



December 18, 2024 Council Agenda

5796

City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor – 1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204

If Council Chambers reach seating capacity, the Lizzie Weeks Room in the Portland Building (Room 100), 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, will be available for members of the public to watch and provide testimony.

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

Questions may be directed to councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 9:30 am

Session Status: Recessed

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Council convened at 10:10 a.m.

Officers in attendance: Maja Haium, Chief Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

The consent agenda was approved on a Y-5 roll call.

Council recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

Council recessed at 12:04 p.m.

Public Communications

1091

[Request of Maria Flores to address Council regarding janitorial contract concerns](#) (Public Communication)

Document number: 1091-2025

Council action: Placed on File

1092

[Request of Lynn Handlin to address Council regarding Zenith Energy](#) (Public Communication)

Document number: 1092-2025

Council action: Placed on File

1093

[Request of Sarita Burks to address Council regarding accountability, responsibility, and integrity](#) (Public Communication)

Document number: 1093-2025

Council action: Placed on File

1094

[Request of Susan Griffin to address Council regarding difficulties living in downtown Portland](#) (Public Communication)

Document number: 1094-2025

Council action: Placed on File

1095

[Request of Addie Smith to address Council regarding Mead Building corruption](#) (Public Communication)

Document number: 1095-2025

Council action: Placed on File

Time Certain

1096

[Present Audit of the Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2024 and related communications](#) (Report)

Document number: 1096-2025

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

City department: Audit Services; Auditor's Office

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 30 minutes (1 of 3)

Council action: Placed on File

1097

[Accept City of Portland Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024](#) (Report)

Document number: 1097-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Accounting

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 30 minutes (2 of 3)

Council action: Accepted

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

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Rene Gonzalez, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Ted Wheeler

1098

[*Approve Plan of Action to correct finding by outside auditor of a material weakness in the FY 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192014

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Accounting

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 30 minutes (3 of 3)

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1099

[*Amend Graffiti Materials and Sales Code to allow for misdemeanor penalties resulting from graffiti application using right-of-way \(amend Code Chapter 14B.85\)](#)(Emergency Ordinance)

Introduced by: Former Commissioner Rene Gonzalez; Former Commissioner Mingus Mapps

City department: City Attorney; Police

Time certain: 10:15 am

Time requested: 45 minutes

Council action: Referred

Referred to Commissioners of Public Affairs and Public Safety

Consent Agenda

1100

[Amend contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc for professional engineering services for the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower System and Building Improvement project for \\$1,962,434 \(amend Contract 30007680; Project E11304\)](#) (Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192010

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Environmental Services

Second reading agenda item 1070.

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1101

[Authorize competitive solicitation and contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Gas Combustion System Project.\(Project E10649\)](#)
(Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192011

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Environmental Services

Second reading agenda item 1071.

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1102

[Authorize competitive solicitation and contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for construction improvements of the Swan Island Combined Sewer Overflow Pump Station Pumps 1, 3 and 5 project.\(Project E11368\)](#) (Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192012

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Environmental Services

Second reading agenda item 1072.

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1103

[Establish 2025 sale price cap for the Homebuyer Opportunity Limited Tax Exemption Program](#) (Resolution)

Resolution number: 37693

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Housing Bureau

Council action: Adopted

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1104

[*Appropriate grant for \\$7,750,000 from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2024 City of Portland Lead & Healthy Home Supplemental Grant](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192013

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Housing Bureau

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1105

[Accept bid of \\$3,446,150 from Interlaken, Inc. for the Jade and Montavilla Multimodal Improvements Project \(Procurement Report – Bid 00002231\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 1105-2025

Neighborhood: [Montavilla](#)

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Procurement and Business Opportunities

Council action: Accepted - Prepare Contract

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1106

[Accept recommendation of Chief Procurement Officer to award contract for new Customer Engagement Portal as part of the Advanced Meter Infrastructure project](#) (Report)

Document number: 1106-2025

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Procurement and Business Opportunities

Council action: Accepted

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1107

[Accept recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to award as-needed price agreements for Construction Inspection, Electrical and Engineering Support Capital Improvement Project Personnel Augmentation Services](#) (Report)

Document number: 1107-2025

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Procurement and Business Opportunities

Council action: Accepted

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1108

[Accept Report from Chief Procurement Officer to award contract to Moore Excavation, Inc. for the Conduit 3 Ovality Repair & Venturi Meter Removal](#) (Report)

Document number: 1108-2025

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Procurement and Business Opportunities

Council action: Accepted

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1109

[Approve Council Minutes for November 7-28, 2024](#) (Report)

Document number: 1109-2025

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

City department: Auditor's Office; Council Clerk

Council action: Approved

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

Regular Agenda

1110

[Amend contract with Northwest Success, Inc to add funds for janitorial services not to exceed \\$2,450,000 \(amend Contract 30008600\)](#) (Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192015

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Parks & Recreation

Time requested: 10 minutes

Previous agenda item 1083.

Council action: Passed

Aye (3): Mingus Mapps, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

Nay (2): Carmen Rubio, Ryan

1111

[Assess benefited properties for street, sidewalk, stormwater and sanitary sewer improvements in the N Suttle Rd Local Improvement District \(C-10058\)](#) (Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192016

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Transportation

Second reading agenda item 1089.

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1112

[*Amend Civil Rights Code to reflect City policy and the Oregon Equality Act, and make other process changes in relation to all-user, single-occupant bathrooms \(replace Subsection 23.01.030 A.; add Section 23.01.065\)](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Introduced by: Former Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Time requested: 15 minutes

Council action: Referred to Commissioner of Public Safety

1113

[Accept report on the remodel of City Hall](#) (Report)

Document number: 1113-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Bureau of Fleet and Facilities

Time requested: 15 minutes

Council action: Accepted

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

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: Adjourned

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Officers in attendance: Beth Woodard, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

Council recessed at 3:02 p.m. and reconvened at 3:09 p.m.

Council adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Time Certain

1114

[*Authorize grants from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund for a total amount not to exceed \\$300 million](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Ordinance number: 192017

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Planning and Sustainability (BPS); Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF)

Time certain: 2:00 pm

Time requested: 1 hour

Council action: Passed

Aye (5): Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler

1115

[Certify abstract of votes cast, candidates elected, and measures approved at the Municipal General Election held on November 5, 2024, and provide preliminary voter engagement report](#) (Report)

Document number: 1115-2024

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

City department: Auditor's Office; Elections

Time certain: 3:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (1 of 5)

Council action: Placed on File

1116

[Proclaim results of the 2024 Municipal Nonpartisan General Election on Measure 26-249: Amends Charter: Deletes outdated, redundant requirements to approve utility franchises](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 1116-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

Time certain: 3:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (2 of 5)

Council action: Placed on File

1117

[Proclaim results of the 2024 Municipal Nonpartisan General Election on Measure 26-250: Amends Charter: Adds Independent Portland Elections Commission](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 1117-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

Time certain: 3:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (3 of 5)

Council action: Placed on File

1118

[Proclaim results of the 2024 Municipal Nonpartisan General Election on Measure 26-251: Amends Charter: Updates authority to manage parks, sewers and stormwaters](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 1118-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

Time certain: 3:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (4 of 5)

Council action: Placed on File

1119

[Proclaim results of the 2024 Municipal Nonpartisan General Election on Measure 26-252: Amends Charter: Deletes vague, archaic and inconsistent language](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 1119-2024

Introduced by: Former Mayor Ted Wheeler

Time certain: 3:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (5 of 5)

Council action: Placed on File

Thursday, December 19, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

| Name | Title | Agenda Item |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Ted Wheeler | Mayor | |
| Mingus Mapps | Commissioner | |
| Donnie Oliveira | Deputy City Administrator, Community and Economic Development | Pre-gavel |
| Paris Hall | Procurement Specialist | Pre-gavel |
| Jess Cline | Procurement Manager | Pre-gavel |
| Tiffani Penson | People & Culture Manager | Pre-gavel |
| Carmen Rubio | Commissioner | |
| Dan Ryan | Commissioner | |
| Rene Gonzalez | Commissioner | |
| Keelan McClymont | Council Clerk | |
| Maja Haium | Senior Deputy City Attorney | |
| Yasmin Ibarra | Political Director, SEIU, Local 49 | 1091 |
| Maria Flores | (Communications) | 1091 |
| Lynn Handlin | (Communications) | 1092 |
| Simone Rede | City Auditor | 1096-1098 |
| Keith Simovic | Partner, Moss Adams | 1096-1098 |
| Brooke Stout | Audit Manager, Moss Adams | 1096-1098 |
| Jonas Biery | Chief Financial Officer, Deputy City Administrator, Budget and Finance | 1096-1098 |
| Jeremy Patton | Business Services Group Director, Transportation | 1096-1098 |
| Priya Dhanapal | Deputy City Administrator, Public Works | 1096-1098 |
| Mike Jordan | City Administrator | 1096-1098, 1110, 1113 |
| Fallon Niedrist de Guzman | Deputy City Attorney | 1110 |
| Sonia Schmanski | Deputy City Administrator, Vibrant Communities | 1110 |
| Maty Sauter | Director, Bureau of Fleet & Facilities | 1113 |

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

| Name | Title | Agenda Item |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Ted Wheeler | Mayor | |
| Keelan McClymont | Council Clerk | |
| Mingus Mapps | Commissioner | |
| Carmen Rubio | Commissioner | |
| Dan Ryan | Commissioner | |
| Rene Gonzalez | Commissioner | |
| Beth Woodard | Senior Deputy City Attorney | |
| Donnie Oliveira | Deputy City Administrator, Community and Economic Development | 1114 |
| Eric Engstrom | Interim Director, Planning and Sustainability | 1114 |
| Sam Baraso | PCEF Program Manager, Planning and Sustainability | 1114 |
| Stacy Michaelson | MESD / East Multnomah County Schools, Government Affairs Administrator | 1114 |
| Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong | Superintendent, Portland Public Schools | 1114 |
| Frank Caropelo | Superintendent, Reynolds School District | 1114 |
| Todd Reeve | CEO, Bonneville Environmental Foundation | 1114 |
| Tatiana Siegenthaler-Rodriguez | Builds Program Manager, Verde | 1114 |
| Lisa Abuaf | Development & Investment Director, Prosper Portland | 1114 |
| Stef Kondor | Senior Vice President, Development, Related Northwest | 1114 |
| Beth Gilden | Associate Director of Regional Partnerships and Projects, Institute for Sustainable Solutions, PSU | 1114 |
| Mary Peveto | Executive Director, Neighbors for Clean Air | 1114 |
| Jon Isaacs | Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Portland Metro Chamber | 1114 |
| Maty Sauter | Director, Bureau of Fleet & Facilities | 1114 |
| Michael Colgrove | Executive Director, Energy Trust of Oregon | 1114 |
| Molly Bisulca | Community Solar Manager, Community Energy Project | 1114 |
| Jamie Snook | Director, Major Projects Department, Trimet | 1114 |
| Michael Kiser | Project Director – 82nd Ave Transit Project, Trimet | 1114 |
| Gena Gastaldi | Pedestrian Realm Coordinator at PBOT | 1114 |
| Zachary Lauritzen | Executive Director at Oregon Walks | 1114 |
| Terry Parker | (Testimony) | 1114 |
| Deborah Scroggin | Elections Division Manager, Auditor's Office | 1115-1119 |
| Miranda Everitt | Senior Vice President, FM3 Research | 1115-1119 |
| James Eccles | Elections Analyst, Elections Division, Auditor's Office | 1115-1119 |
| Hayley Blonsley | Senior Budget and Policy Advisor, Mayor Wheeler's Office | |

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

December 18, 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: Honor the life of somebody who we all felt was just a remarkable leader here in the city of Portland.

Speaker: He was our friend. Perhaps more importantly, and that is biko taylor biko is, as many of you know, served as the city of Portland's chief procurement officer for nearly three years. And in that time, I can honestly tell you he left us with an indelible mark. And not only organizationally in terms of the leadership he provided here, but on all of us who are fortunate enough to work alongside of him and regard him as a friend. To begin this presentation, i'll turn this over to commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Thank you, mr. Mayor. Say, I'm getting signs for from people in the back of the room. We need to be louder. Okay. Thank you very much. You can use the microphone. Am I not using. There we go. So the mic is on. Are things working the way they're supposed to be working?

Speaker: I think so. I think you may need to be a little closer.

Speaker: All right, well, I will do my best to project. I think this mic is about as close to me as it can be. Folks. Thank you much so much for joining us today. We gather this morning to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary individual. Our friend and colleague, biko taylor. Until recently, biko served as the city of Portland's procurement director, a role in which he made an indelible mark on our city and its

people. His sudden passing a few weeks ago was a profound shock and loss for our community, which is why this council wanted to take a moment this morning to celebrate biko's life, his work, and his unwavering commitment to equity and justice. Before we get into today's program, I want to take a moment to recognize biko's friends and family who were so good to join us this morning. There we go. And keep those hands out for a minute, because we're joined this morning by danette taylor, biko spouse, joma taylor. Biko's brother, candace taylor, biko's sister in law. Here, let's give it a round of applause for the family. We also have several close friends of biko here, including robert, george, kira hardy, crystal chanel, and cheryl proctor. And I will tell you, as I scan the audience, I see friends and colleagues of biko's, from laborer to the procurement world to everyday Portlanders who are touched by his compassion and work. I want to thank you all for joining us today. Your presence reminds us of the deep connections biko forged and the lives he profoundly influenced. And I am also aware that we have many folks joining us online. Your virtual presence is a testament to the breadth of his impact. Now, to invite deputy city director don.

Speaker: The love of the san francisco 40 niners.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: And so, while our time together usually started, you know, started as getting together to watch a game on Sunday, we found that we had a lot in common and started making time for each other outside of niners games, and the conversations were always easy but deep. And I really cherish that time with him because we shared a lot of hopes and dreams for our lives, our careers, our families, the planet and people. And it's even after he left Portland, we stayed in contact and I enjoyed our text threads during niner games. Yeah, but as a colleague, what made biko so great to work with was his blend of leadership, class

and rigor biko his brilliance was his ability to look at systems while never losing sight of the people he wanted to serve and the people he sought to lift up. But I got to say, most importantly, was how he so deftly utilized that infectious smile. Even in the toughest of challenges. I think you all can appreciate that. When biko walked into a room and he chuckled and smiled, even if the topic was going to be rough and he was up here in front of you all with some difficult conversations, he was always able to balance the truth with just a little bit of levity, and that goes a long way. Being asked to come into a large organization and be a system wide change agent for good is no easy task. And I can tell you that biko and I talked about that a lot. We talked about the skepticism often sort of the subterfuge. But i'll tell you this, it was never with complaint. He never complained about the challenge. He never was upset. It was always about working to get the thing done and in a positive way, and that I will always be inspired by that. It's like, what would biko do as a public servant? Biko brought joy to an otherwise grind, and that is special. And if the city of Portland takes anything away from his leadership and his time with us, I hope it's that we make more time for joy. He brought it organically just by showing up, and maybe some of us have to work a little harder at to bring it. True. But I think it's going to stand the test of time as much as any product or procedure he left behind. So if we can think about the legacy of biko, let's start with his ability to bring joy to us all. I miss my friend. I miss Sunday's. And I'm grateful that his family and friends are here with us today to remember him and honor him. But I hope we can always take a moment to look out for each other, check in, make sure we're doing well, because I think that's what biko did well, too. And I think that's he'd want for us going forward. So. Bang bang gang. Yep. Thank you.

Speaker: You have to forgive me. I'm recovering from laryngitis, but I refuse to miss this moment. And to have the chance to speak for someone who impacted my

life in such an important way. I had the privilege of working as a procurement specialist under biko's leadership for roughly a year before he transitioned out of the city. I just wanted to start by saying that I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to share with you all, especially biko's family and friends, just how impactful his presence was in my life and the life of so many other young leaders and individuals. Biko was the first manager that I have ever worked with that inspired me to advocate for the things I believed in. Biko was the first leader to encourage me to find my voice and my place in rooms and environments. I often felt like I didn't belong in. And as an african American woman, this symbolic lifting of my head changed my life and my perspective of myself. He played a significant part in my life as a mentor, to the extent that even to this day, I advocate for minorities and those who are often overlooked because of his encouragement. And I wish I had the chance to tell him this biko led in such a way that he inspired his team to want to do well, because we wanted his legacy in Oregon and the city of Portland to have meaning. And I think our presence here today is a testament of that in his life. In this life, you only get one biko taylor. I often find myself looking for his leadership in others and being disappointed when I'm unable to find it. I think the reason this exists is because he has passed that totem pole onto those he impacted to go forth and prosper in the same way that he did to biko's family. Thank you. Thank you for loving him and for sharing him with us. It is through your support that he was able to lead the way he did, and I will forever be grateful for the time that I had to learn from him and from all of you. Thank you for allowing me to share and to be a part of this moment, and to honor his life and his legacy. Thank you.

Speaker: My name is jess klein. I was the procurement manager or goods and services procurement manager working under biko. The first time I met biko was to have lunch. It's important to give a little bit of context here. We were having lunch

because I was being a pain. I was doing the normal bureau thing of complaining about procurement taking too long, and he was relatively new. So he was doing the, you know, let's meet and discuss issues with the loudmouth. And so we have this lunch and towards the end of it he acknowledges. And he's like, yeah, we've got some issues. You've got some ideas. So why don't you come help me do something about it? And that's how I ended up spending that two and a half years as a manager. That's the thing with biko, though. He listened to you commiserate. He'd mentor, and then he would turn around and he'd go, so what are you going to do about it? I think most of us in this room had a biko call to action. Biko believed that what we did had impact. Procurement isn't the most glamorous profession. A lot of times, the only time you get attention is when something goes horrendously wrong. But biko thoroughly believed that we had a unique ability in government to be able to help people, to be able to help, right? A lot of historic wrong. And he believed that, and that was his mission statement from the day he got here to the day he left. And you see that impact in this city. The truth is, is I'm a better person because he was here. The people in this room are better because he was here. And the city is better because he was here. So in his honor, I'm going to give everyone in this room a call to action. Remember him? Remember what he brought. And remember to fight for what is right, even when it's hard. Because that is his legacy to us. And that's the best way we can remember him.

Speaker: Amen. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Hi. Hi, mayor and commissioners, I'm tiffany person, and a lot has already been said, but one of the things when biko was first being hired, michelle kirby, she called and she was like, well, we need you to do that thing. You do, that thing you do, like, welcome them in, make sure there's community, this, that and the other. So before he came, I reached out to him and asked him things that he

liked. And where do you want to live? And all of these things. And so my mother, who we make her work just as hard as our work for y'all, she reached out and she's like, hey, let me get you, find you a nice place and all of the things. And so what really started to form was a real friendship. He spent a lot of time with our family and we saw him on a regular basis. But one thing that I always called him, I called him like old school cool because he was kind of before his time. And I referred to him as a renaissance man, and so did a lot of people. He's very cultured. He was he was almost like he had lived this long life, but he was only 40. He was always exciting. One thing that we had in common, he and I are both visionaries and sometimes in government you lose that, you lose that. Being a visionary because you think that you are confined within processes and bureaucracy and all of those things, but you can still be a visionary. And he and I believe that a lot. And we always dreamed big. We also had in common pouring into young people how important it is to pour into young people, to believe in them, to invest in them. And so when I think about him, I haven't seen somebody like him in a long time. In this city, raised me not only outside of these walls, but inside of these walls. And so when he came along and I saw that it almost was like a rebirth, right? A rebirth and a reminder of how great we can be and how important it is to do our jobs with perfection, not perfection. Excellence, right? Not perfection, but excellence. And also to strive to make those around us the best that they could be. So I just wanted to touch on that. And I had talked to him for an hour like November 4th, and then November 5th, I woke up and he sent this what is for us will be for us. God has touched you and provisioned a space for you. What that space will be is a space to serve people and be a beacon for what is right. Job well done. Now that's not an old soul. I don't know what it is. And so I just I'm just so glad that he touched us, even if it was for a very short time. And I want us and leadership and just everybody here

at the city to just always dream big. We're an exciting time. And this is the time to dream big, to pour into each other and to support each other. So thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. And, mr. Mayor, I believe that's the end of our invited testimony.

Speaker: Very good. Then i'll entertain remarks from my colleagues. Commissioner Mapps, we'll start with you.

Speaker: Thank you, mr. Mayor. I want to thank our panel for sharing those heartfelt comments today. And, friends, I appreciate this opportunity to share some reflections on biko taylor's life. Now, as we all know, biko joined the city of Portland as procurement director in the summer of 2021. His vision was clear and transformative to dismantle barriers and create opportunities for minority owned businesses. For biko, this work was not just about awarding contracts, it was about building intergenerational wealth and equity for underserved communities. I will always remember one of my last conversations with biko. It happened right before he left Portland. He spoke passionately about his commitment to uplifting others, ensuring that everyone he worked with had a fair shot regardless of their background. Justice wasn't just part of his job, it was a guiding principle that defined his approach to life and work. One of biko's most notable achievements was organizing the first ever procurement day, an event that opened up doors for businesses across our community. And just last week, I had the privilege to attend the pdg gala, where we celebrated one of the largest infrastructure projects in our city's history. And I will tell you, biko played a pivotal role to ensure that a diverse group of contractors was not only included, but also empowered to succeed in that project. The foundation he laid will benefit Portlanders for generations to come. This afternoon, this morning, rather, we've heard some calls to action and I have another one. Biko understood the profound importance of equity and

representation. He recognized his work wasn't solely about contracts or infrastructure. It was about people. While his passing leaves an irreplaceable void, his legacy endures and will continue today as we celebrate biko's life, let's recommit ourselves to the values he championed. Let's carry forward his vision for a more equitable and inclusive Portland, which is why i, along with my colleagues on this council, want to thank biko taylor for his dedication, his vision and his service to the city that we all love. Thank you very much, mr. Mayor. Thank you, commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio, thank you. And thank you, commissioner Mapps and mayor for creating this space to honor biko today and also to the family that's here with us today. You honor us by being here. Biko was a widely respected leader here. He was a friend. He was one to so many of us here in his short time here. And my heart goes out to his loved ones. And this loss is tremendous. And it's felt very personally in all of our lives. And in his tireless work here, he changed the way that we do business with our contracting, as you've heard, to ensure and hold up the values around equity and the values around inclusion and building generational wealth for all people. And he did so with such grace and generosity. It was such a pleasure to work with him. But he also led very transformative changes in our system. And I feel that's very important for us to underscore here. These are changes that people have been waiting for decades for the city to do. And he led that charge. But at the core, he was an innovator and he was a visionary for systemic change everywhere. And he was a collaborator and a problem solver. And he worked with everyone to find solutions and always a win win. And those that know him know, as some have mentioned, he always said what needed to be said. He was always speaking right to the point, but always while centering equity and fairness and inclusion. And some of us who are lucky to experience that. He was

both a brilliant political strategist. If you had those conversations with him, and he was also a very, very hilarious guy, and his work has shaped this city during a really, really challenging time and his impact will be felt for years and years to come. And so to his wife and his family, I really want to thank you. Thank you for sharing biko with us. We got to experience him and we know why he was so loved. And we're a better city because of him. And so my hope is that Portland will take this opportunity to hold up and emulate what he showed us through his example of integrity and dignity and love. So thank you, biko, for all you've done.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner Rubio. Commissioner Ryan, thanks, mayor.

