

Attachment 1



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

October 4, 2007

Review Committee, Portland Day Laborers Center
Mayor's Office
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave #340
Portland OR 97204

Dear Committee Members:

Our Union, SEIU Local 503, represents 40,000 public employees and long-term care workers in Oregon. As an organization, we are committed to fighting for respect, dignity and fair treatment not just for our members, but also for all Oregon workers. We are deeply concerned about the plight of all workers who face exploitation. We believe that day laborers, in part because many are undocumented, are uniquely vulnerable to exploitation.

As a result, SEIU Local 503 supports Voz's efforts to establish a day laborers' center, which we believe would be a vehicle for promoting fairness for this important segment of Oregon's workforce. By requiring employers to register and meet certain standards for wages and working conditions, the center would underscore Portland's commitment to ensuring a safe, secure, and humane environment for all workers in the city.

A day laborers' center would provide a comprehensive set of services for day laborers: employment, English language skills, legal education, and training. These services will help integrate day laborers into the local community and economy.

Voz has demonstrated experience, knowledge, and credibility in its work with day laborers in Portland over the last ten years. Voz has a well-thought out plan to administer the center, forge collaborative relationships with community partners, develop programs that meet the social and economic needs of day laborers, and create a sustainable funding base for its operations. We are confident that Voz would make the center a success.

Our organization is proud to be part of a broad coalition of support for Voz. We believe that this coalition can lend advice, expertise, and support to this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Leslie Frane
Executive Director

Salem Headquarters	Bend	Portland	Corvallis	Medford	Eugene	Pendleton
1730 Commercial St. SE PO Box 12159 Salem, OR 97309-0159 503-581-1505 800-452-2146 (Fax) 503-581-1664	925 SE Second St. Suite C Bend, OR 97702-1756 541-385-8471 800-832-0593 (Fax) 541-388-9078	6401 SE Foster Rd. Portland, OR 97206-4659 503-408-4090 800-527-9374 (Fax) 503-408-4099	Physical Site/Do Not Mail 606 SW 15th St., Rm 109 Corvallis, OR 97331-4606 541-752-0183 (Fax) 541-752-0241	928 E. Jackson St. Medford, OR 97504-7025 541-779-4324 800-452-7965 (Fax) 541-779-4325	488 E. 11th Ave. Suite 100-B Eugene, OR 97401-3601 541-342-1055 800-521-3446 (Fax) 541-342-2932	200 SE Halley Ave., Suite 302 Pendleton, OR 97801-3069 541-276-4983 800-452-8146 (Fax) 541-276-4984

WENTWORTH

CHEVROLET SUBARU

November 5, 2007

To:

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee

City Hall

1221 SW 4th Avenue

Portland, OR 97204

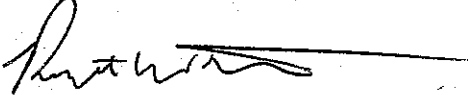
Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

I am writing to support VOZ in operating the proposed Day Laborer center. We have been dealing with VOZ for several years on issues with the corner of SE Sixth and Ankeny. They have been receptive to our concerns and worked to improve the conditions discussed. I feel they have a good line of communication with the neighborhoods and business's.

We support the Day Laborer Center and look forward to a positive solution to a big problem in our Community.

Sincerely,

Wentworth Chevrolet



Robert Wentworth

President



November 9, 2007

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

I write to you on behalf of PCUN, Oregon's Farm worker Union in support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

PCUN has been working closely with the VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project since it started in 2000. Since then we have collaborated on a number of projects to defend immigrant workers.

We wish to express our support for the application by VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project to create and operate a Workers Center in Portland. VOZ has over 10 years experience working to empower Day Laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face.

VOZ is the only Day Labor community organization that has the experience, the knowledge and deep understanding of the daily life of Day Laborers and their families and the social and economic challenges they confront at their corner.

We encourage the city to approve their application and make the day laborer center a reality.

