rules. We've been paying our portion of the streetcar led and we bought it in part because of the tax abatement on historic buildings, which just expired, shooting our property taxes up to \$24,000 a year. Really bad timing. Knowing alta was moving. We've been trying to rent or sell to no avail, and two of the interested renters told us that they chose downtown, of course, because why would a rational business choose the central east side when they can get a tax credit just across the river? Uh, or to the north in the lloyd district? So as it currently stands, the tax credit, which I hear it's a lovely program. Um, I appreciate the presentation. Um, but it effectively kills the central east side rental market. And not only that, it poaches current renters. It poaches renters like alta and this is, uh, I think you all agree this



is unfair and counterproductive. So in conclusion, I own one commercial building. I don't have the wherewithal to withstand years of vacancy. I can't spread the pain over dozens or hundreds of doors like the big boys and girls in the in the Portland real estate world. So I strongly urge you to extend the credit to central eastside. I offer one amendment, which is to offer the tax credit to purchasers of owner user buildings under the same conditions as the lease that you've outlined. 15 employees part time or whatever. Um, and that's it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

**Speaker:** Thank you. We appreciate it. Next up we have Jared Mees.

**Speaker:** Hi, Jared. Welcome

**Speaker:** Hi there.

**Speaker:** Um, I'm Jared Mees. I run Tender Loving Empire with my wife Brianne, and we have, uh, six stores in Portland. Um, and our original store is downtown and west end on 10th and Stark. Um or 10th and Harvey Milk, as it were. Um, we have experienced a lot during the 14 years that we've been, um, down in the west end and lots of ups and downs. Um, and I won't bore you with all of those, but ultimately it just seems like a no brainer to include the west end in this, uh, in the expansion of this, uh, this program, uh, they've been through a lot over there. Um, there's a lot of lot of small businesses that I've talked to throughout, you know, throughout the pandemic and, um, everybody continues to struggle. And I know there's a lot of issues seeing all the all the, uh, ways the data is chopped up and how it's benefiting people. But ultimately, we need more, more human beings down there. And we need to pay less money out of our pocket. Um, to, to, uh, to taxes. And so this seems like this, this is what this accomplishes that. So it seems, again, like a no brainer to extend it to the central east side and to the west end. Um, it will, I think it will really benefit us and it will really benefit a lot of the people that

we do business with. And, uh, actually having a ton more people walking around will be really, really helpful as well. Um so I don't have much more to say than that, but you know, thumbs up to expanding this program. Thanks a lot. Thanks a lot. Yeah.

**Speaker:** Thank you for being here. Thanks for everything you're doing.

**Speaker:** Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

**Speaker:** It's a great business. Thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Next up we have John Isaacs. Mr. Isaacs, welcome.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mayor and Commissioners. Uh, my name is John Isaacs. And I'm the executive vice president of public affairs for the Portland Metro Chamber. I still have not recovered my voice from the Timbers match on Saturday night. I mean, that, um, I'm a resident of Southeast Portland, and I prefer he-him. The Portland Metro Chamber is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. Over 80% of our members are small businesses. As you know, the Chamber is the contractual partner of Downtown Portland Clean and Safe, the largest enhanced service district in Portland covering most of the west side of downtown Portland. And I am here today to speak on behalf of both organizations. Today, we express our strong support for the great businesses we just heard from and for expanding the downtown business incentive tax program, which has been a critical and nation-leading step forward in the revitalization of our central city. The original dbtc program, with its targeted eligibility for downtown Lower Albina Lloyd and Old Town subdistricts, has demonstrated great potential in stimulating economic activity and attracting and maintaining businesses, enhancing the vibrancy of these areas by extending the eligibility to include Central East Side, West End, Pearl, Goose Hollow, South, Downtown, and South Waterfront. The program will not only broaden its