Speaker: Good morning everyone. Thank you for gathering here today to honor a remarkable leader. Mark youngman. Your comments earlier were so heartfelt and really centered us today. The timing actually is exquisite as we welcome a new space. Thank you for bringing love to this new space in a way that was quite special to observe. I didn't know biko very long or as deeply as those who spoke earlier. I always appreciate my moments with him. He was always so present. He listened. He was never a defensive and he was really comfortable with questions, and he honestly would discuss how to improve a problem. It's part of a culture characteristic that in the city of Portland desperately needs, and you could see that it was rippling with those who worked with him. Biko and I learned quickly that we shared a passion for increasing and improving our cobid contracts, a vital avenue for communities of color to learn trades and build generational wealth. Like my colleagues mentioned, what I liked about our conversations is they went beyond the contractors. It was about the workforce. It was about how to connect with the kids in high schools, get them into the apprenticeship programs. Then to be the apprentice. When we're talking about big, large scale projects like bull run, it was about how to sustain that. So someone could literally go from pre-apprentice all the

way to journey with that big project like that. He knew it was all about moving new people into those programs so they could have a long standing career. And like commissioner Mapps, I just attended the Portland business development group's building gala, celebrating those achievements and those impacts of minority and disadvantaged businesses and construction and biko loss was felt by so many of the attendees. His name just kept coming up. His presence was in that room, just like it is right now. From the earlier comments, it's clear biko's contributions will bolster city work for years to come, and the equitable impacts of those efforts will resonate throughout our community. My deep condolences to biko's family, especially to his bride. When biko told me why he was moving and I did get in his face about why he was really and he took a little bit of time and then it was so sweet. And he mentioned it was for love. And I'm like, that's the only that's the best reason to relocate. Thank you, biko for your service. May you rest in peace.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you. Commissioner.

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzales, I just want to echo my colleague's comments. I had the least time with biko, but his warmth came across. His generosity. His sincerity was self-evident the moment he walked in the room and interfaced with him, he provided profound leadership and was a change agent in our procurement processes. Clearly hearing the messages of those who he mentored really echo so to his family. Thanks so much for joining us on this special day. Honoring biko to his colleagues who've called out his many great contributions, and to the panelists and big guy, we're thinking about you today. Thank you. I'm not going to cheer for the niners, though, but.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner colleagues.

Speaker: Thank thank you, colleagues. And again, I want to join my colleagues in thanking biko's family and friends for being here today. You honor us with your

presence, and we want to extend our deepest condolences to you during what is obviously a difficult time. You know, so many good things have been said about biko in terms of being a visionary leader, in terms of being an excellent practitioner of procurement. This is a very difficult and technical area in our city. But most importantly, I want to thank the family for sharing him with us. He was just a great guy to be around, and when you get to be my age, you go to a lot of life celebrations and memorial services and the like. And what I'm grateful for with regard to biko is he was loved. He was appreciated, and he knew it because we told him that while he was with us. And so I have some gratitude here that this council always took the time to say how much we appreciated the work that he was doing in a very tough environment. He made a big difference. He expanded opportunities for small businesses, particularly those owned and operated by people of color and women. This was something that was very, very important to him personally. He wanted to make sure that our city's investments were in clear alignment with the values of equity and inclusion. Biko also was very concerned about customer service. I think all of us up here and michael, our city administrator, certainly heard this. People want to know that when they have an issue or a concern with city government, that there's somebody there to respond. And this was very important to biko that we improve customer service within our organization. He was very intentional in terms of building bridges with our community partners, making our systems more transparent and obvious to the public and more accessible. And perhaps most importantly, he wanted to make sure that they were fair, that everybody had an equal shot at the opportunities being provided by our contracting. He led with a genuine sense of humanity. As my colleagues have said it was. It was contagious. He was just such a respectful person. In a day and age where respect seems to be a rarer attribute. He was very active in mentoring

participants, as you heard in our city's participant mentorship program. He was always there for community events. He was present in the office and amongst his colleagues and coworkers, and he greeted everybody very warmly. There was always that big smile. There was always that handshake. And people appreciate that. And I know I did, though he left in March to begin a new chapter with his wife in Texas, his influence remains deeply woven into the fabric of this community. As we mourn his passing, let's also remember this he squeezed an awful lot into a life that was too short, but he lived that life very fully. He showed us the power of leadership rooted through compassion and a belief in the potential of each and every one of us. So on behalf of the city of Portland, I extend my gratitude and my condolences to his family, to his friends, to his colleagues. For those of you who had the privilege of working with him. And I think it's just about everybody in this chamber right now, let us honor his memory by carrying forward the values that he championed. And thank you, biko, for everything you gave to this city and to each of us. He'll be missed. But his legacy will endure. And it's in that spirit that I've been asked to read the following remembrance document on behalf of the City Council, and by extension, all of us in the city of Portland. Whereas biko Taylor was a dedicated and visionary leader whose work within the city of Portland helped to reshape the procurement landscape by advancing equity, fostering opportunity, and promoting inclusion, particularly in minority owned businesses. And whereas, joining the city in 2021 as the chief procurement officer, biko quickly demonstrated a unique ability to bridge gaps to identify opportunities for growth and create pathways for businesses and underrepresented, underrepresented communities to thrive in municipal contracting, therefore laying a strong foundation for future generations of Portlanders. Whereas biko's leadership was marked by his ability to see beyond barriers and identify solutions that would drive long term systemic

change, he championed initiatives that not only ensured diversity in public contracts, but also provided the necessary resources and support to ensure that these businesses could compete and succeed. And whereas one of biko most lasting contributions was his role in broadening access to public contracts for minority and disadvantaged businesses, including his critical involvement in large scale infrastructure projects, his strategic thinking, and his hands on approach helped integrate diverse contractors into these significant projects, fostering an environment where he knew that they could grow and they could succeed. Whereas biko is deeply committed to mentoring those coming up in the field of procurement, consistently prioritizing the development of others and creating a culture of support and opportunity within his team. His legacy as a mentor will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of working in working with him. And whereas biko commitment to public service was fueled by his belief that all individuals should have a fair opportunity to succeed regardless of their background, his tireless efforts to improve the procurement process were always rooted in a deep sense of justice, and his work consistently reflected his focus on people, not just policies. Whereas biko efforts culminated in the creation of the first ever procurement day, an event that opened new doors for local businesses by demystifying the city's sometimes complicated contracting processes and fostering greater direct engagement between the government, the government and community stakeholders, this initiative became a powerful tool for enhancing civic participation and fostering economic growth across Portland. And whereas through biko work. Whereas though biko work was largely behind the scenes, the impact of his efforts were undoubtedly far reaching and highly visible in the increased participation of diverse businesses in Portland's economy. His commitment to building a more equitable and inclusive future will remain a central part of our city's

ongoing efforts. And whereas biko untimely passing has left an immeasurable void in our hearts and in this community, his dedication to public service and his contributions to Portland's procurement landscape will continue to resonate, and his legacy will live on in the work that he began and the many, many lives he has touched. Now, therefore, i, ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland, Oregon, the city of roses, do hereby honor and celebrate biko taylor for his exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to equity, and transformative contributions to the city of Portland. His legacy will continue to inspire all who follow in his footsteps, and his work will remain a cornerstone of Portland's commitment to a more inclusive and just future. Thank you again, family and friends, for being here, for honoring us, for giving us this opportunity to reflect and celebrate. We'll take a two minute recess.

Speaker: Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: I guess so, donnie.

Speaker: So. Miss, I don't know, the mics.

Speaker: The mics are all right.

Speaker: Yes. So.

Speaker: Oh, they have to say that. I don't know if there will be glitches today.

Speaker: Folks.

Speaker: Are we on now?

Speaker: Okay. Yeah, it sounds like we're on. All right. Good morning everybody. This is the Wednesday, December 18th, 2024 morning session of the Portland City Council. Keelan. Please call the roll.

Speaker: Maps here. Rubio here. Ryan here. Gonzalez here. Wheeler here.

Speaker: We'll hear from legal council on the rules of order and decorum. Good morning.

Speaker: Good morning. Welcome to the Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually. You must sign up in advance on the council agenda at. [Portland gov backlash council backlash agenda](#). Information on engaging with council can be found on the council clerk's web page. Individuals may testify for three minutes unless the presiding officer states otherwise. Your microphone will be muted when your time is over. The presiding officer preserves order disruptive conduct such as shouting, refusing to conclude your testimony when your time is up, or interrupting others testimony or council deliberations will not be allowed. If you cause a disruption, a warning will be given. Further disruption will result in ejection from the meeting. Anyone who fails to leave once ejected is subject to arrest for trespass. Additionally, council may take a short recess and reconvene virtually. Your testimony should address the matter being considered. When testifying, state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. If you are a lobbyist, identify the organization you represent. Virtual testifiers should unmute themselves when the council clerk calls your name. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much. Well, welcome, everybody, to the newly renovated Portland city hall chambers. As you can tell, this is a trial run of the new chambers. There will be some glitches today as we work through some of the telecast, as well as some of the sound and potentially some of the lighting issues. We want to make sure that we get all the bugs out of the council chamber prior to tossing the keys across the table to the new council on January 1st, but I am very proud to announce that we are on track to deliver the substantially renovated city hall to the new mayor and to the new council on January 1st. Of course, I will ask for your patience. We may have to stop a time or two to adjust some of the technology issues or some of the physical aspects of the chamber, so just bear with us. This is an important day in the lives of many, and I want to reflect that, including all of us sitting up here

at the dais today. Lakhs marks the last time that I will convene the City Council as your mayor. And this is the last day of meetings for this City Council. Also, after 110 years, this is the last day that we will be convened as the commission form of government. I am extremely grateful that my colleagues and I have had the opportunity to convene in this newly renovated council chamber, even though it is on this final day of council meetings for this City Council, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the generations of past leaders that have stepped up through Portland's history to serve our city, and I want to express my gratitude to the generations who will follow. I also personally want to thank my colleagues who are sitting up with me here today. Commissioner Mapps commissioner Rubio, commissioner Ryan and commissioner Gonzalez. The public is probably not aware of the many sacrifices that each of you have made to serve the public, and also the work that you did to help ensure a smooth transition to the new form of government. Two of my colleagues ran for four year terms, but are only serving two years. They will vacate in response to the shift in government, this council and indeed our staff left our offices in city hall and moved into temporary spaces to accommodate renovations, both here in the chamber as well as in the council offices upstairs. And to be able to accommodate new roles in our city government, including michael jordan here as our first city administrator. And by the way, he is doing an outstanding job. And I want to thank you, michael, for all of the work that you have put in to ensuring a smooth transition from one form of government to a new one, while making sure that the trains run on time. My colleagues and their staffs, the city administrator and our deputy city administrator, our city clerks, our attorneys, our facilities folks, our technology people, our security people, and many, many other teams came together to ensure that we could move from this chamber to the 1900 building, set it all up, and then operate it successfully over the better

part of a year, and then move it all back into here. Six months ago, I asked my colleagues to do something rather extraordinary. I asked them to give up their bureau portfolios so that we could move on to the new form of government so that we could pilot the new structure so that our organization would be up and running on day one for the next mayor and for the next City Council. And I want the public to know that they met these significant changes, these significant asks with incredible professionalism, with flexibility and a clear commitment to do what was in the best interest of our city. These commissioners have been instrumental in transitioning to this new form of government, and they should be commended for their leadership during this dynamic time. It was not easy. There was no clear path in terms of how to get it done, but they did it. And for that reason, colleagues, you have my sincere gratitude and my thanks for your leadership. I would also be remiss if I didn't extend my deepest gratitude to the many city staff, our contractors, so many community partners who have worked tirelessly to get us to this point. While time does not permit me, obviously to name all who contributed to this herculean effort, please know that your contributions are noticed and they are appreciated. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together, and I'm confident that the work we've done will set the stage for a stronger and more effective city government. Last, since this is what I'm going to close on, I want to embarrass somebody in this chamber who means the world to me. And who has sacrificed mightily and helped lead me through this period of transition. And that is diwu sitting there in the second row looking like she's about to melt. That is my girlfriend. She has been a stalwart supporter of mine through thick and thin and I really appreciate you. Thank you for everything you have done and will do going forward. So with that, I'll turn this over to my colleagues. I know some of them have some

comments they'd like to make on this historic day as well. Commissioner Mapps, your hand is raised. First. We'll start with you.

Speaker: Thank you, mr. Mayor. Friends and colleagues, when I joined this council four years ago, I did not anticipate the scale of the challenges that we would face. There was a global pandemic which reshaped our lives. Urgent calls for racial justice reminded us of the need to address historic wrongs. Homelessness tested our city's compassion and our ability to deliver basic services to our most vulnerable residents, and fentanyl claimed countless lives, shattered families and scarred an entire generation of Portlanders. Now, this council faced those challenges with determination, resilience, and a shared belief that Portland's best days are still ahead of us. Which is why I want to take a moment to thank my colleagues on this council. Thank you, mayor Wheeler. Over the past four years, no mayor in America has faced a more daunting series of challenges than ted Wheeler. Mayor Wheeler met those challenges with courage, creativity, and compassion. His steady leadership during turbulent times is the reason Portland is on the rise today. And that is why I am confident that when the history of our time is written, ted Wheeler will be remembered as one of Portland's great mayors. I also want to take a moment to thank my friend and colleague, carmen Rubio. Commissioner Rubio is a steadfast champion for equity and inclusion and is a historically significant leader in our nation's efforts to combat climate change. Carmen's approach to the public's work is always filled with integrity, vision, and a deep sense of humanity. Portland is a better and more inclusive place because of her leadership, and I am deeply grateful to have had the privilege of serving alongside her and commissioner rene Gonzalez. It has been a true pleasure to serve on this council with you. I admire your intellectual curiosity, your intellectual rigor, and your intellectual honesty. I also appreciate your unrelenting commitment to making Portland a safer and saner

city. And sir, you have achieved that. And commissioner dan Ryan, friends, I think we all know it is no accident that councilor Ryan is this commission's sole survivor. Commissioner Ryan is smart, pragmatic and deeply committed to making Portland's a better city. He is also a champion for the arts and parks, and is one of the founding fathers of the safe rest village movement, which has now become a national model. Portland will be better off because dan Ryan continues to serve on this council and to the bureau of directors and dedicated staff at emergency services, environmental services, transportation and water. Your expertise, hard work and commitment are unmatched. It has been a privilege to serve with you and to my chiefs of staff, katie and michelle. Your strategic leadership and steady guidance were instrumental to everything we achieved and to my incredible team. Cynthia. Jack, natalie, clay, andrew, golden, jill and matt. You have been the heart and soul of my office.

Speaker: Your hard work and dedication have made Portland a better place. I am grateful for your service to my office and our city, and because history rhymes but does not repeat itself, I will be humble in my advice to the next council.

Speaker: However, I will share this. Disagreements amongst council members are inevitable and healthy. That is what democracy looks like. At the same time, I encourage new members of council to remember Portland succeeds when council works as a team. Your shared goal is not just to make a better city, but to make it a place where every Portlander can thrive. I want to close by wishing good luck to our new council, and I want to thank you for your coming service. Thank you, mr. Mayor.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner Mapps commissioner gonzales, I just want to acknowledge the. Eloquent and heartfelt comments from commissioner Mapps.

Thank you so much. It has been my immense pleasure and privilege to serve as a city commissioner for these two years, and to recognize this historic day with you all. Today, I want to honor all of the city staff who worked so hard to deliver this chamber's this these offices in the building and the transition as a whole on time, serving as a commissioner of public safety has been the professional honor of my life, leading and supporting the professionals who protect Portland, whether in 911 Portland fire or an event in in the case of emergency is something I will carry with me the rest of my life. I want to call out my excellent team staff that have worked through sometimes chaotic work environments to imposed remodels in our two years, an abbreviated term with the commissioner who pushed hard on tough issues that didn't make it easy for you. And I am deeply appreciative of your dexterity and your commitment to Portlanders, to my colleagues here on council, thank you for your collaboration and for pushing me to grow every single day. Whether we agreed every day or not. We were all pushing to serve the city of Portland, the city we love. I also want to thank you, say thank you to my family and particularly my wife and my children, my parents and my in-laws that endured at times significant sacrifices with resilience, support and love. And to Portlanders who elected me in 2022, who provided constant encouragement on the toughest issues. Thank you for your support and entrusting me with the honor to serve as a commissioner in the city of Portland. Thank you so much.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner gonzales.

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio, so it's a bit both exciting and a little bit surreal to be here at the last council meeting before we transition into the new form of leadership and into a new council. But as thinking about things coming to an end, I want to again, like everyone up here, thank everyone, including those that have been really engaged with us in specifically in my office over the past four years.

Whether you're neighbors, advocates, city staff, residents, anyone I've said this before in this room, representation really does matter, and each and every single voice matters. I truly believe that, and I truly hope that everybody who's engaged with us has always felt represented. I hope that you felt respected and even in times of disagreement. And I hope that that continues moving into the next year. And this has been a really pivotal time for all of us. You know, you've heard my colleagues say a little bit about that. When I started this job, the whole world was shut down during the critical days of the pandemic, and everything was remote, including my very first council meeting. And we faced, you know, the economic slowdown, the housing crisis, extreme weather, the reckoning for racial justice and all sorts of other challenges that popped up. But we're a resilient city. And on several of these things, we're making a lot of progress, and we're on the road to healing and recovery and on other things like housing and homelessness and climate. We still have significant work before us, and that work is still ongoing and in some cases, just beginning. But I have a lot of confidence in the new council, a lot of confidence in this brilliant city staff that we have here and that everyone is up to the task. And the new council is entering with fundamentally different roles than the five of us have now, and they're setting the next stage for the next chapter for the city's history. And you know it. It will be, I'm sure we'll see that there will be some challenges, but there'll be some really amazing new opportunities as well. And in some instances, maybe like, like us, they will feel like they had wish they wish they had more resources or authority or more time to do things. But in many instances they will do much, much more than they ever dreamed was possible here as well. And that wonderful feeling when you know that something is moving forward and it's on the right track, and we're responding to a deep need in the city and the community, I'm really humbled by everything I've learned and contributed

in this time here, and I also am very proud of the work that we've done as as a council and that what we've accomplished here, and I want to extend my best wishes to each of my colleagues. And I also want to really especially appreciate mayor Wheeler, for your tremendous leadership, for your integrity, and for your wisdom and your leading with grace. I really appreciate, mayor, how you've led with openness, and you're always willing to learn and you're always willing to pivot, which I didn't find is a usual trait anymore, you know, and I've always really appreciated that about you and your willingness to try something new. So I've learned that from you. So I'm deeply grateful also for the partnership and work of each of our bureau directors and dca's. I especially want to call out how eric, eric engstrom, sam barrasso, david kuhnhausen kimberly branam, chief day, and of course, donnie olivera, all of whom have extremely hard jobs and so many more that I did not name. But with each of them, you know, we were able to do some really important work here at the city. And our government is and city is very lucky to have these public servants. Thanks so much to the bureau staff, who show up every day during their part to make Portland good and make sure our residents get the services they need and people are safe. And I also want to thank my staff for their dedication and brilliance and creativity and brainpower and humility. Thank you for all bringing that all into your work every day, and for stepping up. And adelina, megan, christina, jillian, byron, jimmy, angela, as well as nissan, mona rico, will, steven and others. I'm so very grateful for each of you. You're my family and there will always be a tamale for you at christmas time at my house. The call to public service is not for everyone, but each. Each one of you responded to that call with honor and service, and Portland's better for it. And so last, I just want to thank all the community organizations, the neighborhood groups, and so many people who believe in Portland's potential. Keep holding our city county. Thank you for

holding us accountable. Thank you for reminding us of our city's values as we as we take those steps to make city the city that we want it to be. I truly believe we have a new mayor and council who believes in the very best of Portland. My computer just died.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: No, there it is. Okay. Wow. Okay. I truly believe that we have a new mayor and a new council that believes in the very best of Portland, and Portland is on in good hands. And this job has been the honor of my life. And I'm very proud of the work and heart and love that we are all leaving on the field today. So thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner Rubio. And last but not least, the survivor, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor. First of all, it's been an honor to serve on this City Council with all of you. You've always, always I've always been on the end, all of you to the right. Together, we continue to thrive, even in the face of unprecedented changes that the mayor mentioned earlier. We shifted, we adapted. We pivoted often, especially with the charter vote. We talked about the moving of offices a couple of times, moved chambers, and helped build an on ramp to our new governance structure. And at the same time, we stayed laser focused on critical issues facing our city. We had thoughtful debate, creative tension, as I like to call it, and remained in dialog as we often made very difficult decisions because we knew that we were doing good work for Portlanders who often don't feel heard, and our cooling off periods were rather brief. I know we needed them now and then. We took the work seriously, not ourselves. We did the best we could to be nonpartizan in a political, polarizing environment that is public servant leadership. I remember what it was like in September of 2020 as I joined the mayor, and soon enough we were doing really hard things all in our homes as we were locked in. And then you

trusted me to work with the county to collaborate and challenge the status quo so we could improve our results. For those who are chronically homeless. Soon, we welcomed commissioner Rubio and maps in 2021, which was great because I finally got some onboarding and the two of you arrived and then commissioner Gonzales in 2023. While things in the city aren't perfect now, we as a team and I want to stress that word team, which is a rarity in political bodies, have made significant progress. I really want to pause now and just thank my staff team, currently led by TJ Mchugh and formerly by Kelly Torres. I know I'm going to mess up if I list everyone over the last four plus years, but I will acknowledge Jill, who's been doing council prep the last two years. Thank you. Alex is out there and I want to acknowledge I'm just going to do the ones I see in the audience. There's Darian Jones, who's now a leader in the arts office, and I liked what we sprung forth. So we have an arts office. Charity Montez, who is on our team at the beginning, is now leading that after she led the safe rest villages. Terry Tyson, who is the person who is the staffer behind the permit reforms. So all of us sit up here with great honor because we've had people who have believed in us, who have sacrificed for us, have probably been awkward at times in social gatherings when they say they work for commissioner Ryan, that's part of what it's like to do politics in 2024. And before this, people are heated. They're going to tell you what they really think. But I do look forward to a celebration with all of the staff later this week. I will do everything I can to keep us as a city moving forward, as I have the honor of doing that now with 11 other public servants. I look forward to staying in touch with all of you, and I'm looking forward to those tamales. I decided it wouldn't be on staff. Commissioner Rubio, it's an honor. It's been an honor to sit in the hot seat with all of you the last four plus years. You're the only people who could really understand what we were all going through. And I enjoyed those moments where we got off topic, but made it a little

bit personal about how we survived the week in with visitors that came to our home, or, yeah, a lovely heated comments we'd get. Why merely trying to buy some groceries at new seasons? It's what we all experienced because Portlanders love this city and they're passionate back on track. And I know all of us did the very best we could. I will miss all of you deeply. Thank you.