Sincerely yours,

Ramon Ramirez
President

OREGON LAW CENTER

921 SW Washington Suite 516

Portland, OR 97205

DIANE SCHWARTZ SYKES

(503) 473-8314 (direct)

dianesykesolc@yahoo.com

Oct 31, 2007

Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland Review Committee
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Ste. 340
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: RFP No. MAY011: Grant to Operate and Manage Day Labor Hire Site Facility

Dear Mayor Potter and RFP Review Committee:

I write to express my strong support for the application by VOZ to create and operate a day laborer center in Portland. Based on my experience in working with VOZ, I can think of no other organization that is better suited for this assignment. VOZ has effective leadership, dedicated staff, a strong commitment to serving clients, a deep understanding of the client community and ten years of directly related experience. I am familiar with the work done by VOZ because I am the attorney at Oregon Law Center assigned to serve the day laborers and low wage workers in this region. The Oregon Law Center is a nonprofit corporation providing free civil legal services to low-income people in Oregon.

I am extremely impressed with the leadership skills of Ignacio Paramo and Romeo Sosa and the important work they have done for day laborers and other low-wage workers. Mr. Sosa and Mr. Paramo are effective advocates who have effectively maximized minimal resources to educate day laborers and low wage workers on their employment rights. They have treated each client with dignity and respect, helping them grow as individuals and members of this community. Regardless of the weather conditions, you will often see Mr. Sosa and Mr. Romeo out on the street corner with workers educating them on their rights while these workers wait to be hired for employment. VOZ has a proven track record of empowering workers to ensure that they receive a living wage and safe working conditions. VOZ also assists workers who are not paid by employers for the work that they performed and educates day laborers on how to minimize the risk on not being paid for work.

VOZ has successfully developed relationships with community partners, such as the Oregon Law Center, to increase its ability to serve day laborer populations. VOZ looks for potential resources

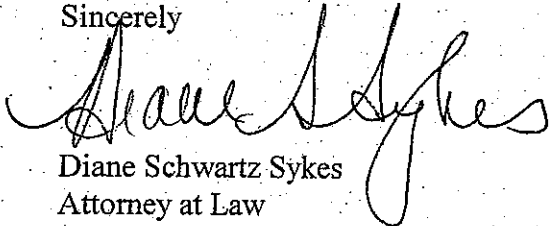
October 31, 2007

Page 2

and successfully develops the relationships necessary to help their clients get additional resources. Most lawyers do not have the capacity to represent immigrant populations on employment matters because of language barriers and high cost of legal fees. VOZ refers underserved immigrant populations to the Oregon Law Center when legal action becomes necessary to pursue wage claims against an employer who takes advantage of a day laborer's vulnerability and dire necessity to earn wages. VOZ has developed good working relationships with many community partners and has a positive reputation in the community. VOZ has worked with law enforcement, local businesses and residents to educate the community about the population that VOZ serves and to dispel misconceptions about the nature of day laborers' presence in the community.

VOZ has demonstrated a 10 year commitment to educating and advocating on behalf of day laborers and low wage workers. VOZ is well known and trusted by the community it serves. Because people are scared and vulnerable, it is difficult to build trusting relationships in this community. VOZ has the staff, skill set and commitment to ensure that a day laborer center is run effectively. A day laborer center will allow VOZ to continue its grassroots effort to advocate for low income workers in a safe and sheltered environment. I am confident that VOZ will continue to advocate on behalf of low income workers and to work closely with community partners to ensure the longevity of a day laborer center.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Schwartz Sykes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Diane Schwartz Sykes
Attorney at Law

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of OREGON

Interchurch Center, Suite B • 0245 SW Bancroft Street • Portland, Oregon 97239
phone (503) 221-1054 • fax (503) 223-7007 • Web site www.emoregon.org

November 7, 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

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Mary Jo Tubby

Dr. David Wilson

The Rev. Dr. Doug Witt

Lacey Oving

Lifetime Member

David A. Leslie

Executive Director

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is writing today in support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has long been deeply involved in mobilizing Oregon's diverse faith community to forward a vision of a community based upon the values of compassion and justice for all. In furtherance of our commitment to these values, we are writing to express our support for the application by VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project to create and operate a Workers Center in Portland because:

- Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable group of workers in our community. Their work is difficult, their working conditions harsh and often unsafe, their wages low and they are particularly vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous employers.
- Day Laborers offer a vital contribution to the economy. A Workers Center will cultivate the integration of day laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live and work. It will work to resolve conflicts between community members, business and law enforcement.
- In improving the wages and working conditions of day laborers we will positively impact the interests of all workers by reducing the number of workers in the labor market who are forced to accept work without minimal protections and paying poverty level wages.
- A Workers Center will provide a safe, secure, clean and organized location for the contracting process between employers and day laborers that improves the quality of life and well being of the Portland community.
- VOZ has over 10 years experience working to empower Day Laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. VOZ has been doing very effective work in promoting the rights of Day Laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education; VOZ has experience, knowledge and a deep understanding of the daily life of Day Laborers and their families and of the social and economic challenges they confront on a daily basis.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (503) 221-1054.

