



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICIAL
 MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS **25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004** AT 9:30 A.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Francesconi, Leonard, Saltzman and Sten, 5.

Commissioner Saltzman arrived at 9:33 a.m.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karla Moore-Love, Clerk of the Council; Ben Walters, Senior Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Curtis Chinn, Sergeant at Arms.

Item No. 161 was pulled for discussion and on a Y-5 roll call, the balance of the Consent Agenda was adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS	Disposition:
153 Request of Charles E. Long to address Council regarding neighborhood associations tackling the problem of homelessness (Communication)	PLACED ON FILE
154 Request of Todd J. Kurylowicz to address Council regarding the Mayor's role as Police Commissioner (Communication)	PLACED ON FILE
155 Request of Glenn Warren to address Council regarding police tactics used against freedom of speech (Communication)	PLACED ON FILE
156 Request of Amber Hicks to address Council to raise social awareness (Communication)	PLACED ON FILE
157 Request of Sam Oakland to address Council to ask for a public hearing on the future of historic Pioneer Post Office (Communication)	PLACED ON FILE
TIME CERTAIN	
158 TIME CERTAIN: 9:30 AM – Adopt the 26 th Amendment to the Downtown Waterfront Urban Renewal Area Plan and extend the expiration date of the Plan from April 24, 2004 to April 24, 2008 (Second Reading Agenda 136; Ordinance introduced by Mayor Katz)	RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 3, 2004 AT 9:30 AM TIME CERTAIN

February 25, 2004

CONSENT AGENDA – NO DISCUSSION		
159	Statement of cash and investments January 15, 2004 through February 11, 2004 (Report; Treasurer) (Y-5)	PLACED ON FILE
160	Accept bid of Moore Excavation, Inc. for the Hudson Road Intertie Project for an estimated amount of \$3,996,220 (Purchasing Report - Bid No. 102671) (Y-5)	ACCEPTED PREPARE CONTRACT
Mayor Vera Katz		
*161	Authorize issuance of a competitive Request for Proposals for Parking Attendant and revenue collection/control of City parking garages and surface lots; exempt the selection of a vendor to provide overall management, janitorial and security services, attendant and revenue collection and control services from competitive bidding (Ordinance)	CONTINUED TO MARCH 3, 2004 AT 9:30 AM
*162	Create a new classification of Human Resources Technician and establish a compensation rate for this classification (Ordinance) (Y-5)	178204
*163	Amend grant with the Housing Authority of Portland for a Liaison Officer to address crime issues in Housing Authority of Portland properties (Ordinance; amend Ordinance No. 176234) (Y-5)	178205
*164	Extend agreement with Grandma's Place to provide additional time for selection of a contractor to manage The Day Watch childcare center and allow for smooth transition to the new contractor (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 32091) (Y-5)	178206
Commissioner Jim Francesconi		
*165	Amend contract with Mary Kay Cunningham for interpretive signage writing services to extend contract and increase contract amount (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 34683) (Y-5)	178207
*166	Amend Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation to provide Federal transportation funds for preliminary engineering for the NE/SE 102nd Ave. Improvement Project from NE Weidler St. to SE Washington St. (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 52149) (Y-5)	178208

February 25, 2004

<p>*167 Amend contract with Schlumberger E-City, Inc. to increase number of pay stations, change miscellaneous fees and increase the amount by \$3,870,000 (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 34037) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178209</p>
<p>*168 Accept Special Transportation Grant funds for FY 03-04 through Oregon Department of Transportation to purchase and install audible pedestrian signals for pedestrian safety (Ordinance) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178210</p>
<p align="center">Commissioner Randy Leonard</p>	
<p>169 Consent to franchise transfer from Portland Energy Solutions Company, LLC to Portland District Cooling Company, LLC (Ordinance)</p>	<p align="center">PASSED TO SECOND READING MARCH 3, 2004 AT 9:30 AM</p>
<p align="center">Commissioner Dan Saltzman</p>	
<p>*170 Authorize three-year contract with Merina and Company, LLP not to exceed \$120,000 to conduct annual financial reviews of franchised solid waste and recycling companies and provide advisory services for City rate review and other analytical purposes (Ordinance) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178211</p>
<p align="center">Commissioner Erik Sten</p>	
<p>*171 Donate used dive equipment to Newberg Fire Department (Ordinance) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178212</p>
<p>*172 Accept donation from Farmers Group, Inc. of \$500 to benefit fire and life safety efforts (Ordinance) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178213</p>
<p align="center">REGULAR AGENDA</p>	
<p align="center">Mayor Vera Katz</p>	
<p>173 Revise organizational structure, functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Financial Services (Second Reading Agenda 146; amend Code Section 3.15.040 and repeal Code Section 3.15.045) (Y-5)</p>	<p align="center">178214</p>
<p align="center">Commissioner Jim Francesconi</p>	

February 25, 2004

<p>174 Accept the NW Parking Project Report from Portland Office of Transportation (Report)</p> <p>Motion to accept the report: Moved by Commissioner Francesconi and seconded by Commissioner Saltzman.</p> <p>(Y-5)</p>	<p>ACCEPTED</p>
<p>*175 Update the Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry nuisance abatement process (Ordinance; amend Code Sections 20.40.170 through 20.40.195)</p> <p>(Y-5)</p>	<p>178215</p>

At 10:07 a.m., Council recessed.

February 25, 2004

A RECESSED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004 AT 2:00 P.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Francesconi, Leonard, Saltzman and Sten, 5.

Commissioner Leonard arrived at 2:02 p.m.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karla Moore-Love, Clerk of the Council; Kathryn Beaumont, Senior Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Anthony Merrill, Sergeant at Arms.

<p>176 TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM – Tentatively deny appeal of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association and uphold Hearings Officer’s decision with modifications to approve the application of Martin Treece and Marquis Companies I Inc. for a Conditional Use with Adjustments for an assisted living facility at Hawthorne Gardens, 2827 SE Salmon Street (Findings; Previous Agenda 130; LU 03-111111 CU AD)</p> <p>Motion to approve and uphold the Hearings Officer and adopt findings: Moved by Commissioner Saltzman and seconded by Commissioner Francesconi.</p> <p>(Y-4; N-1, Leonard)</p>	<p>Disposition:</p> <p>FINDINGS ADOPTED</p>
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At 2:04 p.m., Council recessed.

February 26, 2004

A RECESSED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004 AT 2:00 P.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Francesconi, Leonard, Saltzman and Sten, 5.

Commissioner Saltzman arrived at 2:05 p.m.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karla Moore-Love, Clerk of the Council; Linly Rees, Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Anthony Merrill, Sergeant at Arms.

<p>177 TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM – Designate a portion of the property known as Sunderland Yard at 9325 NE Sunderland Road as a campground under the terms of ORS 446.265 (Resolution introduced by Commissioners Leonard and Sten)</p> <p>Motion to accept amendment that the City of Portland designates approximately one acre in the southeast corner of, and in between the parenthetical tax account r-3-15, add as shown in the attached exhibit a: Gaveled down by Mayor Katz after no objections.</p> <p>(Y-4; N-1, Francesconi)</p>	<p>Disposition:</p> <p>36200 AS AMENDED</p>
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At 4:49 p.m., Council adjourned.

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland

By Karla Moore-Love
Clerk of the Council

For a discussion of agenda items, please consult the following Closed Caption Transcript.

February 25, 2004
Closed Caption Transcript of Portland City Council Meeting

This transcript was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised City Council broadcast.

Key: ***** means unidentified speaker.

FEBRUARY 25, 2004 9:30

Item 153.

Charles E. Long: My name is Charles Long, I live at 420 Northeast Mason Street. Monday evening this week the Alameda Neighborhood Association focused on the issue of homelessness. Alameda is a rather affluent neighborhood with stately homes, and there's certainly no homeless in that area. And I think it's a very positive note that neighborhood associations are beginning to discuss this issue. It's important that the public be aware of the problems of homelessness. There was one representative there from the City Commission on Homelessness, there were several homeless people there, and social workers, and it was a very inspiring and uplifting session. After the meeting was over, they gave a handout of materials on homelessness called "Homelessness Working Group Fact Sheet." and it discussed the mess of homelessness, and the civil rights of homelessness, and various ordinances that have restricted them, and also a place to list ideas to deal with it. And one idea that I got from that session was that the homeless need mentors to help them through the maze of social facilities that might help them, and also to encourage them. I would suggest that retired police and firemen and teachers and other retired people would be -- make good candidates to be mentors with a little training. And I gave a copy of this handout, seven-page handout, very informative, to Erik Sten's office, and if anybody would like a copy of this handout, they could check with Erik Sten's office. I think it's a very fine movement that the neighborhoods are considering this important issue.

Katz: Thank you. All right. 154.

Item 154.

Todd Joseph Kurylowicz: My name is Todd Joseph Kurylowicz, I live in Northeast Portland. Thank you, Charles, I like to hear what you say about some of these issues. They're important issues. I wish they were taken a little more seriously. But that's simply not the case. I went to O'Brien Square last night and saw they're going to tear down the shelter there for security reasons. Jim, did you have a part in that? I think you did. I got on indie media, and apparently they're blocking off another segment of overpass so people can't get underneath there, probably for health and sanitation reasons. I don't know. It's an issue I brought up many, many times, and, I don't know, it just seems not to get addressed. It's still illegal to have a blanket, that was -- but the police kind of go around that by giving exclusions and trespassings, and all this legal things. But illegal to have a blanket. Anyway, we've been talking about demonstrations and the police, and the demonstrations lately, and the idea we have a democracy in this country, and some of the actions we've seen by the Portland police regarding demonstrations, excessive use of force, and singling people out. We've been meeting with you, Mayor, Monday, Friday, some point to talk about this, which is great. I like to start a dialogue regarding these things. I think what would be better is some public comment, though, because people need to be reassured from you that they can feel safe, that something's being done. A lot of people, a lot of parents say to their kids, you can't go to the demonstration. You don't want to get hurt. They're not afraid of the demonstrators, they're afraid of the police. It's like a war zone, is really -- it's really terrifying for a lot of people to even come into the area. Riot squads hanging off armored tanks, all this exotic weaponry, brandished by people in storm trooper gear. Well, I think a democracy, I think a peaceful assembly, that doesn't

February 25, 2004

seem to be the image I want in my mind. And it's very difficult to bring these things up week after week after week after week after week, after week, after three minutes, after three minutes, and -- and nobody has anything to say. And this is it. Time after time after time.

Leonard: Well, I'll bite. I see you as a very smart, articulate guy, and you're really good at identifying some of the problems. And I actually agree with some of the problems you identify. And I wonder why you don't become part of the solution. And actually you become a leader on some of these issues. And if that's where you were headed, I would do whatever I could to help you. And I'm sure everybody here would as well.

Kurylowicz: We've met with some of the people in your office to start some communications, to take steps in making the solution and working with your office.

Leonard: I'm talking about actually, if you came up with potential solutions, I will help you. And the rest of us up here will do it. But that's not the role you've taken on. If you want to talk about that, make some time and we'll talk about that.

Kurylowicz: That's what I brought up in the meeting, was how you could possibly get involved and ideas --

Leonard: I'm not talking about me, I'm talking about you. I'm saying if you want to set some time up where we talk about that, how you could be involved to help resolve some of these issues, I'll work with you on that.

Kurylowicz: All right. I'll stop by your office.

Leonard: Ok.

Katz: Let me just add, part -- thank you, Todd. You and I will see each other next week. I just want to add -- explain to everybody, when the council made a decision to have 15 minutes before the rest of the agenda to allow people just to communicate with us, it was a decision that the council made because they didn't want -- didn't necessarily want people to sit around to the very end, do it at the beginning. But it was with the caveat we were not going to have conversations. Otherwise, we could be extending this for half an hour, or even an hour. So it's just an opportunity for us to hear. Now, your comment that we aren't doing anything about it is one that I don't want to discuss at this time in conversation, because we could be here for about a half an hour, and I can share with you all the things that we are in fact doing. So please understand that our silence isn't a disinterest. Our silence is that is kind of the procedure that we as a city council set up. Mr. Long was here, identified a problem, and I made sure that some of the issues he raised were dealt with. But I didn't do it during the three minutes. It was something that was done later on. And the same with you.

Kurylowicz: I can understand that, not wanting to get into a long debate, but maybe what we're looking for is a little compassion on some of the issues, and a response that there's a sense of urgency in addressing some of these things, as far as people every night are being woken up by the police, and --

Katz: All right. That's exactly the reason why we don't necessarily respond. Because it could take a lot of time, and that was not the intent of the council.

Kurylowicz: Well, you know, time and then you got morals and you have things that happen --

Katz: Todd, thank you.

Kurylowicz: What's more important?

Katz: 155.

Item 155.

Glenn Warren: Hello, we come -- my name is Glenn. I'm a resident of Portland. Sorry about that. We come in here so often there's a lot of topics that we'd like to address. But they are all on the same issue, and that is how the government here in America treats its people. And I appreciate your comments this morning, and I understand the format of this procedure. I find it very uncomfortable, because I prefer dialogue, that's what democracy is. And it is part of the solution, that's where you go from there. The ideas are discussed and we move on. I want to just, as -- agree to meet, and I'd

February 25, 2004

like to propose some rhetorical questions that I want to bring to the forefront of your consciousness.

Why is it that it has been so hard to achieve civil rights and equal rights, and to uphold our constitution by the people? Why do you think that has been so difficult here in America? Is it because the people aren't trying, that they're lazy? That they don't deserve it? Or is it because your job is to misdirect it, cajole people into accepting that it's status quo? I -- I'll use an example. I don't know, I didn't know Kendra James personally, I don't know her family members, but I watched her statements on t.v., and I felt it was very cruel. I was appalled. I couldn't imagine how a family member would have felt by you saying that it's over, that the police officer was exonerated, he followed procedure. When we all know that this wasn't the case. It was reported in the paper. Also, the members involved met for dinner that night, and I can't imagine what kind of human being could do this, but they said they didn't discuss what had happened that day, that someone in their group had murdered somebody. And they didn't even talk about it at dinner? This is very chilling. These are the kinds of things that set a precedent about people trying to achieve some sort of justice in their community. Or as a whole. I might not glee with some of the tactics that people have used to draw attention to it, but I do agree that this police officer is giving the wrong impression, that they're train the to behave in certain ways that their paranoia level is high, and that bad things happen, and things just get pushed away and move along. I really don't like this for Mat. I don't. Because I don't feel it's democratic. We do it to start the democratic process, to bring things up and pressure our local government in order to address these issues. I don't like just doing the talking. I want feedback. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you. 156.

Item 156.

Moore: She will not be speaking today.

*****: [inaudible]

Moore: No.

Katz: Ok. Let's move on. Amber, are you sure you don't want to come up?

*****: Yes.

Katz: Ok.

*****: She can't give herself to someone else for three minutes?

Katz: 157.

Item 157.

Sam Oakland: I have photographs for you here in cases, and I have prepared a paper for each of you. My name is Sam Oakland, I live at 3446 Northwest Thurman. I'm a professor of law presently teaching at the Mark Hatfield School of Government, I'm teaching blind justice, blind lawyers. I have been told that the City of Portland thinks it would cost \$30,000 to \$50,000 to defend itself against the federal government condemnation of a small bit of curb and sidewalk that stands in the path of the proposed driveway up to and into the Morrison Street side of the Pioneer Post Office Courthouse. The route that would take three or four judges at the most in their private cars into a proposed basement parking lot for five automobiles. I have been told that the judges representative, the general services administration, has now threatened the City of Portland, Oregon, with a condemnation of public property, and that the city, fearing the cost to the defense of the people's land, will now give up claim to our property without a fight and allow the G.S.A. to begin the construction of a parking garage for U.S. Ninth Circuit Court judges on the first of March. The fifth amendment of the U.S. Constitution speaks directly to the issue of taking property of the City of Portland by any agency of the federal government and provides monetary relief. Not only would Portland not have to pay \$50,000 to defend this small piece of property, it would be given at least \$2 million or more under condemnation and the law if it did ask for rights under the constitution. The law is clear. I have also been told that the city thinks it would lose in a condemnation suit and does not want to protest very much, and is giving over local property without asking to be given

February 25, 2004

anything in return. I think this is wrong, and bad economics. The process for condemnation under imminent domain is clear. The federal government, not the city of Portland, needs to prove the need, and because the g.s.a. must prove the need for condemnation, it must prove there is a public good and a necessity in order to win. Win or lose, the city stands to gain by condemnation, and the cost is at federal expense, not city expense. Here's the problem for the g.s.a. The city will receive at least \$2 million and almost at no cost. The government cannot cherry pick under imminent domain. It has to condemn the whole lot, not just a small piece of curb and sidewalk. It has to condemn the complete whole block square, every brick, every pool, every park bench, every drinking fountain, every bus shelter. That is the law. The ducks, the deer, the bear, the beaver, the water pipes, and the electric lines as well. The g.s.a. has to acquire the whole running sidewalk from brick to brick, end to end, morrison, yamhill, fifth and sixth, and the underground toilets.