Speaker: Thanks, dan.

Speaker: All right. Thank you. Colleagues. First up is public communications. First individual, please. Item number 1091 request of maria flores to address council regarding janitorial contract concerns.

Speaker: I'm my name is yasmin ibarra. I'm the political director for seiu local 49. I will be translating today for maria.

Speaker: Okay. Hola. Alcalde de miembros de la consejo municipal. Gracias por estar aqui y de la oportunidad de hablar. Ustedes hoy dia tienen la grande honor de hacer el la diferencia en nuestras vidas para o para mal.

Speaker: Hello, mayor Wheeler and City Council members, thank you for being here and giving me the opportunity to speak today. You have the great honor of making a difference in our lives, for better or for worse.

Speaker: Hola. Mi nombre es maria flores. Soy trabajador de limpieza. Aqui en el edificio por un estado. Trabajando para relay resources durante mas de un ano y también soy de llegada sindical de mi sindicato. Tal vez me iron visto a mi o a mis colegas limpiando algunos de los pisos.

Speaker: Hello, my name is maria flores. I'm a janitor here at the Portland building. I've been working for relay resources for over a year, and I'm also a shop steward for my union. Maybe you've seen me and my colleagues cleaning some floors.

Speaker: Primero todo trabajar en un lugar. Qué tan tenga sindicato es importante para mi porque si tenemos unidad, tenemos apoyo y si no tenemos apoyo. Estamos protegidos.

Speaker: First of all, working in a place that has a union is important to me because if we have unity we have support. And if we don't have support, we are unprotected relays.

Speaker: Una empresa ofrece proteksyon y uno de los mejores seguros médicos tener un plan de médico dental y de la vista es algo qué es caro y otras empresas? No lo ofrecen sobre todo sin costo alguno para nosotros. También nos dan la oportunidad de poder, un a nuestros hijos a muy bajo costo really is a company that offers protections and one of the best medical insurance.

Speaker: Having medical, dental and a vision plan is something that is expensive and other companies do not offer, especially at low, at no cost to us. It also gives us the opportunity to put our kids at a very low cost.

Speaker: Cuando trabajé para otra empresa de limpieza en este mismo edificio, no freakin beneficios de salud ni. Recomendaciones de atención médica, a sensibles tenemos estos buenos beneficios porque lo vamos por ellos y nuestros sindicatos sin un sindicato. No tendríamos voz ni voto in nuestros salarios ni nuestras beneficios.

Speaker: When I worked for another cleaning company in the same building, they didn't offer us health benefits or have recommendations for affordable care. We have these good benefits because we fought for them in our union. Without a union, we would have no voice in our wages or benefits.

Speaker: Otra de las buenas. De este. Tenemos acceso al foro one k para preparados para una mejor jubilacion. Cuando ya no podemos trabajar una empresa anterior para la trabajé sin ninguna. Explicacion empieza a me siento

dolares por check, porque desean cu era obligatorio para nuestra senora one. Qué eso no era bien ni siquiera igual en la educacion.

Speaker: Another good thing about relay is that we have access to 401 k to prepare for a better retirement when we can no longer work. A previous company I worked for, with no explanation, started to deduct \$100 per paycheck because they said it was mandatory for a 401 k, and that's not right. They didn't even match the deduction.

Speaker: And un sindicato tenemos boec I vote yea en la. Respecta a nuestros beneficios. Hoy le pido. Qué considering. Buenos empleados. Sindicatos en nombre de todos mis colegas han luchado durante anos para mejorar nuestros empleados. La pedimos. Qué inmediatamente empleos sindicalista como el mio in a union.

Speaker: We have a say in our benefits. Today I ask you to please consider good union jobs on behalf of my colleagues who have fought for years to make good jobs, we ask you to invest in union jobs like mine.

Speaker: Tengo entendido cu la ciudad de. Is. Contratando actualmente una empresa sin sindicato para el servicio de limpieza en el departamento de parks me. Deception o eso peor a un escucha estan contratando a una empresa, ni siquiera cumplir con sus requisitos.

Speaker: It's my understanding that the city is currently contracting with a nonunion company in janitorial for parks. I was disappointed to hear that. Even worse, I was hearing your contracting with a company that doesn't even meet your requirements.

Speaker: La ciudad tiene una opcion porque el personal de la ciudad y los abogados estan poniendo excusas para la empresa. No apoyan a los trabajadores de limpieza y no califica para un con un contrato.

Speaker: The city has a choice why our city staff and attorneys making excuses for a company that doesn't support janitors and doesn't qualify for a contract.

Speaker: Los trabajadores de limpieza como yo nunca recibimos este tipo de beneficios peor aqui en esta empresa sin union recibe un trato especial por parte de la ciudad de Portland. Le pido. Qué se queda de lado de los trabajadores de limpieza? Muchas gracias por escuchar y por su atencion maria flores.

Speaker: Janitors like me are never given that kind of benefit. But here in anti-union company gets special treatment from the city of Portland. I'm asking you to stay on the side of janitors. Thank you for your time and your attention. Maria flores, thank you.

Speaker: Next individual, please.

Speaker: 1092 Keelan request of lynn hanlon to address council regarding zenith energy. Welcome. To.

Speaker: Hi. My name is lynn hanlon. I'm with extinction rebellion. I'm also a small business owner in Portland. I learned yesterday that the city received an application for a new lux from zenith energy. I'm here today to ask you all. And in particular, mayor Wheeler and administrator jordan, to do the right thing for the city and the community and let the new City Council handle this. Do not grant the lux. Zenith has a long and full history of violation, deception, and broken promises. They told the deq that they would not increase throughput. They then increased throughput. Manyfold. Do not grant the lux. Zenith was just fined over \$370,000 for illegally expanding by using the mccall dock without permission from the deq. This illegal activity went on for years, and the deq did not notice, nor did the city. Or did the city know and did nothing. Either way, this is reason enough to not grant the lux. They've been using this illegal expansion for fossil diesel, not just renewables. This violates the city's no new fossil fuel infrastructure. Rules do not grant the lux. Over

the last few years, throughout the zenith's, various lux requests, you've heard from thousands of community members via organizations and neighborhood associations and just individuals calling and emailing. I'm sure you remember there were 70 people at a deq q&a the other day. Those are not fun. All of them asking to not grant the lux. According to luba, zenith lux process is quasi judicial in nature, city code and state law call for public involvement. It should have happened last time and it must happen this time. Do not grant the lux. Zenith has not provided the complete seismic analysis required by the deq as part of the fuel tank seismic stability program, and what they have submitted is woefully inaccurate. It is woefully inadequate, incomplete, and probably inaccurate. It's pretty clear that zenith operations do present substantial seismic risks, and that they are obscuring do not grant the lux. Are you worried about zenith suing you? Imagine if you grant the lux disaster hits. People die and families sue you. Do not grant the lux. Some people are considering asking the next City Council to look into the actions by the city that have led to zenith's continued deceptive and dangerous operations. I don't think you all want to add to that now. Do not grant the lux. If you want to act on zenith, you have a perfect opportunity. You can rescind the lux that was incorrectly granted already. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you. That was perfectly timed. And advertisers would appreciate how many times you made the core message. I briefly got together with city administrator jordan. As you know, this got kicked back to the city. We do not have enough time to thoroughly engage this process between now and the end of the year, particularly with the holidays coming up. So it will be taken up by the next mayor and the next council in January. Correct?

Speaker: I'm glad to hear it. And so are all of them. Great. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Next individual please. Item number 1093.

Speaker: Request of sarita burks to address council regarding accountability, responsibility and integrity.

Speaker: Are they online? Keelan.

Speaker: No, sarita. Doesn't look like they're here.

Speaker: All right. Very good. Next individual 1094, please request of susan griffin to address council regarding difficulties living in downtown Portland.

Speaker: Susan. Doesn't look like they're here.

Speaker: All right. We ran a little over today, and I understand people probably had to get to work and whatnot. 1095. Please.

Speaker: Request of addie smith to address council regarding mead building corruption. Addie. I don't think they're here.

Speaker: All right. Very good. Keelan have any items been pulled off the consent agenda? No. Please call the roll. Maps.

Speaker: I Rubio, I Ryan. I Gonzalez. I Wheeler. All right.

Speaker: Consent agenda is adopted. First time certain please. Item number 1096, please also read 1097 and 1098.

Speaker: Item 1096 present. Audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30th, 2024 and related communications 1097 except city of Portland annual comprehensive financial report for fiscal year ended June 30th, 2024. 1098 approved plan of action to correct finding by outside auditor of a material weakness in the fy 20 2324 annual comprehensive financial report.

Speaker: Very good colleagues. As you know, the annual comprehensive financial report, the cafr comprises the actual audited financial results for city operations. It also provides key information related to the city's overall financial health. The financial report is prepared by the accounting division within the budget and

finance service area. It's audited by the independent audit firm of moss adams llp. Under the contract that we have with the city auditor. Today, we'll learn about the results of the audit from the city auditor simone rede and our partners for moss adams. We'll also hear from deputy city administrator and deputy city administrator jonas berry about the fiscal year 2024 report preparation. And with that, i'll turn it over to the auditor to begin their presentation. But I also just want to point out that, as usual, since this comes from the auditor, when we get. To 109, is it 1096 john 1096? We will not be taking a vote. We're just accepting it. But we will accept the report that is part of this. Welcome, auditor rede. Thank you for being here.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor Wheeler and commissioners, I'm city auditor simone rede. This is my second and last time that this council will hear from me giving this presentation. And I really appreciate your engagement on this subject matter at the very end of your terms in office. So thank you. Joining me from our outside financial audit firms, moss adams is keith simovic. Manager brooke stout is also available online. And jonas berry, the city's chief financial officer and deputy city administrator for budget and finances. To my left, as part of the auditor's office, our mission is to ensure open and accountable government. So to that end, I present periodically our audit work to you. Presenting our work publicly allows the community to engage with it. Next slide please. Our city charter charges the auditor's office with auditing the performance of our city government, as well as overseeing the audit of our financial statements. As mayor Wheeler said, we're not asking for council action on this particular item, which is the presentation or the audit itself, but the chief financial officer will be asking for your vote on management's response to an audit finding. Advanced two slides, I believe. There we go. First, I want to explain the difference between performance and financial

audits. Performance audits are reviews of the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of one city, program or service at a time, and the topics and methods for those audits are chosen by my office. By contrast, a financial audit is a review of financial statements, and it follows state law and accounting standards. Today, we're going to be looking back at the last fiscal year which ended June 30th, 2024. And the objective of this audit was to obtain reasonable assurance about the financial statements and whether they were free from material misstatement. So, in other words, whether they were significantly off. Next slide. I also want to highlight the different roles that everyone played. Management is responsible for preparing the financial statements and for putting financial controls in place. In the old form of government, management consists of staff from the accounting division within the former bureau of finance and revenue that was headed by the chief financial officer. In the old form of government, the mayor and commissioners were also managers who were ultimately responsible for internal control. In the new form of government, management will consist of staff from the accounting division, which is now part of the budget and finance service area, under the direction of the chief financial officer and the deputy city administrator, the city administrator and ultimately the mayor. In the new form of government, the City Council will continue to oversee the financial reporting process as part of its legislative role. My office is in charge of the financial audit and will continue to have this role in the new form of government. This separation between auditors and management enhances auditor independence, which increases trust in the results. We contracted with the firm, moss adams, to complete this financial audit, and I'm happy to say that the city received a clean audit opinion on the financial statements. The outside audit concluded that the city's financial statements are an accurate reflection of the city's finances. Last slide the financial statements and audit are an important resource

for community members, taxpayers and investors who buy the city's debt. And of course, decision makers like you. Interested parties can use them to see what financial shape the city is in the outside. Auditors also completed an audit for the city's spending of federal grant money. They reviewed a list of the types and amounts of spending of federal money, and our compliance with federal requirements. In addition, the auditors issued a letter to City Council describing how the audit went, plus other issues that are required by audit standards. This year, our outside auditors found a material weakness in the city's internal control, and Keith is going to describe what that means in more detail during his presentation. I appreciate the leadership of the city's chief financial officer, Jonas Berry, as well as staff in the budget and finance service area, as well as all city bureaus who helped facilitate the audit process over many months during the summer and fall, and for answering questions from the outside auditors. I also want to thank Moss Adams for their continued excellence and professionalism in performing financial audits on our behalf. If you have any questions after today's presentation, my office can set up a meeting with you as well as your staff upon request. Our audit services deputy director, Tenzin Guntur, is here to answer questions and can also set up a briefing with you. Now, I'd like to turn the presentation over to Keith and Brooke, and then Jonas will speak about the financial statements and how management is responding to the material weakness finding that is the item that you'll be asked to vote on. And after his remarks, we can answer questions as well as hear public testimony from you.

Speaker: Thank you. Very good. Thank you. Auditor.

Speaker: Perfect. Well, good morning, Mr. Mayor and commissioners. It's great to be back here in person with me. Of course, online virtually is Brooke Stout, our audit manager. And again, my name is Keith Sandvik, partner with Moss Adams and

oversaw our team during the audit engagement this year. Our intent today is to go through and summarize the results of our financial statement. Audit for the year ended June 30th, 2024 and answer any questions that you might have. Go ahead and advance the slide, and we'll go through kind of the breadth of the services that we provide to the city. There's a number of different audit engagements that we perform for the city, and a lot of that is because of the inclusion of those various entities within the city's financial reporting in the annual comprehensive financial report, or what's called the acfr. So in addition to the financial statement audit over the fairness and accuracy of the city's financial statements, we also do an audit, a standalone audit of prosper Portland and its own annual comprehensive financial report that they issue. We also do an audit of the fp, dnr retirement funds, as well as the mount hood cable regulatory commission. In addition, as you heard from auditor rede, we also audit the federal funding and the spend of those federal funds each and every year to make sure that those funds are spent in accordance with the compliance requirements underlying those grant agreements. And that's called the single audit. So there are federal funds that are spent both out of the city of Portland and prosper Portland that are covered in that audit. I'm going to go ahead and advance to the next slide and turn it over to brooke. If you can hear her online, she's going to go through the next couple of slides for us.

Speaker: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me?

Speaker: Yes. Loud and clear.

Speaker: Perfect. So like keith said, my name is brooke stout. I was the audit manager for this engagement. And my apologies. I couldn't be in person today, but I really appreciate the remote accommodations. So as you can see, our audit opinion and we can go through these reports and keith will go through the findings, like you said, in more detail. But financial statements were an unmodified, clean

opinion. We did have a material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting. But like we'll talk about that in a few minutes. We did have one small finding related to Oregon minimum standards, which was a failure to post the budget committee meeting public notice within the required time frame. It was just a few days shy of that. And then we had no compliance findings for the single audit. So if you want to go to the next slide. As auditors, we do have a few required communications, which include the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant accounting policies and any audit adjustments, and our interactions with management throughout the process. So first, the planned scope and timing. We finalized our audit on December 9th, and the scope included a comprehensive review of the financial statements and assessment of internal controls, and an evaluation of compliance with applicable accounting standards for significant accounting policies. We had no significant changes in accounting policies compared to the prior fiscal year. During our audit process. We mentioned it a couple of times, but we did have that one material weakness, which did lead to an audit adjustment. And the specifics of this audit adjustment will be detailed by Keith in the next slide. But I do want to emphasize that it's been communicated to management, and it is reflected in the final financial statements. And we really appreciated everyone's work on the adjustment and the cooperation from the city's team. It was really helpful. And on that note, I'm happy to report that there were no disagreements with management regarding accounting treatments or disclosures. We encountered no significant difficulties in performing the audit and the cooperation and support from management and staff really greatly facilitated a smooth audit process for us, and it allowed us to really focus on delivering a high quality audit. So we really appreciate that. And with that, I'll kick it back over to Keith to discuss that adjustment.

Speaker: Perfect. Thanks, brooke. All right. On the next slide, we're going to summarize the audit adjustment that we had. And what an audit adjustment is, is as we start our audit work, after the city has already closed its books for the fiscal year. If we note anything in the detailed testing that we're doing, that is something not recorded at the right amount, in the right period, classified in the right account, or if it's not following the governmental accounting standard rules that the city has to follow, that could trigger an audit adjustment. And again, we're looking for the big ticket items, the material misstatements in your financial statements. So we can give an opinion over the fairness and accuracy of that reporting. What we noted in our testing this year had to do with the area of capital assets, specifically construction work and process. A number of projects within pbot that were captured in your construction work and process line item. But those projects, as we conducted our testing, we found a number of them were actually completed. They were in service, the assets were ready for their intended use or already being utilized for that intended purpose. And in that case, the accounting rules say that should be classified as or capital assets in service. And you should start the depreciation process so you can recognize the expenditures and that depreciation expense running through your income statement. So you'll see the different dollar amounts here. The 262.9 million had to do with reclassifying assets. From construction work and process to capital assets in service. Item number two had to do with recognizing the missed depreciation of 12.1 million on those projects that were not capitalized to capital, assets and service in a timely manner, in accordance with the governmental accounting standards, and then an additional 6.3 million of those costs that were in capital assets and service that really should have been expensed and not part of capital assets in service or construction work in process. So those adjustments, as eric mentioned, are reflected in that final act for report.

But this led to an internal control recommendations that we have that we've classified as a material weakness. A material weakness is defined, defined in our audit speak as internal controls, where a significant.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: We're back in session. Colleagues, as you recall, 1096 is just a presentation. 1097 is a report. 1098 is an emergency ordinance. We will be voting on the report and the emergency ordinance before we get to public testimony. We'll do q&a. Commissioner Mapps had his hand raised first.

Speaker: Well, first, actually, is there public testimony on this one I didn't check no one signed up. Okay, if there's no public testimony, I do have a couple of questions. Great. We got through staff presentations at this point, so everything you officially want to say has been said. Great. I, I appreciate the presentation. I think I'd like to talk to some jeremy. Priya, you can come up to if you want to. If you you don't have to on the on this one. But I'm just trying to understand some operational stuff here. Hey, welcome. Why don't you guys introduce yourselves and i'll ask a couple questions?

Speaker: Thank you. Commissioner jeremy patton with pbot finance.

Speaker: Dc, dc, and paul with public works.

Speaker: Hey, welcome. Thanks for joining us here on this beautiful day. Maybe. Jeremy, i'll start with you, although dc, the dc may jump in and provide some insight. I'm just trying to understand why this happened. I think I understand sort of the problems that we have that the audit put together operationally. Do you understand where this came from?

Speaker: Yeah. And I think it's best said dc beer kind of said it best with a lack of resources. Really what it comes down to when you when you have limited accounting staff, as we do in pbot. Yeah. Not the ability to really add a whole lot of

staff over the last five years with budget shortfalls. We really have to prioritize what that staff works on. Yeah. And what we've been prioritizing is we need to pay our vendors, and we need to try and pay them on time as much as possible, which I would say we even struggle a little bit with that right now. And then a lot of times that comes at the cost of things like this, of doing this compliance reporting.

Speaker: Okay. And, you know, I think the next thing we're going to hear about or vote on is the plan of action. Can you. Help me understand the relationship between or the problems that we've identified and the plan of action? What is the plan of action? How does it fix our problems operationally?

Speaker: So the plan of action from pbots standpoint is do that lack of resources. We ended up in this situation so we can no longer ignore that lack of resource. So what we're going to do is go ahead and hire two limited term asset accountants to come in and start to work on this issue immediately to be addressing the audit, and then we'll see the ongoing support needed after that to maintain the proper reporting and the proper oversight. That's what pbots will do. I know that central accounting will also have some work to do as far as they're going to offer additional trainings. They're also going to be providing some central oversight to make sure that we're doing the job that we need to do to be following up with our project managers.