Sincerely,


David Leslie
Executive Director

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • American Baptist Churches of Oregon • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) • Christian Methodist Episcopal Church • Church of the Brethren • Community of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon • Episcopal Diocese of Oregon • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Greek Orthodox Church • Presbyterian Church (USA) • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland • United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church • Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

NWJP

917 SW Oak, Suite 426, Portland, Oregon 97205 • (503) 525-8454 • www.nwjp.org

November 6, 2007

Dear City of Portland,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by VOZ Workers Rights Education Project seeking funds from the City of Portland to finance the creation of a day laborer hiring site in Portland.

I have lived and worked in Oregon as an attorney for over 30 years. Much of that work has been dedicated to representing and supporting low-wage and immigrant workers; formerly as director of the Oregon migrant legal services program and, currently, as the cofounder and Executive Director of the Portland-based Northwest Workers Justice Project (NWJP), a non-profit organization that supports low-wage, immigrant and contingent workers through education, advocacy and direct legal representation. See, www.nwjp.org for more information.

In these years, I have watched as conditions for our city's low-wage and immigrant workers have steadily deteriorated below legal standards. Immigrants are not the only workers affected by this lawlessness. U.S. workers' standards are also directly affected by exploitation of hard-working wage earners, since decent employers must compete with those who would cut corners, placing downward pressure on wages and working conditions for all. Day laborers are among the most vulnerable of these workers—facing frequent exploitation, routine discrimination, and extreme instability.

I have also seen VOZ emerge as a critically important organization—and virtually the only organization in Portland—supporting these workers in their efforts to organize and defend their rights. VOZ has been able to create at least some level of coherence in a street corner labor market that otherwise lacks any standards of human decency. With VOZ's leadership and encouragement, day laborers have begun to insist on minimum standards of employment. With VOZ's help they have begun to take steps to enforce their rights to be paid for their work. But without an actual physical space to gather, these efforts are ultimately limited.

In cities throughout the country, it has been demonstrated that workers centers can be effective in increasing employer accountability and lowering conflicts with surrounding businesses and neighborhoods. However, an essential ingredient in this success is the credibility and perceived reliability of the center's sponsor. Unless workers come to the center to look for work, participate in developing the policies of the center and support their implementation, a new labor center will fail to become the vital locale in the City for recruitment of casual workers. And without becoming that critical situs, a center will not be able to achieve any of its goals of



Northwest Constitutional Rights Center

a project of the National Lawyers Guild

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Executive Director
Alejandro Queral

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Tom Potter
Mayor, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mayor Potter,

I am writing to express the Northwest Constitutional Rights Center's support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and its proposal to establish and operate a day laborer center in Portland. As part of the NW Center's mission to safeguard the civil and constitutional rights of people of color, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations, we have worked with VOZ to ensure immigrants and day laborers understand their legal rights and have assisted their organization in creating a legal observer project to deter anti-immigration activists from harassing and attacking the day laborers.

The NW Center believes that a Day Laborer Center in Portland would help ensure the rights and the safety of workers. As you know, day laborers are among the most economically vulnerable population due to the irregular and strenuous nature of the work and the fact that many of them do not know their rights or ways to redress them. The day laborer center will cultivate the integration of the workers into our community while ensuring their rights and responsibilities. Moreover, it will help improve working conditions and wages by providing a venue for workers to protect their rights while providing opportunities for learning new skills.

VOZ has successfully represented the interest of day laborers over the last ten years and has developed good relationships with community partners. The organization's staff, Romeo Sosa and Ignacio Páramo, are effective advocates who have achieved significant results with limited resources. Their experience and relationships with the day laborer community are irreplaceable and invaluable and therefore are the best qualified to operate the day laborer center with success. I strongly urge you to carefully consider VOZ's application and hope you will select them to operate the Day Laborer Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Queral
Executive Director



November 2, 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter
and the Reviewing Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and the Reviewing Committee:

Catholic Charities would like to express our strong support of VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project and their bid to establish and operate a City of Portland funded Day Laborer Center.