Katz: We've got it in front of us, sam, thank you.

Oakland: To close, I ask city council to assert its rights under the fifth amendment of the united states constitution.

Katz: Thank you, sam. Consent agenda? Any items to be removed? I've removed item 161. Anybody else want to remove any item? If not, roll call on consent agenda.

Francesconi: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Saltzman:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Katz: Mayor votes aye. [gavel pounded] 161.

Item 161.

Katz: I'd like unanimous consent by the council to carry over this until next week. It's my understanding that information to the interested parties were given to them that this was going to be on next week. So we're going to carry it over, and it will be on the calendar next week. Any objections? Hearing none, so ordered. [gavel pounded] item 158.

Item 158.

Katz: All right. Does anybody want to come up and just explain why we're doing it? If not -- did you want to come up and explain? All right. This also, i'm going to ask the council to carry this over until next week, and we'll bring it back.

Don Mazziotti, Director, Portland Development Commission: Madam mayor, don mazziotti, director of the development commission. During the course of responding to questions raised by members of council last week and then subsequently, we conferred with bond council on some of the issues that were raised in order to be certain of our answers, and harvey rogers indicated he felt the matter ought to be continued until he was provided with an opportunity to make technical changes in the language so that when the time comes, he can issue an unqualified letter, that is, a letter without qualification on these technical matters so that it would not in any way affect the quality of a bond issue. We discussed these matters with him at length, the changes have been made, and so a continuation is in order. We could have brought it to you this morning, but decided in light of the public interest in the matter and mayor, with your acknowledgment, that we continue it until next week, which you've proposed to do.

Katz: Ok. So two things. One of the issues was a list of findings. It's not a secret, I just want to make everybody aware of it. And the findings did get uncovered during all of the public process. So that needs to be put together. I also wanted flag this to people who might be interested to come back, since it would be the first reading, give an opportunity for people to testify on just the narrow list of findings. So that's the reason. So no objections, we'll bring it back next week. Thank you. All right. 173.

Item 173.

Katz: Roll call.

Francesconi: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Saltzman:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Katz: Mayor votes aye. [gavel pounded] let me just add that next week the issues that the council had and the questions they had will also be responded to. I neglected to say that. 174.

February 25, 2004

Item 174.

Katz: All right. Come on up.

Randy Miller, Portland Office of Transportation: Good morning, mayor and commissioners. Randy miller, office of transportation. The item before you is a report to council directed at its october 30, 2003, meeting. The subject is the northwest district parking plan and recommendations associated with that. At the october 30 meeting the specific directive of council was, the office of transportation shall return to the city council with a status report on implementation of a comprehensive parking plan and development of a transportation management association by february 25, 2004. Since the october, 2003, directive of council, the office of transportation has conducted a series of meetings with representatives of the nob hill business association and the northwest district association to ascertain what if any further progress could be made towards implementation of an on-street parking plan, m.t.m.a. we received a letter from the nob hill business association, which supported the establishment of a metered district, an area parking permit program and a t.m.a. We also received in january of this year a position statement from the nwda attached as exhibit b to the report which rescinds any and all prior endorsements of on-street and off-street parking plans and opposes any further actions until there is resolution of the current luba appeal to the approval of the off-street parking. Following the receipt of these communication, it is clear that progress towards establishment of a comprehensive on-street parking program would not be possible at this time. Based on this result, pdot developed the recommendations contained within the report that no further consideration of an on-street parking plan occur until the northwest district association lube a appeal is resolved and brought community support emerge for the renewed discussion and implementation of an on-street parking plan. Coincident with this recommendation is the further recommendation that there be a moratorium on area parking permit programs in the northwest district except for zone l, no metered district be established, and there be no establishment of a transportation management association. In preparation for the finalization of these recommendations, we conducted meetings with the leadership of both nob hill business association and the nwda on february 2 and february 4 respectively to discuss these intended recommendations. Subsequent to these meetings received another letter, exhibit b to the report, which the business association submitted, which indicated their understanding of the recommendation and an interest in continued working with northwest residents on issues of common interest. We also met with nwda transportation committee specifically on zone l and p.g.e. Park enforcement, where there was no further discussion of the on-street parking recommendation. Based on the forgoing, we prepared this report number 172 to the council, and we recommend its acceptance.

Katz: Did you want to add anything?

*******:** No. I think there may --

Katz: Identify yourself for the record.

Rob Burchfield, City Traffic Engineer: Rob burchfield, city traffic engineer. I think there may be someone here to testify today, i'm not sure.

Katz: Ok. Let's open it up to testimony and then we'll get to questions.

Moore: I don't have anybody signed up.

Katz: Does anybody want to testify? Tim, come on up. Chris, are you sure you don't want to testify?

[inaudible]

Katz: Ok.

Tim Ramis: Thank you. Tim ramis, 1727 northwest hoyt in Portland. Here is a business owner resident and commercial property owner in northwest. I've been asked to be here today on behalf of the nob hill business association. I'd like to first thank the staff for their substantial efforts on this issue over years worth of time to help us in crafting a package of solutions, and we look forward to

February 25, 2004

being able to work with you at some point in the future on these issues. I've been asked by the board to address three specific matters and amplify those comments that we've made in our letter. First is that nob hill remains committed to working at the grass-roots level with those people who want to address the parking situation in northwest. For example, we have been approached by a representative of businesses and residents in the southern portion of the neighborhood to address parking issues specifically in that area. We have agreed to do that and to work towards the comprehensive solution based upon the c.a.c.'s recommendations, which you'll remember the three-pronged approach, surface parking that is off-street parking, use of permits, and use of pay stations.

So while the staff's recommendation of a moratorium on additional permit programs would effect that as a piecemeal program, we would hope to be back here at some point with a more comprehensive pilot program for that area. Second, we remain committed to the solutions offered by the c.a.c. in the work that it did. The c.a.c.'s work was certainly the most representative of anyone, or any body that has worked on this issue over the past few years, and we remain committed to trying to implement its provisions and the solutions in that solution. Finally, while we are certainly at opposite sides of the caption in the luba case from nwda, based upon their litigation of the plan, and we would expect that to continue for a while, in the meantime, our board is committed to working directly with nwda on a range of other issues in the hopes we can address those matters and hopefully in the future be working together on the parking solution.

Katz: Let me ask you the obvious questions. Any plans for building even one garage?

Ramis: Oh, I think there are plans in the works for constructing a garage, yes.

Katz: And what's the timetable?

Ramis: I think that would be uncertain at this point, and the litigation certainly affects the timetable.

Katz: Ok. All right. Chris, come on up. Thank you.

Ramis: Thank you.

Chris Smith, Chairman, Northwest District Association Transportation Committee: Chris smith, 2343 northwest pettygrove street, chairman of the nwda transportation committee. I'll echo one thing tim said, which is that we are hoping to bridge the divide that was created by the passage of the off-street parking plan. We've formed a liaison committee with nob hill and we're trying to identify some projects of joint interest that we can work on together with the city, I think the first of those we've keyed up is the northwest 23rd avenue reconstruction, and I think we share some common goals with how that project can be reshaped to have some better benefits to the neighborhood than just repaving the street. With regard to the report in front of you, we echo staff's conclusion, which is that this is a plan that was always intended to go forward with a number of elements together, while one of those is being it litigated, it's impossible to know what you can do with the other elements without the risk of doing additional harm to the neighborhood. Mayor, I know your guiding principal was first do know harm, and it's impossible how to say how to do that without knowing what the outcome of the litigation would be. So we'd like to see the litigation run its course and revisit the issue.

Katz: Thank you. Anybody else want to testify?

Francesconi: Can I ask one question? I appreciate the liaison committee that was created and the effort to identify some big things, the construction of 23rd that are agreeable. At some point will it make sense to reconvene the community advisory committee? And if so, when do you think that might be?

Smith: I don't think I can answer that question until we know what luba says and puts it back on the table.

Katz: Ok.

Leonard: I have a comment. I have a concern about this. This feels like this is a complete capitulation by the city. To come up with a plan for parking.

February 25, 2004

Miller: I believe it's a recognition that the current situation is at an impasse, and that until some time passes and some -- the luba appeal, which is really the key element here, the luba appeal gets resolved, there's not really an opportunity to bring parties together and begin to resolve some of the parking -- on-street parking issues.

Leonard: It strikes me that it's -- that's precisely the kind of strategy we use in other areas of the city when we have contentious issues. We have to -- we're all committed to fixing the parking problem, but I don't see how you do that with this strategy. It doesn't fix anything.

Smith: Commissioner Leonard -- Chris Smith, 2343 Northwest Pettygrove. There's a surface lot at 23rd and Flanders that somebody could be building a parking structure right now.

Leonard: I'm talking about the whole issue of permitting the things that you've worked on, that at one point you supported, and now because of litigation you're not, it just -- it seems like that people are caught in the lurch then in that neighborhood. Not everybody likes it. It just seems like there must be some other strategy we can use than having everything stop if someone files a lawsuit.

Miller: Our intention is to remain open and available to all parties and be available to have additional meetings and begin to explore options, but at this point, given that the contentious nature of the issue and the appeal, it's difficult to move forward beyond that at this point.

Katz: Ok. Thank you. I'll take a motion to accept the report.

Francesconi: So moved.

Katz: Second?

Saltzman: Second.

Katz: Roll call.

Francesconi: Well, you know, the majority of the council's made a tough decision that we need a little more parking in northwest. But you know, there's only certain things that the city can do, and we've made that decision, but now forcing down the throats of the neighborhood against their will before the appeal is completed, you know, meter districts, the establishment of transportation management association is beyond our power to do. And it would delay the ultimate healing that's going to be needed to have this neighborhood progress where businesses and neighbors can both thrive and learn to live together again. So let's work through this difficult time. I appreciate the work that PDOT has done. There's some small steps being taken. We need to get to the point where we -- after the appeal where we can reconvene the community advisory committee to identify more things that we can work on, until we get to the point that even the meters are in the best interest of the neighborhoods because it will give a revenue stream that will give some money to the districts that they can control to make needed transportation improvements. But we have to work together to get to that point. Aye.

Leonard: Aye. **Saltzman:** Aye.

Sten: Certainly I'll vote to support the -- accept the report. I guess that's the vote today. I'd hope not to be right on this, I am -- it is somewhat disappointing and painful not to accept the plan, but I want to reiterate I don't think we can get to a deal, whether the parking garages are approved or not, until we get some negotiations on the whole piece. And I don't think the garages will work without meters, so I'm disappointed but not surprised that we're at a complete impasse and that this is really an utter failure of the process. Aye.

Katz: I think there was conversation after the passage of the plan that those of us who did not support it shared with those who testified in support of it, that this would never fly. And it's too bad. Sometimes agreed drives us to decisions that are failed ones, and I think in this particular indication, it was a failed one because there was some parking that needed to occur. And I think the council could have gotten there with Nob Hill and with Northwest District Association. I know Chris worked tirelessly to make that happen, and maybe, you know, when mistakes are made from those mistakes we have learned lessons. And that's the value sometimes of making collective mistakes.

February 25, 2004

On the other hand, it also slows down an important process that both the business community and the neighborhoods wanted. Aye. [gavel pounded] all right. 175.

Item 175.

Katz: Ok. Who wants to come testify? Or explain? Anybody?

Francesconi: We're just updating it to make it consistent with what other bureaus have done.

Katz: All right. Anybody want to testify? If not, roll call.

Francesconi: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Saltzman:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Katz: Mayor votes aye. [gavel pounded] there is nothing else before this council. So we'll adjourn until 2:00 this afternoon. That ought to be a pretty quick meeting, and then we have a 2:00 time certain on thursday that probably will take a little longer. A lot longer. Thank you, everybody. [gavel pounded]

At 10:07 a.m., Council recessed.

February 25, 2004

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

2:00 PM

Katz: Council will come to order. Karla, please call the roll. [roll call]

Katz: All right. We have one item.

Item 176.

Katz: Katherine and staff? No issues from you? Ok.

Kathleen Stokes, Bureau of Development Services: Thank you. Kathleen stokes, bureau of development services, staff for this case. The applicant's attorney has prepared findings for city council. They've been reviewed by b.d.s. staff and city attorney, and found that covered all the relevant issues and included all of the conditions and the approval as council had indicated at their tentative decision at the last meeting. I don't really have anything else to add. Do you have any questions?

Katz: No. Anybody have any questions, any issues that any of the council members need to raise? If not, i'll take a motion.

Saltzman: I'd move approval, uphold the hearings officer and adopt our findings.

Katz: Second?

Francesconi: Second.

Katz: Roll call.

Francesconi: Aye. **Leonard:** No. **Saltzman:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Katz: Just a thank you again for everybody from the citizens to the applicants, to the architects, who we questioned over and over again. For everybody's cooperation in making something that needs to be done a much better project. Aye. [gavel pounded] thank you, everybody. We stand adjourned until 2:00 tomorrow. [gavel pounded]

At 2:04 p.m., Council recessed.

February 26, 2004

Closed Caption Transcript of Portland City Council Meeting

This transcript was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised City Council broadcast.

Key: ***** means unidentified speaker.

FEBRUARY 26, 2004 2:00 PM

[Roll call]

Item 177.

Katz: Item 177. Thank you. I'm going to turn this over to commissioner Sten, and I assume commissioner Leonard, commissioner Sten would like to open it up with a couple of words, and then if commissioner Leonard would like to say something, give him an opportunity to say something. And then we'll begin the public testimony.

Sten: Thanks, Mayor Katz and welcome, everybody, to the city hall today. I'll make a couple of opening comments. I think what I'd like to do, we have a couple of panels that will open up the testimony, and I'd like dignity village supporters speak for themselves. I think this is a very interesting, emotional, controversial and important story that's going to be told today, and it's probably best that it's told in their own words. I've worked with dignity village for several years, and it's been very -- very inspirational and a very difficult at times piece of work for me. I'm very proud of all that's gone on. We have an enormous problem with affordable housing, and with social services, and with jobs, and all kinds of things in this community, and one of the things -- I don't say we have a big homeless problem, but that's what happens when you have problems with these other areas. And I like to frame it that way, and until we take care of so many of the issues we have as a community, we'll continue to have a homeless problem. One of the things I've said for many years, and I want to say it going into this, is that I've never believed that there's one answer to a person's homelessness. And early on with dignity village -- when dignity village was getting going, I had some arguments with some of the supporters who said, I don't like this program or that program. The issue is not which program is the one, it's how do we have enough programs in this community that people who are unique can find their way back into society with respect and dignity. And there are unfortunately depending who you ask, there's certainly 1,500, there may be as many as 2,000 people on the street tonight. And in order to solve that problem, we're going to need to put a lot more resources into it, we're going to have to have a lot more human relationships, and we're going to have to support our institutions. I don't believe, and I say this in a positive way, that dignity is our homeless strategy, nor an answer for homelessness. At the same time I believe if a community is going to take on something this tough and we're trying to do that, with a lot of challenges, we have to have room in our overall strategy for unique private initiatives that come down the pike, and that's to me what dignity village is. It is not something the city started, they never would have started, and it is not something the city ever thought would make it this far. But it is something that a group of people decided worked for them and have worked very hard to solve their problems, and they would not have been able to make it without their own initiative and a lot of community support, which you're going to see, that there is an incredible number of people in this community who care about the issues, who care about dignity village, and are interested in trying to make this work. It is not a substitute for the shelters, it is not a substitute for building affordable housing, which we have done dramatically in this community, have to do a lot more of. What we're doing today, I also wanted to lay this out a little bit, sometimes when people get organized and come down there's a little confusion with the vote actually is. So here's what we're