Speaker: You said these are temporary hires. How long are those folks going to be around for?

Speaker: They'll be around as long as we need them. They're only temporary hires because we need council authority to actually add permanent folks. So we'll hire them temporarily, and then we can come back in the budget process and make them permanent. But we need them on board as soon as possible. That's why they're temporary.

Speaker: I got it. Thank you very much. I appreciate that clarification, mr. Mayor. I have no more questions.

Speaker: All right. Very good, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Yeah.

Speaker: Could you put up the slide that showed the dollar amounts in the. That was up earlier? Of the material concerns. Bring it up.

Speaker: Slide.

Speaker: It's like the second to last one. That one. Yeah. So my question is it's more of a communication question. So we talk about what our deferred maintenance is to the public in pbot and parks. And I wanted to make sure that the numbers are trued up. So our communication numbers about deferred maintenance are on the same par as they are with what the adjustments we're making here. Does that make sense?

Speaker: It did. And I talked to dc a little bit about this as well during the break. So when we come up with our deferred maintenance number we're really basing that off of inspectors going out and looking at the assets and coming up with which ones are deficient or not deficient. That's what drives that number, not necessarily the accounting behind it. So I think what this will do is help that accounting more match up to what our numbers are. But our number is not based on simply a financial transaction. It's based on people's eyes on the assets, letting us know the accounting language and comms language.

Speaker: In anyone who's run an organization, always there is a translation. So I just want to make sure that we were speaking with one voice, and it sounds like we're always on top of the current number when we talk about our deferred maintenance. Yes. Correct. All right. Thank you.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzalez, I just had one related follow up question. So maybe this is for administrator Jordan. When we report out overall infrastructure investment deficits. And you know, we sometimes speak to our I mean, billion dollar gap in funding infrastructure. Is it based on kind of the bottom up description. He's talking about where we're going out and looking at assets, assessing where investments need to be made. Because sometimes when it's presented it feels like it's a little more formulaic. Right. We're looking at what's been depreciated or amortized and backing in through some computation there. I just we have reported repeatedly our underinvestment in and I'm not just not necessarily just deferred maintenance. I'm really talking about. So maybe can you enlighten a little bit of.

Speaker: Sure. I think if I get your question correctly, the process of being able to ascertain deferred maintenance and those kinds of issues are much more like Jeremy described for, I would say, virtually all of our asset classes. However, I think there are financial considerations from our financial records that go into that number that you guys get reported annually anyway on our deferred maintenance. But it is much more eyes on assets reports from maintenance folks about how what they see as the life left in an asset and that's where you get and then and then of course the amount that we actually put into capital maintenance each year, those two things together get you this deferred maintenance.

Speaker: Well, it just it feels like we've used benchmarks at times in presenting the underinvestment in that space. And that at least implies there's some element of formula and computation is, you know, against benchmarks as opposed to is the bottom up description here.

Speaker: I think it's both to be to be fair.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker: All right. Very good I will. And just confirming Keelan there's no public testimony on the report or the emergency ordinance. No one will entertain a motion to accept the report, to accept the cafr.

Speaker: So moved.

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzales moves. Commissioner Mapps seconds, if I may. Any further discussion, please call the roll on item one. 097. The report maps.

Speaker: I. Rubio. I. Ryan. I.

Speaker: Gonzales i.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: The report is accepted. 1098 an emergency ordinance. Any further discussion? Seeing none, please call the roll.

Speaker: Mapps.

Speaker: Colleagues. Accountability is the cornerstone of effective governance. And today, we are taking a meaningful step towards upholding that principle. This audit revealed significant issues at pbot, including incomplete reconciliations, insufficient oversight, and outdated financial systems. Understanding the roots of these problems is the first step towards doing better. The audit identified several factors that contributed to these problems. For example, pbot heavily focused on delivering infrastructure and transportation services, often at the expense of back office financial functions. In addition, high turnover in key financial roles left gaps in institutional knowledge and expertise. Finally, legacy financial systems hindered accurate and timely reporting. Now, as the commissioner in charge of pbot, when many of these problems occurred, it is both uncomfortable to recognize these failures. But I also take responsibility where we should have done better. I think it's also important to recognize when we can do better, because this is an opportunity to improve. I have good news today. We have a robust remediation plan in place to

address these shortcomings moving forward, monthly reconciliation protocols and a dedicated internal audit team will ensure better financial monitoring and accountability. Expanding staff training will equip financial staff with the necessary skills and tools to perform effectively, and investments in modernized accounting systems will streamline processes and minimize the risk of errors. The steps we are taking today will create a stronger, probot and better government, which is why I vote. I review. I Ryan.

Speaker: Yeah, I just want to thank you all for being so accountable. It was a good dialog. I could tell that this has been helpful as we move forward, and we really need these watchdogs. It's just natural because, you know, people make mistakes. And there's also accounting laws keep changing. That's what I always learned when I had a roll over of oversight in this. And so I think we have a great corrective plan of action. And I appreciate the strict oversight that I heard about going forward.

Speaker: I vote yea Gonzalez, appreciate the dialog. I Wheeler, I vote, I and the ordinance is approved.

Speaker: 1099 please amend graffiti materials and sales code to allow for misdemeanor penalties resulting from graffiti application using right of way.

Speaker: This has been pulled back.

Speaker: 1099 is pulled. 1009 is pulled back without. Objection to the regular agenda, please. Item 1110 amend contract with northwest success incorporated to add funds for janitorial services not to exceed \$2,450,000 of.

Speaker: No.

Speaker: It was one second Keelan. It was 1099 okay.

Speaker: 1099.

Speaker: Got it on the and 1099 has been pulled back to commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: That's correct.

Speaker: That's right. Okay. Very good. We're good. And then you've read 1110 on the regular agenda. And Keelan, can you remind me this is a continued item. Is that correct?

Speaker: And it was continued but it's still a second reading.

Speaker: Okay. So we have already heard a presentation. We've taken public testimony on this. This is a second reading of a non emergency ordinance. Is there any further discussion on 1110.

Speaker: Yes. Yes.

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan and then commissioner.

Speaker: Go ahead.

Speaker: Commissioner Mapps I wanted people from the attorneys or someone to come up to tell us on what happened with the. Thank you. Hi.

Speaker: Good morning. Good morning. We heard from counsel for northwest success yesterday that they had mediation with seiu. They were unsuccessful in reaching a resolution, and they plan on moving swiftly to binding interest arbitration as required by our policy.

Speaker: Okay. That's good to hear. So my point was I wanted to know what the action would be going forward. So I'm sitting up here knowing we have to have someone clean our restrooms. Portlanders would be quite upset if they were all locked and they weren't clean. So at the same time, I don't want to continue to be in this place where you are two different versions of what's going on. And so to hear that there was finally action where they met there at impasse, but they're going to continue to meet.

Speaker: Yes, that's correct. The next process that they're going to go through is binding interest arbitration. They said that they planned on moving there quickly. I

didn't get an exact date from counsel for northwest success, but it sounds like they're moving through our process as required by our policy.

Speaker: And so how long will will this give me a sense of how long this will take?

Speaker: It depends. I'm not sure yet if they've agreed upon an arbitrator. So the typical process would be for the parties to agree upon an arbitrator, get dates from that arbitrator, which will depend on who they select with the availability would be. We could look at anywhere between a couple of months maybe to up to six months, I might say.

Speaker: And what will the feedback loop be for the incoming council?

Speaker: They I'm guessing they will be apprized of the status of the parties in binding interest arbitration. It is binding on them. So whatever resolution they get at that juncture will be complete. There will be a decision made about the labor peace agreement at that point and their obligation to us under the lpa policy will be complete for purposes of contracting.

Speaker: So I know I want I'm sure my colleagues will want to be in compliance with labor peace. And we also want our bathrooms to be cleaned in January. So are we going to be holding this process accountable because you'll be checking in with us in a few months to let us know what the status is, and if it continues to be in a place where there's debate about compliance, what would be the action to look into it? Contractor who could therefore be in compliance with labor peace.

Speaker: Yeah, that's a that's a great question. So I've been in good communication with the counsel for both parties. I expect them to continue to provide updates which we can provide to counsel as much as we get information. So that will be a continued communication from our end, to the extent that they do not complete their obligations for binding interest arbitration, there would be contract remedies available to the city. It would depend on what the city's interest is

in terms of going through those those specific processes laid out in the contract. There's usually a cure period provided for that. They can complete the requirements for the binding interest arbitration. If that's not being done, we could look at a more kind of serious measures under the contract, whether we want to cancel the contract, find liquidated damages and look for a new contract. There are remedies available to us if they don't complete the requirements of the labor peace agreement.

Speaker: Well, the good news is that this is not this is out in the public. It's transparent. There's now pressure in a good way to continue to meet and to get to an agreement.

Speaker: Right. Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan, I appreciate the questions you asked. I had many of the same ones. Just quickly, can staff remind me when this contract expires? Yes.

Speaker: Good morning. Good morning, sonia szymanski, dca for the vibrant community service area. This contract expires June 30th.

Speaker: Okay, so the contract expires June 30th. And the relevant parties are engaged in a process to figure out whether or not the contractor is in compliance. And that process could take a while, too. So we got about six months left in the contract. And these discussions around compliance with labor peace agreements continues to unfold. That's roughly where we're at, correct. What happens if it's not resolved before the end of the contract?

Speaker: Well, you described that that's contemplated and that we would have additional remedies we could pursue. I would anticipate that we would do that assertively. Okay.

Speaker: And if I may. Sure, commissioner, we will likely start a process to get a contractor for July 1st soon, soon. So these processes will be running in parallel. Regardless of the outcome of the arbitration. We will be doing a process to get a new contract in place July 1st. This contractor could bid on that, but there will probably be others. So that's kind of the process that we'll move forward.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: One more question. Under the new form of government, well, historically contracts like that I think might have come to council. Will they come to council in the next form of government?

Speaker: I don't think that they will have to, but I think there is a size and time limit. If it is a multi-year contract, it will have to have a non appropriations clause in it because council will have to appropriate for multi years.

Speaker: So okay I'm not sure I tracked all of that. But hopefully folks will who are going to be around did track that.

Speaker: Yeah a pin was put in this. And so we councilors can also ask. It's almost like pulling something off consent if you will. Sure. Absolutely.

Speaker: Well just to be clear, I mean council has investigative powers. So if they're concerned about labor peace agreements they can go and investigate that. I don't know that authorization of a contract outside of appropriations considerations will come back to council.

Speaker: This one will.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Leave that to you all.

Speaker: Oh, i'll trust commissioner Ryan on that one. I got no more questions.

Speaker: All right. Very good.

Speaker: This is a first reading, a second reading of a nonemergency ordinance. Please call the roll. Mapps.

Speaker: Colleagues, I'll be voting in favor of this ordinance. My vote reflects the city's obligation to fulfill its contractual commitments. The janitorial services provided by northwest success are also essential to maintaining clean and welcoming recreational facilities in our community. At the same time, like I think many people on this council, I have concerns that this contract may not fully align with this council's policy on labor peace agreements. Unfortunately, I do not believe that this issue can be resolved before my time on this council comes to an end. That's why I'm taking a moment to encourage the next council to continue to monitor this space. With those considerations in mind, I vote, I reveal.

Speaker: I'm glad to hear that the contractor attended the mediation meeting yesterday, hoping that there was more progress that we would hear today. I understand I'm not likely the majority on this, but I get the outcome ultimately may be the same. I personally still have some concerns and questions about the sequencing, and I don't feel comfortable increasing the contract until the process is resolved. So I vote no.

Speaker: Ryan.

Speaker: Well, I first of all want to say that your average Portlander wants our bathrooms and our parks to be clean and open, and we have to keep working on that practice. Second, I'm really glad again that this is out in the public, this conversation, and I do. I will put a pin in it and keep tracking because I've heard some of this before when it was off track. I'm going to go ahead and say it's just past time to get to a resolution on this. And I think we've been too slow to respond. And with that caveat of hope, but at the same time, with the vote for pressure to continue to meet and to get to a resolution, I vote no.

Speaker: Gonzalez.

Speaker: Boy, I'm a little bit concerned about precedent we're setting in questioning our financial obligations here. I vote I Wheeler, I the ordinance is adopted.

Speaker: Item 1111a second reading assess benefited properties for street, sidewalk, stormwater and sanitary sewer improvements in the north suttle road local improvement district. Second reading. Any further discussion on this item? Seeing none, please call the roll.

Speaker: Mapps I Rubio I Ryan, I Gonzalez I Wheeler i.

Speaker: Ordinance is adopted item 1112 amend civil rights code to reflect city policy and the Oregon equality act and make other process changes in relation to all user single occupant bathrooms.

Speaker: Commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: Yeah, colleagues, I'm going to pull this item back to my office. My team has identified some technical issues in this ordinance that should be addressed before it is voted on by council. Unfortunately, since this is my final meeting, I will not be able to bring this council or this item back before council. However, I do want to take a moment to encourage future members of council to monitor this space and potentially build on the work contained in this ordinance.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Without objection. Thank you. Commissioner Mapps item 1113. This is a report.

Speaker: Accept report on the remodel of city hall. And let's see talking points.

Speaker: Colleagues, as mentioned earlier, at the beginning of this session, we're celebrating a major milestone in the transition today with the substantial completion of the Portland city hall renovation project, the bureau of fleet and

facilities, in partnership with other city programs and bureaus, was tasked with carrying out this sizable construction project with a very hard deadline of January 1st, 2025. As part of the project, council chambers were remodeled to accommodate a 12 member council. Commissioner offices were converted into district suites. The mayor's office was updated to accommodate a city administrator, as well as a council operations team, and additional meeting room spaces were created in what were previously underutilized areas of the building. These renovations have resulted in a fully functional, ada compliant, safe and updated facility that will be ready to welcome the new administration and the new City Council in January. With that, I will turn this over to the director of the bureau of fleet facilities services, maddy sartor, to present the report. Welcome, director sartor.

Speaker: Good morning, council, on behalf of myself and a very exhausted team from facility services and the bureau of technology services, I am here to present the report for the substantial completion of city hall, specifically chambers and associated offices.

Speaker: Substantial completion is a major milestone in a project that is not final completion. We estimate reaching final completion on February 16th of 2025, but substantial completion means that a facility is used and useful, and that we have accepted it from the contractor in this case, howard s right. We have accepted all of the physical spaces. We still have yet to accept some of the technology and av elements of the facility. Remodeling council chambers is a once in a generation activity. It was done in 1933. It was done again in the early 1970s, and then it was done again in 1996. And that facility was the one that you entered when you came into office and were very familiar with. But of course, facilities, age and in particular, we needed to make critical upgrades to the technology and security systems and

then create room for the expanded council. We want to very much thank this council for the inconvenience that the project created. I know that it was difficult. You had to move out of your facilities. You had to go to a temporary location. Now you're here for the last meeting, but we do very much appreciate it. And overall, we want to appreciate this council in particular for supporting core operations. You not only approved this project, which will help the new City Council meet their public meeting law requirements on the first day of their jobs. But in addition, for our bureau, you've supported other facilities like the move of city fleet out of the kirby garage. We see this council as one that has really gone above and beyond to not just do the exciting things, but also to do the really hard things that people often don't appreciate. So we hope that the new council takes note of that and follows in your footsteps, because there's certainly many more aspects of deferred investment that we have yet to address. I also want to thank my team for all of their hard work, and I know mike is going to build on that here in a moment, but it's been a true endeavor between us and bts and opensignal, the clerk, really, everybody that's involved in behind the scenes productions to make this work, getting to the brass tacks of what we've done. As noted, we have the renovated spaces. In so doing, we avoided creating. I think we have avoided creating a stranded asset. So stranded asset is what happens when you lose functionality in a facility, but you still have to have it on your books. So we've been able to reuse this 1895 facility and make it modern, contemporary and useful. We have upgraded technology that by January 2nd will fully meet ada compliance rules and allow for a hybrid council. And we have in the offices, replaced 46 different heat pumps that were at end of life that used our 22 refrigerant, which emits a greenhouse gas that's 1800 times more potent than carbon. And that was a core element of our climate action plan going in and out. Okay. Conceptualizing the project took 14 months.

Constructing the project took ten. So again, you allowing this to move forward meant that the current the new council was not going to have to wait 2 to 3 years in order to really fully perform their duties. We opened two weeks early after having an original target substantial completion date of December 31st for offices and January 1st for chambers. Our final approved construction budget was 8.27 million, and we believe we are forecasting that the final project will be 8.33 million. So we were within 1.5% of budget. Our cost per square foot on the project is \$183 a square foot. Current contemporary projects are averaging around 300 to 400 square foot. So this was a good investment for the people. And lastly, from an equity and contracting standpoint, we had a 20% equity and contracting goal for design. We achieved 100% participation. For design. We had a 25% goal for construction, and we achieved an overall participation rate of 42%. Overall, the bureau's mission is to deliver value for the public, often in ways that people don't see or appreciate. And we feel that we've done that on this project and we hope that you concur. So with that, I would like to hand it over to city administrator Jordan for some final words.

Speaker: Thank you, maddie, and thank you, mayor. Commissioners, I'll echo maddie's thanks of you. It's been a pretty challenging last year of your of your terms. And we thank you for your patience and your flexibility. It's a special day today that we get to open these chambers and have you here for your last meeting. It's really important. There are a few folks I'd like to lift up and thank, but before I do, I want to announce that we will be having a public open house for the new facility. I think in mid-February is what we're shooting for. We'll get a date out, obviously, when we have that finalized, and at that moment we'll get a chance to really thank all the folks that are involved in this and open up the people's house for them to inspect it. But first, today, maddie's given me the honor of thanking a

few individuals who played a really important role in this project. First, a big thank you to randy selleck, who runs facilities, moves, additions and changes team and his experience with the procurement and legal aspects of the facility construction process at the city were key to getting this project off the ground. Along with her knowledge of city hall, because it's been in her portfolio for the last decade or so. So thank you, randy. Please stand and be recognized. And new fleet and facilities intern nora is handing out gifts. So thank you nora for that. Next, an enormous thank you to caitlin mcgehee, the principal project manager on this renovation. Caitlin joined the city about a month before this project kicked off. And so of course, maddie and randy immediately gave her the hardest job they had to get it done. And caitlin has done an amazing job. Prior to joining the city, caitlin did a lot of school renovations and so she brought to the team substantial architectural and project management experience and really stewarded facilities through the use of cmc or construction manager general contractor form of contracting, which is what allowed the project to be completed on time and so close to budget. Just a final note on caitlin. She is the consummate professional diplomatic, whether she's working with elected officials or the media or with contractors, there's really no way to express how important her leadership has been for getting this job done. Thank you caitlin. Next, I want to thank monica ramirez, who heavily supported council when chambers moved to the 1900 building, who helped set up this chamber, and who is now doing the same for all the new council offices. Monica has a terrific attitude and we're so glad she's here with the city. Thank you monica. There are also a few people on the technology and broadcasting teams that make all of our all of our broadcasts go so well for the public and work their way through the panicked moments when they don't work quite as well as the first. You all know this man, james apple, who is here, who leads the bureau of technology services, radio and

video shop and basically lives behind the scenes making our work possible, and who offered key insights into the design of our wonderful new audiovisual and broadcasting systems. Thank you James. And lastly, to close this out, three more people you all know Adam Carbonell, who is, I believe, here. And that's the bureau of technology services, who I think starts up every computer like 100 times for us and make sure it all works. Yes. And Sharon Thomas and Davina Krug and Chris Polanco from OpenSignal, who ensure that everyone in the community has access to our meetings through their incredible work on our audiovisual broadcasts. Thank you. And with that council, I'll turn it back to you. Mr. Mayor, thank you so much.

Speaker: Thank you. Is there any further discussion on this item before? Do we have public testimony on this item?

Speaker: Keelan I mean, I don't believe anyone signed up. No.

Speaker: Okay. Very good.

Speaker: Any further discussion on this item?

Speaker: Mayor just got little gavels. Is that what those were?

Speaker: Those were little gavels. Yes. Check them out. Those are cool.

Speaker: Well done. I actually forgot to put in the order for you. It was on the list, but you get gavels too. Oh, I don't know how I forgot that, but they say.

Speaker: And thank you Michael, for recognizing all the many, many people who worked so hard behind the scenes. They most certainly have not gotten all the credit that they deserve for this project. If there's no further discussion, I'll entertain a motion to accept the report. So moved Commissioner Mapps moves. Second commissioner was that Commissioner Gonzalez seconds. Any further discussion, please call the roll Keelan Mapps.

Speaker: I want to thank everyone who worked hard to make these renovations possible. I also encourage every Portlander to come swing by your city hall in the

coming weeks and months. The building is truly beautiful and ready for the 21st century and our next council. I'm proud that we got to this moment. Mayor, your leadership in managing this transition. Same with mike. You've been amazing. I'm proud to vote.

Speaker: I yea. Rubio I want to thank the entire remodel project team, audio visual it teams and partners, including director jordan and your team for all of your tireless work. This project really signals a new beginning for our city government, and it's very exciting for Portland. Really excited to also be in this really bright, sunny room. It's really cool. I'm very jealous. So again, just want to say applaud, applaud you all and job well done I vote aye.

Speaker: Ryan.

Speaker: Yeah, that was a great presentation. Thank you mattie. And I can imagine how exhausted you are because I was here and I was late in the day and you were all you could tell you were going to be here much longer as you were working out the kinks. So anyway, job well done. There haven't been that many this morning, so that's another proof. I also want to say that this to me feels like phase a big phase. Phase one. I know we're going to have longer conversations about what this means in district offices, and I look forward to that conversation. And I know that we have such an amazing team that will pull that off. Thank you.