Catholic Charities, and in particular our Latino Services program El Programa Hispano, has worked with VOZ on a number of projects over the years. We share a common mission to serve the poor and vulnerable in our community and have frequently collaborated in these efforts in line with Catholic Charities' mission. Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable group of workers in our community due to the irregular hours and strenuous nature of their work, their often unsafe working conditions, and their susceptibility to potentially unscrupulous employers who pay wages below the poverty level.

We believe that VOZ is the only Day Labor community organization that has the experience, knowledge and deep understanding of the daily life of Day Laborers and their families to effectively operate your new Center, which is urgently needed for the following reasons:

- A Day Laborer Center will provide a safe, secure, clean and organized location for the contacting process between employers and day laborers, which improves the quality of life and well being of the Portland community.
- A Day Laborer Center will provide a safer and more dignified space where Day Laborers and their employers can negotiate away from the street, avoiding conflicts between community members, businesses and law enforcement.
- A Day Laborer Center will help to improve working conditions and wages while providing opportunities for learning new skills and a venue for workers to defend their rights.
- Day laborers offer a vital contribution to the economy. A Day Laborer Center will advance the integration of these laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live, seek and maintain employment.

VOZ has over 10 years experience working in Portland to empower Day Laborers to take control of their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the challenges they face. VOZ has done very effective work in promoting the rights of Day Laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education. We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of the VOZ Workers' Rights proposal to create and operate a Day Laborer Center for the City of Portland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dennis B. Keenan'.

Dennis B. Keenan, M.S.W.
Executive Director, Catholic Charities



CAUSA



October 27, 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

I am pleased to provide CAUSA's support for VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

CAUSA is Oregon's statewide immigrant rights whose goal is to advance and defend immigrant rights in Oregon. We work with grassroots immigrant communities and their allies throughout the state. We have had the privilege of working with VOZ during the years they served on our board, and through our joint participation in the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition.

As we have seen throughout the country and particularly in Oregon, Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable group of workers in our community due to the irregular of and strenuous nature work, unsafe working conditions, and unscrupulous employers. Day Laborers overwhelmingly earn wages below poverty level. In recent years, Day Laborers have also had to fear for their personal safety due to anti-immigrant harassment.

Like immigrant workers in other industries, Day Laborers offer a vital contribution to the economy. A Workers Center will cultivate the integration of day laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live, seek employment and work. It will also be a place to resolve conflicts between community members, business and law enforcement. We commend VOZ for playing a leadership role in facilitating dialogue between workers, law enforcement, and businesses and for their steadfast advocacy on workers' behalf.

I write to express my strongest support for the application by VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project to create and operate the Workers Center in Portland. VOZ has over seven years experience working to empower Day Laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. Through organizing, leadership development and community education, VOZ has consistently worked to promote and improve the rights of Day Laborers.

As an organization that works in the Portland community, we know that our community is best served with strong organizations like VOZ at the lead of projects like the Worker Center. As a trusted community organization, CAUSA extends its support to VOZ and encourages the City of Portland to partner with VOZ in making the Worker Center a reality.

Sincerely,

Aeryca Steinbauer
Coordinator, CAUSA
aeryca@causaoregon.org; 503-984-6816



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Pacific Northwest Regional Office

2249 E Burnside Street • Portland OR 97214-1653 • 503/230-9427 • fax 503/230-1835 • www.afsc.org

October 30, 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall 1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee in strong support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and its bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

The American Friends Service Committee is a 90 year old Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who share a commitment to peace, social justice and humanitarian service. AFSC has supported immigrant rights for many decades, and currently sponsors programs that build immigrant leadership and advocate for public policies that promote the human and civil rights of immigrants.

We believe that a Workers Center will make an essential contribution to the Portland community. Traditionally, Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable workers due to the irregular and strenuous nature of their work, unsafe working conditions, and unscrupulous employers. Day Laborers most often earn wages below the poverty level. A Workers Center will potentially improve working conditions and wages, while providing opportunities for learning new skills, as well as a venue for workers to defend their rights

Day Laborers offer a vital contribution to the economy. A Workers Center will cultivate the integration of day laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live and work. It will resolve conflicts between community members, business and law enforcement. Additionally, a Workers Center will provide a safe, secure and clean facility for the contracting process between employers and Day Laborers.