impact, but also ensure a more inclusive and comprehensive revitalization of Portland's central city. As you saw in the chamber's 2024 state of the central city report, we wholeheartedly agree that this expansion will cover our actual entire central city when compared to our peers. The central objective of the program are to the central objectives of the program are to incentivize long term commercial leases, thereby encouraging sustainable investment, increasing foot traffic, and promoting economic activity across our central districts. Each of these metrics has seen meaningful improvement since the program was approved by City Council, including a 14% increase in downtown foot traffic in 2023, with December showing the highest level of central city foot traffic since 2019. The proposed expansion represents a timely and necessary response to the challenges facing our city's core areas. By making the tax credit available to a broader range of businesses across all central, central city, subdistricts, we can accelerate the recovery and growth of our central city. Finally we would like to thank commissioner Rubio and the mayor for bringing this amended resolution forward. We recognize this amendment as another step toward realizing the advanced Portland plan produced by prosper Portland and adopted by this council last year. Thank you for your continued leadership, for our entire city. Thank you. Next up we have eric haskins. Eric haskins, next, glenn trager.

**Speaker:** Welcome. Thank you for being here. Thanks for your patience.

**Speaker:** Well, good afternoon, council members and mayor Wheeler.

**Speaker:** Um, my name is glenn trager. I'm a member of the pearl district neighborhood association board. And also on the board of neighbors west northwest coalition of ten neighborhoods in northwest Portland. The opinions that i'll be giving you today are strictly my own. They don't reflect the neighborhood association's since the social justice demonstration is beginning in may 2020, when

many pearl businesses sustained significant damages due to vandalism, businesses and commercial activities are struggling in the central city. Urban camping and the ongoing destruction of our neighborhoods by vandalism and graffiti have made it difficult to attract and maintain businesses and the regional customers who once were the lifeblood of our economy see the pearl right now has 112 vacant storefronts. We just lost our way, which was a major anchor within our neighborhood. We also lost a rite aid in our neighborhood that provided a mini grocery store in a source of medicines for our neighbors. Our businesses need a lifeline to stay afloat if we have any chance of economic recovery. The expansion of downtown business incentive tax credit is a necessary step in the healing the many ills confronting our city. We, uh, we certainly support this this measure for our neighborhood. However, central city neighborhoods are working hard to keep businesses afloat. However, in district four, with. The new budget, their budgets are going to be cut by half. We this is just, um, what happened is the right now, district four is basically the area from winton all the way to tiger and the neighbors west northwest neighborhood association, which right now maintains ten neighborhoods, will maintain 32. However the budget just went up just a little bit. So basically the amount of money that's available for a budget for the neighborhoods will be cut in half. And we all know the importance of having a strong neighborhood association to support our businesses. And to support our community. So please don't cut our funding for a district four neighborhood during this critical time of recovery. Thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** That completes testimony.

**Speaker:** All right. Very good. Any further questions. Ms. Silleda stl still here? Yeah

**Speaker:** Um, i'll have some a couple of questions for staff. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Go ahead. Commissioner

**Speaker:** Um, well, thank you for the presentation. Um, can you remind us again how many, um, leases have been approved? Um, uh, thanks to this program or first, how long has this program been up and running?

**Speaker:** So this program has been up and running. Gosh, I can't even remember. I know we started talking about it in may. I want to say October is when we started. Yeah.

**Speaker:** Excellent. And, um, so we have roughly a six month window experience with this. And in that six months, uh, how many leases were we able to get renewed?

**Speaker:** So we've that I don't know for sure, but I know we've had 17, um, approved applications.

**Speaker:** What's the is there a difference between renewed. Yeah

**Speaker:** Because there could be possibly people that renewed their leases but maybe didn't qualify for the program because of other criteria, not being met? Okay.

**Speaker:** Um, thank you very much.

**Speaker:** And actually, I want to, um, uh, mia burke, who testified, uh, that was the property owner, um, central eastside, uh, who was concerned that this program was poached ing, uh, customers or potential, uh, leasers. Uh, um, from central east side and pulling them into downtown town. I thought this program was largely for people who renewed their leases. So is there are there perverse incentives here for, uh, um, creating competition between neighborhoods or, I mean, just not understand?