February 26, 2004

voting on today. Today's ordinance f. It passes, would designate dignity village a transitional campground. That is a particular law that's available through Oregon statute that would allow dignity village, which obviously has never been legal with the building codes, to come -- become legal and work with commissioner Leonard and the bureau of development services to bring the structures into compliance and actually be a legal designation in the zoning code. It also, this ordinance, expresses an intent, at this point it's just an intent, to enter into a longer term lease with dignity village. I've split these up for several reasons. One is I think it's too much to chew at one time and the second is I felt the council and dignity village needed to have the discussion today with the greater community about the bigger picture before we started talking about a longer-term lease. A longer-term lease would demand a very special set of arrangements and very clear responsibilities both on dignity's part and the city's, and if this ordinance passes today I expect to bring it back in the next several months. We'll only do that if there's a council will. I also did not want to get into a situation of trying to negotiate a lease that the community wasn't ready at a city hall level to move forward. That's where we are today. We would designate at a transitional campground under O.R.S. Law, and we would express an intent to issue a lease. So I want to -- again, that lease will take some real work and I'd be happy today to hear people's thoughts on that, but that is not going to be the hearing. And that lease will come back before the city council again when with bring it back. So it's really been quite a surprising road the last couple years. I have been open and wanting to work with dignity village and to see what could happen, but if you would have asked me, and many people did a couple years ago, would dignity village still be around after many cold winters and many setbacks, I would have set absolutely not. I did not think, I didn't wish it to any bad, but I thought this was a much tougher endeavor than one group of people could pull off. And I think it's a testimony to the bigger community that it has, and I think that there's a lot of lessons to be learned from dignity village about treating people as humans, connecting with each other, and allowing people to try and figure out what works for them. It is not a perfect solution, but I'm proud of what they have done to this state and think there's a lot to be learned, and I'm very interested to see if we can do this next step what would happen with a little more stability for the village and I also want to compliment the friends and residents of dignity village for staying positive and working with the bigger system, not seeing this as a fight against -- the other piece, but trying to find how can we add to what we do in Portland rather than how can we tear each other down. That's ultimately what dignity village has become about, how can we help each other, rather than going after each other. With that I'll turn this over to commissioner Leonard. I have three panels of invited testimony, the first would be the current leadership of dignity village, the second is a panel of community supporters who have been working with dignity on architectural and basically architects and backers of dignity village to talk about the longer term and the bigger picture, and then finally, panel of alumni from dignity village to talk a little bit about their experience and where they've gone from the village. After that I've -- the bureau of maintenance director, who's in charge of property, will testify. Then we'll open it up to public testimony. It looks like there's a lot of people here, and that's terrific. We'll start with three minutes of public testimony per person, at a certain point in the afternoon recognizing we can't have the hearing all night, we'll probably drop it to two minutes, and I would very much encourage people particularly as you get later in the day, if what you've -- you're going to say has been said, we'll go through it quickly.

Leonard: Just very briefly, the causes for homelessness are many. Therefore, it would seem logical to me that the solutions need to be many. I think often times some people in our positions try to prescribe what we think the solutions for people who are homeless are. And it doesn't fit everybody. I became convinced earlier, actually late last year that dignity village did fill a niche for a certain group of people who are homeless. And I was very impressed, Jack, when I was out the day I was, and saw the rules that were in place, the behavior of the people that were living there, convinced me that this was a group of people who are better served by that place than what other

February 26, 2004

prescriptions smart people like me had come up with before. Ha, ha. It was a lesson for me. And the lesson was that you can't -- you cannot -- you can't put round pegs in square holes. Sometimes what we think should be right and what fits may confound our reasoning. And it may actually be something that is not as intuitive as we think, but actually works. And I believe, and i've come to believe dignity village works. I immediately began working with commissioner Sten on developing some safety standards for dignity village, and it's been a great experience working with him, and I appreciate all of his efforts on this wonderful, innovative project. And I intend to remain steadfast in my support of what the folks out there are doing, as long as they remain as committed to doing what they are out there with the people that live there. I think it's a good partnership. Thank you. [applause]

Katz: Thank you.

Sten: I forgot one thing. Somebody who's very integral in my view of the world is here and I wanted to wish my mother a happy birthday.

Katz: Where is she? You can clap now. [applause] happy birthday. Let me add very briefly, just a very brief comment. Commissioner Sten and I started to ponder, how many years ago was it? Three? What are we going to do? We even ran around looking for sites around the city, because we felt some temporary, and i'm going to underline that, solution, needed to be found. And both of us, after the first year, decided that we really, as commissioner Leonard said, weren't all that smart, that we don't have all the answers, and that this new idea and this community effort needed to have our support. And that's the reason that the council provided that support throughout all of these years. As Mark -- is Mark here? Where are you? I've met Mark many years ago and have followed his projects, and when he said he was going to get involved, I knew that we were at the beginning of something very different, and very new. And so this brings us to today. And we're here today for a variety of reasons. In the beginning of the next conversation about the future of dignity village, whatever that's going to be, that will be decided deliberatively with our partners here on the council. So. Having said that, commissioner **Sten**, why don't you bring your first -- I think you have nine, 10, 11 --

*******:** Three panels.

Sten: The first panel is Ron Wold, the current village chair, Jack Tafari, vice chair, and Tim McCarthy, the treasurer.

Katz: Normally you would have three minutes each. You are an invited panel, i'm going to ask you to keep it within three minutes. I'm not going to cut you off, but keep it within a small period of time. Ok, Jack?

Jack Tafari: We'll do our best.

Katz: Thanks.

Tafari: First of all, i'd like to --

Katz: Identify yourself for the record.

Jack Tafari, Vice Chair, Dignity Village Council: First of all, my name is Jack, i'm the vice chairman of the current council, and i'm also the village historian, because i've been with the village from the beginning. So I get the job of starting out a little panel, because I wanted to go through a little bit of the history of the place. And you can see some of the flashed up on your screen. First i'd like to thank Mayor Katz and Erik Sten who sponsored the first motion that got us designated a pilot project. And we knew all about looking for sites and how hard that can be. Because I remember that went on. We came from a place of social justice. That's our first day on the screen. And we came basically from the streets, from the streets, and we began to develop. We began to move from place to place, we wanted to stay together, and so you see on the screen a number of sites where we moved from place to place. We developed a wonderful tactic called the shopping cart parade, and it was through necessity we had to move our things from place to place. So we needed to get them there somehow. We need to get our things there somehow, so we used shopping

February 26, 2004

carts and we had parades from place to place. Well, this was a tactic because it drew attention to what we were doing, and -- so we moved from place to place. We began to develop as a community, and we began to develop our process, and the real blessing was the time we were under the fremont bridge, because we began having meetings and working on our bylaws and our incorporation to make us a legal entity. And so give us more credibility that way. We developed a process whereby we have a recall mechanism, and with the recall mechanism f. Someone isn't doing their job, they can be pulled out, get that guy out of there. He's not fulfilling his commitment to do the job. What we're trying to build, we're trying to build a couple of things -- a transitional community, and we're also trying to build an ecovillage, and we want to build something permanent in that it will be there and we'll have something in place for other people like us to use after we've gone. So you see, we began with tents, and once we get to sunderland yard where the wind was pretty ferocious and the tents weren't really very viable, we began evolving and developing into some of the structures you see there now. So we started building little houses. And the houses of course since we were only supposed to be in sunderland yard for a small-time, a short time, initially was two months, the houses we constructed, and then since we had to go we began deconstructing. You see the house there now on the screen, that's a cob house. That's what we aspire to. That's a straw bale house. And if you look at things like hb 3400, you look at hb 3400, it's a piece of paper. It's a wonderful piece of legislation. It will generate 10 to 20 million with the transfer tax to affordable housing, but if you look -- if you look at that straw bale house, that's \$500, and that's very tangible. It's a very tangible thing. It's also mobile. We began developing our democracy. You see photos of council meetings. We began to hammer things out and work things out as a group. And we developed a democracy. We have a very full participatory democracy. We decided we don't need a king, it's the king -- we have a king, it's the king of heaven and earth. And that's our old site. And we began developing our different committees. So the committee i've always been interested in is trash and sanitation. We have a tented population, because cleanliness is important. And that shouts -- I have a trash bag hanging out of my pocket. And we do clean-up, and we do trash busting around the area as well as in the area. We have security and safety, we have a very good security crew at the moment. We've got pet committees, health, building maintenance, grant writing and fund-raising, and site selection. We looked at, my gosh, a huge number of sites and we're just getting our microenterprises together. We need workshops to work in, so that we're required just a little bit more permanence. We have donations coordinators, and we have a good outreach team that reach out to different neighborhood associations. And that's our town hall up there. That's our town hall that's been in architecture magazine and all these different things. So that's basically what I have to say. I'd like to hand the mic over to our chairman.

Katz: Thank you. Are you still going to use the power point?

*****: Yes.

Katz: Ok.

Ron Wold, Chair, Dignity Village: Thank you for having us here. My name is ron wold, i'm the new target, i'm the new chairman since december. I'd also like to thank the mayor's office, because my wife and i, we got to dignity village through your office, through marshall, who set me up with jack, who when I first met him, he saw that I had no teeth and said i'd fit right in. [laughter] so, thus i've got to be the chairman. Not because of the teeth, probably because i've been here too long. In the time i've been there, 14, 15 months, i've seen the place grow and really mature. And a lot of that comes from the core values we have. We do have some problems, which every place does have problems, but we -- I really believe we firmly, after arguments or disputes, we actually come together and hug each other, and at least say we're sorry. Our core values, which are up on the screen, they really don't need to be broke down any further, but our basic rules are what really are the test for us. We don't allow violence, domestic or between individuals or anything, whether it's verbal or anything else. We don't allow theft, and we actually do through the council, we do

February 26, 2004

approach these issues and we resolve them. Unfortunately, there have been some people who have been asked and sometimes forcibly made to leave. Not to return. We do have some people right now who are kind of at the last leg of their stay at the village as a resident because of violations. We do enforce them, and go along with what we try to set up. The alcohol, illegal drugs, everything like that, that's also -- we approach that the same way. If caught with anything on site, they have anywhere from 24 hours out to come back and approach us at the next meeting to address it and most times they are made to do time out with added to their punishment is to be signed up with an active treatment program. We're also right now working hard toward accomplishing code compliance with our fire situation. We had a fire in december. We handled it extremely well. The firemen gave us an a-plus because we had it out before they even got there. We've got our fire stations up online, and with them each one has a container with a fire extinguisher, a fire axe, and also a dipping bucket and a hand bucket for bucket brigade approach if a fire does ever break out. We've only got three stations at this time, but we plan to implement building more. [laughter] also we've got -- thanks the our fire marshal and supporters and other people in the village, we've got the fire stations online, we've got our tanks refilled, our fire extinguishers are placed throughout the village, also helping add to the suppression, we've got our garden hoses, which we'll replace and add larger lines to help fight the stuff. We've got firescapes built, and hopefully if we do get to stay longer we can have gates where we can actually have a better evacuation plan. And now i'm pretty much lost. There's nothing on the screen. Now we're back to the rodents. [laughter] we do have a rodent problem out there. And it's concerned us all. It's kind of -- it's quite a nuisance, with the health issues it entails. The -- i'm trying to remember the name of the organization that came out, vector control. They came out and they gave an assessment, and they've also -- they also gave us their recommendations, which they will also give us some videotapes and literature to where mostly it's going to be on our shoulders to take care of -- to eliminate and curb the problem. We also at the village have just for our people there, but other people can take advantage of what we have there. We do have people come in and stay sometimes just overnight during inclement weather and during the weather time -- winter time, but they don't use our showers or toilets, or the internet, or our food, or the phone or anything else we have like that. We provide shelter, showers, toilets, clothing, food, security, which our security people we have gone through domestic violence class in the past in conjunction with a friend of one of our villagers who is part of an organization with the safe house, and we intend to bring that back up again. People can use our postal, mail service, we've got garbage service, we have job search assistance, we have dealings with education and job and life skills. And occasionally we even provide some entertainment. But all this isn't just for villagers themselves. People who are homeless can come by and utilize what we have and making it at their disposal for whatever needs they might have. We also have the -- not just for our people, but the outside incomes comes in twice a month to remedy any physical problems, cold, flu, anything with our people, other people are invited to come. So is p.a.w., with the veterinary service for the animals. We also try to work close in hand with other organizations. And without those organizations, we wouldn't be able to provide what we do have, and we're trying to enhance a larger list of organizations to come online and be partners with us and trying to widen our scope of what we can apply towards helping people in their areas of what they may need for transitioning through. And I think that's pretty much what i've got.

Katz: Thank you.

Tim McCarthy, Treasurer, Dignity Village: My name is tim mccarthy, i'm the outreach coordinator and the treasurer of dignity village. And i'm going to talk about some of the demographics. Since inception of the village, we have housed 600 unique individuals, providing bed nights of 53,222. In the year of 2003, we sheltered 136 unique individuals, 62 have went into different housing, nine of them have returned to the streets, and 34 of them had jobs at the time that they left. We did evict one person that's not on there that we had to take to the court system to go.

February 26, 2004

We did a survey in conjunction with the Oregon law center, and in the first part of 2003, our demographics were as follows. The gender, there was 34% female, 66% -- 69% male. 64% were single, 36% in couple. We had 63% white, 2% native american, 7.3% african-american, and 12% other. We had 13% veterans, 87% not. And in the year 2000 in the winter, which we just completed a survey, 31% of our current members are female, 69% male, 64% single, 36% married, and 52% white, 19% native american, 8% african-american, 6% hispanic, and 14 other. We have 14% veterans, 86% not veterans, but in people that were homeless for one year or less, it's 24%. One to three years, it's 33%. And two to five years is 27%. And five plus -- we had 64% people that's disabled physically or mentally, and in the year 2003 we have conducted 300 tours through the village. We have spoken at 35 high schools, colleges, universities, and 40 church presentations. And during the building -- the green building tour, we had 270 people that came out to see the straw bale house and one of the other structures that was there. And we have a wide community support. In the year 2002-2003, we had 295 individuals that donated \$35,871 to the village, and so far this year we've had 51 people donate \$6,994. That is not money that has come from foundations or other things, that is private donations. And some of the people that we were -- foundations and -- that we received is from Larson legacy, fireschool, so hum foundation out of Las Vegas, Nevada, the catholic campaign for human development, which was our microindustries, the Filip Green foundation, and the Schumway award. And in-kind contributors and volunteers, we've had about 300 people. And just so that everybody knows, we are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. I would like to talk a little bit also about the community partners that we deal with. We deal with Portland State University, PCC, Lewis and Clark, Environmental Middle School, and we have had ongoing projects with all of them, and it's a continuing thing. Saturday we have P.S.U. Students coming out to interview people at the village for their class projects. And I'd also like to talk a little bit about the crime in the Sunderland neighborhood area. As you can see, since Dignity Village has been out there, they have -- the total crimes have dropped. Each year. And not just crimes in all, but also thefts from automobiles, and burglaries, larceny, robberies, and they have all dropped in the two years at Dignity Village. It's been -- in the two years Dignity Village has been at Sunderland. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you. Ok. Go ahead.

Sten: Any questions from the council?

Katz: Why don't we just move on and we'll turn to questions before we open it up.

Sten: Terrific. The second panel is composed of volunteers who have been working with Dignity Village, and I'd ask Don Washburn, a member of Citizens Committee on Homelessness that I've -- and the -- the Mayor and I have chaired to work on homelessness and expecting a report back later in the year. Lee Larson, from the Larson Legacy Foundation. Mark Lakeman, an architect with city repair project, and Tim Merrill, an architect.

Katz: Ok. Don, Ron, who want to start? Just identify yourself for the record.