It is especially important to us that VOZ oversee the Workers Center. VOZ has over ten years experience working to empower Day Laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions, and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. VOZ continues its effective work in promoting the rights of Day Laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education. We have partnered with VOZ on a number of projects and have deep respect for its authenticity and achievements. VOZ really is the only Day Labor community organization that has the experience, the knowledge and deep understanding of the social and economic challenges Day Laborers confront daily at their corner.

We thank you for your consideration of VOZ's bid, and sincerely hope that you will support VOZ, the only Day Laborer organization that is trusted by the community it serves so well!

Warm regards,

Susan Segall, Regional Director, American Friends Service Committee Pacific Northwest

Quaker values in action



pcasc

and Cross Border Labor Organizing Council

311 N. Ivy St. Portland OR 97227

Tel: 503-236-7916
E-mail: info@pcasc.net
www.pcasc.net

October 17, 2007

To:
The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee is writing today in support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to operate the City of Portland-funded Day Laborers Center.

Founded in 1979, the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee educates and mobilizes community members, workers, and students around struggles for human rights and social justice in throughout the Americas.

I fully support VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project and their application to create and operate a Day Laborers Center in Portland because I believe that their organization is the *only* organization that has regular and positive interaction with the day laborer community in Portland. In order for the day laborer center to serve the purpose for which it was created, day laborers must feel comfortable using the center. I believe that VOZ has demonstrated their commitment to this population more than any other group or agency I know of.

A Day Laborer Center will be an important step in supporting day laborers, by creating improved working conditions and a venue for workers to defend their rights. Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable group of workers in our community. They face irregular hours and strenuous work while earning wages well below the poverty level.

VOZ has *over 10 years experience* working with Day Laborers in Portland. They work with Day Laborers to create better working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. They promote the rights of Day Laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education. As previously stated, VOZ is the only Day Labor community organization that has the experience, the knowledge and deep understanding of the daily life of Day Laborers and their families and the social and economic challenges they confront at their corner.

I would like to Thank You for all your past work in support of VOZ, and encourage you to approve their Day Laborer Center application because **VOZ is the only Day Laborer organization that is trusted by the community it serves!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shizuko Hashimoto".

Shizuko Hashimoto
Coordinator, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee



JOBS WITH JUSTICE

PORTLAND JOBS WITH JUSTICE • C/O AFSCME COUNCIL 75 • 6025 E. BURNSIDE STREET • PORTLAND, OR 97215
PHONE: 503.236.5573 • FAX: 503.239.9441 • WEB: www.jwjpdx.org • E-MAIL: info@jwjpdx.org

Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

October 15, 2007

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

Portland Jobs with Justice is writing today in support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland-funded worker center. As you know, Jobs with Justice is a coalition of 85 unions and community groups working together in a campaign for workers' rights. During the last 16 years, we have been intimately involved in assisting worker organizations in many different kinds of campaigns, as well as working to raise the bottom through our living wage and minimum wage work.

We are glad that the building trades unions are now included in the conversation and we are certain that we will all unite to create a day labor center which raises standards for day laborers and stops the super-exploitation on the corner.

We support Voz's application to run the worker center because VOZ is the only group that has organized and worked with day laborers on the corner. VOZ has over 10 years experience working to empower day laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. VOZ has been incredibly effective in promoting the rights of day laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education. VOZ is the only day labor community organization that has the experience, the knowledge and deep understanding of the daily life of day laborers and their families and the social and economic challenges they confront at their corner.

Day laborers are a vital part of the economy. A worker center will cultivate the integration of day laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live, seek employment and work. It will resolve conflicts between community members, businesses and law enforcement. It will improve working conditions and wages while providing opportunities for learning new skills and a venue for workers to defend their rights. We hope that in addition it will help create a path to good family-wage union jobs. We thank you for supporting this project and for supporting VOZ's proposal. They are the only organization with the experience to run such a center.