Speaker: I vote yea gonzales, I just want to echo my comments this morning and my colleague's comments today.

Speaker: Thank you to all the team members who contributed here. You have delivered a lovely facility to house our new form of government, I vote aye. Wheeler.

Speaker: Well, I've been spying on you all. You didn't know this. My temporary office across the street has a perfect bird's eye view, both into the chambers as well

as the council offices. And I've been watching nervously over the course of many months, wondering whether this project would be delivered on time. And I want to say how much I appreciate the work everybody here has put in to get it done. And Keelan, I think we have to agree. We've had far fewer glitches today than we thought we might. We really haven't had a test run on the lighting or the technology or the it systems or the broadcast system, and it's really gone more or less without a hitch. And I know that a lot of people in this room right now worked hard to make sure that that was the case. I want to thank our teams from host architecture and howard s right, as well as many of our trade partners for their outstanding work on this. I want to thank all of you who are important members of our staff within facilities, within technology services, integrated security, the auditor's office, the attorney's office, business operations, procurement and the transition team who contributed significantly to this project. Many, many, many city employees worked hard and that included evenings, and it included weekends. And it included time over vacations for people to be able to get this done on the timeline that was directed by the voters of this city. I also want to give special thanks to maddie. Maddie, thank you for your leadership on this. Caitlin mcgehee, randy selleck, monica ramirez, james apple, adam coppenolle, manny carrera, Keelan mcclymont, aaron beck, kathleen brennan, murua, and many others for shepherding this work. I want to thank my staff and the mayor's office as well. I know you all work really long hours. You work hard not just on the issues around our city, but you took a personal interest in ensuring that this project was delivered on time. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the work of my team. I feel very fortunate to work alongside all of them. And sarah and haley, I see you here today. I know you both worked very, very hard on this project in particular, although many other members of our team did as well. Thank you so much for that. All of you collectively were charged

with delivering a key element of this transition. And you responded with determination, creativity, adaptability. And I would argue unreasonable calmness elected leaders as well as Portlanders will benefit from your work for many, many, many years to come. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to hold our final council sessions here today. I vote aye. The report is accepted and we are adjourned until 2 p.m.

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

December 18, 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 role.

Speaker: Mapps, here. Rubio here. Ryan. Here. Gonzales. Here. Wheeler. Here.

Speaker: Now we're going to 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). Information on engaging with council can be found on the council clerk's web page. Individuals may testify for three minutes unless the presiding officer states otherwise. Your microphone will be muted when your time is over. The presiding officer preserves order. 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 from 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, state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. If you are a lobbyist, identify the organization you represent. Virtual testifier should unmute themselves when the council clerk calls your name. Thank you.

Speaker: All right. Good. And there's a weird echo up here. I feel like one of these monitors, possibly mine, is. Mine is talking. Or maybe it's commissioner Rubio's. Could somebody from bts come up and maybe troubleshoot this while we go forward? So first item Keelan is 1114 time certain emergency ordinance authorize grants from the Portland clean energy community benefits fund for a total amount not to exceed \$300 million. Colleagues, this item asked us, asks us to consider and approve a \$300 million funding package for the Portland clean energy funds collaborating for climate action program. Adam, I don't know what you did, but you fixed it just by walking by. That's pretty impressive. This is an emergency ordinance, so please remember, as you hear the presentation and the testimony that we will be called upon to vote today, I'll now pass it to our deputy city administrator, donnie olivera, to introduce today's item. Good afternoon donnie.

Speaker: Thank you. Mayor. Good afternoon, City Council. City administrator Jordan. My name is donnie olivera. For the record, dca for the community and economic development service area. I just clicked on. So, council, this is the end of the road for a very long process of this council's activation of a substantial investment in our city's climate resiliency and climate justice programming. I want to thank you all for your engagement over the last year and a half, two years, really, on how we thought about how we were going to take advantage of this incredible opportunity that the city of Portland's community leadership, environmental stewards, granted us to be stewards of in this fund. This particular program, the collaborative for climate action, is really building on the lessons we've learned over the past few years of the program, but also was a direct response to direction this council gave us in the spring to find a way to think about how we do multi-stakeholder and larger investments for our climate action programming. As a reminder, our community responsive grants are the backbone of the program. It

still remains the priority for this program to invest in our community organizations. But this opportunity is very unique. It asked our partners externally to partner with sometimes unusual suspects to find new ways to deliver climate justice, provide economic prosperity and opportunity, and once again, like keep after our our climate action goals for the city. The recommendations are a culmination of incredible amount of work, both on staff and through our partners, to really move through a brief process, but really like dense with information. So I also want to thank the pcef grant committee for their their work and their recommendations here today. The recommended projects you'll hear about were really a culmination of years of work and leadership in our the best and brightest of what we have in the city to offer. So I look forward to having staff walk through that for you today. And with that, I'm going to invite up erik engstrom, director of bts, and sam barrasso, program manager for pcf, to walk through the projects. Welcome.

Speaker: Good afternoon, commissioners.

Speaker: Mayor. For the record, erik engstrom, interim director at the bureau of planning and sustainability. Next slide please. We have our slides up.

Speaker: Slides.

Speaker: Well, while we're getting that going, i'll just say we're going to move through for today's presentation. We're going to move through the a brief update on how we got here, how we the process we use to deliver this recommendation will then have representatives from the proposed project briefly share some details with you. And then we'll end with questions and discussion. I think that's just what I said. Next slide. The collaborating for climate program highlights the strong demand for climate investment citywide and within our communities. Again, more than \$2 billion worth of applications were received when we put out the solicitation. So there's obviously a demand. It also highlights the heights we can achieve when

public, private and non-profits come together to achieve large scale, equitable outcomes. As danny mentioned, the focus of this opportunity was on high impact, multi stakeholder projects that reduce carbon emissions and foster economic opportunity. These collaborations bring together the expertise, resources and shared commitments of the organizations you'll hear from soon. And finally, these are a powerful example of how local investments can attract and leverage broader financial support. With this investment, we're securing at least \$350 million in additional funding from local, state and federal sources. And now i'll pass it to pcef program manager sam barrasso.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Good afternoon commissioners. For the record, my name is sam barrasso, and I'm the program manager for the Portland clean energy community benefits fund. So wonderful to be here with you all back in council chambers. And we have a wonderful lineup of speakers. So I will keep my presentation crisp this afternoon. So following the adoption of the climate investment plan in 2023, the city economists made a substantial revision to our revenue projections. This set into motion an amendment process that elevated the 2024 city climate projects. These are the projects that you all formally adopted into the climate investment plan just last week. And while this process allocated substantial sum of resources to immediate city priorities, city climate priorities within the city, we still had unallocated resources. And so the pcef committee designed a process called collaborative for climate action to create this funding opportunity. Now, the funding opportunity was designed to fill a gap in our climate funding ecosystem and complement pickups, other funding opportunities. And this process took the better part of the last six months and resulted in the proposals before you all today. In the next slides, I will walk through the collaborative for climate action process and the

funding recommendations. Really, before I turn things over to our wonderful set of speakers to share more about their their to share their remarks. So starting at the top, the funding opportunity used a two step process that involved the submission of letters of interest, followed by invitations to a subset of proposals to submit full applications. At the conclusion of the loi phase, we received over 50 letters of interest, requesting over \$2.4 billion in funding. Just speaking to director engström's comment there around the substantial demand and interest, following a review of our letters of interest. The pcef committee recommended inviting back ten proposals for funding that captured a value a little bit over 500 million. Now, the ten applications had about four weeks to submit their full application. The ten applicants had about four weeks to develop their full applications, which were subsequently evaluated by panels of pcef committee members, staff, external community members and subject matter experts. We had both internal and external validation of proposed measures and savings estimates that contributed to the project score, and we ultimately took all of this information in as part of the development of the staff recommended portfolio. And just as of last week, the committee formally recommended that portfolio to you all for funding. Now, before I dive into the next set of slides, I will share a bit of context about the proposal and the portfolio. All eight projects recommended for funding were down scoped from their final request. In order to balance balance investments across our funding areas. Support a variety of sectors from schools to industry, as well as leverage external resources that make this investment package larger than the sum of its parts. The recommendations are broken out into two slides, which i'll walk through to provide a brief summary of each project. I will not read about all of the projects or the partners on the proposals, but you will see that these proposals have numerous partnerships. And so with that, the first part of the list. So kicking this off

at the top of the list is our project with energy trust of Oregon, called the Portland solar for all project. This is recommended to the tune of about 25 million. In the project will install rooftop solar and battery backup across over 1300 households, addressing deferred maintenance and significantly leveraging federal funding in the process. Next is our project by bonnevillie environmental foundation called empowering pdx, and it is recommended for to the tune of about 31.5 million. Now, this project will deliver large scale community solar installations on port of Portland and metro properties and serve over 1500 black indigenous people of color and low income households with direct utility bill savings that travels with them. Next is a project by Multnomah education service district, and this represents a collaborative across all the school districts within the city, and this is recommended to the tune of about 70.3 million. And this project will utilize pcef funds to install energy efficient hvac systems, geothermal heating, led lighting, window replacements, electrification of school busses and green schoolyard projects. Across those six school districts. And then last on this list in front of you is a project by prosper Portland called the broadway corridor phase one project, recommended for funding to about \$36 million. This project will use pcef funds to support developing a net zero middle income housing project on parcel six by related companies, and provide critical workforce development opportunities to boot. Here are our next four projects. As part of this package, we've got our project by our bureau, bureau of planning and sustainability for the clean industry program. It's recommended for 20 million in funding, and this project will use pcef funds to invest in industrial businesses to support reduction of industrial emissions, air pollution and waste, while delivering meaningful benefits to communities near industrial districts and creating workforce development pathways. Next up is a project by our very own bureau of fleet and facilities. You'll hear about in a bit, and

that is supporting capital improvements and workforce development. It is recommended to the tune of 41 million in. This project will use pcef funds to support the city fleet relocation, garage relocation and direct service to the city fleets. Decarbonization goals support energy efficiency projects in city facilities and invest in targeted workforce development to support the development of a workforce that maintains our cleaner assets. And then next on this list is a project by trimet 82nd avenue transit project, recommended to about 55.5 million. This project will use pcef funds to support infrastructure for bus rapid transit investment and workforce development along the 82nd avenue corridor from southeast clatsop to the cully neighborhood, and leveraging in this project in particular, leverages substantial federal and local resources to the tune of about \$300 million. And last but not least, is a project by our own bureau of transportation called the sidewalks to schools proposal. This is recommended for funding to about 20.5 million, and this project will use pcef funds to construct new sidewalks, largely in east Portland. Some in the cully neighborhood near schools where they're most needed, creating safe, accessible routes for walking and rolling to schools. And so I just wanted to give a brief highlight. But more importantly, it's important you hear some remarks from our project teams of each of these, these recommended grantees. So i'll turn things over first to our first set of speakers, and we'll call on each subsequently. Now and i'll just note for everyone, since we've got a large lineup here, that each project team will be presenting for about four minutes of prepared comments. And so with that, mayor, City Council, city administrator, if I can go ahead, i'll call together our first, our first group of panelists. So i'll call up our group from the Multnomah education service district team, stacy michelson, their government affairs administrator for willamette educational service, district doctor kimberly armstrong, to join me up here,

superintendent for Portland public schools. And last, frank carpello, the superintendent for the reynolds school district.

Speaker: Great welcome. Thank you all for being here today.

Speaker: I will take i'll take one of you all to center.

Speaker: Thanks, mayor. Council. For the record, I'm stacy michelson, government affairs administrator for Multnomah service, Multnomah education service district. I first want to thank the city for its continued commitment to improving the energy efficiency of our public buildings and for this historic investment in our schools. This work will touch 21 school buildings across Portland. Those schools serve 7700 students, 69% of which are students of color and 38% of whom speak english as a second language. Not only will this investment improve conditions for students during the school day, but in before and after school programing, as well as any programing run by community partners that utilize our school district buildings. Facilities are not an area where our districts have traditionally had much crossover, but this process has already brought districts together to share resources and plans, and we're excited to continue this collaboration over the coming years. With that, I'm going to turn my time over to doctor armstrong and frank from reynolds.

Speaker: Thank you. Good afternoon. For the record, my name is kimberly armstrong. I serve as superintendent in Portland public schools. And as you know, our region is experiencing more extreme weather events, and it has significantly impacted our students. Now, as superintendent, entering in this year is my first year. It's one of my top priorities that we improve our school facilities, especially being a large landowner in Portland. So with pcef allocation, we'll be able to update hvac systems and replace windows to improve thermal comfort for our students. We also plan to work with community to design and install green school yard improvements that will will address inequitable heat islands, and that impacts the

lower or the different school buildings. And we have selected sites for these projects based on a number of factors. That includes schools that are more vulnerable to extreme heat based on the condition of our facilities and neighborhood green space, and then also the percentage of underserved students and opportunities to serve their surrounding communities. So we look forward to the continued partnership with the Portland City Council to support all of our students. So thank you for investing in public schools.

Speaker: Thank you. I appreciate your leadership.

Speaker: Good afternoon. Frank Carapella, superintendent for the Reynolds School District. Reynolds serves just under 10,000 students, extending from east Portland all the way to Troutdale. We have three schools that are located within the city of Portland, and those are Alder Glen Fair and Margaret Scott elementary schools. Those three schools are 60 to 70 years old. Those students, those schools serve over 1,100 students. 84% of those students are BIPOC. 68% of those students experience poverty, and 17% qualify for special education. Those schools are served by several hundred educators, as well as community partners who provide after school and summer opportunities as well. In short, these are some of our city's most vulnerable students. This investment will allow us to upgrade HVAC systems, replace roofs, and transition to LED lighting in these buildings. And every dollar that we are able to save on maintenance is a dollar that we can invest in our classrooms, where they are certainly needed. As Doctor Armstrong mentioned, we had several days in September, as well as over the summer where I had to really think about can we keep school open? Because it was so warm in our classrooms. We delivered hundreds of fans to classrooms, and that's what we were able to offer teachers because our HVAC systems were not sufficient. So this work will serve these three schools very well and provide them with comfortable learning environments.

And we're excited to begin this work and share our best practices. And thank you for your service. Thank you sir.

Speaker: Plenty of chances for questions. I'm going to go ahead and call up our next group. It's our team from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for the Empowering PDX proposal. Todd Reeves, CEO for Bonneville Environmental Foundation, as well as Tatiana. And I am going to butcher this. I should have checked in with Tatiana Siegenthaler Rodriguez, Buildings Program Manager from Verde. Apologies, Tatiana. I'll turn it over to you all.

Speaker: Thank you. Good afternoon, council members. Mayor, for the record, I'm Todd Reeves, CEO of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with 25 years of experience working at the nexus of communities and carbon, water and energy solutions. Our renewables team focuses on advancing renewable energy projects and partnerships that deliver direct and measurable benefits for low-income communities. The Empowering PDX project will deploy community solar across four properties owned by the Port of Portland and Metro to deliver this project and its significant benefits to PCEF priority populations. PCEF has partnered with six amazing community-based organizations. Core partners include Verde, Central City Concern, Eco, Apano, Unite Oregon, and Relay Resources. The proposed project delivers over nine megawatts of DC solar capacity. This new infrastructure is projected to reduce over 10,000 tons of CO₂ in the first year, with the greenhouse gas impact cost of roughly \$1,400 per metric ton of CO₂. The community solar capacity and energy saving kits associated with the project will serve up to 1,500 PCEF priority population households, generating \$12.8 million in utility bill savings. These emissions reductions and economic savings will accumulate over the next 20 years, helping to address the high cost of housing and mitigate the effects of gentrification and displacement, and reduce the energy

burden on low income households, regardless of whether they rent or own their homes. The intention of the empowering pdx project is to build capacity with bipoc contractors and nonprofits through contracting and community engagement. This is why we have planned for two of the community solar projects to be led by black man green plan, the only black owned solar company in Oregon. And verde builds our main community partner. Importantly, leaders become legends will lead a workforce development scope that will connect mentees to the solar installations, working alongside solar installers. Combined, these labor, workforce and community engagement partnerships represent over \$14 million that will go directly to our community partners, minority owned emerging businesses and pcef priority populations, I guess.

Speaker: Good afternoon. For the record, I'm tatiana siegenthaler rodriguez, and I'm honored to represent verde. Empowering pdx offers a transformative opportunity to take verde to the next level. With this funding, we built a dedicated team to develop one of the sites for empowering pdx, a 1.7mw array that will provide clean, affordable energy to bipoc and low income communities. Verde will also provide maintenance for two additional sites. This past year, while working with the bonneville environmental foundation on the pdx community solar project, verde demonstrated strong construction expertise. However, we also identified gaps in our knowledge of community solar. The partnership and synergy we have built with bf have been invaluable and with their continued support through empowering pdx, we will deepen our expertise in areas like land leasing, interconnection and the complexities of community solar. Empowering pdx is an opportunity to build a legacy of sustainability, equity and opportunity. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Thank you. Next up, we've got our colleagues from prosper Portland, starting with lisa abeloff, development and investment director and interim deputy director at prosper Portland, as well as steph condor, senior vice president of development at related northwest. Welcome.

Speaker: Thanks, sam. Good afternoon, mayor and council. For the record, I'm lisa abeloff, interim deputy director and director of development and investment with prosper Portland. And I'm joined today by our proposal partners, both steph condor with related northwest as well as noah cohn, who's joining us via the zoom audience on behalf of constructing hope and Oregon tradeswomen. As you know, the former post office site is co-owned by prosper Portland and the Portland housing bureau, and redevelopment of this site has long been called for in city adopted plans. Most recently, the vision for the site was established by years of community engagement, negotiations of a community benefits term sheet with the healthy communities coalition, and approval of a central city master plan. Today, the site is ready for development, with new street construction ready to start next year. But in today's economic environment, delivering on the community vision cannot happen without investments such as these, so we're incredibly grateful to be here today. The proposed investment of 36 million from pcf will help us deliver on two critical elements. First, more than 200 units of middle income housing in a net zero building. And you'll hear a little bit more about that project from steph in a moment. And second, new training facilities for constructing hope and Oregon tradeswomen in the immediate vicinity of the site, allowing them both easy access to on site training opportunities as well as the ability to double their training capacity to serve more than 220 individuals in a year. And diverse skill areas like energy efficiency, green infrastructure and renewable energy. Through that training, participants will earn industry recognized credentials to ensure that they

are prepared for a climate focused construction jobs, creating career pathways for women, people of color, and low income individuals as partners on the existing Broadway corridor labor management oversight committee, both Constructing Hope and Oregon Tradeswomen have already helped us deliver on site prep construction activities that resulted in 70% of the hours being worked by minority workers and 20% of hours being worked by women workers. Collectively, this investment in Broadway corridor provides for long term, equitable growth, sending the message that Portland's central city is open for business and investment, and advances Portland's reputation as a leader in climate innovation aligned with our community benefit commitments and values related. Constructing Hope and Oregon Tradeswomen have long partnered with us on conceptualizing the development and delivery of community benefits possible within Broadway corridor, and we're excited to continue our partnership as we move into this phase of implementation. I'd also like to take a moment in this kind of instrumental day to take to thank this council and the mayor for your steadfast leadership on Broadway corridor. Your commitment to this vision has allowed us to be where we are today. And now I'm going to turn it over to Steph, who's going to share a bit more about the vertical development project.

Speaker: Thank you. Lisa. Steph. Condor. Related. Northwest. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to present the Parcel Six project today on behalf of Related Companies. As senior vp of development, our Portland office, I'm confident in our ability to execute Related has been a leader in pushing the boundaries of sustainable development, having completed nationally 5052 LEED certified properties, including several LEED Platinum and large passive house buildings in the United States. What's exciting about this project is that it's truly unprecedented in commercial development. This project will be one of, if not the only, net zero

energy and net zero carbon high rise residential projects in the country. We believe it will set a new standard for sustainability and housing development, and present a case study for how this can be achieved elsewhere. At the neighborhood level. Block six represents a tremendous opportunity to not just catalyze development for the entire master plan, but also breathe energy and vibrancy into an area of downtown that is very much in a state of recovery. Still, we are deeply committed to the vitality of the pearl and old town neighborhoods. It's important to mention that projects like this that are only possible through incentives like the pcf program. So we're excited and grateful that this opportunity exists. Related has been in partnership with prosper Portland for several years. In the planning stages of this project, the pcf funding will be a significant milestone for the planning of this project. Psa funding will be go towards overall project feasibility and enabling the development to meet these unprecedented sustainability goals. Pardon me. The project will include approximately 230 units of new housing and urban walkable location, near jobs and multi-modal transportation. The housing will be below market and serve middle income individuals and families, defined as those earning between 80 and 120% of area median income. Missing middle housing is critical housing that often is not built due to financial constraints and even more unfound in urban core areas, as the barriers to develop middle income housing are high, we often often subsidies do not exist. Thus, the missing middle middle income housing you create will create a spectrum of housing options that span a range of affordability in the central business district, which will create opportunities for diverse households and incomes to benefit living in a dense, urban, multimodal corridor. Our team worked with pi engineers to determine a pathway to achieve net zero energy and net zero carbon. We expect the property to include efficiency measures like high performance hvac systems, air source heat pumps and all

electric design, as well as on and off site solar in regards to project schedule. Upon award, we will continue to design permitting of the project while infrastructure is completed on site. We anticipate a q3 2026 start with a 24 month construction schedule and would open in 2028. We're very excited about this opportunity and thank you for your time. Thank you.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you all. Next up, we've got the bureau of planning and sustainability with the clean industry program, starting with beth gilden, associate director of regional partnerships at the Portland state university's institute for sustainable solutions. Mary peveto, executive director with neighbors for clean air, as well as john isaacs, executive vice president of public affairs at the Portland metro chamber.

Speaker: Hi, all.