**Speaker:** I can take that. Andrew fitzpatrick, director of economic development in the mayor's office, um, I would say the goal of the program is to keep businesses or attract them from outside the central city to the central city. Of course, because we

did start with these four subdistricts. You could have that unintended consequence where you're advantaging one subdistrict against another. And that's partly why we wanted to rectify that with the kind of consistent treatment across the whole central city today. Obviously, we started in those four, but we're quickly kind of adapting to what we know to be kind of the central city versus other areas outside of Portland, primarily because we know businesses are choosing to be in Portland or not, or generally considering central city or not. Portland.

**Speaker:** Okay. Um thank you. Um, I think during the chamber's presentation here, um, uh, John articulated three goals with this program. Uh, reducing vacancy rates, increasing foot traffic, and promoting economic activity. Do we have any data on, um, changes in, uh, vacancy rates, foot traffic or economic activity? I think John casually identified some, but I didn't see any in the press in the packet I got.

**Speaker:** Yeah, the official office vacancy rates are about 28.8% in the central business district. They're similarly pretty high in the central east side and other of the sub districts as well. Um, so they have not gone down, uh, the increase has obviously tapered off some since earlier in the pandemic, when it was increasing a lot more rapidly. And then the foot traffic data. Yeah, I would, I think Placer.ai data that Portland Clean and Safe Uses is pretty authoritative. And that's usually what we point to in terms of foot traffic increases. So happy to share that with your office.

**Speaker:** Sure. And instead of dragging everyone through a lot of questions, uh, maybe I'll cut to, uh, my point. Um, uh, one of the things that I sure hope that we can maybe be more rigorous with, with this program moving forward, is trying to dial in the impact it's having. So I'd love to see information on on vacancy rates, foot traffic and economic activity in these districts before and after. I'm not really clear on the difference between vacancy rates, foot traffic and economic activity in the downtown core versus the neighborhoods where, uh, likely to move this into. I

don't think this would be that difficult to do. I think the vacancy rate data, we should be able to get the foot traffic data. We know that the chamber, uh, gets economic activity data on the more micro neighborhood level. I'm not quite sure, but some of this, I think would be helpful. I don't see this to actually be, um, hostile to the program, but rather I think if we want to learn some things from this and actually think about taking this to scale, and we're already kind of going to scale, uh, um, uh, without some information that I think would be kind of helpful to have, you know, we have \$25 million on the table. And the vote we take today is not going to really change our exposure to. But, you know, frankly, if we're getting more than \$25 million worth of benefits, uh, um, from taking steps like this, it might be worth it. But right now, given the information that I have, I can't really tell if we're losing money on this one or making money on this one. I don't think it's impossible to answer that question. Um, so I hope the next time we see this we can maybe have a little bit more, uh, data that gets us leverage over what we're doing here.

**Speaker:** Thanks for that request. We'll take baseline data that we have, and we'll try to work to attribute the impacts of the program on each of the subdistricts, especially the new ones that we're moving into, hopefully.

**Speaker:** Great. I appreciate that. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Commissioner Ryan.

**Speaker:** Yes, thanks. Um, I'm supportive of this. Just thought you should know that. Um, and I'm I'm happy that we're having this kind of dialog because it's innovative, it's creative, and therefore we're building it. And we have to be responsive to keep improving. And hopefully sometimes the questions can help us look at that. So desperate times take desperate measures and so we're expanding this. That's great. My question is did we look at main streets outside of this area

and see if there was also some economic deprivation that would make the case for a main street neighborhood at one of our neighborhoods to be considered.

**Speaker:** We did look around the central the beyond the central city. But when you look at the vacancy rates and then you look at the employment base and where the most foot traffic comes or goes based on workers is just so much of that is concentrated in the central city versus neighborhood business districts and other parts of the city. And so we're kind of wanted to look at focused support within this area first.