Don Washburn, Citizens Committee on Homelessness: My name is Don Washburn. I live here in Portland. Mayor and commissioners, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. Again, my name is Don Washburn. Some of you know me, others don't. Three years ago my wife and I moved to Portland from Minnesota. Since you don't know me that well, let me give you a little background on us. My wife was a mental health therapist in Minneapolis. I was an executive vice-president responsible for all the operations for Northwest Airlines during my career there. I was also chairman of Northwest Air Cargo, and chairman of the pilot training company called Natco. Before that in Washington, D.C. I was executive vice-president of Marriott Corporation. When we moved to Portland, it was our first experience living in a city center. One of the first things we noticed was that many of our new neighbors were homeless. Since then, we've actively supported organizations that help homeless people. Sisters of the Road Cafe, New Avenues for Youth, outside in through our church, and about three years ago now, we began our support of Dignity Village. Presently as Erik

February 26, 2004

mentioned, i'm a member of the citizens commission on homelessness. Now, based on the information we have, it seems clear that there is and will continue to be for some time demand for shelter space and affordable housing that far exceeds the supply of the same. We need to find in our estimate, a creative way to house homeless people, or we'll continue to see more and more of our homeless neighbors sleeping outside, in many more places, on benches, on sidewalks, in the parks. With the failure of measure 30, there will be a reduction in supply of human services. While the demand will increase. This is a particularly difficult situation for people who are homeless. Now, dignity isn't perfect. They've said that right up here to you. It has problems. It is, however, a creative approach to address the puzzles we just discussed. One, dignity residents can create a safe environment to develop their village on a parcel of land on the outskirts of Portland which has a low opportunity cost for the city. Two, dignity residents take care of each other with a self-governing system that includes individual responsibility by each villager to live by a code of conduct that preserves order and safety, and avoids reliance on many city services while villagers are seeking employment and permanent housing. With the help of supporters, dignity plans to pay ongoing costs of services to the city. Dignity also plans to move from tents to houses, the cob houses that I believe jack pointed out. As private funding for those structures is secured. Now, because dignity is a creative approach, the city can help house more people than they would have now. People of dignity will be housed at a significantly lower cost in the shell -- than the shelters. Regardless, we don't have enough housing to handle all Portland's homeless people. So the alternative is for them to live and sleep on the streets. Critics, they seem to overlook, or ignore the fact this fact when they attack the idea of dignity village is a creative low-cost form of transitional housing for people with no real alternatives. Shelters are typically full or unsuitable for the needs of many people, for instance, couples, people who love their pets, and those who are afraid of shelters to begin with. Now, chrissie and I continue to support dignity village. Yes, dignity has its problems. But they have made much progress these past two -- past two years and by continuing to improve their housing, moving from tents to the cob houses that mark hass going to be talking about. Chrissie and I will continue to contribute time and money to help them. Others will be attracted also, but first, dignity must stabilize its location. The land at sunderland and the opportunity to be creative provide a real beginning for the people of dignity to establish their idea and credibility for a low-cost alternative housing solution that can house people now. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you, don.

Francesconi: Has the commission taken a position on dignity village as to whether it should be part of the homeless system?

Washburn: No. The commission is about a third of its way into its deliberations and has made no conclusions on anything at this stage.

Francesconi: Is this one of the things it's considering?

Washburn: It will be one of the things that is brought up in the discussion. When you say is considering, yes, I believe it -- they will consider it. Have we had it in front of us so far? No.

Francesconi: Ok. Thank you, sir.

Lee Larson, Larson Legacy: I'm lee larsen, president of the family foundation called the larsen legacy, and as a foundation, the vice-president back there, kathy larsen, stand up, she's been involved with the village for a long, long time.

Katz: Kathy, why don't you stand up? Thank you. [applause]

Larson: It's a pleasure to be here. I last saw the council here almost three years ago, and the village was in crisis and august -- in august of that year, and it was over under the bridge. I have a lot of memories. I had gotten involved with the village a couple months before that. I was active in helping bring his holiness the dalai lama to Portland, and that message of compassion touched the hearts of everybody. As soon as that was over, we went over and helped out with -- as much as we could with dignity village. And we've been involved ever since. The people of dignity village is

February 26, 2004

something that just so heartwarming. Over the years i've gotten to know so many of them individually, know their stories, and i'm touched, touched deeply. And I look at this, what they're doing as really embodying the american dream, of pulling yourself up by your own boot straps, about cooperating with others, sharing your resources in all the dialogue that's they have with the different community groups and so forth. In the last several years I have a basketball -- i'm a basketball nut, so I have a basketball team, and I brought them over and we've helped clean up things, helped distribute brochures, and i've -- I was also a girl scout leader, hi my girl scout troop over. So there's been a lot of personal gratification in working with the villagers, and a lot of learning for others. But i'm here to say just as president of the foundation that we're pleased to have supported the village in the past, and we'll continue to support them in the future, and when I see -- what I see now is that the village as they are having to respond less and less to daily crises, they are doing good at establishing a collaborative base of knowledge, not only supporters, but funders. Every time I tried to reach jack over here, I can't reach him anymore, because he's always off grant writing. And thanks to susan finley of Washington state university, she helped and did quite a number of seminars on grant writing and training villagers on computer skills and how to apply for grants. So every time I try to reach him, he's grant writing. Some of the different organizations he's applying to on behalf of the village are good ones, ones i'm acquainted with, I think they'll get some funding. So i'm just here to say that as an individual, i'm just impressed with this group. I think they're worthy of your support, I thank you for your past support. It's been wonderful. I travel, not an awful lot, but I travel, and i'm amazed at how many people in other countries have heard of dignity village. And I was just out on vacation, and they had heard of them there. I'm impressed. I think having dignity village in our midst, in our city is something that is terrific credit to you and our community. I look forward to the future. Thank you. [applause] [gavel pounded]

Katz: Ok. Ground rule. For those of you who have been here before, we truly have a value in this council for deliberative procedures. So if you do agree with somebody and you want to express yourself, we can see this, and we don't need to interrupt with applause or cheers. So, please, adhere to our values. Mr. Lakeman.

*****: Waiting for some slides here. Ok, here we go.

Katz: Identify yourself for the record.

Mark Lakeman, The City Repair Project: Mark lakeman, from sellwood. The city repair project. I'm involved in this project, and other things in Portland driven really I think by some advice, some wisdom that was transferred to me by my parents about the crucial importance of civic engagement. Really the kind of underlying ethic I think of our city and what makes it work. But the idea as it was related to me as a little boy was that it's what makes anything possible. And I just want to start off some slides here, just by invoking dr. King, reading from yes magazine the most recent issue, king had a vision of people at the grass-roots and community level participating in creating the new values, truths, relationships, and infrastructures as the foundation for a better society. He called for programs that would involve people in self-transforming and structure transforming, direct actions in our dying cities. I don't think our city is dying, and probably because we're so civically engaged. Now I want to go through some slides, and i'm not sure how to advance it.

*****: I'll do it.

Lakeman: Thank you. That previous slide is just showing you a typical example of a person who's destitute and living in the streets. Not civically engaged and living in isolation. The image now is just to remind everyone that dignity began with a vision called "out of the doorways," which was looking for a win-win solution to bring people out of doorways where they weren't wanted, to bring them together where they could work together and help each other to be safe. Next, please. So the idea at the very beginning was to cluster the tents into circles, where people would be sort of working together in pods, and then each circle would have a representative to a village council.

February 26, 2004

That idea was the idea of a representative democracy. Next. It worked to some extent. They found over time that they worked better together as a whole group, working as one council in which everyone still had a direct voice. This is an early model that was presented to commissioner Sten, showing the idea of an architectural expression of the idea of the village as a society. Next. As the village moved around the city, as you remember, they went from place to place, some places such as the one you're look at, making the people more uncomfortable. But that was at the time kind of a strategic gesture. But I like this image because it kind of is a comparison, the condominium project behind sort of resembles a village, yet the people aren't talking to each other nearly as much as the actual villagers in the front of the scene. And that taught me a lot over time. What we're really working on is not merely a walkable community, but a talkable community. Next, please. So as with our vision in 2001 that you're familiar with, what we ended up doing out at sunderland yard was locating the tents in such a way that the pathways and the gathering places, the infrastructure of place was immediately laid out by the tents, even though they had not -- it had not become a full fleshed-out village in buildings. The heart of the village is the very heart of livability. The concept being that at the center of the village you cluster all of the functions. And just by going there, the people just doing their daily things to get their stuff, to move around, they end up saying hello to each other, building relationships. It's sort of the heart of the village concept. Next. We were also working off of another model which is just really a very inherently human model, it comes from ecotrust, the idea that it's not just economic capital that matters, it's also natural and social capital. And really, it's social capital that drives the village and makes it work, and that's the idea of the talkable community. Next. So as we promised in the vision statement 2001, there was a transitional period in which the tents would be improved upon and shelters would be built over them. That's happened. Next. As you can see in these pictures, things are improved upon, gardens have been planted, fiberglas cows have been located. [laughter] next. Very inventive, creative expressions of local ideas. Next. About shelter. Gardens, of course. Next. Unfortunately this image isn't coming across that well, but it's the aerial view we envisioned of the built-up vision of the village. Next. Which we've been pursuing since that time in the creation of a remarkable series of structures. This is the gathering place, the passive solar gathering place at the village, which is built literally out of garbage, but it's utterly spectacular and very functional, with the dome of democracy on the left. Next. This is the interior of the main gathering space. Next. Really just using short two-by-four's, most of them less than 4 feet. This is the 12-point radial star trust that spans over the dome gathering place. Very sophisticated, but made out of garbage. Next. The round table of the knights of dignity, if you will. Next. This is the passive solar straw bale house wrapped in cob plaster with kiwi vines growing on the trellis. This is the first prototype, a craftsman style, just really lovely and this is what we've been aiming at the whole time. Next. Wind generator on top of that tower powers the dome of democracy. Next. Recently with the fires that happened out at the village, it's creativity that matches adversity. It's not that we closed down the village, had some had called for to happen. That is a little diagram of the fire stations that were built out at the village immediately after the fire. Three of them located throughout the village. Next. I'll just close by looking at these images of people standing near the little fire stations which ron described earlier. Next. And that's a section of the new housing prototypes. Tim?

Katz: Thank you.

Tim Merrill: I'm tim merrill, an architect here in Portland. I've been involved in dignity village for the last three years, and recently we met with the office of planning development review, various department heads to discuss what could be done to bring the building into compliance, all structures there into some kind of compliance with a campground standard. And as a result of that, we have made proposals for the buildings, which you've seen, which would meet some fire standards, buildings have metal roofs, the cob construction on the wall is fire resistant, and we're spacing the buildings far enough apart that they meet current residential standards, where they're

February 26, 2004

each three feet from an assumed property line. The -- as a result of our meeting, we made some revisions to the site plan, and those revisions included moving some of the structures out of what is an environmental zone along the slew, we also located all of the buildings that are related to the operation of the place that need permanent power to a side of the building where it's most easily accessible for utilities. So we have shown on this site plan where utilities can be brought in from existing stub-outs on sunderland road, and it's a fairly short run, and so at the end of that run would be located restrooms, the laundry, and kitchen facilities as well as a meeting area. And office space.

The individual buildings, the housing structures, would be -- would not be hooked up to power, but they would have a source of heat, which is a gas heating system, propane, that they are using now, and far marshal's office recommend that we come up with a proposal for making those units placing them into some kind of secure structure, so they don't enable a fire hazard. In the course of the last three years we've looked at i'd say more than 100 building sites around town. We -- our site committee has divided up and driven all over, as you have, and looked at any number of sites on different kinds of topography of different kinds of soils, and for one reason or another, we still have not found a permanent space. Obviously part of the problem is financing, but there's sort of a chicken and egg system going here, where if you don't have a site, you don't have something to talk about, what are you going to buy with the money? And if you don't have the money, you can't buy the site. So that has been a problem. But more than that, it's just, we would like a site that meets certain criteria, and one of those is being close to the center of town, and finding something like that is not that easy. If there are vacant tracts of land, they are generally having various problems with floods or soils, erosion, they're adjacent to residential neighborhoods that might find certain aspects of the project to be unfavorable. And so we continue to search. I'm convinced we will find a site, but it has taken more time than frankly I thought it would take, or any of us thought we would still be here talking about this. When I first got involved I thought, hey, we'll find a site, and we build some structures and help support camping, and that would be the end of it. Saves the city money, it helps people get off the street, gives them a safe environment. Seemed like a no-brainer, but here we are. So I think with some kind of permanent strategy for the next few years, we could start going from the point where we are now to getting something that's really safe, secure, and environmentally friendly. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you, tim.

Francesconi: We appreciate your efforts and your candor. Do there have to also be any zoning changes here at this particular site?

Merrill: The -- we're still reviewing that with the planning department. But just my understanding that the -- it can be made to work under a temporary zoning that would allow campgrounds.

Katz: Ok. Commissioner Sten?

Sten: Do you have any questions for the panel?

Katz: Questions? Thank you, gentlemen. Good to see you. Thank you for your help.

Sten: The third panel, I know kate lore is here, and jill habisha from the environmental middle school, and I think there was a couple other that may have changed. I'll go ahead and mark, why don't you call up whoever. You know who you are. Come on up.

Katz: While they're getting settled, are there any people here that would like to talk in opposition to this resolution? I want to give you time right after this panel. Anybody? Ok. Then right after this panel why don't you then come on up. You've got another one? I'm sorry. After transportation i'll ask you to come on up. Who wants to start?

Brenda Gray, Dignity Village: I will. My name is brenda gray. I like to read an example of one of the organizations that we work closely with. And the letter goes, to whom it may concern. Join works to help homeless people transition off the streets into permanent housing. We prioritize rapid rehousing that is followed by the provision of stabilization services, post-placement to address, threats to housing retention. Our annual goal is to help 200 households leave the violence and

February 26, 2004

chaos of the street for permanent housing. Because we work with people, sleeping outside is important for the people we work with to have a consistent and relatively stable place to sleep each night. We have negotiated with odot and the Portland police bureau at times to let people sleep in a given spot. While we work with them to move into housing. We have found that when people are able to get a good night's rest, they don't have to worry about where or if they're going to sleep. They can put the energy toward working to get off the streets. This is why we have been successful in working with people living at dignity village to transition into permanent housing. Over the past two years, join has supported the efforts of dozens of people at the village to transition into housing. We currently are working with at least nine people in the village now and look forward to working with other villagers to make that important transition into home. That's from rob justice at join.

Katz: Ok. Thank you.

John Eason: I was living at dignity and -- join -- first I turned around and got my section 8 kicked in, and join helped me get the thing -- they helped me out with that, then my veterans disability came in. So I guess i'm a success story, whatever you want to call me.

Katz: Where are you living now?

Eason: I'm on 25th and killingsworth, in an apartment complex.

Katz: Thank you.

*******:** I came to dignity village --

Katz: Identify yourself.

Jessica Day: I'm jessica day. I'm a former resident of dignity village. I came to dignity village on april 10, 2002, and that was after leaving a doe necessary tick violence situation, where I basically lost everything, my children, my home, everything, and I left with a backpack, and I came to the village and I was welcomed with open arms. And since then, I have had another child, and I am in the last leg of getting my other children back. I'm in a new relationship, I have been out of the village for about six months now, and the village made it possible for me to get over agoraphobia. I had severe panic disorder, which they helped me get through that. I don't have panic attacks anymore. I'm not on the streets anymore, the village provided me with all my furniture in order to move into my apartment. And they really helped out with everything. They provided everything that we needed in order to get started in our new apartment. And so they helped out a lot. Thank you.