Sincerely,


Margaret Butler, Executive Director

1 November 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and the Review Committee:

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon (BRO) and Basic Rights Education Fund (BREF), I am writing today in support of the VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

BRO/BREF is Oregon's chief advocacy, educational and political organization dedicated to ending discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity. As an organization concerned with the rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) people, we are also dedicated to the rights and welfare of other oppressed peoples and communities, particular those of color and low income. LGBTQ people are of every race, ethnicity, and economic background. Our struggle is one with all those in need of justice and liberation.

I write to express my strongest support for the application by VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project to create and operate a Workers Center in Portland, for the following reasons:

Day Laborers are among the most economically vulnerable group of workers in our community due to the irregular of and strenuous nature work, often unsafe working conditions, unscrupulous employers while earning wages below poverty level.

Day Laborers offer a vital contribution to the economy. A Workers Center will cultivate the integration of day laborers, with full rights and responsibilities, into the community where they already live, seek employment and work. It will also be a place to resolve conflicts between community members, business and law enforcement.

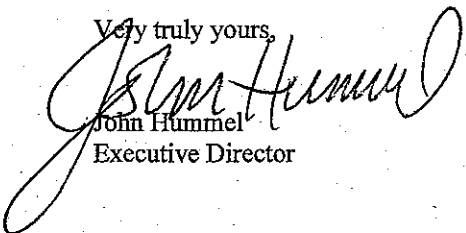
It will improve working conditions and wages while providing opportunities for learning new skills and a venue for workers to defend their rights.

A Workers Center will provide a safe, secure, clean and organization location for the contacting process between employers and day laborers that improves the quality of life and well being of the Portland community.

VOZ has over seven years experience working to empower Day Laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. VOZ has been doing very effective work in promoting the rights of Day Laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education.

As an organization that works in the Portland community, we know that our community is best served with strong organizations like VOZ at the lead of projects like the Worker Center. As a trusted community organization, BRO/BREF extends its support to VOZ and encourages the City of Portland to partner with VOZ in making the Worker Center a reality.

Very truly yours,


John Hummel
Executive Director



LATINO NETWORK

5123 N. Michigan ■ Portland ■ Oregon ■ 97217 ■ 503-283-6881

Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

November 7, 2007

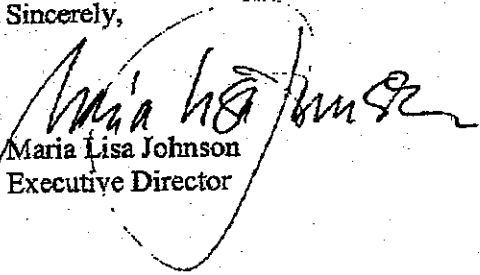
Dear Mayor Potter and Review Committee Members,

On behalf of Latino Network, I am happy to support VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to operate the City of Portland funded Worker's Center.

Latino Network is community based nonprofit with a mission to cultivate the power of the Latino community. For 11 years, we have worked to impact changes in City policy and practice, on issues ranging from police/community relations to neighborhood livability and civic participation. We applaud the Mayor's commitment to fund a Worker center to support the economic advancement of day laborers in our community.

Latino Network recognizes that VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project has been working within our community for over ten years to empower day laborers in Portland to take control over their working conditions and to exercise their collective power to address the issues they face. Over the past decade, VOZ has promoted the rights of day laborers through organizing, leadership development and community education. I support VOZ's bid for the Worker Center as a natural next step in the development of VOZ as an organization and will work closely with them to ensure the Center's success. I also urge the City of Portland do all it can to build the long term capacity of VOZ to meet the labor needs of this vulnerable and hard working sector of our community.

Sincerely,



Maria Lisa Johnson
Executive Director



UNITED FARM WORKERS

Pacific Northwest Office
P.O. Box 20955
Portland, OR 97294
Phone (503) 288-3528
Fax (503) 288-3514
www.ufw.org

October 25, 2007

The Office of Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and Committee:

This is to advise of the United Farm Workers support for the establishment of a day laborers center in Portland. From our founding of the UFW by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, we remain committed to the fair treatment for workers and assuring that the rights of all workers are respected. The day laborers' center would be a means to this end. By requiring employers to register and meet certain standards for wages and working conditions, the center would underscore Portland's commitment to ensuring a safe, secure, and humane environment for all workers in the city.

Such a center would provide a comprehensive set of social services to day laborers (helping them find employment, learning English, education about legal rights, training opportunities) that will help integrate them into the community and bring them from the margins into the mainstream.