**Speaker:** So the lens went from central central to like the expanded central.

**Speaker:** We started looking at.

**Speaker:** Let me just ask directly, so did we look at main street neighborhoods like lance, saint john's and canton, those kind of neighborhoods we looked everywhere and we decided that this was a central city tool that we thought we would have the most leverage in terms of a limited public resource for the maximum impact in terms of foot traffic and vitalization you didn't see the metrics of the saint, they weren't concerning to you as they were with the central. I think there's a lot of concerns in the other neighborhood business districts as well, and I take your point about other types of small business support programs, which is why I think it's great that prosper is expanding for the winter weather emergency.

**Speaker:** Those types of very small business focused programs, arms to restaurants and retail shops and other areas that were hit hard in January.

**Speaker:** You would agree then if we expanded it to main street neighborhoods businesses, we would consider different parameters. Perhaps if we expand this program citywide doing so well, we'd want to go beyond what we are today. Uh, yeah.



**Speaker:** I think we would obviously run the risk of hitting the cap that we've set with the limited public resource that we have, and then we'd have to prorate sleet is obviously the expert here, but per taxpayer that has qualified and been approved, then you have to prorate them all down for an equity standpoint. Right.

**Speaker:** And tell us more about the cap. Like where, where is it when, when we hit it I just yeah. So with the cap.

**Speaker:** So as I mentioned earlier so customers they have a chance to do to claim the debit credit over a period of four years. And so what happens if we start getting close to the cap, close to those four years, then we'll have to adjust the people that already claim the credit on a prorated basis. So that means like later on, like two, three years down the road, instead of getting their full credit, it would be be cut based on the based on what's allowed now. Okay

**Speaker:** And then I'm, you know, I made this point earlier and I'm just going to make it again. I, I don't know what how we look at the compliance for is this our compliance. You must have your employees back 50% of the time in the office. Yes. Okay. Um, I wish that was higher. So I will say that that would be one amendment that I would want. Um, and since that's supposed to be the reason why it's good for the small businesses is foot traffic. What measures are we taking now to comply with that? What's our how do we regulate that.

**Speaker:** Yeah. So for the reported. Yes. So for the application part it's self reported. But we do have auditors and so later on down the road we will have auditors looking into that whether they're meeting that in office criteria. How we're going to go about that. We're not necessarily sure yet, but um, it is something that our auditors will look into. I think a lot of us are concerned about that because we're our larger private businesses.

**Speaker:** Um, that that can do their work, if you will, at the privilege of being in their homes and their second homes or whatever are the ones that we would like to also be a part of that foot traffic. So I want to make sure that we have some criteria and some process that we're feeling good about.

**Speaker:** Yeah. And I was going to say we also have penalties that will be imposed. So yeah. So there's regular penalties for like let's say a lease stopped somehow. Um, they do have the company does have to pay back that credit. And then they pay back with interest. If it's something that happens just in the normal course, like they're, they're um, they're, they're the person that, um, they lease with determines that they don't want to rent to them anymore. Um, then they don't get penalized, as with penalties. But if it's something more fraudulent where they lied and said that they never had or they lied and said they had, you know, 15 employees working full time and they didn't. Um, that that's going to be more punitive as it should be.

**Speaker:** Thank you. I think it's so important as we're showing up to be good partners with our businesses in this regard, that we really do focus on as much shared accountability and shared responsibility and shared sacrifice. So we're in this together, and I just want to keep hearing that they're complying. Okay great.

**Speaker:** And could you, uh, just clarify that owner occupied is also eligible for this owner occupied is yeah.

**Speaker:** You're correct. Owner occupied is also one of the criterias okay.

**Speaker:** Good. During, uh, public testimony, it wasn't clear.

**Speaker:** I think some people weren't clear on that point. So I just want to get that on the record.

**Speaker:** Yeah, I think mia burke had brought that up as well. And I think not to speak for her, but I think she was expressing support for the expansion where her building is in the central east side.