Jill Habisha (last name?), Environmental Middle School: My name is jill, and I have worked at the environmental middle school, a Portland public school, for the past six years. Since its inception nine years ago, e.m.s. Has been committed to teaching students about social and environmental issues that affect our city as well as a traditional subject areas. I brought with me today up in the balcony a group of student delegates. I just want to point out that using this as an educational forum, and i'd also like to add we're one of many schools that uses and sees dignity village for its educational value. Whenever we go out there, tim tells us how a group of students from hood river has come, and college students are there, and it's an amazing educational outreach tool. In addition to volunteering at the blanch a house, a local soup kitchen, the e.m.s. Community has a three-year-long partnership with dignity village. This partnership was initiated by a student who is working on her eighth grade project back in 2001. And each student at e.m.s. Considers a social issue, an environmental issue they care about and they come up with a project and they work on it and laura organized student groups to go out to dignity village over the course of the spring and we built raised garden beds with the residents. That following summer, we -- the americorps member working out our site organized poetry workshops for e.m.s. Students and their family and dignity village residents. And were both amazingly successful and unique opportunities for our students and the dignity village residents to reach out to the larger Portland community. Through these experiences, e.m.s. Students understand deeply that being homeless is not due to a character flaw, but for a variety of reasons. Each night in Portland over a thousand people sleep in shelters or

February 26, 2004

on the streets and many of them are the age of the middle school students I brought today. The city of Portland needs to think creatively, be willing to take risks, and understand that the homeless people are not going to vanish from Portland. The residents of dignity village are also willing to embrace lifestyles and practices that are models for the rest of the citizens of Portland. They have a cob house, they grow their own vegetables, and use solar and wind power. And encourage the city to support these efforts in every way possible. This proposal, dignity village will continue this environmental leadership for the entire city. What is most significant for me and the students I work with is found within the name dignity village. The dignity piece. Residents at dignity village are empowered with their own council government and they're given the opportunity to change their circumstances. Dignity village is seen by the -- by e.m.s. Students as an asset to the Portland community and I hope with this proposal the city will also view dignity village as this and give it the stability it needs to flourish. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Kate Lore, First Unitarian Church: My name is kate lore, and i'm the social justice director at first unitarian church. Some of you have known me long enough to know I used to work at first methodist church. I opened up the goose hollow family shelter. Did I that in response to a study on our congregation did on homelessness and housing here in Portland and we were really unhappy with what we saw. We did a tour of the shelters, we got to know them all, what people were expected to live by while they're in there, and yes were bound and determined that we were going to do something different. So we created a large space and that tried to be respectful of people's needs, and I think goings hollow does a good job of that. However, there were certain people who just could not work in that situation, and they were couples where they say were from another country and they had a different set of norms than we did. They were people with pets, and they were people who had jobs that had weird hours. We -- the goose hollow family shelter is a volunteer shelter, and everybody wants to go to sleep, because we have on sleep on the floor, the volunteers. So if they came in late, we wouldn't get any sleep at all. So this is actually very typical of all of -- at least most of the shelters around here, that they have very limited hours. And so I found this troubling. When I first heard about dignity village was one where they were living under the fremont bridge, and I decided to go and check them out, because I was very curious, and I believe in self determination and I wanted to hear what did these people think was the solution to their situation with no house? And i've been a supporter ever since. Having been on their site committee, and i'm on their advisory board. Dignity village is not the solution to homelessness. I think we all know that. Affordable housing is. Burt it is a really good match for certain people. And furthermore, it can provide something that I couldn't do when I worked at the goose hollow family shelter, and that is provide spiritual support. One of the things I find most impressive about dignity village is how respectful they are of all religious religions and how grounded they are in their spiritual values. Most of the folks there are involved in bible study, they sing hymns before their weekly meeting, I have been touched and amazed by the spiritual depth of the leaders there, and I have often times referred to dignity village as church at its best. And i'm not exaggerating. I don't mean to be exclusive of other religions, but i'll speak for my own. I work in a church and we come together on sundays. And often times we can overlook things. When you're living together, seven days a week, you can't. And conflict arises, and I have been amazed time and time again by how well dignity village residents follow their rules and resolve their conflict nonviolently. This is -- these are some of the reasons why the faith community has been very supportive. We've had petition drives, we've had times where we do collections in our churches, synagogues and temples, and consistently ministries and most all of the mainstream churches here in town have been very supportive, and so I come here today to ask you to please pass this resolution. We need it.

Katz: Thank you. Ok. Let's put on the lights.

February 26, 2004

Sten: This is the director of the bureau of maintenance, I want to thank her and her staff publicly for very hard work and very open minded work in a very tough situation. They've had to bring dignity village into their operation and they have been wonderful to work with.

Jeanne Nyquist, Director, Bureau of Maintenance: I'm Jeanne nyquist, the director of the bureau of maintenance, which is [inaudible] i'm here to provide a summary of the report that --

Katz: Grab the other mike.

Nyquist: Is that working? Ok. I believe have you the report in front of you. Commissioner Sten and commissioner Francesconi asked us to prepare this report to summarize what the impacts of dignity village are on pdot's operations at sunderland yard. So i'll start out providing a little history. In august of 01, city council directed pdot to provide space for dignity village, a temporary space out at sunderland yard. We have accommodated them for the past 2 1/2 years. It's been a bit challenging, and i'd like to discuss our concerns with you a little bit before you make the decision. The sunderland recycling facility pdot purchased and the total purchase price and cost to develop the facility has been about \$4.5 million. It's an active public works yard. It is the headquarters for our recycling program, and we basically recycle construction spoils and leaves. It saves the city about \$2 million a year in tipping fees. In other words f. We took all this material to the landfill, we would have to pay \$2 million in excess of what we pay today. We recycle leaves, asphalt, concrete, we recycle the sand that we cleaned up from our snow and ice operations, and also slag material. Here's a summary of how it impacts our operation. We have about 15 acres. Dignity village occupies one acre. So it basically takes one acre of the property out of production. We've been able to work around that. It certainly hasn't shut our yard down. But we've had to pile our leaf compost, reconstruct our wind rows, it's reduced our access to the facility. We used to have two entrances, and there is an aerial photograph in your packet so that you can see where dignity village sits on the property, and it sits right at one of our entrances. So it limits our accession to the site and also to our outbuildings. The other concerns we have, we have a conditional use permit to do the composting and the recycling at the facility. And dumping use is not permitted there. There's also an e zone because we're along the columbia slough. And the purpose of the e zone is to prevent contamination of the waterway. The permit requires us to capture and treat all of our run-off, and we do have a water quality treatment facility there. One of the problems with dignity village is they don't have the proper infrastructure facilities in place. So gray water that's used for washing and things like that goes on the ground, and does get into the waterways. So if you decide to site there permanently, that's one of the things that needs to get taken care of. I'll talk briefly about financial impact. There is a summary in your packet. I mentioned we have a 4.5 million investment in the site. When dignity first moved there, we made about \$25,000 in site improvements basically providing just simple water hook-up, sanitary sewer hook-up, and fencing so that they wouldn't be wandering around the yard. We have a lot of truck traffic in the yard. Since that time, we've had an annual cost of about \$21,000 a year to assist the village. This relates to their water and electrical utilities, and also providing staff support to deal with logistical problems. That might sound like a lot, but really, when you think about hosting 60 to 80 people, that does require a little bit of logistical support. So over the 2 1/2 years we've had an outlay of about \$52,000 of expense. Dignity has reimbursed us \$44,000 of that outlay. We haven't really charged any rent for the value of the land. The value of the one acre of land is established at \$300,000. So there hasn't been a reimbursement for that. So a couple of other things i'd like to mention. There have been safety issues. There was the fire that the residents mentioned that occurred in december of '03 there. Was also a car fire in february of '02 that did catch a neighbor's yard on fire. And had to be put out. We do not have adequate electrical supply there. And there have been safety issues raw round that as all the residents have tried to hook up. There is a report attached of police calls for your review. And also we're concerned somewhat about employee safety. There's a lot of trash, they have quite a few pets, which is one of the good features of this

February 26, 2004

site that they're able to have their pets, but then of course there's a lot of dog manure to be cleaned up. Needles and other sorts of issues like that. We're also concerned about the capacity of the site is established at 60 people, and I don't really know what the membership today is today, but I know in the past it has gone over 60 folks, and crowded on to one acre of land, I think it's really important that we stay within that limit. So that's a quick summary of what's in the report. S and i'm available if you have any questions.

Katz: Ok. Questions of Jeanne or any of the panels that came to testify? If not -- go ahead.

Saltzman: You mentioned dog manure. Is that on their property, or on the remaining 14 acres?

Nyquist: It would be on the remaining 14 acres. They have not asked us to come on to their property and clean up, but animals are hard to contain, so they do wander around the yard, and we have a water quality facility there, and we're trying to keep our compost and other materials we produce really clean. Also, it's difficult for them, they don't have a good way to dispose of the dog manure, so a lot of times it gets placed on our side of the fence and we end up cleaning it up.

Saltzman: And the water, did you say there is a sewer connection?

Nyquist: There is a sanitary sewer, there's basically a manhole there that they are able to connect their sink up to. But there just aren't adequate facilities for the number of people that are living there for washing. So a lot of times what we call gray water ends up going on the ground.

Saltzman: So the water, the drinking water and the sanitary connection and the electricity are paid for by the department of transportation?

Nyquist: Yes. And then Dignity has reimbursed us, the total was \$52,000 for those things as well as staff support, and they have reimbursed us for \$44,000.

Saltzman: Are they receiving a bill, like a monthly --

Nyquist: We did have an agreement they would pay \$2,000 a month, and they were making those payments. I think up until about July of this year.

Saltzman: And they ceased?

Nyquist: Yes.

Saltzman: Thanks.

Katz: Further questions? Thank you.

Nyquist: I do have one other thing, and it's more of a question for you. I have not read the final copy of the ordinance. I just listened --

Katz: It's a resolution.

Nyquist: The resolution. I would want to make sure that we were only talking about designating that one acre of property as a temporary campground, rather than the entire yard. [laughter]

Sten: We'll double-check. That's the intent.

Nyquist: Appreciate it.

Katz: It does say the Sunderland yard at 9325 northeast Sunderland, tax lot, and then there's a number.

Sten: It says designate a portion of the yard.

Katz: But it doesn't say that here, unless --

Nyquist: That did make me just a little bit nervous.

Katz: You've got a few minutes with our city attorney to make sure that it's the one acre. Ok. I did ask individuals who were not in support of this resolution to come on up now. I didn't want them to sit and wait through all the testimony. I had a sense that there weren't going to be many folks here in opposition. You brave soul.

*******:** Do I get more than three since I'm the only one.

Katz: Identify yourself.

Larry MacDuffee: Larry MacDuffee, I live in Oregon city. What's really going on here is that several of the homeless people are looking for a new way through society, and -- to do that, the rule of law really must be usurped, and if that was left up to the people of our city, and they had to

February 26, 2004

actually approach the people to not only change the law and lower the standard for all of us, but they would also not be in favor of paying for it, either. And the reason for coming to the government is because they can get the government to take that money and change those laws without going to the voters. And therefore really usurping the people's desires of what their will truly would be if they were to go knocking on their door, which is where the money and the desires really come from, and say, will you help us by lowering all the standards and paying our utility bills, and cleaning up, or whatever else they need to be covered. Wholeheartedly -- wholeheartedly **I** believe they would say no. There's many ways through society, and I think when people depend on government there's a real danger that I would counsel anybody here -- that I would counsel anybody listening, when you depend on government you actually return the danger of diminishing your character, diminishing your individuality, it -- it's unfortunate when a person seeks that dependency, because I believe america was started with such individualism that each person in this room, in the group of dignity village, and in the government, has such power within themselves, such strength, such vision, and even they showed it themselves when they were creating the things they were selling, different projects they were working on, that gets thwarted and pushed back when government is involved. And when you rely on someone else that is not real accountable to your situation, there's an old saying someone much wiser than I said, whatever you subsidize, you get more of. And I would just counsel people here, depend on someone else besides the government. Jefferson said the government governs best, governs least, and that's where we started as a country, where we're at now is very bloated and intrusive government. And no one can argue in our society, if you look around, our society is going to hell in a handbag with crime, divorce, regulation, people we're talking -- were talking about affordable housings. The way to get affordable housing is to get government out of the way, and -- [laughter] and reduce regulation, limitations, urban growth boundaries, which shrink supply and raise price. That's allied like to say. I really appreciate being able to live in america now, the freedom to say it.

Katz: Thank you. All right. It is 3:16. We will start for at least an hour, and do three minutes. And then we're going to ask people if you can refrain from using all of your three minutes, that will give more people an opportunity to testify. We're going to then go to two minutes. But please don't repeat the same testimony that you've heard over the last hour and 15 minutes. Ok.

Chrissy Washburn: My name is chrissie washburn and I live downtown here in Portland center. I've been involved with dignity village for three years now, and **I** have fallen in love with them more in this last three years than did when I first met them. And actually, a lot of people have said what I wanted to say, in fact, randy and erik already said much of what I wanted to say, but I have had a personal relationship with so many of the people there, and i've really worked closely with them as well as been social and spent a lot of time with them, and I have found that they are people of amazing resourcefulness. They are strong, and they are smart, and they are skilled, they are compassionate, they are determined. And I think that's clear, because they're still there after three years. There's enough of them out there with skills and determination, and we've still got them here. And they're growing. And i've witnessed how they work together. I have watched how they help one another, they share their gifts and their talents, and their knowledge. They spend hours unbelievable, uncountable volunteer hours and hard work helping each other and helping the village thrive. And i've seen growth. It's been such fun to see how they have learned how to control their money, they have learned how to use their governing system to create new processes and new strategies, and incorporate new ideas. Their strategies have grown and the most amazing how they've learned how to use their money. They have truly learned how to budget. I know you know all the reasons why people are homeless, and the one i'd like to just mention is that there is a gap in our systems. No system that we have can meet all of the needs of all the people. And dignity fills one of those gaps. And I think the way they've donna is to build a loving community where they really do help each other, where they create -- they work hard together to create a safe and

February 26, 2004

supportive place for one another. And they offer homeless people an opportunity and some power in their lives to be able to begin to take care, take responsibility for their own needs. And to help one another in that. And when I look at our global situation these days, and how our populations are so growing in diversity and how we have rampant waste of resources, we look at the village and say, we really need more people like this in our world. They live with less. There is almost no waste out at dignity village. And mark told you, half of their structures are built out of garbage. And so I just would really like to encourage you to take them to the next step, to create some more stability. I believe that not only will they grow and learn and move into their green village, but I really believe that our Portland community has a lot to learn from dignity village too. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Nancy Yuill: Good afternoon. I'm nancy you'll, a resident of Portland and a member of the affordable housing now coalition. I'm here to talk in support of dignity village also and encourage you to continue to work with the community of dignity village. I have heard some folks speak out against the community, but frankly, we have an affordable housing crisis in this region, and it puts us in a place where we can't afford to remove any creative solution. Rather, we need to create significant new funding for the overall, the whole spectrum of the affordable housing needs. According to the metro regional affordable housing strategy, there's 17,000 units that are needed for affordable housing for people earning less than 50% of the median area income. For a family of four, that's 33,950. Clearly, we're not meeting the needs of the residents of our city and our region. 17,000 units are missing from our housing stock. And the need is growing. That's crisis proportion. So let us not stop a small group of people who have come forward and put real ingenuity to help themselves, but rather let's work with them and let's work to bring new significant funding to the table to meet all of the affordable housing needs of the region. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Ross Bennett: My name is ross bennett, i'm a villager. I'm a carpenter. I serve on security and sometimes ad-lib public defender there in the meetings. First i'd like to add a little clarification to jeanne's thing. It seems a bit askew, because all of our gray water from our dish washing area and our showers run into a pipe that was given by the yard and runs into their treatment. None of our gray water runs into the slew there. At all. None of it. So i'm just a little confused on is that. But anyway with that clarification, i'd like to show you this. This is a window of opportunity. [laughter] [applause] this window has two purposes. It keeps the weather outside, but more important, it's to look out my window and see that I have a community. And i'm very thankful for that. Very thankful. I'm also thankful for the honorable stephanelle's decision in the year 2000 when they included the anticamping city ordinance is unconstitutional as it applied to the homeless and in violation of the 8th amendment of the united states constitution. And article 1, section 16 of the **Oregon** constitution. And you can refer to his conclusion more in depth with the Oregon versus normandy wick case. Also, i'd like to thank mayor **Katz** for giving us that window of opportunity when she granted us sunderland yard. I'd like to thank you personally. And be happy -- on behalf of dignity village. Thank you. I'd also like to thank commissioner Sten and commissioner leonard for crafting this campground declaration, resolution. I'm very, very appreciative of that. And also i'd like to thank city repair and tim merrill for working a proposal to redesign the village and its structure, including its infrastructure. And finally, i'd like to give deep thanks to all of the supporters which the list seems ton end l.s.d. It's huge -- endless. They all carried the spirit of rosa parks, who essentially said, enough is enough, and this is where I make my stand. And please, as I said, give us community as a whole this window of opportunity.

Katz: Thank you.

Katz: Who do we ask to testify first, the man of the cloth, right?

*******:** No, we always go second.

February 26, 2004

Sam Chase: Sam chase, with the community development network. The affordable housing now coalition. I hope that you will support the resolution before you. I think it's incredibly inspiring what can happen when the council engages the community and really develops these incredibly creative solutions. It's not a perfect solution. I think that's clear. But it's definitely inspiring and creative, and it's helping a lot of folks. I think that to get -- to move forward on the homeless issue and the affordable housing, the city has a very good vision for that. They have developed a goal to end homelessness in 10 years. That would provide safe and affordable housing for our homeless populations. You've worked towards a strategy to serve the hard to house that would connect housing with important resident services and case management. You've implemented a central city known that would preserve a lot of the very affordable housing in our inner city. What we need to do now is really focus on the resources to support those plans. The plans are there, the vision is there from council, now how are we going to get the resources to move forward on that vision? One, I hope that the whole council will get behind the mayor and commissioner Sten's blue ribbon commission to look at long-term strategies and how we're going to fund these issues over the long term. That would include the real estate transfer tax and other possible strategies. And I also hope that you will seriously consider affordable housing now's housing investment fund proposal. One thing the city has done incredibly well is create a housing investment fund, you fund it with \$30 million in the 1990's, and it's worked, it's worked well, you have the tool, and you can do it again, and we hope you'll take a serious look at that.