I believe that the leadership Voz has demonstrated for the past ten years combined with its experience, knowledge, and credibility would make the day laborers center an effective institution. I am confident that Voz has the ability, commitment, and support to make the center a success.

Our organization is proud to be part of a broad coalition of support for VOZ. We are prepared to lend our advice, expertise, and support to this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Steven Witte
Director, Pacific Northwest Region
United Farm Workers

¡Con Unión Se Vive Mejor!

Founded by César E. Chávez (1927-1993)



Immigration Counseling Service

Providing immigrant legal services to persons fleeing persecution, families separated by borders, and individuals becoming citizens since 1978

October 23, 2007

Mayor Tom Potter and Review Committee
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter and Review Committee:

This letter is in support of VOZ Worker's Rights Education Project and their bid to run the City of Portland funded Workers Center.

For almost 30 years now ICS has provided immigration legal assistance to thousands of individuals who have come from over 100 different countries around the world. We are terribly concerned with the hostility being shown throughout our country today regarding minorities. We know Portland can set a better example.

A Workers Center will provide a safe and secure location for the contracting process between employers and day laborers, one of the most economically vulnerable groups of workers in our community.

VOZ has been promoting the rights and working to empower day laborers in Portland for over 10 years now. It is the only community organization that has the experience, the knowledge and the full understanding of the daily life of day laborers and their families.

We hope your committee will see fit to award this much needed project to VOZ. It could not be in better hands.

Sincerely,



Barbara B. Babcock
Executive Director

BBB/s

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 40248 • Portland, OR 97240
Street Address: 519 S. W. Park Avenue • Suite 610 • Portland, OR 97205
Phone: 503-221-1689 • Fax: 503-221-3063 • www.immigrationcounseling.org



THE

CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL ORGANIZING

2808 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. #13 | Portland, Oregon 97212 | (503) 287-4117 | www.interculturalorganizing.org

November 8, 2007

To Whom It My Concern,

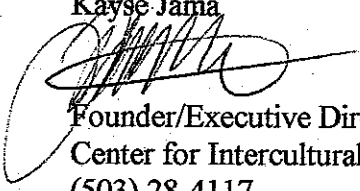
The Center for Intercultural Organizing would like to express our overwhelming support for VOZ and the development of the new Day Laborer Center on Portland.

The Center for Intercultural Organizing has been collaborating with VOZ for the past four years, supporting their diligent campaign of gaining the rights of undocumented day laborers in Oregon while collaborating successfully various projects and campaigns that advanced the rights of the immigrants and refugees in Oregon. VOZ works with one of the most vulnerable and visible immigrant population in Oregon, "the day laborers". Day laborers face daily struggles and challenges including harassments by anti-immigrant groups, unpaid wages, unsafe work condition, and outright discrimination. For the past ten years, VOZ has been advocating for the rights of undocumented day laborers by successfully collecting thousands of dollars of unpaid wages, providing educational opportunity including ESL classes, work safety workshops, commuter skills as well as educating the public about the issues and challenges that day laborers face. By doing so, VOZ has amplified the voices of the voiceless while taking the brunt of the hatred and xenophobia toward the immigrant community.

Day laborers work tirelessly in dangerous working conditions, are limited to the most intensive manual labor positions, and have to overcome daily activities most people take for granted, such as physical pain from labor, taking hot shower or where to sleep.

We strongly urge the City of Portland to award this grant to VOZ and make possible a better future for courageous men and women, and their families. The day laborers deserve a life of respect and dignity. By providing them a safe space where they can work collectively together, shelter from the cold winter, take shower or wait their prospective employers will be major step ward for not only them but the entire Portland Community, which they are part of it. Center for Intercultural Organizing will continue collaborating VOZ and we strongly support their proposal.

Kayse Jama



Founder/Executive Director
Center for Intercultural Organizing
(503) 28-4117
kayse@interculturalorganizing.org



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

October 17, 2007

Review Committee for Portland Day Laborers Center
c/o Mayor's Office
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue, #340
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

The Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) at the University of Oregon is pleased to support the application of Voz to operate and administer a center for day laborers in the city of Portland.