**Speaker:** Oh, good. Excellent

**Speaker:** Anything else? All right. This is an emergency ordinance. Keelan, please call the roll yea. Rubio.

**Speaker:** I want to again thank mayor Wheeler and Andrew and Solita and the finance team for their dedication and for thinking very innovatively about ways that we can support businesses, big and small, who are working with us to stay and help our city thrive. And specifically speaking to those businesses who continue to work with us on their desire to stay here in the city. We just want to say we see you and we thank you directly because you've all been holding on strong during this time of need for our city. I also want to lift up that we're not just working on these key financial ideas, but also on bringing back foot traffic with so many other innovative event activations, such as the winter skating rink and winter lights festival and so many other things that are in the works that are driving Portlanders and even those that are still skeptical to come to a more active downtown. And in addition to these activations, I want to thank downtown clean and safe. The first responder bureau, and all of those who are working on community safety to ensure that we have a safe and clean downtown so that when people come to shop and recreate and work in our city's core, they feel happy to be here. So thank you again for all of your work and happy to vote aye.

**Speaker:** Ryan. Yes, thank you, commissioner Rubio and mayor for bringing this back. And when it was here in the spring, it felt like a wonderful baby step. And I'm glad that we're expanding it. And I'm also glad that we're, um, looking into how we can make sure that there's compliance and that we really reach that impact, that the metrics were wonderful. It was great when you expand it so I could see it, and I look forward to more dialog around this. I think we're on to something. And I vote yea. Gonzales would like to thank the mayor and commissioner Rubio for bringing

this forward as we continue our economic recovery as a city, it is crucial to incentivize and create a supportive environment for employers.

**Speaker:** While many suburban businesses and business clusters have weathered the storm through the pandemic, it is businesses located in the urban core that have been disproportionately impacted by higher insurance costs and absence of foot traffic and challenges in bringing their employees back to the office, expanding the footprint of current incentives is an important step in revitalizing our urban core, while also supporting entrepreneurs and employers and owners who have been hardest hit in recent years and who now need our support and frankly, our incentive as, uh, I believe it is important, however, to emphasize the total tax burden on our employers and earners. And it is essential that as the city sacrifices important sources of revenue, which we have done and are continuing to do, um, to support our businesses, our partners at the county and metro also do their part and evaluate what disincentives they're creating for earners and employers to stay in the city, in the urban core, in the region. With that, I vote. I maps.

**Speaker:** Yeah, I want to thank the mayor and commissioner Rubio for bringing this forward. I very much appreciate, uh, the staff presentation and the public testimony that we heard here, too. Um, this is the kind of pilot project that I think is really exciting, and I'm eager to learn about about, um, the real world impact of, frankly, providing, uh, tax cuts to businesses here in Portland. Um you know, I think that we can, um, there's more that we could learn from this particular experiment. And I've articulated that having a sense of the impact these cuts have on, uh, vacancy rates, foot traffic and economic activity both before and after we implement this program. And maybe we I think there's a real opportunity now and that we have this program in place in the downtown area, um, and whatnot. But as we think about moving into these new areas, kind of I think there are lots of control

experiments in nature in this particular, for instance, which we could learn from. Frankly, I hope that data will, um, educate us and give us some give this council and future council some information about, uh, when and where, uh, we can effectively, um, cut taxes and meaningfully benefit businesses, which is, um, a path I'm excited to be on, which is why I vote. I thank you, Wheeler.

**Speaker:** Well, we saved a meaty one for the very end of the day. And, selena, I want to thank you for your presentation. Andrew I want to thank you for your continued hard work on this. Commissioner Rubio, you and your team have been great partners on this, and I've appreciated it and enjoyed it. Um, this is a waypoint. This isn't an end point. It's a waypoint. But it's a really important one. And as was noted earlier, this is part of a larger economic recovery plan that includes addressing public safety, addressing homelessness, addressing livability, addressing activations in the city. And now this is the tax and finance incentive piece of the package, or at least one one tax and incentive piece of the package. And we're going to continue on all of these fronts. I'm pleased to say, uh, that we're making good headway. We're starting to see the results. And it's energized. And I appreciate the fact that this council continues to work together in a very unified way in moving forward on all of these initiatives and all of these different areas. It's notable I vote I and the ordinance is adopted, and we are adjourned. Thank you.