Katz: He's laughing. Thank you, sam.

Rev. Mark Knutson, Augustana Lutheran Church: Mark knutson, pastor in northeast Portland. Knowing who's on the council and the mayor that I know the dream of all of us is a city where affordable housing is no longer an issue, but everyone has a place. But when ever we have dreams like that we know each step is important along the way. So I speak on behalf of the resolution knowing dignity village from its inception and those who have led the way over the years, it is a village that speaks not only to independence, but interdependence. We're in a city like this, our inner dependence is vital because I wouldn't be here without Portland public schools or universities funded by a cooperative effort, and as I listen to the dollar amounts that keep the village sustained from the city, it is a very, very small amount overall, and it speaks to our inner dependence. Would I speak on behalf of the faith community. Many churches and synagogue and mosques are been involved over time. It's been a powerful relationship for people. We know this is not the answer to homelesses in in the city, but the step that is being taken by the village has been a significant one. And a partnership with the city we encourage that on an ongoing basis. It's been a place not only for education, but it is a place that is modeled what it means to live in a community, what it means to have a sense of self determination, to live and care for one another and the village has done that over time. So on behalf of our congregation and many others, I would speak strongly through this resolution as together we work for a day when homelessness is not an issue of the city, and that is not impossible by any means, as we all know. Thank you for your time.

Katz: Thank you.

M. Gaye Reyes: I think i've seen most of you out at the village. I do live at the village. I want to tell you a little bit about my family history. This is important. I was born and raised in Portland. I was born in 1944, I lived in laurelhurst. Went to all saints, and then I went to grant high school, I graduated from lincoln. Did 2 1/2 years at Oregon state. And wound up living in san diego for about 30 years, had my own business, owning a tile company. I was pretty successful young woman. And for personal reasons I wanted to come home. I'm sick of the color brown. And I wanted to come home. I wanted trees in my life, so I left san diego and came back to Portland. Now, I went to work for a large corporation, but somebody pulled a dirty trick on me. I woke up one morning and I was 50. And my body turned and attacked. And I started getting sick. I have adult asthma, my spinal column has got spurs on it, so basically I can't work anymore. Anyway, it's

February 26, 2004

a longer story, but it turned out that I wound up homeless, and that didn't happen to me, because I don't -- i'm middle class, i'm not ever going to be homeless. I am so grateful that the village was there, because I went to the day the sheriff came to the door, I spent one night outside and I was terrified. It's scary stuff. And especially if you don't think you're ever going to do it, never say never. Next day I went down and I went to one of the organizations that's going to help us, the homeless. And they were very kind, they called and they got me put on a waiting list, and six to eight weeks I could be in a shelter. Of course they have to get rid of the cat. Well, I like the cat better than I liked him, so that was out of the question. And I said, ok, but what about tonight? And he said, you know, get a blanket, grab a tree. I was so angry when I came out of that office. I was in my wheelchair full-time at that time. I rolled downhill and fortunately I ran into a very good police officer, and I asked him where this tent city was that I had been hearing about on the radio. And watching on t.v. And I liked the idea, because my father taught me that anything you get for free has no value. It's only when you work for it. And I liked the idea that they were working for themselves. That they were working to get land, that they were working to build something for themselves. And I -- not only that, but we had a lot of wasted space. I'm sorry.

Katz: Why don't you finish your thought.

Reyes: Ok. Anyway, I wound up at the village. I also want you to know that my father died on these streets. This is a man who owned three businesses in this town. Three barber shops at one time. He died on these streets. Because he couldn't get into a shelter.

Katz: Thank you. Where are you living now?

Reyes: At dignity village.

Katz: You are at dignity village?

Reyes: Oh, yes.

Katz: Thank you. Grab a mic.

Sunshine: Good afternoon. My name is sunshine. I am a current resident at dignity village. I moved into the village on june of 2002. I never thought I would be homeless. Terrified, didn't dare to go to a shelter, didn't know what I was going to do. By chance I picked up a newspaper that had an article, the mercury, about dignity village. Went out there, like her, was welcomed with open arms. I have been safe there since i've lived there. We've had our problems. We have our ups and downs. We have our own way of dealing with things. Sometimes the resolution doesn't come right away. There's a lot of thought, there's a lot of effort that goes into almost everything. I can say that since i've been there I have come out of the shock of losing my home. I now have a part-time job. Due to a physical disability I don't know how long i'll be able to keep that job. But the thing is, I do have a home. I'm not homeless. We're not homeless out there. That is our home. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Keith Marcott: My name is keith marcott. I'm a resident of dignity village. I just wanted to it will you guys know that as much today, I have 57 days clean, and sober. I'm a member of n.a. And a member of a church. For the first time in my life.

Katz: Congratulations.

Marcott: Thank you. That's possible because I have a home where i'm at. I've been at dignity village for 21/2 years. I've seen the ups and downs, i've had up and downs myself. I'm getting a divorce. That place has allowed me to keep my life together. And I want you people to know just one thing -- if one life means anything, or makes something worth it, i'm living proof. That. If it wasn't for my home and the support group that I have, I wouldn't be sitting here in front of you today. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Marcott: And I can testify to that.

Katz: Thank you.

Katz: I've been seeing a lot of you lately.

February 26, 2004

Linda Nettekoven: We have to stop meeting like this. Good afternoon, mayor Katz and commissioners. I'm Linda nettekoven, I live in southeast Portland. I'm here today speaking on an -- as an individual to ask for your continued support of dignity village. I'm a member of the hosford abernethy neighborhood, which means I meet my homeless neighbors on a daily basis, and i'm very concerned about issues related to homelessness. I'm also proud to say i'm a member of the homelessness working group. Coalition of volunteers working out of southeast uplift to try to take action to end homelessness. Our group is trying to build the necessary political will to address issues of homelessness by engaging homeless community members, neighborhood associations, business associations, and other interested community residents in dialogue about the impact of homelesses in on our social fabric. Thus far we've conducted about 25 of these community conversations, and the point that's most relevant to today's discussion is that we're finding across neighborhoods, people do have awareness of the work of dignity village, the core values that support it, and they are supportive of these efforts continuing. I'd like to stress that I also do not see dignity village as a permanent solution or a substitute for other types of services and facilities and other people have done a really fine job of voicing most of my other opinions on these matters. But I do want to stress that we realize that dignity village is somewhat of an experiment, but Portland is a city that's famous for priding itself on being an innovative and a leader and problem-solver, and I think this is a solution we can't afford to overlook or discard without giving it a chance to really flourish. I think we're also as part of the homelesses in working group, collaborating on the plan to end homelessness, trying to work with the city on that effort. And I think that what we're learning from dignity village already can help to illuminate that process. I think neighborhood associations the can learn a great deal from the community building, the leadership development kind of activities that are going on through the village, and I hope we can do everything we can to keep them -- help them to continue. Thank you very much.

Katz: Thank you.

Jeremy Danning: My name is Jeremy danning. I'm a current resident at dignity village. I'm here today to share part of my heart with you guys. I'm also an addict and i'm in recovery too. I made a lot of bad choices in my life. I burned a lot of bridges. And i've lost a lot of trust from loved ones and friends. And all I can say is, you know, it's very difficult trying to turn your life around, but doing it on your own, it's impossible. And with these people here at the village, they're like my second family. Guaranteed. Because they've been here for me, they pull me up when i'm down, and they support me 100%. And trying to turn my life around, I can't do it if i'm having to worry about a place to rest my head every night, or a safe place to go where I know somebody cares about me. And with dignity village, that's all taken care of. I need the people there at dignity village. I need god in my life, which he's in my life now. And I just need another chance. Obviously i've had plenty of chances in my life, but the only difference between now and then is that i'm serious about change, and i'm just asking everybody and anybody for their help just so I can turn my life around and become somebody. I got a heart of gold, but I have a difficult life than i'm leading right now, and I just -- I need the help to be able to make that 360-degree turn, you know, just so I can become somebody. So that's all I have to say, and I just want to thank everybody for their support from dignity village, because obviously they don't have to be here for us, and I appreciate it. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

Mark Seibold: My name is mark seibold, i'm currently a villager. A Portland native, and i've lived here for 33 years. I supported myself since I was 17, moved out on my own, had apartments of my own for years, and during a certain -- I think it was about 1993, rents started buying raised, a lot of real estate things going on in the city, and I was a night worker, and so the shelter system didn't work for me. And I thought i'd never spend any time in a shelter, mainly because of that. But also because I found it to be easier to just go camping. So take a tent, you know, and go camp.

February 26, 2004

And I was also homeless while I was going to school at p.c.c. And I wanted to say congratulations to commissioner Sten on the birth of his child. And i'm a grandtonian also. Mainly, they've given me a second chance there at the village, because I really -- I had been having problems with child support, and all these different issues, and so I was getting into a depression, not being able to see my son. And I expect to be transitioning out of the village within a matter of three months or so. Also i'll be involved with the microbusiness area of the village when that comes to fruition. And everyone who's supported the village, I greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Teresa Teater: Hi, mayor Katz and council. Thank for letting us have this forum today. I'm in favor of the campground resolution. I've listened to their testimony, and they sound like a very cohesive neighborhood, and almost another new little Portland on the side. And I want to tell you quickly about my own little short story. When I first came to Oregon, 1996, I wound up out in wilsonville with a long lost brother I had found when I lived in nebraska. And he took one look at me and I weighed about 260 pounds, and he decided he didn't like large fat people and kicked me out of his house immediately. And my first night was spent on staff forward road next to the paper recycling machine in the back seat of a green volvo, and I was crying my eyes out, and there was no dignity village out there. And I didn't know about the rest stop down the street, but I found out about the rest stop down the interstate by wilsonville, and I dressed like this all the time, and I found you could stay there for 12 hours at a time. I didn't need that much time, I just needed to sleep for eight hours and get away. And I got me a membership at the gym and I got to exercise and clean up and go look for work the. But I didn't earn enough to get an apartment, so I wound up over in canby, and I was living on the side streets in my car and you want to hear this, is cute, but it's sad too at the same time. These people across the street got paranoid because I was parking behind my church on the street and so they kept calling the canby police on me and I was in a dead sleep every night, and the police kept waking me up to see if I was suicidal. And I was on sleeping pills trying to sleep so I could work the next day. So this guy decided to go in front of the city council to make homelessness against the law. I'm just -- I was flabbergasted. So this police officer said, honey, have you got to keep moving your car up and down the block every night. It's against the law for your car to stay in the same place for more than 12 hours. Well, he didn't know my karen engine had burned up so I had to during the middle of the night, wake up and push my car literally down the block by hand and then when he was asleep, the next night push it back up the block. And keep doing this for months on end to not get tickets and sustain my life. Until I could afford another car. And it was pathetic. And I didn't know about dignity village, or would I have hustled over here. So i'm telling you, ma'am, it is wonderful that you have this type of village in your town, and that you need to sustain it for your people. They are trying to pull themselves up. It's a wonderful grass-roots village, and I hope that nobody tries to run them down and government of for and by the people is necessary. They have to come -- there has to be a government for people to come in front of to get help when they need it. I'm sorry, but I disagree with the other man from Oregon city. I live in Oregon city, and i'm not getting very much services out there. I'm on shelter plus care and all I have is housing authority and food stamps, and i'm not getting much help from anyone else right now either.

Katz: Thanks a lot.

Teater: I totally disagree with the other gentleman from Oregon city. Thank you very much.

Eli Spevak: My name is eli spevak, i've been developing affordable housing in Portland for the past 10 years with habitat for humanity, human solution and most recently with the housing development center for six years. I've also been volunteering with dignity village for the past three years. As a wonderful alternative to some of the housing i've done professionally. So I have two kind of comments. One of them is related to the nuts and bolts of housing development and how different dignity village is. The other is about the leadership they've built at the village. I put together project budgets. That's what i've been doing for a long time. Typically with affordable

February 26, 2004

housing we have operating costs that include a whole slew of things above and beyond utilities. And I wanted to mention what those r. Because they're things the village has been doing for free by themselves for these past two years. Property management, they have people who do intake, move-in training, orientation for new residents, there's an enforcement of rules and -- people have to go. Building maintenance, grounds maintenance, janitorial services, security, cooking, record keeping, all those have to happen for groups of people that are housed. Residents service coordination, all the organizations the village has partnered with, somebody has to be working with them, making sure the timing works out. Often times those are staff positions. Community outreach and education, and record keeping, preparing reports, writing grants, in many organizations around Portland those are staff positions. In the village, they have done that on their own. They don't get any city funds, and they don't use their own funds for it. It's voluntary, not many of us could pull all that off if we were in charge much 65 people. The village's operating budget, if you look at it, we have copies, is almost strictly utilities. In other operating budgets for affordable housing projects or shelters, that's one of a large list of costs, and that's one of the reasons the village is so efficient. The other comment I have is about leadership development. Before I came to Portland I used to do leadership trainings on the east coast, and I looked at the village and said I wonder whether my concern frankly was, is this a cut of personality, are they going to make it? There's just a couple of key leaders if they leave the village will be unstable and fall apart? And i've been really pleased to see that that hasn't happened. And it hasn't happened because at the village there are opportunities for people to build leadership skills while they're there. Get a little practice there, and pretty soon they're on the village council and they're the chair of the village. The village has had a few different leaders, and although sometimes it seems -- this person left, they're going to be in trouble, that's never happened. And I think that's a testament to the leadership development that's happening at the village, and this city wants to get rid of homelessness in 10 years, the -- we need leaders that know how to do it. I think dignity village is full of people like that. I'm glad the city is interested in seeing what they've done so far, they've been doing a lot of work for two years now, and I know they can continue doing it.

Katz: Thank you.

Ibrahim Murbarak: Thank you, mayor, and councilmen. I'm ibrahim murbarak, and I would first of all want to give gratitude and honor to all the pioneers and supporters of dignity village and to the leadership of dignity village now, and I think they're doing a fantastic job. Since may of last year, I have since left the village, and I took to the streets once again. And what i'm finding out is that there's a new wave of homeless people that the council people are not aware of. These are people who had jobs and didn't stay in high school. When I -- didn't say in high school when I grow up I want to be homeless. What happening is they're losing their job and they're walking the streets because as we know, there's an overstock of homeless people in Portland. What they I think people, the council and the shelters and the commissioners need to do is to modify the present system of the shelters to allow people like dignity village to stay longer and to have job training and to take their families with them and that family I mean pets also. To the person who once said that his church would never be homeless because he'd have money, it's people out there who have money. And they become homeless and that's -- we have a multitude of family homeless people out there, because the formal runaway -- former runaways are mating and they're having babies, and they're 20, 25 years old and they have families, and there's nowhere for them to go neither. But since dignity village was -- had a mark against them, it couldn't have no one under 18 at the village, these people are now walking the streets. Due to an abundance of homelessness, I believe an abundance of mixed emotion, Portland is receiving a lot of crime in the streets, and that's because people are being depressed, they don't know how to handle being homeless, they've never been homeless before, people are shooting and committing suicide and going to alcohol and drugs. So we need to do something as a city, to confront this and get with the people like jeanne nelson of crossroads is

February 26, 2004

doing and tell -- see what can we do to help you. What's the best way to help you, what best can we do to get you off the street instead of saying, oh, this is what we must do. Only the people know how they can become successful. Thank you for listening to me.

Chrissy Maerz: Hello. My name is Chrissy, I have been a supporter of Dignity Village for over a year now. I have attended their council meetings and helped them with clothing donation and any little things they need that requires transportation. I am attending this meeting to ask you to continue your support for the residents of Dignity Village. If Dignity Village were to be dismantled, the heart and soul of all the people who have worked so hard, and I include that meaning the people that are inside the village and the supporters outside of the village, would all be devastated. The construction of the many houses each member has symbolizes the quest for a piece of the American dream, which we all have, that can never be realized during this portion of their lives. It gives them the privilege to have an address that is a starting point for an application for a job. You cannot put an address on an application when you're living underneath a bridge, or scattered to all parts of this city due to an anti-camping rule. Where is your support system if you are worrying about roaming about the city from one day to the next? At Dignity Village the people share their knowledge, possessions, foods, to the next people who come to their door and say, I need help. They use their computers to look for jobs and their communal area is the place where they wrestle with their own particular issues. As one of the residents told me recently, you will always have a homeless. The deeper question is, how do we treat the homeless? Can we treat them with dignity? Or scatter them all around because there is little room in the shelters to house everyone? One solution to this, to the homeless, is to continue to support Dignity Village. Thank you.