Speaker: Thank you for the opportunity to be here today and make this impactful work happen. I'm beth golden, the associate director at the institute for sustainable solutions at Portland state, and I'm here to speak on behalf of the bureau of planning and sustainability, clean industry community program. It's a \$20 million program focused on addressing industrial greenhouse gas emissions while delivering meaningful benefits to community. Portland's industrial sector is responsible for more than 12% of our local carbon emissions, and those emissions are uniquely challenging to address not only in Portland but worldwide. Industry plays a key role in our economy and in our lives, providing some of the most essential jobs to diverse populations in our region. Since 2022, I've been working alongside and prosper Portland and colleagues at in in the private sector to develop a robust collaboration that can reduce these emissions and support our industrial businesses. Our collaborative approach has been praised by community, business and government leaders, and we've laid a solid foundation for doing this work, this

funding for tangible projects in the community is the essential next step to furthering our vision of Portland as a clean industry leader in partnering with neighbors for clean air and other community serving organizations. This program will also advance environmental and climate justice initiatives in surrounding neighborhoods, and create new opportunities for those employed in the industrial sector. Thank you again, and I'll turn it over to some of our project collaborators.

Speaker: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Mary Peveto, co-director of Neighbors for Clean Air. We are honored to be chosen for the critical role of community engagement and ensuring this project meets PCF's high standards for delivering measurable benefits to the community. I want to thank our community partners, members of the Clean Industry Hub, the staff at PS, the PCF Review Committee, and all of you for entrusting us with this work. The highest priority in our work is to protect communities from harmful air pollution. We know that there is a higher concentration of industry in Justice40 and Peace of Communities, populations that are nearby, and so any reductions in air emissions will benefit those who live, work and play in these areas near these facilities. Neighbors for Clean Air is really proud of over a 15 year track record of getting to measurable results in emission reductions from industry through direct collaboration such as Esco, Vigor Industrial and Intel. We're proud to have helped create and be a partner in this innovative and groundbreaking proposal that seeks to reduce harmful emissions from industry through a collaborative process, by incorporating community in the upfront scoping and funding criteria. So we thank you for your support. Thanks, Mary.

Speaker: For the record, my name is John Isaacs and I'm the executive vice president of public affairs for the Portland Metro Chamber.

Speaker: I prefer he him pronouns, and I'm a resident of southeast Portland. I'm so proud to be here, and I want to express how proud the entire chamber on behalf of our 2400 members, our board of directors, how proud we are to be to have the charitable institute be the future home of what we believe is the first, if not, is one of the first, if not the first, clean industry hubs in the nation. And in addition to endorsing the sentiments of my partner colleagues here, I have to take my short time to recognize the leadership of outgoing commissioner carmen Rubio. When commissioner Rubio took office in 2021, she inherited a very large mess that was left by the failed proposed city carbon tax. Beginning early in her term, commissioner Rubio led frank and difficult conversations between the leadership of the chamber, columbia corridor association, then new bts director danny oliveira, and climate advocates, where we agreed to focus on our shared goal of reducing ghg emissions and to work together to meet these goals through collaboration and partnership. And we got to work making this transformation to collaboration a reality, beginning with the co-sponsored information exchange with the danish government, the entire four year journey that brought us to this moment would take too long to review. But I want this council to know that this historic grant and the clean industry hub are direct implementations of the danish model that we were exposed to on the trip in 2021. So these trips matter. Okay, this trip would have never happened without commissioner Rubio's leadership. With the full backing of mayor Wheeler and this entire council. And it comes with a full public commitment from the private sector to decarbonize, which was included in the grant submission. I want to end by reading that commitment here today into the formal record. This historic commitment would not have been realized without the partnership and trust that has been built with commissioner Rubio, dca, oliveira and the team of chief sustainability officer vivian setterfield and most importantly,

clean industry program director sonrisa cooper to this amazing group of leaders and professionals. Thank you. I know it's going to take me a little over, but I think it's really important for me to read this commitment into the record, this clean industry hub and partnership with the clean industry community program represents the beginning of a long term, multi-decade commitment by the private employer sector, the city of Portland, higher education, technical experts and community advocates to meet the city's climate emergency work plan goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We will meet this target by leading businesses to reduce industrial ghg emissions from 925,000 metric tons of co2 equivalent, equivalent to net Portland metro chamber and the columbia corridor association, as the leading private sector partners, commit to all formal partners to this proposal. The pcf board and the community that, following the danish model of industrial decarbonization, we will lead the effort to meet these concrete goals. We further commit to the creation of a transparent, real time dashboard to track our measurable progress. We further commit to supporting and growing businesses, both old and new, in coordination with the advanced Portland economic development plan that are leading the way in the transition to the low carbon economy of the future. Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you all. Next up is our very own bureau of fleet and facilities with marty sauer, director of bureau and fleet facilities, to talk about their proposal.

Speaker: Welcome back.

Speaker: Hello again. Council. For the record, my name is maddie sauter. I'm the director of the bureau of fleet and facilities, and I'm joined today online by our partners at pcc and pcc foundation. I was probably uniquely aware that things might not go well here today, and so I asked them to join us online. We've got josh coleman and tara nelson, who are our deans of the fleet and facility educational

fields. They're Christina Klein, who is the executive director of the PCC Foundation, and Pam Hester, who is with PCC and will be the grants manager for one of the pillars of this project. This collaborative proposal was designed to invest \$41 million in energy efficiency and transportation decarbonization via capital funding for investments in our facilities and workforce development partnerships with PCC. The first pillar of our project is the essence of the collaboration with PCC and the Foundation. Nearly 50% of PCC students are from communities of color, and almost two-thirds of their students have some form of basic needs and security. This pillar focuses on providing a regional pathway for these students to access what are increasingly in demand and well-paid jobs in the fleet and facility maintenance sectors. These sectors have a forecasted turnover rate of almost 100% over the next decade due to retirements, and they are critically needed in our society. We depend on skilled and plentiful labor to maintain the assets that we use in our work and in our life, specifically, this sector will or this pillar will provide direct financial support in the form of tuition and tool scholarships to both make possible and incentivize students to enroll in baseline vocational training programs in fleet and facility maintenance. This pillar also will create two new regionally accessible programs, one in EV maintenance and the other in building energy management that will allow students throughout the region to access those educational opportunities and employers to recruit from them. This will be education that's accessible to both students who are recently graduating, but also to incumbent workers who have already reached journey level status but need additional training in order to skill up. Of note, apprenticeships do not really exist in the fleet maintenance field and so education, particularly in this sector, is vital since there is no apprenticeship pathway to doing a lot of the work that we require for auto, diesel and EV maintenance. Our second pillar is focused on capital investment in

city facilities, specifically the replacement of end of life electrical, mechanical and plumbing assets in about ten of our different facilities. Our major maintenance funds in bf are extremely limited, and so the pcef funding is vital to allow these assets to be replaced with modern energy efficiency equivalents. Our final pillar of this proposal focuses on providing financial support to offset the costs of relocating city fleet from the kirby garage to our new cutter garage on swan island. This support will allow us to both effectuate the our path to net zero, which was physically impossible at the kirby garage, but also will allow us to offset some of the debt service costs related to this facility, about a third of them, which will in turn reduce the cost to the bureaus of this work for the next 20 years. And with that, i'll turn it back to staff.

Speaker: Thank you. Okay, we've got three more groups here. Next up is energy trust of Oregon for their solar for all program Portland solar for all program, starting with michael colegrove, executive director for energy trust, as well as molly. Oh, molly, you told me your last name and I bisulca bisulca. Thank you. Community solar manager for community energy project. Welcome.

Speaker: Thank you. Good afternoon, mayor Wheeler. Commissioners, for the record, my name is mike colegrove. I'm the executive director of energy trust of Oregon. I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak about the Portland solar for all proposal. We are a nonprofit that delivers energy efficiency and renewable power incentives and services to utility customers around the state and within Portland. Our Portland solar for all proposal seeks to address an historic inequity in the advancement of solar energy and bring benefits directly to communities of color, households experiencing low incomes, and renters. This program provides a unique opportunity to leverage three complementary funding sources that together represent a never before seen investment in bringing rooftop solar to pcf's priority

populations and supporting more projects than ever before. With nearly \$25 million in pcef funds, our existing existing energy trust funding and the state's \$87 million epa solar for all grant, we are proposing to fund solar projects for 725 single family homes and 1000 families living in multi-family buildings to make necessary home upgrades and repairs that, if not made, often prevent solar installations in older Portland homes and to build a strong and diverse solar workforce training pipeline with hands on experience opportunities filling a gap for Portland, this will be a much needed investment in the homes and livelihoods of Portlanders and the local solar workforce. This proposal centers on the expertise of three community partners to craft a program that works for pcef priority populations, community energy, project apollo and psi are self-enhancement, inc, so I'm pleased to have molly. Molly is the community solar manager from the community energy project. To briefly share more about their role. Thanks, mike.

Speaker: My name is molly bisulca. I'm the community solar manager at community energy project. Community energy project partners with low income communities on the front lines of climate change to create more resilient, efficient and healthy homes. We're really excited about this proposal and the opportunity it provides for us to extend our ability to serve the community, along with the other community organizations mike mentioned, community energy project will inform overall program design, lead community outreach, handle customer intake, and serve as community liaison to participating households. We will collaborate to identify households with the greatest need for energy resilience and pair solar with battery energy storage solutions. The need for this work is clear and the timing could not be more important.

Speaker: Thank you molly. In addition to the environmental benefits, rooftop solar and rooftop solar energy offers households experiencing low incomes a way to

reduce utility bills, which is crucial in easing financial burdens. In this time of rising energy costs and the battery storage systems added to the solar installs will help those families during times of power outages over 20 years, a participating household will benefit from saving around \$25,000 on their energy bills. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and your continued support for the Portland clean energy community benefits fund.

Speaker: Thank you both.

Speaker: Thank you. All right. Next, our colleagues are coming on from trimet for the 82nd avenue transit project, starting with jamie snook, director of the major projects department, as well as michael kaiser, the project director for the 82nd avenue transit project.

Speaker: Good afternoon, mayor Wheeler, city administrator jordan, and members of the Portland City Council. My name is jamie snook, and I'm the director of major projects here at trimet. We are here today to provide a brief overview of the 82nd avenue transit project, which has been recommended for \$55.5 million in funding by the Portland clean energy fund committee. This project embodies the pcef vision by delivering infrastructure investments that will directly improve community well-being for people of priority populations, while also reducing emissions. For decades, communities along the 82nd avenue corridor have had to fight for investments to address poor public health outcomes, including higher rates of asthma and high number of traffic fatalities. Along with our partners. Together, we are leveraging this moment to bring infrastructure investments in the form of sidewalk improvements and projects, improved accessibility, safe crossings, tree canopy, bus shelters and lighting to this really important corridor. The 82nd avenue transit project will also complement pbot's building a better 82nd project, which brings a number of safety improvements to the corridor. Once completed in

2029, the transit project will improve service services for thousands of people who rely on trimet to connect to opportunities throughout the region. The project will deliver safe, fast and more reliable bus service along 82nd, benefiting the surrounding communities and the environment. With support of our partners here at pcef, the project will also help develop and train local workforce and invest in strategies to lower emissions and cool the climate locally, such as planting trees along 82nd avenue. These elements reflect priorities from a community driven process aimed at equitable development. I'd like to thank you, the pcef team and committee and partners on the 82nd avenue corridor for this opportunity, and we'll turn it over to michael kaiser. Thank you, mayor Wheeler, City Council, my name is michael kaiser.

Speaker: I'm the project director for a second avenue transit project. As many of you know, currently 82nd avenue is served by line 72, which is our highest ridership line on the system. It is also our most delayed due to growing congestion on 82nd avenue. This transit project will bring high capacity bus service to ten miles of 82nd avenue from clackamas town center up to northeast Portland. Riders will be served by 60 foot zero emission hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and those vehicles will arrive at a higher frequency and will also use transit signal priority to get customers where they need to faster by addressing transit reliability through infrastructure improvements. We also increase greater access to jobs within the region. Our proposed workforce development program is also responsive to specific concerns identified by our cbo partners, and that will include things like wealth creation as an anti-displacement strategy, language specific programs for individuals and contractor development within bipoc communities. Pcef support of the second avenue transit project is a major investment in creating more sustainable,

accessible, and economically prosperous communities along the corridor. So with that, we thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration today.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you both.

Speaker: All right. And last but not least, are going to be our colleagues from the bureau of transportation for the sidewalks to schools proposal to bring up here, gina gastaldi, the pedestrian realm coordinator at pbot, as well as zachary lorenzon, executive director of Oregon walks.

Speaker: Good afternoon. For the record, my name is gina gastaldi. I'm the pedestrian realm coordinator at the Portland bureau of transportation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the sidewalks to schools proposal submitted in partnership between pbot and Oregon walks. The sidewalks to schools proposal is a genuine community initiative. Parents, neighbors and organizations from across Portland, and especially those most affected by the lack of safe pedestrian facilities for kids, came together with Oregon walks to advocate for pbot to collaborate on this endeavor. These communities were thrilled when pbot decided to join in on this effort. Since that time, pbot and Oregon walks have been working together on this proposal, aiming for a transformative impact on Portland's sidewalk infrastructure, leading to schools from this community. Advocacy. Sidewalks to schools was born. Just for some context, there are about 170 miles of missing sidewalks on our pedestrian priority network here in Portland. With the \$20.5 million in funding from pcrf, pbot will construct nine sidewalk projects near schools, six of those in east Portland, and three projects in cully. This funding will construct approximately 14,000 linear feet of sidewalks across the nine projects, and will add approximately 9000 ada compliant corners. This project will also create space for and plant about 240 street trees, adding tree canopy coverage to the neighborhoods of Portland that need it the most. Additionally, any project that

adds curb and sidewalk is required to manage stormwater, which is another benefit of this project. There are over 17,000 households within a half a mile of these projects who will benefit from the sidewalk infrastructure desperately needed in these neighborhoods? These projects represent some of our highest priority sidewalk projects in the city and can be constructed efficiently, relatively quickly and taking advantage of already completed planning, design and matching funds. These projects will utilize pcef funding for maximum construction outcomes that will result in highly visible, highly popular projects that will meet community needs. Pbot is prepared to kick off construction of these projects in summer 2025. This is what the community members who signed off on the coalition letter want for pbot to build critical sidewalk connections to schools. Thank you to the pcef staff, sam and james and others, the pcef committee and to council for this opportunity. And I will now hand it over to zachary from Oregon walks.

Speaker: Great. Thank you, gina and zachary lauritsen, executive director at Oregon walks. Nice to see everybody. I want to hit start hit on something that gina started with, which was about community voice. Community organizing can be really hard and sometimes demoralizing and difficult. This project was not one of those times. The seed was planted and it just spread like wildfire. I had students and parents and teachers and ptas reaching out saying, yes, we support this. We want to see this happen. This is something that is critically needed and that could have stopped there. But credit to gina and pbot and her team for saying, let's go, let's do this. And they picked up the baton and they ran with us. And we are so appreciative of that responsiveness. You know, kids not walking to school. It's not good for a lot of reasons. Independence and health and community building. But it's also a problem when it comes to the climate, right? If our kids grow up and their only option is they got to hop in the back of mom and dad's car to get to school,

you learn that that becomes part of your rhythm. And so we really see this as building the tools for our community to get kids understanding how to move around their community safely, but also in low or in this case, no carmen, carmen, carmen, low carbon modes. And so we really appreciate this as a long term investment in our community. And I also just want to highlight this is a big just kind of public win, right. It's something you can put your fingers on and people are going to feel it. They're going to see it in their community and that's really meaningful win for the city and for pcef. And lastly, I just want to close I know I said this virtually a couple of weeks ago. Thanks for your service. It's hard to be an elected and you've been through the ringer as being elected. And so I appreciate your time and your energy and your life and your emotions. So thanks for that.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you both. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: That concludes our invited speakers. All right. Back to you, mayor.

Speaker: Very good. How many people do we have signed up for?

Speaker: Open testimony. Two people. All right, let's hear from them.

Speaker: Three minutes each. Name for the record, please.

Speaker: First up, we have robert butler.

Speaker: Mr. Butler, where is robert?

Speaker: Robert.

Speaker: You online.

Speaker: Terry. Parker.

Speaker: Here comes terry. Found us. Welcome, terry.

Speaker: Thank you. My name is terry parker. I'm a fourth generation Portlander. On my dad's side of the family. I questioned the application of pcef funds being used for the 82nd avenue transit project. Another way of putting it the byproduct of spending these funds in this manner is likely to increase congestion, which will then

increase fuel consumption and carbon emissions. Included in the summary is a statement. Included in the summary statement is the following line. The brt project will reduce traffic congestion, congestion, lower greenhouse gas emissions and provide better access to family wage jobs. The varying degree of this is nothing more than a false a false feel good statement. If the project creates a road diet for other traffic by taking away full service traffic lanes on 82nd and replacing them with bus only, or bus only right turn lanes, even for just a few blocks, creating the scenario where other traffic must merge from two lanes into one more traffic will congestion will be created, thereby adding to fuel consumption and emissions. Moreover, frustrated drivers caught in the congestion will end up utilizing neighborhood residential streets as better performing cut through routes. If i-205 is told the situation will become even worse. People who have both a starting point and an ending point on 82nd and or make a transfer with max for one or the other are already using the transit system. A brt system is not likely to increase ridership for people who need to make a transfer with another or east west bus line. If on 82nd, there is a greater distance between existing transit stops as proposed mobility impaired people will be less likely to use the brt system. The bottom line here is that the brt system on 82nd avenue will not significantly reduce motor vehicle trips on the street, while at the same time, busses doing significantly more wear to the pavement, all while transit riders have yet to help fund road maintenance and repair. What we have here is basically an expensive social engineering project that adds emissions and lacks some common sense as the as the project applies to motorists, taxpayers who actually fund the road pbots public engagement and actual listening process continues to be utterly broken. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: All right. That concludes public testimony. Colleagues questions. If not, this is an emergency ordinance. Please call the roll.

Speaker: Mapps, I want to thank everyone who testified today, and I do want to take a moment to congratulate and thank staff sam in particular. Donny to. We have watched pcf grow and evolve during my time on council, where we started and where we are ending. The difference is remarkable. Just great staff work and I would be remiss if I didn't recognize my colleague, commissioner Rubio. I will tell you, this is kind of one of the, I think, most challenging new policy initiatives that's happened in north America. I don't think I could have landed it as well, as commissioner Rubio has landed it. And in fact, I know I couldn't, and I doubt there's any elected in Oregon who could have done a better job here. So thanks for everyone who made these transformative investments possible. I'm glad to vote I yea. Rubio today is a big deal, and it's a really huge step for not just for pcef, but also for Portland.

Speaker: And I need to take a moment and just acknowledge everyone who helped get these climate grants in front of us today. So donnie and eric, I want to thank you for leading the bureau forward and for your attention to this incredible fund of an opportunity. And to sam, thank you so much for leading this team steadily and for your work to be successfully getting pcf into place and into the place. We need to have the strong, durable processes and engagement and the hours and hours of dialog and conversation to arrive at just the right place. You really put your heart into this work and I really appreciate that. So thank you. And to all the staff who have guided this work and put in countless hours. Thank you. James valdez, vania fong and tressler cucina, and an important thank you to all the numerous reviewers, including d'angelo moning and alicia chapman on the pcf committee for their work in bringing this to the finish line. What we're voting on

today is are truly transformative projects for our city, and we're investing not only in climate resilience for schools and industry and transportation and economic development and all of our communities. We're really also investing in our own futures and the future generation for this city. So I'm incredibly proud of this work, proud to be connected to all of the people doing this work. And I can't wait to watch this, to see it move forward and as it unfolds. So I'm excited to vote. Aye. Ryan.

Speaker: Yeah. First of all, thank you, commissioner Rubio. I remember many conversations a few years ago and where this is at today, compared to where it was then, says a lot about all that you've been lifted for, which is. But there's one word that's been missing patients. So you've really been patient as you knitted this together with all of the staff that you mentioned. I also want to acknowledge how this is a great example of where different sectors come together. And that's when we have the most impact. So you see government jurisdictions that don't always figure out how to align together to align. I'm especially heartened by the investments in schools, both for the infrastructure but also for the pathways to schools. We know that the sidewalks out in east Portland, especially in your district, and Reynolds and David Douglas, namely, really suffer from not having safe ways, safe routes to schools, as in Cully, as in north Portland, there in inner Portland as well. And ps but it's just great to see that all come together. It's also wonderful to have the workforce element connected to this. And so I heard that in several of the themes. And so that matters because that's building that infrastructure to pathways for building generational wealth with high paying jobs. So people can actually live in Portland. And there was another one. Just my point is, we seldom see an example where the different sectors are working on the same project. It's like when you're, you know, in a dragon boat and you're all actually paddling in the same direction, you have impact. So these are what we need to keep looking for. I will have further

questions as we go along about how we're resourcing our vendors. So we can really invest in the green infrastructure of the economy of the Portland area. So the more that we can see piece pcef as an economic, economic driver, that it is, I think it'll really help also sell it to the public that this is more than meets the eye. There's just so many layers and dimensions to these investments. And of course, being a part of the climate crisis solution is of course, fundamental. But I think a lot of people don't always notice how it's an economic driver as well. And so I think of all of our proposals that have been brought forward, this one crystallizes this the most. And I know it might not have been what we were thinking when it first passed, but that's okay, because good ideas evolve and they get better and better the more you bring people to the table. And it doesn't mean everyone gets what they want. But actually, if you think about it, the room is now smarter because you've included more people in making those decisions.

Speaker: Bravo I vote yea Gonzalez I want to appreciate commissioner Rubio for her leadership on this and staff as well, and reevaluating assumptions.

Speaker: I do think as a community, we continue to need to evaluate the best use for the corporate surcharge to make sure that it's getting the returns to our community that is the highest and best use. It has turned out to be, as a revenue source, a tremendous gift to the community at levels that none of us anticipated on the front end, as we face challenges in other parts of our government, shortfalls in other parts of our government, we just need to continue to be flexible. From my vantage point and thinking about how to best deploy when you get a present, and the corporate surcharge has been a present for our community. With that, I vote aye. Wheeler.