We salute the city of Portland's commitment to providing day laborers with a safe and secure environment in which to seek work. As the chief of police in Kansas City, Missouri observed after his department helped to establish a day laborers' center, the city saw a marked increase in neighborhood cooperation with the police, greater involvement between day laborers and the community, and the creation of an orderly system whereby employers could contract for the services of day laborers.

We believe Portland has the potential to create a similar experience and that Voz is the best candidate to develop a successful day laborers' center. LERC has been working with Voz over the past year as part of an ongoing effort to foster closer working relations between unions and community-based groups that work with immigrants. During that time we have been impressed by Voz's decade-long record of achievement in seeking to improve conditions for day laborers and integrate them into the community.

In addition to enjoying credibility with day laborers, Voz has developed a thoughtful, comprehensive plan for operating a successful workers' center. Voz will not only establish clear ground rules to govern the hiring process but will also offer workers a host of services (computer training, education about workers' rights, occupational safety, English language training, volunteer opportunities) that will enhance their personal skills, improve their employment prospects, and solidify their social attachments.

Voz has solid plans for adequately staffing and managing the center and a clear strategy for raising sufficient funds to make the center's long-term operation viable and sustainable. And Voz has also been successful in cultivating relationships with other organizations (unions, churches, non-profits, advocacy groups, political leaders) that will assist it in its quest to help day laborers become accepted members of the community.

LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

1289 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1289 ☎ (541) 346-5054

LERC, UO Portland Center, 722 SW 2nd, Portland OR 97204 ☎ (503) 725-3295



An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

As a program with a 30-year history of conducting education and research aimed at improving the lives of working Oregonians, LERC shares Voz's commitment to helping day laborers achieve a greater measure of dignity, respect, and social acceptance. We are committed to working with Voz once the day laborers' center is established and are convinced that it has the capacity to make the program a success.

We support Voz's application without hesitation and urge the Review Committee to render a favorable decision.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Bussel".

Bob Bussel

Associate Professor and Director
Labor Education and Research Center

November 8, 2007

Romeo Sosa
VOZ
1131 SE Oak
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Romeo;

TACS is committed to providing comprehensive fiscal management services to VOZ. Our fiscal management services will include:

- Design and implementation of a comprehensive accounting system, including design of a chart of accounts which will facilitate tracking the receipt and use of restricted government and foundation funds;
- Preparation of monthly financial statements including a Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and reports tracking the receipt and use of restricted grant funds;
- Design and implementation of financial policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that all funds are tracked correctly, all disbursements are made with proper authorization, and that accurate records of all financial transactions are maintained;
- Development and implementation of employment policies and practices to guide the terms and conditions of employment for VOZ employees, including provisions for hiring, promotion, evaluation, and termination which ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local law and regulation prohibiting discrimination;
- Selection of a payroll service provider and oversight of the preparation of payroll journals, paychecks, and payroll tax reports by the payroll service;
- Preparation of financial reports as required by governmental and foundation funding sources;
- Review of all funding agreements to identify financial management and data collection requirements and development of systems to ensure compliance with requirements;
- Assistance with the preparation of an annual budget and preparation of budget portions of funding proposals.

In addition to the services described above, we will be available to work with you and with the Board of Directors to develop strategies to strengthen the



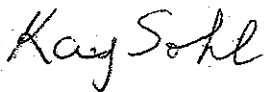
1001 SE Water Ave.
Suite 490
Portland, OR 97214
t 503.239.4001
f 503.236.8313
www.tacs.org

financial health of the organization. We will assist staff and board to build their understanding of standard nonprofit financial reports and to identify the key financial choices which VOZ will need to make. We are prepared to enter into an initial one year agreement to provide the services described above. We will want to work with you and the VOZ board to evaluate our work with VOZ. We will be prepared to continue providing fiscal management services in future years and also available to assist VOZ to develop its own financial management capacities.

TACS has over thirty years experience with nonprofit financial management services. We have provided fiscal management services for a variety of nonprofit organizations which have received federal, state, and local governmental funding as well as restricted funding from foundation grants and individual donor contributions. TACS is itself a nonprofit corporation which has received funding from federal, state, and local government sources as well as funding from multiple foundations, corporations, and individuals. TACS is audited by an independent auditor annually. We also provide the Northwest's most comprehensive training and consulting services on nonprofit financial management.

We look forward to working with VOZ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Sohl".

Kay Sohl, Executive Director

Technical Assistance for Community Services