Rahima Mubarak: My name is Rahima, and I was a former resident of Dignity Village. I left in May. Since then I've been on the streets. And I've had to fight with the police about sleeping, just sleeping out by the freeways, sleeping under bridges, they still want us to dig a hole and hide. I've known with Dignity Village I was stable and I was secure. I had a place, I could find a job, I was looking. I had a phone. And the computer to help me look for job. But since I've been homeless like I have to go to places like the St. Francis Salvation Army to use their phone. I've recently stayed in the shelters, because I'm pregnant. And I've stayed in the family shelters to where you can only stay 30 days. And since then, we've been going from place to place. But the thing is, I realize I do miss Dignity Village because of the fact that it was safe. There wasn't anybody kicking me or kicking dirt in my husband's face, or telling us that we can't stay here because we're not welcomed. But the thing is, I just realized there's a whole bunch of homeless out there, and now it's getting bigger. There's homeless with kids. And because of the fact the shelters aren't big enough, there's no family shelters. It's making it harder. With Dignity Village, it's part of -- part of a solution for the homeless. We just need to look at it and help us grow on it to clear up this problem of homeless. Thank you.

Michelle Willingham: My name is Michelle Willingham, I am pleased and honored to be a resident and a member at Dignity Village. Becoming homeless, short story, I came from Louisiana with a job prospect. Got as far -- the prospect was in southern Washington. Got as far as Portland and was informed that the window of opportunity that my prospective employer was looking at was a little different from mine. That's all it takes. That is not a unique or a particularly uncommon tale. Nothing particularly pathological in it. So then my choices were to either watch my sums dwindle while I was paying for a hostile bed in a flea bag hotel, or to try to find a women's shelter, of which there is a dearth, particularly in this area. For women who are not victims directly victims of domestic abuse, there is a dearth of shelter beds. There's a dearth of shelter beds in all categories, but particularly in that. T.P.I. Has a waiting list, we've already talked about that, gay was talking about that. Dignity Village tries to take women in immediately, because of the possibility, the very likelihood of them being exploited or being attacked. I believe that I've read one statistic on women in the streets, and that a woman who is on the street anywhere between six months and a year is

February 26, 2004

likely to be attacked eight times. So -- but before I found dignity village, I went to a shelter, and I had to schlep around my possessions. I couldn't leave anything around permanently, but I could sleep on the dining room floor. One night I came to the shelter, 8:00, tired, and hungry, but I had my own food. A sandwich, requiring no preparation. Only to be told I couldn't eat it. I was told that I would be fed the next morning at 7:00 a.m. Now, note those words. I would be fed. Not, we will dine tomorrow morning, or there will be a meal made available. You have to be very clear when you're in a conventional shelter, who has control over your basic physical needs. Now, in the same shelter where there were 50 women sleeping on the floor on movers' blankets, side by side, within my hearing one of the staff starts to complain about the smell. The staff person's coworker said, don't worry, tomorrow is a shower day, they'll be able to get a shower. Now, at dignity village, if you want to shower, you take a shower. There's no sign-ups, the only thing you have to do is negotiate with people the same way you do with families, when your teenagers are in the bathroom. If you need to take a bath or a shower at 2:00 a.m., if you need to take a shower at 6:00 a.m. So you can go to work, you simply go in, turn on the water, take your shower, just as all of you do in your own houses. You wouldn't believe what a blessing that is. The simple thing. This simple choice.

Katz: Your time is up. Do you want to --

Willingham: Ok. Very quickly, i've heard some people say that dignity should be closed, that it -- the facilities are inadequate for people. And I have to tell you what that sounds like. Even though it may be very well intentioned. What it sounds like, someone on hearing that the poor are desire us of having bread, that they should be really be trying to find themselves a nice piece of cake, and even though it may be well intentioned, I don't think that is what it is sounding like when we hear it. It is better than human, dignity village, it is human.

Fred Nemo: My name is fred, I represent an arts group called pacific switchboard. I've been running poetry readings for a year and we were invited last summer to do some readings at dignity village. We went out there and found it wasn't the one-way street we were used to. Between every one of us, we have about nine people, between every one of us there was a village resident who wanted to get up and recite some poetry. It shamed us a little because they didn't have to read, they basically knew their material by heart. I just want to testify to dignity village being a cultural resource. When they're in the shelters, they're lined up out in front of st. Francis, they're bunch of needy individuals, and at dignity village they're clearly self-supporting and are manifesting an energy they would not otherwise have. Thanks.

Arin Marcus: Good afternoon. I am arin marcus and I was sent today by Dr. Herman Washington who is my political science teacher at Portland Community College and i'm an assistant to mayor Katz's campaign staff. I was sent here to do a report on city government and how it works. I was very excited to see what was going on here today. Back in january of 2000, myself and a small member of ragtag homeless street kids pitched a tent on the backside of city hall and protested because the homeless individuals in the city did not have a place to sleep. Outside of a shelter. When the shelters were full, there was no place. And we continued to camp around the area, and we met a lot of people here, including jack tafari, and the word went around for the need of a homeless camp, and later on down the road they took it upon themselves to create dignity village. I had very little to do with anything in dignity village, and in all honesty have yet to step foot in it or see anything in it, however for the last three years, four years, excuse me, i've been doing a lot of studying of the issues of dignity village, and i've been going to college, i'm a member of the Oregon army national guard. And my plans are finally coming to maturity. On march 9 of this year i'll be meeting with the housing policy director that works with erik Sten, and i'm work on a business proposal which starts with an affordable housing project that will create revenue to build a residential business training program. My intentions are to show to city council and to the rest of the citizens of the city that the resourcefulness that you've seen here conducted by the members of

February 26, 2004

the city council is a very valuable resource, and that dirt can be turned into gold and create jobs and create economic growth. My intentions are to train people how to run businesses, help them find businesses, help them create businesses, and help them hire people, and maybe we can get people moving through dignity village at a rate at about 10 times faster than it is now. That's all I have to say.

Katz: Thank you.

Kristina Hamm: Hello. My name is kristina hamm, the outreach coordinator at outside in's medical clinic. I want to submit a letter from outside in. Outside in has provided onsite health care services to dignity village residents for the past three years. Delivering the health care directly to the village allows us to access and educate under 60 underserved individuals who may otherwise have no access to medical care. We endorse the city's plan to end homelessness and are a partner in the recent federal grant awarded to Portland to end chronic homelessness. Until that effort is fully implemented and effective, we understand the necessity of a community like dignity village. By helping the homeless to work towards self-sufficiency and personal autonomy, dignity village has met a desperate need in the underserved community. For over 30 years our mission has been to help homeless and disenfranchised individuals as they work toward self-sufficiency. Effective and lasting change can occur through partnerships that encourage collaboration and community development. We collaborate with the organizations that work to bridge the gaps and services to Portland's most underserved populations. Dignity village is such an organization. We ask that the city council grant the dignity village request for an extended lease at its current location or in this case a campground. If such request is granted, outside in will continue providing health and medical services to the residents. Thank you for your time. The other letter of support from cascadia. To the city of Portland, i'm writing this letter on behalf of the tenants of the property known as dignity village. I believe the city should renew the lease of the property and/or make it a permanent campground site. The city would benefit because of the council of dignity village is providing a valuable service to the city. It keeps people from being homeless and provides the support one needs to get back on one's life track. The village serves as a base of operations where social workers can meet with clients and direct them to services. Instead of having to wait for the client to come to them. This makes the social worker's role more effective and gives the client a more provocative role in obtaining housing. The council supports the best interest of the people living in the village. I've seen this action when working with a client to help him obtain housing. They supported my efforts to get him housing by being cooperative and collaborating with me to see that he received the support he needed. The tenants have provided drug and alcohol free environment and are making the effort to get on with their lives as much as humanly possible. Every time i've been there the tenants have greeted me warmly and cooperated with my efforts. There's a definite sense of community and solidarity that can facilitate the steps necessary for an individual to meet their goals of obtaining housing. The tenants have been an asset to the community. They've been instrumental in helping the homeless population of Portland to secure housing and other services that will give them a more secure and safe environment to live in. Can I continue? I'm almost finished.

Katz: Yeah. Just finish up.

Hamm: Thanks. Without the support they give Portland's homeless population, many would still be wandering the streets of Portland without any support or access to the services designed to help them. The city of Portland would be making a wise investment in the future if they would renew the lease and permit this to be a campground for dignity village.

Katz: Thank you.

Robert Bjerre: I'm robert bjeere, representing a group of churches and -- so we only have one speaker for about seven units. That includes the church of scientologys, celebrity center Portland, the unitarian church in hillsboro, milwaukie presbyterian church, my own organization, Multnomah

February 26, 2004

monthly meeting, society of quakers, and other associations. I'm going to read just a little bit from the minutes our meeting adopted to you. Multnomah monthly meeting of religious society of friends endorses and offers to support the efforts of dignity village to become an independent, self-regulating community of otherwise homeless people within the greater communities of Portland and Multnomah county. We recognize that housing is a fundamental human right and we call upon the mayor and the city council of Portland to support this precedent-setting contribution toward a solution of a major civic problem. What I'd like to offer something of my own experience. I was in Kosovo building houses with an n.g.o., and we had a few people in a shelter who were waiting to get back to their homes. The problem was not homelessness, it was -- it was that they didn't have houses on their -- on their property. When we found some people who claimed to be homeless, it was like a surprise, because everyone had a family connection and land somewhere that they could build a home, and that's what we were helping them to do. With this family support, we found out how incredibly important it was to have a house, have a home to live in. In our society, we have so many homeless because our society is breaking down and there's no thing like the family system to support them. We need other groups to form together to get a community and a supportive and innovative ways of living. This is how dignity village is like an example of something that could happen here in a void that our society has. Thank you.

Katz: Thank you.

*****: I don't have any company here.

Katz: You're all alone.

Howard Weiner: My name is Howard Weiner. I chair the Old Town/China Town Association. I sit on the commission to end homelessness and I spent the last year in a weed and seed process to find the gaps and needs within our social welfare system. You know, before I start with what I really have to say, I have to thank everyone in this room. There's so much compassion, so much love, so much desire to end homelessness, and we all ought to commend ourselves. And I know we can't clap. We have to go like this, but I think we all deserve it. We all really truly want to end homelessness, and even though there might be some dissension on the city council, that in the end that's our goal. So I want to give you a few facts before you make your decision. And I'll start with what I just received today from the homeless women's task force. Just a few cold facts. These are the resource findings from this summary. There's a great competition for shelter beds with several times more single homeless women than shelter beds available. The waiting list for a bed for a woman today is 12 weeks. I move over to the special needs committee report from the housing community development. In 2002, 9,204 people age 18 to 64 with extremely low incomes and special needs required a combination of permanent housing, services. Currently we have 1300 and 1400 units of such housing available. That's today, my friends. The affordable housing report done by the city club in 2002, probably the very best document we have to go on in regards to affordable housing, this number here will astound you, of course. In the metro area, over Portland, needs over 90,000 initial additional units of affordable housing in the metro region between now and 2017. So there's many other numbers. Some of it just boggles my mind. But the truth of the matter is we need to use every tool that's in the box and we need to use the tools that are outside the box. Originally I really had a hard time with the idea of dignity village and encampments in general because I really want to see everyone into permanent housing, everyone get an ability, if they choose, to get services, whether through their mental illness or drug or alcohol addiction. The fact of the matter is we're not there yet. And so excuse me for challenging you, commissioner Saltzman and commissioner Francesconi, but I would like to see a unanimous vote today. I think that would really send a message that we're here to solve homelessness, we're here to work toward affordable housing goals and to the end of homelessness as we know it as commissioner Sten, the mayor, have put together the commission that I'm so thankful to be on. Thank you very much.

Katz: Thank you. All right. We'll start on the left.

February 26, 2004

Daniel Ly: All right. Good afternoon, city council. My name is daniel ly and i'm currently a student at century high school. And I would strongly urge you to reconsider, all the time is short, to consider all of our ideas, and I strongly urge that you pass this resolution. To give a brief history, today my friend went to the unemployment department with his mom, and basically, to put a long story short, he was there to help translate for his mom, and the thing was he was the helping hand, and in my opinion I think dignity village is this helping hand, that people that -- the people and association that is able to help these people who need to get out of the slump, able to take away the stereotypes, able to make their own money, to be accepted into society and break away all the stereotypes that people that are homeless are only here to take our money. Through what i've heard today, they've been able to develop five basic rules, such as no violence, no theft, no alcohol or illegal drugs, no disruptive behavior, etc. I've been doing research, and i've considered all the weighing options, listened to this debate, and I still believe with all my heart that this resolution should be passed. With this said, I also believe that the people in this community, Portland community, we all support this. Environmental middle school, Portland state university, even city repair. One story that I heard from my dad was that he told me about one year ago that when he comes to Portland every day, he sees the homeless people in their struggle. At nighttime, during the wintertime, homeless people must decide whether they must sleep under the fremont bridge or sleep out in the open. Now if they sleep under the fremont bridge they risk -- they risk having their money taken away, being raped, or even not being able to survive the next day because of people coming and taking their money away. But they do get heat, they do have safety for a factor, but if you sleep out in the open, what might happen? You might in fact die of coldness. As said before by other people, there's been much progress throughout the dignity village. Crime rates have been going down every year. And these people who represent dignity village, they exemplify the ration to riches story. They promote the american dream. These people have come together and combined, worked together, to work themself out of poverty, to be able to in fact work their way out of the way they are right now, to be able to work together and create a society where they may be able to come out. I applaud all your efforts into considering this resolution, and taking the time to listen to the community and the public, and I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Katz: Now I know I shouldn't ask you this. How old are you?

Ly: I'm only 16 years old.

Katz: How come you're so wise?

Ly: Honestly, ms. Vera Katz, I just believe as a teenager everyone should have a fair right. I know i'm not an adult. I can't vote, I can't drink, I can't even drive. I'm not homeless, but I was told that every opinion counts in america.

Katz: Where do you live?

Ly: In hillsboro, Oregon. Thank you for your time, ms. Katz.

Katz: Ok. Top that.

Ezra Goldman: My name is ezra goldmann. I hadn't really prepared to stand up here, but there was something that I had noticed that hadn't been mentioned yet. I should start out saying that I -- i'm a graduate of reed college, and even with that degree behind me I have not been able to find steady employment since then, so the job market here is obviously very tight. So, you know, were it not for family support and my unfortunate luck in life I would probably also be homeless. And I don't know what I would do, but I would certainly want to have something like dignity village around as a backup. But I just wanted to note that this is -- everybody has been talking about this as something for Portland and as something that is specifically that could aid Portland, but I think that it's important to note that this would set a precedent for both national and international projects like this. And somebody was mentioning earlier that they've already heard about this in other parts of the world, and I think that it's a great project and this could be seen as a beacon of light for a lot of people around the world, not just in Portland. So that's all I wanted to say.

February 26, 2004

Katz: Thank you.

Todd Kurylowicz: Hello. My name is todd kurylowicz. I live in north Portland. I just want to speak to all the people that are out there on the streets and all the people that are living out of dignity village and let you know that you're part of the solution. We have a severe problem with consumption in this society, being, what, 5% of the population consuming roughly about 30% of the resources on the planet. Now that leads to many bad things in the world. Our foreign policy to acquire the resources to take care of a consumption-driven society. So the people that are consuming the least are part of the solution. The people living at dignity village are part of the solution. Not much of a burden on the taxpayer and not consuming that much. And I don't see much of an option outside of dignity village with roughly 1,000 people or so living out on the streets any given night, and really can't get into shelters, because the shelter space is, what, last I heard it was 15% can seek shelter. So and it's illegal to have a blanket outside, aside from dignity village. Now I don't quite get it. It's kind of disturbing to think what would happen if dignity was shut down and people were "hey, welcome to the streets of Portland, don't have a blanket and try to stay warm at night." dignity village, the capacity is 60, 60 people. It's a step in the right direction. And I talk about morals and I talk about politics, and those two things, and there's a right and a wrong thing to do. Self-sustainable alternative living communities is a step in the right direction. And you have a decision to make today. I don't know if you've already made it or not, but you're about to make it, so -- but I guess jim and dan, you two are the -- like tossing it up in the air, whether you're going to go yay or nay on it. Think deep inside what the right thing to do is. Should we have more people on the streets or -- it's part of the solution. We consume too much. This people are part of the answer. And thank you all out there for being so tough to be out at dignity on those cold, hard days. Keep it up. Loving you all. Blessings and peace.