Speaker: Well, there's few issues in our city that can probably bring together the Portland chamber and extinction rebellion onto the same page and all cheering for

the community, cheering for these specific projects. And I have to say, it's a privilege watching the Portland clean energy fund grow from what was originally, to be blunt, something of a far fetched dream on the part of a few people in our community who really saw a vision and had the wherewithal to lead that vision to reality. And it's benefiting, as you saw, from the diversity of players just around this table, just for this year to bring renewable energy projects to focus on climate resilience, to create jobs, particularly for communities that have historically been left out of some of the opportunities around job growth in our community. This seems to have hit an important nexus point in the community, and here we are closing out this year, closing out this council with an opportunity to leverage partnerships with both small community groups as well as large and important institutional partners to deliver benefits at the street level throughout our community. And that is a rare opportunity. As my colleagues have said, children will get sidewalks to walk to school and experience comfortable learning environments. Trimet will get to strengthen its highest ridership transportation line here within the city of Portland, and households that really couldn't dream previously about having access to tools like solar energy all of a sudden will reap the benefits of those savings and those bill reductions through the clean energy program. So I see this as as being a very positive thing for the community. I have also a message for the future mayor and the future council. I share my colleague's unequivocal commendation of commissioner Rubio's leadership of this as part of her for her portfolio under the commission form of government. At the end of this meeting, there will not be a commission form of government convening ever again in the city of Portland. And so that institutional leadership and that accountability under commissioner Rubio will no longer be part of the structure of this government. And as I have suggested to people in the future, relationships matter a lot more in

Portland politics than policy or process. And so the question for my colleagues now, dan, is, is, as we were sort of joking this morning, he's the survivor. So he goes on to the new City Council, and he'll carry a message to that new City Council that somebody will need to step into that role and be a champion and advocate and be accountable and be as willing as commissioner Rubio was, to listen to all sides of a complex issue and try and find that important nexus point. I know donnie and sam are committed. They're highly effective leaders. They will continue to have the support of the council. They will continue to have the support of the community. But it's important that we all continue to provide the same kind of leadership that this program has benefited from for the last couple of years. Long winded way of saying, I join my colleagues in supporting this effort, I vote I the ordinance is adopted and we're going to take a five minute recess. And we have to anyway, because the next item is also a time certain we are in recess. Congratulations. Very much.

Speaker: Well done.

Speaker: We're back in session. Keelan can you please read. Items 1115 1116 1117 1118. And our final item of the year and of this council is item 1119. If you could read that one as well.

Speaker: Item 1115 certify abstract of votes cast, candidates elected and measures approved at the municipal general election held on November 5th, 2024 and provide preliminary voter engagement report item 1116. Proclaim results of the 2024 municipal nonpartisan general election on measure 26 249. Amends charter, deletes outdated, redundant requirements to approve utility franchises. Item 1117 proclaim results of the 2024 municipal nonpartisan general election on measure 26 250. Amends charter adds independent Portland elections commission. Item 1118 proclaim results of the 2024 municipal nonpartisan general election on measure 26

251. Amends charter, updates authority to manage parks, sewers and storm waters. And item 1119 proclaim results of the 2024 municipal nonpartisan general election on measure 26 252. Amends charter, deletes. Vague, archaic, and inconsistent language.

Speaker: All right. Very good. So as you heard, these are required items. They are brought to us by the auditor's office relative related to the November 2024 election. To begin with, i'll pass to deborah scroggin, who is our elections division manager. Welcome.

Speaker: Hi. Good afternoon, city administrator, commissioner, mayor, commissioners. For the record, my name is deborah scroggin, elections division manager. We are excited to be here to present our report to council on the November 5th, 2024 election this year, for our report to council on the election and to just be on brand, we're going to do things a little differently. I'm going to cover the basics of the election results, and we wanted to take the time to shed additional light on how some Portlanders experienced this election, as well as some early insights in our voter education approach. To that end, we have two additional presenters next to me who will be providing highlights to some very insightful data, including honest and raw opinions of Portland voters during this election. First, we've invited miranda everett, senior vice president with fm3 research, to present results of an election exit survey and focus groups made up of Portland voters and commissioned by the auditor's office. Next, my colleague james eccles, elections analyst, will provide a preliminary voter education and election outcome report using a number of data sources to contextualize some key findings from this election, including tying together information from the voter experience poll. Before we jump in, I do want to ask, if possible, that questions be held to the end of each individual's presentation. We find, especially with the polling data, that the

answer to your question is often on the next slide. So thank you so much in advance. Okay. Jumping right in, the city of Portland held its first election using ranked choice voting to elect city officials at large and from newly designated geographic districts. Here are the results from that election. Two positions were elected citywide using single winner ranked choice voting the city mayor and city auditor. The threshold to be elected for these contests was 50% plus one of the vote. Both candidates surpassed the threshold, with the mayor elect receiving 59% of the vote in the last round of tabulation and auditor elect receiving 99% of the vote for auditor in the last round. Next slide. The city of Portland voters elected 12 City Councilors in each of Portland's new four electoral districts as well. Each district has three councilors representing those Portlanders. The threshold to be elected for these contests was 25%, plus one of the vote. Here on the screen are the names of those elected and the districts that they represent. I won't read through all of them. They're in our report to council and on the record. One thing I will note here, and all of these folks met the threshold for election, except for one, which I will note here is Jamie Dunphy from district one, who received 23% of the vote, which is below the threshold of 25% plus one in the final round. District one elected two officials who met the voting threshold, and Dunphy was the third elected official and the only remaining active candidate who had not been eliminated, as he was the only remaining active candidate according to our election code. He was then elected. Okay, moving on to approved and unapproved measures. City of Portland voters across the city considered five measures to amend city charter. Four were approved as shown here. One was not approved by voters, with 51% voting no. I've listed them here, and they're also on our report to council, for the record. Just a quick slide on the turnout. The number of registered Portland voters at the time the county certified the election to us was 467,917

Portlanders. A little over 71% of Portlanders voted in at least one city of Portland candidate contest, the highest voter engagement for any one city of Portland candidate contest was for the mayor's race, where 66.24% of Portlanders voted voters casted vote. We will be putting these numbers in more detail and historical context in a moment in james's presentation, and for now, I will hand it over to miranda.

Speaker: Thanks so much. My name is miranda everett. I'm a senior vice president at fm3 research. We're a public opinion research company based in Portland bay area and la. I have results from just a bit of our opinion research that we've been doing immediately after the election, up until just under a week ago, starting on the next slide, the next slide. After that, i'll actually get into our our methodology here. So for the survey we interviewed a random representative sample of 1654 voters in Portland. The way we confirm that they were voters is we use the voter file and then ask them if they had cast a ballot. You'll note that the interview window started before election day and continued after it. It's because so many folks vote by mail. If there was someone who said, I've got my ballot but haven't filled it in yet, we called them later. Doing this gives us a full sample margin of error of just under 3%. Our half sample margin of error is 4%. In places where that's relevant. We also did over samples so that we have confidence in the results for black voters in the city, asian pacific islander voters and latino voters. And you can see the margins of error that align with each of those there. In that case, that is people's own self-identification. And so, for example, if they identified as both black and latino, they're represented in both groups. And this was done using kind of our all of the above methodological approach, cell phone calls, landline calls, text messages to the online survey. And it was offered in english and spanish this year. One additional research tool we used is described on the next slide. And that is focus

groups. Those were held just a week ago, December 11th in Portland. Those were 90 minute conversations led by a moderator, myself and a colleague. The first group comprised ten voters drawn from City Council district one. We over recruited folks who told us they had skipped either the mayor or City Council race, so they were overrepresented in that group because of, you know, our understanding that under voting was more common there. The second group comprised ten black voters from across the city, and their moderator was a black woman. Each group was otherwise recruited to generally reflect, to the extent possible, with ten people, the city's demographic and geographic profile. So within the black voter group, it's across districts, within the district, one group, it's across race. And then, you know, education, party, things like that. On the next slide, i'll just run through some of the goals and the context of what we learned. Just so you know, kind of what questions we ask before we turn to just a few of our key findings here. So this week of research was conducted, as I mentioned during and immediately after the first election, with these key changes to how we vote and to our government. This was a really useful window into public attitudes and understanding as these things are happening. So it's a really unique thing that the city has done and very interesting to see. So the research topics included how satisfied people were with the experience of voting, their awareness of ranked choice voting before they, you know, got their ballot and tried it, their awareness of the other government and election changes, the multi-member districts and such, and the information information sources they consulted or heard from in the lead up to the election on these changes, their understanding of the voting process and just, you know, basic things like how many candidates they ranked for mayor and council as well as why, you know, we will have that from the vote cast record. But the survey allows us to look at that by some demographic detail, which we wouldn't have from the voter

records. So while some registered voters who did not participate in this year's election at all took part in the focus groups, we wanted to hear from some folks who started out entirely there. They are not represented in the survey, but both included voters who submitted ballots but skipped one of the elections, either mayor or council. And of course, it's really important to highlight that opinion research is just one of many tools that the city can use to evaluate its voter education efforts and inform future programs. So we, you know, present this with the necessary humility. On the next slide, we can start to run through some of our key findings here. The first is voters level of awareness of this change. The question we asked here was had you seen, heard or read anything about ranked choice voting before voting? And we see 85% of the city's voters said they had heard something, even just a little about the change. Half said they what they had heard was a great deal about it, actually, and 15% say they don't recall hearing anything about it at all. So overall, many, many folks in the city had heard at least something and half say they had heard a great deal. The next slide shows some key demographic differences from our surveys. So for voters overall, the awareness was 85%. You can see awareness was broader with white voters than voters of color is as high as 89% with white voters. With voters of color, it ranges from 77 to 71% awareness. And you can also see awareness is slightly lower in district one, with 76% aware three quarters, but lower than in districts two, three and four, which are all sort of within the margin of error of one another. On the next slide, you can see how folks answered the question. How well did you understand how to fill out your ballot for mayor, auditor and City Council this year? So kind of directing them to think about the city elections and including those two with the ranked choice, 91% said I understood it well, 66% said they understood it very well. The highest kind of level of understanding that we offered, and 8% said they didn't

understand it too well or not well at all. The next slide again shows how this breaks out and is different among race and ethnicity and among City Council district voters citywide, as I mentioned before, really understood their their ballots. Well, the differences across district are pretty marginal. We do see lower levels of reported understanding in the low 80% range for black voters and latino voters, so room for improvement there as well. Something that's interesting is to look at how well folks understood the ballot by how much they had told us. They heard about ranked choice voting in advance. So the first question I showed you crossed by the second, those who said they had heard a great deal, 97% said they understood how to fill out their ballot. Those who heard just a little 91% so very similar to the for voters overall. And then that share of folks who said they heard nothing about it before voting, it was about 15% or so. Closer to 70% said they understood it well. So there is a correlation between how much you heard and your own estimation of how well you understood the ballot, which makes sense. The next slide shows satisfaction. Two questions were asked here. One was just satisfaction with the experience of voting this year. The second which followed it was the experience of using ranked choice voting. And you can see there's a delta between the two. Broad satisfaction in either case, but it is slightly broader with the experience of voting overall, 76% saying they're satisfied, 40% saying very satisfied when it comes to using ranked choice voting. A similar share of very satisfied at 39, but the total satisfied is just a bit lower at 68 broad majorities in either case, but clearly just a little bit different when you zero in on the ranked choice piece. And then the next slide shows how that differs again by these key demographics. The darker blue is their overall satisfaction. The lighter blue is their satisfaction. With rkvy, you can see black voters and voters in district one express lower levels of satisfaction than others in both aspects, and the delta is a little bit bigger in both of those categories of folks for

experience overall and rkyv as well. Two final slides. These are kind of late breaking from our focus groups. Just last week we had sort of four key insights, and I've added some quotes directly from voters. As we said, raw from those focus groups. Two things here I thought were really important to note. The thing that motivated people to participate was really their desire for change. A lot of people spoke pretty eloquently about the problems the city is facing and their hopes for the future, as well as just a sense of civic responsibility. Many people spoke pretty passionately about the importance of voting, even when they think it might not make a huge difference. It's something that is an important right and responsibility. And then those who shut out, either in one contest or another or entirely said they felt cynical, they felt disconnected, they felt like their vote didn't really matter, and some said they lacked the information they needed to use the new system confidently, or to rank as many candidates as they wanted from among the list. The next slide shows some insights on ranked choice voting. More specifically, voters really expressed some frustration about the number of candidates running. They felt that it was very overwhelming because most of them really wanted to do their homework, and it was tough to do so when you had so many names to consider. And in some cases, folks who hadn't submitted a statement or were hard to find online. So there was some frustration with the amount that they had to kind of parse through. But once we kind of had those two hour conversations, hour and a half conversations with folks, you know, talked a lot about the process, they had this discussion with their peers. They expressed a lot more interest in using more of their rankings in the future. Once they understood the why, the geographic districts was really appealing, especially in district one and other communities kind of east of the river, who who, you know, feel like disproportionately left out in some some city services. The multi-member districts made a lot of sense to folks as we walked

through it because of, you know, some potential advantages that we discussed and then ranked choice voting. You know, once we walk through that together, there were a lot of folks who saw some appeal in having sort of a backup choice or something like that, that kind of why are we why are we doing this? So that's kind of our four key insights from from that week. That conversation a week ago. And that takes me to the end of my section, but happy to take questions at the end. Thank you.

Speaker: Miranda. Yeah.

Speaker: Mr. Mayor, commissioners, my name is James Eccles. I'm an elections analyst with the auditor's office and voter education lead. I want to first thank you all for your service. You've given the city during the historic implementation of a new election method, new voting districts, a new system of government, and most importantly for my own job, a new charter mandate to conduct voter education. This 2024 election cycle marked the first time the city of Portland has conducted voter education. This effort was led by the incredible transition team, and we also had our experienced partners over at Multnomah County elections division to rely upon who had been educating voters for years. My role here today is to discuss the highlights from our report that you all have in front of you, and that we will be releasing to the public shortly. Far more detail exists in the report than I will cover in this presentation, but I invite you to ask any questions you may have about the data or analysis covered in that report. This report, the election's outcome and preliminary voter education report is intended to look at and analyze an array of data points around voter experience, voter engagement, and voting behavior. One of our primary goals in the elections division is to ensure Portlanders vote. Portland voters understand how to properly fill out their ballot. It is paramount in my eyes and the eyes of my division to do that through an evidence based approach, and

this report is the first step in that process, as this was not a singular effort. Other reports will come from the transition team and from Multnomah County in the weeks and months to come, and I am excited to pore over the analysis of my colleagues and share our thoughts with one another on how to best move forward. Today, however, I speak only for the auditor's office and you have. If you have any questions directly related to the work of those other offices, I would kindly direct you to them. I would also be remiss if I did not bring attention to the incredible partners in voter education outside of government, that have done so much more than we could have imagined. Community based organizations, nonprofits, faith organizations, candidates, media outlets, and others all played a pivotal role in educating Portlanders in 2024. Every success is theirs as much as ours. So with that, let's get to the report. I have mostly covered the introduction, and the remainder of the report is broken down into three main sections main election outcomes. Additional trends we found worth noting, and finally, outcomes that we think can and must lead to the improvements in our voter education plans for 2026. I will begin with data from fm3 polling that you have already seen, although this is in a bit more detail, but I want to highlight it again because it is largely become the thesis statement of our report. When comparing those voters who heard a great deal about ranked choice voting to those who reported hearing nothing at all, we see that more than twice as many voters reported understanding their ballot very well. We believe that awareness leads to understanding if we can increase the number of voters who are seeing and engaging with our educational material, we can increase the number of voters who are able to confidently vote in city elections. As we can see and have already discussed, awareness has been very high in Portland, so we're already well on our way to that first goal in 2024. But there is room to grow. We believe this high awareness has led to high understanding of

ranked choice voting, as can be seen again by these overall numbers, of 91% of Portlanders polled reporting that they understand how to fill out their ranked choice voting ballot. But we want to sort of zero in on the material and the education that we have been working on with our partners, both at Multnomah County and the transition team. So part of the polling data also asked, where did you go for the instructions on how to do ranked choice voting, how to fill out your ballot? And as you can see here, the number one response to that question was the one page ballot insert that we created and went out with every single ballot to every single voter. After that comes the written instructions on the ballot. I'm glad that they're looking at that. And then the voters pamphlet, which the county added ranked choice voting specific information to. And then the fourth is the mailer that we sent out to every voter, every, excuse me, every resident in the city of Portland. So the top three materials that we see poll respondents going to for instructions are all created by official sources. So the material recreating is doing something to raise awareness, which is our goal. That covers the sort of main highlights that we want to talk about with general outcomes. And I want to turn to some additional trends that we want to look at first. I want to just give a general further breakdown of the turnout. You've already seen some of these numbers. The number on the top right is the overall voter turnout in the city of Portland in candidate elections. Below that, you will see a breakdown by the district. I'm not going to go into heavy detail here, but we do want to draw attention to the fact that district one is lower than every other district. We'll cover this a little bit more when we talk specifically about under voting in district one. Later. The next thing I want to talk about is I want to highlight our finding that proportional ranked choice voting means more voters vote for winning candidates. I'm going to talk about what that means. So here in front of you is a graphic from one of those civic organizations that I

mentioned that did great education work this year, north star civic. They created this, a website called stumptown stats that collects a lot of this historical data to compare to what they're showing here in this graphic is the percent of registered voters. So not just those who voted, but all who were registered that voted for an eventual winner. So as you can see here, a very high support election as listed here, is an election in which at least 50% of all registered voters. So if we have 467,000 voters, about 234,000 of those would have voted for the eventual winner. That would be a high support election. Only one of those have occurred between 2002 and 2024, and that was a mayoral election. After that, we have high support elections of 35 to 50% of registered voters voting for at least one winner. So, as we can see, as we move down the chart, most of our elections in the last quarter century have fallen below that 25% mark, where less than 25% of registered voters voted for an eventual winner of a of a council or mayoral seat. Now, comparing this to our election, I first want to look at those who voted in Portland's November 2024 election. At least 74.7% of all Portlanders who voted in a City Council contest ranked an eventual winner. But this is those who voted, not all of those who registered. And as we know, we didn't have 100% turnout. I'd love if we did, but we're not quite there yet, so we want to compare that as well. And when we see that, we see that at least 46% of registered voters voted for a winning candidate in Portland City Council contest, which would land this election in that high, high support election category of the last quarter century, and only being beat out by that one very high support election. This is a product of the mechanics of proportional ranked choice voting, in which, because there are three candidates in a three elected winners in a single contest, the vote is divided between those, meaning that we will typically see 75% or higher support for all of those candidates. So a much larger percentage of the electorate ends up eventually selecting a winner. Okay, the next thing we want to

talk about is we want to highlight the use of rankings and track that versus the national ranked choice voting average. So we'll first look at how we did in Portland. This data comes from Multnomah County's voter ballot data. Voter data ballot data report. They wanted me to say it right. Ballot data report that came out a week ago. So in this report, we see that those voters who voted and ranked at least three rankings, three candidates is between 63% and 77%, with district one falling at the lowest. We also cover here those who ranked at least two candidates. Now our goal and I'll cover why in a moment, is generally to get to encourage voters to rank at least three. But we did also track the number who ranked two because our data from the national partners at fairvote have tracked who ranked at least two. So we wanted to have something to compare to national averages. And in our first implementation of ranked choice voting, you can see that in almost every contest, we overcame that national average of 74%. Only in district one did we not quite get there. And they still had a great, great turnout with 69%. Now I want to get to why we care about this. Our goal generally in the in the elections division is to shoot for about three rankings. But we want to be very clear when we're doing voter education, if a voter ranks at least one candidate, their vote will be counted. That's important, but we also want to encourage them to rank more than one for two main reasons. The first is that the more that they select, the more of their voice is heard on that ballot, the more of their intention comes across on that ballot. So they may not unanimously like only one candidate, they may feel split between a number of candidates and feel that they would be comfortable with three or 4 or 5 candidates, even though they have a favorite. We want them to have the ability and feel comfortable expressing that on the ballot. The second reason is what is generally called the spoiler effect. Implementation of ranked choice voting is in part meant to reduce the impact of the spoiler effect. The spoiler effect is when an

unelected candidate, a candidate who did not win, had an impact on who did win the race. So an example might be two relatively popular candidates from maybe the same general support structure split the majority of the votes in half, and that results in a third candidate that is less popular than those candidates, but ends up getting a plurality of vote because of that split vote. Ranked choice voting is intended to minimize that effect or reduce that effect, because you will be able to rank both of those two people that would normally be splitting the vote, that you support your first ranking and your second ranking in whatever order you choose. Now, if every voter simply ranks one single candidate, then the spoiler effect would not be reduced at all. Obviously, because we would effectively be implementing a first past the post election. Okay, so that's why this is important to us and why that data matters. The next thing we want to talk about is we want to move into the sort of areas for improvement that we see in 2026. There are two demographics that we identified coming out of the initial polling data that we said we need to do more work. That's why we had focus groups with black voters in Portland and voters in district one. So what you see before you is a further breakdown of that awareness of ranked choice voting. And you can see that in general, there is high awareness among all voters of color. 73% is a pretty good number. Likewise, in district one, 76% of awareness is a pretty good number. But what I really want to highlight is that that highest amount of awareness that 35% of voters of color who said that they were a great deal aware, and that 40% in district one, who said they were a great deal aware, this number falls behind further than the other numbers further behind white voters in Portland and further behind the other three districts. This number is especially important to us, one, because we know that this is a more accurate representation of who does understand ranked choice voting and who is actually aware of it. But we also know that simply, the more you understand it and