Katz: Ok, thank you, everybody.

Moore: Mayor, veronica wanted to speak.

Katz: Karla --

Veronica: I'm here. I barely made it. I was mugged in the hollywood district. There is true crime in the city and it happened. There's a statistic for commissioner leonard. I just wanted to speak to you about the dignity thing. I started out in the city with women's affordable housing forum. That was my nonprofit. We've never collected any money. We haven't made a profit. Housing is not profitable. Well, anyway, women's affordable housing forum tries to support housing. Dignity is a mode of housing. Four years ago we talked about dignity village. I still support it. It's a good thing. It's really important that we support our homeless people and our people who are not so rich, because they have rich ideas for the future. I think this is really important and giving them a permanent place is great. It's not going to be a k.o.a. Campground, obviously, understand a thousand trails is not going to make it either. Really, i'm serious, this gets a little ridiculous. But there is money somewhere, you know, in this city for homeless people. I just want to speak to another issue. Getting mugged, i'm sorry that happened to me, and it made me a little more homeless. I'm not supposed to be, because i'm at PSU. In my senior year. Reaching a housing crunch here, too. As this relates to the larger continuum of care for p.s.u. Community education students, three more years to ago, homelessness is there too, but we still support dignity village.

Katz: Ok. Council, does anybody have any questions of anybody that testified? You have a question to --

Saltzman: Maybe the treasurer.

Katz: Tim mccarthy, right? Come up.

Saltzman: I was concerned about the -- there hasn't been a payment for water or electricity since july, according to jeanne. I mean --

Tim McCarthy: The only answer I have to that is we were paid up until october 1, and that was when the lease went out. And we were waiting for confirmation from the city to continue and --

February 26, 2004

Sten: That's accurate.

Saltzman: So you were paid up until --

McCarthy: Till July 1. Or to October 1. What we did, gave them a \$6,000 sum at the beginning, and then we were supposed to pay \$2,000 a month until the lease ran out. And the lease went out on the 1st of October.

Saltzman: So you were committed to pay costs incurred for water, sewer and electricity by the city?

McCarthy: Yes.

Sten: And I had mentioned that in the opening, Dignity has made all the payments they signed in the agreement with Portland.

Saltzman: Ok.

Francesconi: Are we going to be asking for some money from the city in the future?

McCarthy: To the best of my knowledge, no. We didn't ask for any money from the city as far as I know even in the proposal that we wrote to the city.

Francesconi: It's my understanding that there's going to be a request from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

McCarthy: But is that from us or from the city saying that that's what we're going to need to renovate it? Because when we made the proposal, we did not put any -- we did not ask for any money coming from the city at all. And if it comes up to the village having to pay for it, then we'll have to find a way to get the money.

Katz: Ok. Any further questions? If not, we wanted to clarify the fact that it is the one acre of Sunderland yard, and I think you have some language --

Linly Rees, Deputy City Attorney: I do. Pdot is fine with this. We thought it would be better to show it on an exhibit because we don't have an exact legal description for it.

Katz: Ok.

Rees: Mayor, would you rather that I read the entire therefore be it resolved again or just insert the --

Katz: Just insert the right --

Rees: So currently after the word designates it reads, the city of Portland designates, insert, approximately one acre in the southeast corner of, and then in between the parenthetical tax account r-3-15, comma, add as shown in the attached exhibit a, comma.

Katz: Ok. Is there any objections to amending the resolution here? Hearing none, so ordered. [gavel pounded] all right, then if that's it, roll call.

Francesconi: Well, there's much we agree on. The first is I met with representatives from Dignity Village, and I've actually been there three times, once to the old location and more recent, the most recent time, just this past Sunday, and I was very, very impressed with the effort and ideals of the villagers, the organization of the villagers, and I've really been impressed with the supporters as well. So there's much good that is going on in that regard. The second thing I agree -- we agree with, that there is an enormous challenge facing the homeless, and in fact I think the situation here in Portland, and in Oregon, is even worse than was talked about here by people. I actually have the report in front of me, the needs and resources study that was done by transition projects on behalf of the homeless women's task force. Part of it was cited, but there's great competition for shelter beds, waiting lists for beds may be as long as 12 weeks. Affordable housing is even in more demand. Literally 10 thousands of people -- tens of thousands compete for affordable housing. Waiting lists may be as long as four years long. Health care, both physical and mental, is in crisis. The Oregon health plan has slashed services, begun charging premiums. Mental health services have been reduced dramatically. General assistance, common income support for homeless women is severely threatened. It was eliminated, it's back, it probably is going to be eliminated again after measure 30. Funding for Oregon's welfare-to-work initiatives, jobs and job plus have been cut off at a time when neither welfare, nor work, is available. Meanwhile, as Jack testified, Oregon's unemployment

February 26, 2004

rate continues to outpace the national rate. With more than one in 14 Oregonians searching for work. And many of them are the working poor. They're homeless. Mental health and alcohol and drug treatment have been severely limited from the Oregon health plan. Nonprofit health care providers have disappeared for a reduced services. So the crisis is even worse. The third thing we agree on, and we need to do more, including me, is there has to be more money in this system aimed at the very poor and the very vulnerable, which other cities, including seattle, have done. The problem, and boy would I like to vote for this, the reason -- there's two fundamental reasons that I cannot. The author of the report is opposed to dignity village. The head of the transition projects. You know, I also visited -- I also visited salvation army, the rescue mission, transition projects, myself. And, folks, I do not have the answers to homelessness, nor do I portray myself as the expert. For me to vote for it, I need to hear from people that have devoted their lives to this. I do. I need like to hear from richard harris from central city concerns, when they're opposed to this, the head of transition projects, see, I need that. The conclusion from this report is not more shelters, it's more low-income housing. Listen, I hope i'm wrong. I believe the majority of the council will go the other way. But that's one issue. The second issue that i'm having trouble getting over is -- it was cited by central city concerns, and I know this is difficult, but lowering standards, the housing standards for the poor, is just hard for me to do. I did visit the village. And I know that it's better than many situations, but, you know, when I have the vice president today tell me that there's rats at the village, the rodent problem, you know, I just -- I have trouble that this is the best way to treat the homeless. So anyway, that's the difficulty that i'm having. So for reasons I have to reluctantly, and sadly, vote no.

Leonard: I know commissioner Francesconi to be an extremely compassionate member of our community, and I respect -- very much respect his viewpoints, and whenever he brings up like an issue like he is I take pause and listen. But, you know, I -- this has been a fascinating issue for me, because I think I started out where commissioner Francesconi was, and ended up where commissioner Sten is, by talking to people at the village on my own visit, by actually holistically looking at where we are at a society today. The fact of the matter is that as a state we have had a conservative movement that has been successful in passing a property tax limitation measure in 1990, another property tax limitation measure in 1996. We then on top of those reductions in resources have seen one of the worst recessions we've ever experienced in the state of Oregon, the result of which has been people at the bottom of the ladder being shoved off the ladder. They're not even on the ladder anymore. And it has been, I suppose probably some of the vehement right wing conservative rhetoric surrounding what government should do, what it should provide, and then what I considered some of the hypocrisy around whether or not dignity village should exist that actually helped me decide where I was at on this. We cannot not connect the dots between the lack of money to fund basic services, to have good jobs, and good housing, and people that are at dignity village. And it just seems to me that at a time when we're trying to figure out how to provide basic services to people, dignity village might, in some ways, be an example of how to do that. And I suppose -- I probably shouldn't say, this and i'll probably get yelled at afterwards by commissioner Sten, because he's negotiating the lease, but I don't get what all of the concern is about paying for the water and the sewer either. I mean, if we -- if we have a strategy out there, well, we're not paying staff, and we're not paying for a lot of the kinds of services you'd ordinarily pay to provide housing, and what we're absorbing is electric and sewer costs and water, it seems like quite a deal to me. Maybe i'm missing something. But, you know, I absolutely share the concern over the standards of the construction out there. And but that's what we're addressing here today. That's part of what we're doing. We're trying to upgrade those structures so they are safe and people can live in them and we can be assured they're not going to be hurt, but, again, I think this is a strategy that's outside of the box of the typical kinds of strategies that are used to address homelessness. I totally appreciate the fact it's not something I would have ever thought of or considered to be a tool to use

February 26, 2004

for homelessness, but it appears to me that it works. As long as the people there do what they're doing, they can count on me for my support. Aye.

Saltzman: Well, I support this basic transitional -- or the transitional zoning that we're to allow for dignity village. I think dignity village deserves a lot of staying power, but let me respond directly to commissioner Leonard. Why is it important dignity village be self-sustaining? Because it's been articulated from day one, I think that's part of the definition of dignity, is to be self-sustaining and self-supporting. And any dollars we're going to expend or forgive are dollars that we cannot spend on low-income discounts for very high water and sewer bills. It's also money that we can't spend on affordable housing. And there are plenty of other organizations that serve homeless adults, homeless children, that compete for very limited city funds. So I don't favor taking dignity village, which hasn't even, by all admissions of everybody on this council, we don't consider this to be a permanent part of our homeless system, to elevate them to the front of the line by providing them financial subsidies. That's where I -- that's where I part company. And I'm tipping my hand now. I don't have favor support with city funding of dignity village. I support allowing it to exist by providing the necessary zoning, and allowing it to support itself, as I've had all indications from people who have been here today. And also, I have the -- maybe the unenviable task of being the commissioner in charge of the water bureau where every day we turn off people's water for not payment of bills. And so I have to be sensitive that any forgiveness of water payments results in higher bills for everybody else, and there's a lot of people out there struggling to pay water and sewer bills, as we all know. So until and unless we affirmatively make the homeless camp part of our homeless system, and there are plenty of respected individuals, as commissioner Francesconi said, who do not believe that's the highest and best use of our dollars, and I'm not sure any of us believe it's the highest and best use of our dollars either, I'm not prepared to elevate to the head of the line just because it happens to have a lot of popular support amongst certain elements. So while I support this transitional zoning, I'm not in support of the city dollars being city subsidies. So I will vote for this today. Aye.

Sten: You can see why I didn't bring the lease today. That's another discussion, which will be a healthy one, and will follow on the heels today one of the best discussions I've heard in these chambers of the long time being here. People were articulate and thoughtful, and really pushed the envelope on something. For anybody, any rational person to conclude that this country, let alone the city, is even in the vicinity of talking about a homeless solution is completely absurd. It's a national disgrace that's gotten worse over the last 20 years, not better. And so, you know, certainly not going to be harmed as a community by allowing a small band of rebels, if you will, to try something different and see if God forbid it actually works for a few of them. The council has its own mind, and it should, it's five very distinct people. The mayor asked me by assignment for the time I've been on the council, to make recommendations, which I do as the housing commissioner. I want to put this in a little bit of context. You have a structural problem in this -- in the national economy that forces very poor people to not have any choices for housing. I thought it ironic that the person who testified against this, although he was articulate, kept talking about government subsidies. Dignity village appeals in comparison to the mortgage deduction, where 2/3 of this country's money goes into housing, is people who own homes, deduct the cost of their mortgage off their taxes. So the subsidy I get off my mortgage exceeds what dignity village got last year. It's a very structural problem, and you're not going to get there until we address that. As a community, we have to find structural solutions that put money into the permanent supply of affordable housing. I actually believe we're on a path to do that. The metro report that came out a few years ago, some of the task forces that are working, the energy and heart of the activists in this room, I believe in our lifetime much as we did the urban growth boundary a couple decades ago that one of the next struggles that this community is going to succeed on, and I'm going to fight with you until we do, is to find a permanent source of affordable housing support, and because one of the

February 26, 2004

things, and I don't think we say it enough, most of the hearings in this room are all about how can we make Portland wonderful. I think we've succeeded in many ways. We have a lot of problems right now with the economy, with unemployment, but this is still the best city in the country, in my opinion. One of the things that happened happens in a free market when you have the best city in the country is prices go occupy. If we're going to keep this the best city in the country, we have to have structural offsets that will help us build affordable houses for people that can't compete as more capital and funding flows into this community, which actually if we're taking care of the bottom end and doing things is what we want to happen. I think we have a big problem. Nobody has ever heard me on my time on council, propose, and I have tons of respect for everybody who works on homelessness, and the different agencies and different folks should have different philosophies, because the thousands of people on street are different. I believe our system works reasonably well given the resources. I think it works very well given the resources it has. And it works ok against what needs to have happen, because the resources are so small. As the housing commissioner at the mayor's discretion, she'd made me that, i've never recommending pulling large sums of money, or any money whatsoever, not a nickel, out of the existing system to put it into this. But what I think at the same time is no matter how you build a system, particularly one that's heavily underfunded, it won't work for everyone. You can build the best system in the world, but we're human beings and it won't work for everyone. If we were to change the rules of the current system, quadruple the number of shelter beds, which I actually wouldn't support, here's an interesting thing, I don't support building a lot more shelter beds, even though they're full, because i'd rather put the money into permanent housing. The shelters are full, the people who rub the shelters -- run the shelters, wonderful people, the smart folks who look at this stuff, don't support building a lot of shelters, what's going to happen, there's people left behind. What dignity village has done so beautifully is spring into play, you know, it's the classic -- it's a cliché, but it's the flower growing out of the crack in the concrete to say here's a spot for some number of people who would be assaulted, would potentially be raped and maybe even killed on the streets of Portland to get their dignity back and together to build community. I've talked a lot about financing, i've talked a lot about money. I've talked a lot about structural things and taxes. All of those things conspire right now in this country, an it is a disgrace, to turn us into two societies, between those who have and those who have not. Ultimately if we do fix those problems, there's still a major component to solving homelessness, which is human interaction. People become alienated, and people become pushed aside, and we have to work together as a community. This community will never be strong as long as people are down and out in our society. What's happened with dignity village, much more important to me, than if it is perfect or not perfect, I wish people had come to this hearing today that didn't and hear the passion and commitment of the people that were here. From the 16-year-old who lives in hillsboro who's connected with this to those of you who have actually been there at the village and turned your lives around. A gentleman said, I thought with -- if one life was worth something, his was, and for that reason i'm proud to be here today. It's not easy to get this to the next stage, but I didn't think it would get to this stage. Aye.

Katz: So this young man comes in to my office three years ago, wise young man, well, maybe a little wiser than our 16-year-old today, I expect you to be wiser than him in a couple of years, says what do we do? And all of the arguments and the discussion that he just set out for all of us to hear was what he shared as we talked about the next step. I think it's fair to say that both of us were not interested in repealing the anti-camping ordinance. If you're not interested in repealing the anti-camping ordinance and you don't have enough shelter beds and you're not sure that shelter beds as commissioner Sten just shared with all of you is really the answer, that what you really want to do is provide permanent housing, and a variety of housing experience, then you better come up with something for the rascals moving around, all over the city of Portland, setting up tents or sleeping on the ground. And so when the rascals -- and that's a loving term -- when the rascals came and

February 26, 2004

said we're interested in the following, and laid out a goal, a mission, a plan, that had more than housing incorporated in it, it had a way of life, it had values that I think all of us share, we said, well, why not? We're not wise. We don't have all the answers. Why not give it a try? I got to tell you, I didn't think you were going to last the years that you did. And i'm amazed. I'm absolutely proud of all of you, both the supporters and the villagers, who have made a go of this. And so I have no other option but to begin looking at the next steps for dignity village. I share commissioner Sten's goals of ending chronic homelessness and finding an annual amount of money, substantial amount of money, to build affordable housing. We do spend a lot of money today, but it isn't enough to provide the shelter and certainly then working to make sure that people are employed so they can pay the rents. And that's a goal that I have, whether it can be achieved while i'm still mayor. I promised erik and the committee on the housing resources that later on i'll go down and lobby for the goal of a permanent funding mechanism for affordable housing. But until we're there, we have no other option. Now let me just share with you that probably of all of the members on the council I know what homelessness means. When I came to this country, when I left the boat, there was no home. And there was a home only if there was a kind person who opened the door and said, we'll give you a helping hand until you can get on your own feet and start a job and being able to pay rent. And if it wasn't for this wonderful couple who gave us a key and a couple of forks and knives and said, this is -- this is your home, and we'll pay your rent for a couple of months, and god bless you, and this is america, and it's a wonderful country, I wouldn't be here, nor would my family have survived. So for those of you who support each other, and for those wonderful citizens who support the residents of dignity village, thank you. This is what this country is all about. Thank you. Aye. [applause]

Katz: Ok, everybody, we stand adjourned. [gavel pounding]

At 4:49 p.m., Council adjourned.