the more you're aware of it, the more we're going to see those outcomes. If you understand it, if you have more awareness of it, you're going to understand it better. If you understand it better, you're going to trust the election system better, and you're more likely to engage with the ballot and vote. So these are the highest numbers of those are always going to be our goals. And that's why we want to see less disparity there. Again as we talked about our thesis is awareness leads to understanding. So we see if there are lower awareness in those demographics. We also see a lower reported understanding. It's our job as a city elections division to get to those demographics. And this data would seem to imply that we're not getting that job done, that we're not breaking through to those demographics in some way. They're not seeing the material that other voters are seeing. They're not becoming aware of the changes in elections that they need to become aware of. Now, the quantitative data is great, but we also wanted to be able to understand those numbers better, especially since we're talking about demographics. I do live in district one, so I'm a district one voter, but obviously I'm also a white voter. So we wanted to be able to go to these groups and get qualitative data. So we better understood why we were seeing these numbers. And that's where the focus groups came in. There were two key findings from the focus group that we wanted to zero in on, that we think are impactful for this group and we can learn a lot from. The first is that the benefits of ranked choice voting and features of geographic and multi-member districts were missing in communications from the city. So in our initial source of voter education, we really focused this first year on how do you fill out the ballot, the instructions for doing the ballot. We did not have a lot of instruction to voters on why it might be good to do ranked choice voting for them, why there might be benefits at times. We would do that as a responsive question, but it was not a paramount part of our voter education. We are now seeing from

this data that there's a number of voters who are disengaged with the process that may be more engaged if they had a better understanding for why there's a benefit here, for why it's good for me to rank three or 4 or 5. And as we can see from the focus group turnout, a lot of those voters, as they sort of talked to each other and understood that better, they started to say they would be interested in ranking more or voting more often. The second key finding that we focused on from the qualitative data was leveraging peer to peer communications will be extremely valuable for future education efforts from the city. Now, we were pretty much already aware of this, and this was a fundamental part of the of the voter education system. In 2024, we had the grantee program, which you're well aware of. The purpose of that program was to create these types of peer to peer communication. We wanted people we hear from these demographics that they don't want people from the city that don't know anything about them, that don't look like them, that don't have a background like them coming in and trying to tell them how to vote. They want to be able to hear that from trusted members of their community and hear that in peer to peer communications. We started that process. We've had great success with that process. We're still analyzing the results of that process, and we'll know more in coming months. But we know we're hearing this. We're not surprised by it, but we need to key in and focus on that in 2026 and make it a more fundamental part of our process. Going back to the qualitative data, I want to talk about the gaps in voter education are evident in the disparate rates of misunderstanding. We've talked about reported rates of their understanding and saying they're not really reporting that they know how to do this, but we also want to look at what they're actually saying. So the first option here is, is a misstatement. It's a piece of false information. Rankings more ranking more than one candidate dilutes my support for my number one choice. This is a false statement. It's not

mathematically true. But as we can see, there is a disparate number of voters of color who agreed with that statement. So this is again evidence that something in our in our material, in our voter education, in our messaging, is not reaching members of this audience as much as it is reaching the more mainstream audience and white voters in Portland. The other two here are that I wasn't sure what to do if I made a mistake in my ranking. Again, we see a desperately high number among latino voters, and asian and pacific islander voters. And finally, we see I feel the city provided clear and accurate and timely communication. And the biggest one here that we want to draw attention to is that black voters in this poll had less than half of black voters in this poll said that they felt the city was providing them the information that they wanted and needed. This is why that peer to peer communication is so important. This is why partnerships with those communities will be so important. We can't decide the information that's going to be best for them. We need to work with them to figure that out. I want to this quote was in the in the focus group data. You saw it, but I want to relate it to this directly. And it's simply a quote from a, from one of the focus group members, and it's that it didn't seem like there was enough promotion of ranked choice voting. People just kind of got thrown to the wolves and said, here, sink or swim. You either get it right or you don't. Now, we can see from the general data that most Portlanders didn't feel this way, but we don't want any Portlanders to feel this way. Now, moving away from the demographics about voters of color, I want to move to district one and the issue of under voting in district one. Many of you saw coming out of the ballot data report that this was you've seen this data before. That's where the data in front of you comes from. And you saw that there was a high number of under voting in district one. So we want to talk a little bit about that. We identified that we absolutely agree it's something important to zero in on, but we also think that it is a

complex issue that can't be decided simply by saying that ranked choice voting is new, and this district didn't accept it. We want to talk about is the historic turnout in district one has been lower from year to year for some time. What you see in front of you is a turnout map from the 2018 general election. And as you can see, it is clear that east Portland has lower turnout than the majority of the rest of the city. You see this happen again in the 2020 general election, and again in the 2022 general election. And once we have this map and data for the 2024 election, we will see the same sort of thing happening. So we know year after year, district one is already less engaged, less have less voter turnout and are simply participating less. The independent district commission identified this in their reports. They knew this was true. We knew this was true coming into it. And this is why district one was identified as one of the districts to vote during the general election, with the presidential election, so that we would increase turnout in that district. So this is a known problem. It's not something new, but absolutely, we shouldn't ignore it, and we should continue to identify it and address causes. One of those causes that we heard and that we that we're making hypotheses about is that the high number of candidates overwhelmed voters and may have contributed to under voting. A couple of quotes that we have here from the focus group in district one is that it was a huge list of people. I didn't understand that they're going to be three in each district, even though when I ranked them, I just voted for three because it seemed that ranking more when I don't know enough about those candidates. Another quote is that I think there were too many candidates. I don't want to say raise the bar of entry for them to get on the ballot, but there should be something where you have to put a little more effort, like show that you actually want to do this beyond having your name on the ballot. So there were 118 candidates on the ballot. Some of that we, we acknowledge, is due to simply there were more contests on the

ballot than there ever have been. We have an entirely new system of government, an entirely new government. But some of that, we believe, was also due to Portland having the most accessible ballot, or one of the most accessible ballots of any major city in the United States. So getting on the ballot is easier in Portland than comparable jurisdictions. For Portland City Council, it costs either \$75 or 500 signatures. We had one candidate that chose to fill out the petition signatures and get them done, because \$75 is probably less of a burden than trying to get 500 signatures. So this is an incredibly low barrier. We rose we did increase it before the 2024 election. From what it was, it was \$50. So we did increase it. We didn't want to increase it too much, but we also think it's still an incredibly accessible ballot. Other jurisdictions include Seattle, where the filing fee is 1% of the current salary of the office, ranging from 1400 to \$2140, a lot more than \$75. San Francisco is \$500 or 1000 signatures, so a higher number in both regards. Denver has no monetary option and is simply 100 to 300 signatures. And like I already discussed, probably getting signatures is more difficult for the average candidate than just turning in some money. And finally, Minneapolis is \$250, so well over double. I want to draw special attention to Minneapolis one. Minneapolis is the only other city on this list that has multi-winner ranked choice voting like like Portland does. So it's a little bit more comparable. But Minneapolis also at when they first implemented ranked choice voting, saw a similar problem. They had a ton of candidates. They decided they needed to do something about it. They increased the threshold for the for candidates to get on the ballot, and they reported that they saw a decrease in the number of candidates. So they saw something like we did they took action. And they've seen success in that action. Okay, I want to move finally to the last piece is overvotes. Overvotes were a specific problem in the city of Portland as far as error rates on the ballot are concerned. Just to review an overvote is when more than

one candidate is ranked in a single column. As you see in the example here, I want to highlight that Portland deals with overvotes a little differently than almost every other jurisdiction with ranked choice voting. When we were writing the code and we came to you, we sort of proposed a number of policy options. One of those was with overvotes. Most jurisdictions, if you see the sample ballot in front of you, that first column, that entire ballot for that contest would be invalidated. None of the other votes on that on that ballot would be counted. In Portland, we decided we would invalidate that first ranking, but we would attempt to find other valid votes and have them counted so that we could have as much of a ballot counted as possible. Now, we think that this increases the ability of voters to have their vote counted, but it also makes our issue and the errors a little less comparable to the other jurisdictions that are out there doing this. So looking at the numbers specifically, we see that there is not only a higher amount of overvoting in district one, but there is also a higher amount of overvoting in the rank one column. And we see that dropping as you move from rank one to rank six, which is somewhat expected simply because if you're if the more that a ballot gets invalidated or people fill in more votes, you're just going to have less votes there. But also, we think that one of the potential reasons that we need to explore more on that rank one was so high was because there was this misunderstanding that we heard from voters that because you were electing three candidates in a contest, you should rank three candidates as your number one option. I want three people to win. I'm going to rank three number ones. We heard this. We heard it. An increase in this. In the weeks before the election. We conducted a campaign that we talk about in this report a little bit to try to counteract it, but that is one potential problem of why we saw this higher district one. We also see it higher in largely just because, as we already covered, they have a lower awareness of ranked choice voting and a lower

reported understanding. So if mistakes are going to happen, it's likely going to be there. The last thing I want to talk about with, with a potential here and why this is less comparable to other jurisdictions, is vote by mail now, vote by mail is amazing. I'm a big supporter of it. It's great. It's done. The data shows that it has done great things for turnout, for ballot access, and we have lots of voters reporting that ranked choice voting is easier with vote by mail, because you can sit at home, you've got time to go through your ballot. You don't feel rushed, however, arlington, virginia is one jurisdiction that implemented two member, multi-member ranked choice voting in the last year, and they reported that they initially saw similar voters kind of committing the same error of overvotes, but they largely vote in person. When you're voting with the machine, it can be fixed immediately there. The machine won't let you put in this overvote. So because of that, we see a higher rate of errors with vote by mail than we might see with if we did in person, not a statement that we should move away from vote by mail, simply a statement that we need to be aware of when we're comparing to the national averages, and that we need to have a little even more care for instructing people on how to avoid these errors on their ballot. Okay, with that, I've talked to you enough about analysis. There's hours more of analysis in the report that you're welcome to pore through, and I'm welcome to open it to any questions, but i'll pass it back to the elections manager, deborah scroggin.

Speaker: First, I will close us out very briefly and then open up for questions, if that's all right. We're just about done. So we're here to provide this information and certify the election because we have to. But also all of this additional information is for the historical record. It's for the public and it's for policymakers to hear. And because we want to be well informed on our voter education approach moving forward. So here's some immediate things that we're working on council

engagement in 2025. We look forward to engaging with the future council on resources feedback and having a public conversation as additional voter education data and final reports, both from the transition team and community partners, become available next. We're also looking at continuous learning and evaluation. This election feels fresh still, so we're still reviewing data, and all of this will inform our voter education approach going forward. Next, we're going to continue to really deeply foster relationships and community partnerships, increasing our efforts here, using some of the insights we received from the poll and voting trends and participation that you heard today, and having a better understanding of trusted resources and avenues of information to voters. Lastly, we've been having some conversations. As you just heard from James, I don't think this will surprise anyone. We need to revise and have a conversation about our ballot access threshold. So we look forward to doing that in a public way and adjusting that policy with that. I want to thank you very much for hearing us and open it up for questions.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: Very good colleagues, questions. I noticed you didn't mention anything about the qualifications for the ballot on the part of the candidates or some of the quid pro quo we saw with regard to small contributions. Is that separate than the scope of this evaluation that we're hearing today?

Speaker: Well, I heard you mentioned qualification to appear on the ballot, and that is a role of the elections division. However, small donor elections is a separate program run by a separate director under the city administrative assistant.

Speaker: And I knew that I just wanted for the record, thank you. Not to wonder why we were not raising this question completely. Different policy and program raised. Correct? I agree with you on that. Great. Anybody else? Yeah. Commissioner bRyant go ahead. Yeah.

Speaker: Well, many of us up here were went door to door. So when you go door to door you turned into an education voter education person. I'm sure you heard that from everyone that ran. And so the two themes that I couldn't tell if they were covered here that I heard the most often were it was around there, too many people on the ballot and they would say, why wasn't there a primary? So we could narrow this down from this really large number to maybe six. In the general, the mayor's race, maybe three. I heard that over and over again, but I don't see that question being asked. Why is that?

Speaker: Well, commissioner Ryan, we do. That was part of our analysis. We didn't cover it in the highlights here. And we think there's some further research that needs to be done. We do some analysis on removing a primary has in some elections led to more voters having a say. That analysis is simply that in a primary election, it's typically less than half of the turnout of a general election. So if you're going to elect. So there is some some data that shows that of the last, you know, 40 years, every commissioner that was elected in a primary election was elected with a smaller count of registered voters than those who were elected in a general election. So some will see that as as more voters get a say in who becomes their leaders. If you do all of the elections at a general election, it doesn't mean that that's the only possible election solution to that issue. But in our method, it is one of the advantages to moving how we did. But absolutely, we've heard the same information that without a primary that there that there are more candidates. We obviously can't pull the lever of having or not having a primary. We do have the lever of ballot access for candidates. So that's largely why I highlighted it here today as, as one of the potential levers. But in general, more research is going to be needed into why there were so many more candidates. Maybe it was a one time

thing because there were so many seats open. Maybe this is the new norm. We don't know yet. We got to figure that out.

Speaker: I just want to share that. That was one of the themes that I heard over and over again at the door, and I couldn't tell if you had heard that before. So thanks. I'm not actually proposing that change. I'm merely experiencing democracy by letting you know what I heard at the door. Thank you. The other one that I heard was the confusion around people thought they had six votes per person, as opposed to one vote per person. And then that came up over and over again where it was like you were aspirin to them when you said, you don't have to rank six if you don't want to, you can rank up to as many as you want up to six, which is what, of course, what you'd want me to say. Anyway, I think that there needed to be, in my opinion, more clarity that they're not having six votes, but they still only get one vote. And I know that you that the education tried to stress that over and over again. But for some reason, especially the last few weeks, I heard that a lot where they were stressed out about the fact that they had to vote for six people.

Speaker: That's an outstanding point. We do have a little bit of analysis in the report that we think we may have under identified how much confusion would be around the difference between single winner ranked choice voting and multi winner. We really focused heavily at the beginning on the ballot. Looks the same, which is true. However, we now are seeing a lot of information that's showing that that voters think about the ballot differently, even if it looks the same. So we do have some information in the report that talks about we need to do more work to find out the best way to inform voters about proportional ranked choice voting or multi winner ranked choice voting, and sort of how that differs and that. So they can conceptually understand that because we saw the same thing people people kind of missed the mark. Same in overvotes. It's that same idea. They didn't quite

understand what it was they were doing differently here. And the same thing with sort of thinking that they would be able to have three separate contests for these three, these three winners, or be able to rank them each, you know, six for each one or something like that. But yeah, that's a great point. We need more more information on it to find out.

Speaker: So distinguishing between ranking and voting like you're voting. But this is your rank and you still only get one vote per person absolutely counts.

Speaker: Thanks for passing that along. Thank you. What's that? Thank you for passing that along. Yeah.

Speaker: That's helpful. Yeah I just want those were the two things that came up over and over and over again when I was at doors. So I thought my job would be to share that with you at this time.

Speaker: We appreciate it.

Speaker: I have a general question. I guess any of you can take it. There were a lot of reasons that ranked choice voting was proposed. Did it achieve its objectives?

Speaker: Well, our role is to not answer that question. Fair. The elections division didn't propose this change and we are not proponents of any specific election method. We're here to implement the will of the voters. And whether it was a success or not, I think is one of the reasons why we provided this information to the public to make that decision.

Speaker: Very well, thank you.

Speaker: I just want to supplement the mayor's question there, and I appreciate your neutrality on that, because obviously, in the days and weeks after the election, there was a lot of interest in the press on how to interpret these things. Right. And some of that audience is local. Some of that audience feels national. So I would just encourage you to continue down that path. You were did what you were asked to

do provide back data. But that is it's obviously part of a national conversation and sticking with the facts. As much appreciated. Thank you.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: Very good colleagues. And as you know, we do not vote on the auditor's reports. That is a presentation based on the facts as they see them. We really appreciate you all taking the time to do this detailed analysis and share it with us. And I would encourage future city commissioners and the mayor elect to have the opportunity to view this session, because a lot of these questions will fall to them in the coming two years. So thank you for putting this all on the record. I'm now going to read four proclamations announcing the approval of the four local measures. So that's items 111611171118 and 1119. So bear with me. Whereas at the municipal nonpartisan general election held on November 5th, 2024, a measure proposed to voters by city charter commission referral with the ballot title caption quote amends charter deletes outdated, redundant requirements to approve utility franchises, end quote. And such measure was designated on the ballot as measure 26 249. And according to the official canvass, 259,698 votes were cast in favor of said measure, and 48,010 were cast against said measure. Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed by the undersigned mayor of the city of Portland, that the measure with the ballot title caption, quote, amends charter, deletes outdated, redundant requirements to approve utility franchises, unquote has been enacted as in in effect and operative as provided in the measure dated at Portland, Oregon, this 18th day of December, 2024. Ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland. Item 1117. Whereas at the municipal nonpartisan general election held on November 5th of 2024, a measure proposed to voters by city charter commission referral with the ballot title caption amends charter adds independent Portland elections commission, and such measure was designated on the ballot as measure 26 250

and according to the official canvass, 188,971 votes were cast in favor of said measure, and 105,200 votes were cast against said measure. Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed by the undersigned mayor of the city of Portland, that the measure, with the ballot title caption amends charter adds independent Portland elections commission has been enacted and is in effect and operated operative as provided in said measure dated at Portland, Oregon, this 18th day of December 2024. Ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland. Item 1118. Whereas at the municipal nonpartisan general election held on November 5th, 2020, for a measure proposed to voters by city charter commission referral with the ballot title caption. Amends charter updates authority to manage parks, sewers and storm waters, and such measure was designated on the ballot as measure 20 6-2 51 and according to the official canvass, 261,698 votes were cast in favor of said measure, and 35,999 991 votes, 35,999, 35,991 votes were cast against said measure. Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed by the undersigned mayor of the city of Portland, that the measure, with the ballot title caption, amends charter, updates authority to manage parks, sewers and storm waters has been enacted as and is in effect and operative as provided in the measure dated at Portland, Oregon, this 18th day of December of 2024. Ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland, and colleagues are 1,119th item. Whereas at the municipal nonpartisan general election held on November 5th, 2020, for a measure proposed to voters by city charter commission referral with the ballot title caption amends charter, deletes vague, archaic and inconsistent language, and such measure was designated on the ballot as measure 26 252 and, according to the official canvass, 262,703 votes were cast in favor of said measure, and 39,103 votes were cast against said measure. Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed by the undersigned mayor of the city of Portland, that the measure, with the ballot title caption amends charter, deletes vague, archaic and inconsistent

language has been enacted and is in effect. An operative is provided in the measure dated at Portland, Oregon, this 18th day of December of 2024. Ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland. Colleague. Before I gavel out this council's last meeting's meeting, if there are any final thoughts people have, and I know there's some staff members here who want to bring some items forward. Chase, I think you're hiding behind the column. If you could let said staff members come up. Commissioner Mapps, I see your hand is raised. Sure.

Speaker: Thank you, mr. Mayor. Before this council adjourns, I did want to take a moment to recognize and thank a few staff members who have been, I think, indispensable to this council's efficient functioning. In particular, I want to recognize our city attorneys and our council clerks. We truly could not do this work without you. You keep this jury rigged organization moving forward. I also want to recognize our security folk. Those folks work invisibly. But I also want you to know, you know, the work they do is of existential importance to the people who sit in these chairs. And finally, I want to thank the people of Portland. For the opportunity to serve in this position. It's been a real honor.

Speaker: Thank you. Commissioner Mapps.

Speaker: I said my piece this morning, so thank you all for all you do. And I echo commissioner Mapps appreciation for everyone who's contributed to this form of government. It's been real. And let the next government thrive.

Speaker: I'll just say that it's been the opportunity of a lifetime, and I've had the honor of having to work, getting to work with some of the most brilliant, innovative people as colleagues and staff. And thank you all for this experience.

Speaker: Yeah, we all said a little something this morning, but I'll just add two things. One is you're all so far away now. So there's that. And let's see, I just have to

say, Keelan, you've been such a glue through all this process. So I think it's important that we give a special shout out to you. Thank you so much, Keelan.

Speaker: I also gave a long speech earlier today, so I won't give a long speech. I just want to echo my colleagues gratitude and thanks for our council clerk. Keelan. You've done just such a great job and we appreciate you and we appreciate your whole team. And our legal counsel has given us great advice. Our security team to my team in the mayor's office, to all of my colleagues on the City Council and their staffs, michael, to all of the professional leaders in this city. And we have so many and most importantly, our 7000 public employees who do really hard and often thankless work each and every day on behalf of the city. My final wish is that the people of this city see the value of their city employees and support them and encourage them. They're out there keeping the streets clean. When there's a blizzard, they're out there turning the dials, making sure that clean water continues to flow. They're making sure that if there's a problem on our streets, they're there. If there's a public safety issue, they're there. And they're here for the city in so many different ways. And I just really wish the public could see what I see in terms of their true and brilliant and thoughtless leadership. So thank you all, mayor.

Speaker: We have just a few final words on behalf of haley.

Speaker: Always. Yes. Go ahead.

Speaker: So hello, mayor and council, for the record, my name is haley blonsky. I am a senior budget and policy advisor in mayor Wheeler's office. Before we have mayor Wheeler gavel out for the last time, the staff from each of the current council offices wanted to take a moment to vocalize and show our appreciation for each of you. Your staff have the unique privilege of seeing and participating in all of the work that goes on behind the scenes. Being an elected leader is not easy. We know the sacrifices that you have made to serve your community, especially over the last

few challenging years. We see you, we are proud of you, and we are honored to have served on your staff. So thank you and congratulations on your final council session.

Speaker: Thank you haley. Well said.

Speaker: All right. Now this is like yep.

Speaker: Now can I gavel out.

Speaker: Yes, yes.

Speaker: All right. Thank you colleagues. Thank you everybody who's here. We appreciate you all so much. What a great team you have all been. Thank you. We are adjourned. Thank you.