



CITY OF

# PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICIAL  
MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1994 AT 9:30 A.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Blumenauer, Hales and Kafoury 4.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cay Kershner, Clerk of the Council; Kathryn Imperati, Senior Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Chuck Bolliger, Sergeant at Arms.

Agenda No. 1679 was pulled from Consent. On a Y-4 roll call, the balance of the Consent Agenda was adopted as follows:

## CONSENT AGENDA - NO DISCUSSION

- 1656** Accept bid of Parker Northwest Paving Co. for street and storm sewer improvement on SE Valentine Drive for \$91,501 (Purchasing Report - Bid C-9836)

**Disposition:** Accepted; prepare contract.

- 1657** Accept bid of Zink Commercial Contractors for Hayden Island Fire Station No. 17 for \$572,175 (Purchasing Report - Bid 31)

**Disposition:** Accepted; prepare contract.

## Mayor Vera Katz

- 1658** Confirm reappointment of Jerry Estoup, Dirk Looijenga and Donald Zarosinski to the Structural Engineering Advisory Committee (Report)

**Disposition:** Confirmed.

- 1659** Confirm appointment of David Emmons, Steve Preston and Jose Martinez to the Towing Board of Review (Report)

**Disposition:** Confirmed.

- \*1660** Pay claim of Johnny Senteno (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168209. (Y-4)

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- \*1661** Lease agreement with Tabor Heights United Church for Southeast Precinct Citizen's Advisory Council meetings (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168210. (Y-4)

- \*1662** Intergovernmental agreement with Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met), City of Portland and the City of Gresham for police services (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168211. (Y-4)

- \*1663** Agreement with Booth Research Group, Inc. not to exceed \$44,880 to develop and administer assessment centers for promotional exams (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168212. (Y-4)

- \*1664** Intergovernmental Agreement with Multnomah County Sheriff's Office for Multi-Agency DUII enforcement (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168213. (Y-4)

- \*1665** Intergovernmental Agreement with Port of Portland for inservice training for Port enforcement staff (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168214. (Y-4)

- \*1666** Authorize disbursement of City money in connection with forfeiture of property at 3510 NE Cadet Avenue, declare forfeited property to be surplus and authorize its sale and conveyance (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168215. (Y-4)

- \*1667** Create one Public Safety Specialist position in the Police Bureau in accordance with the Personnel Rules adopted by the City Council (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168216. (Y-4)

**Commissioner Earl Blumenauer**

- \*1668** Authorize the purchase of 41 microcomputers through the Oregon State Price Agreement and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168217. (Y-4)

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- \*1669** Contract with Metro for use of Metro's Geographic Information System technology and staff expertise for use with BOEC's Emergency Dispatch System (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168218. (Y-4)

**Commissioner Charlie Hales**

- \*1670** Contract with Zink Commercial Contractors for \$572,175 for construction of the Fire Bureau's Station 17 (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168219. (Y-4)

- \*1671** Intergovernmental Agreement with Federal Bureau of Investigation for Fire Bureau to provide medical and paramedical backup services to FBI SWAT team (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168220. (Y-4)

**Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury**

- 1672** Accept contract with Grady Harper Carlson, Inc. for construction of the Portland Public Safety facility as substantially complete and authorize release of retainage except for \$10,000 to be released upon notice of final completion (Report; Contract No. 28276)

**Disposition:** Accepted.

- \*1673** Contract with Volunteers of America of Oregon for \$66,882 for assistance to victims of domestic violence and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168221. (Y-4)

- \*1674** Contract with Multnomah County for \$35,418 for intensive probation supervision for domestic violence offenders and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168222. (Y-4)

- \*1675** Contract with Hacienda Community Development Corporation for \$15,000 to support strategic planning for affordable housing development and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168223. (Y-4)

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- \*1676** Contract with Human Solutions, Inc. for \$11,575 to support affordable housing development and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168224. (Y-4)

- \*1677** Contract with Portland Community Design for \$50,000 to provide architectural services to non-profit developers carrying out Community Development Block Grant eligible projects and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168225. (Y-4)

- \*1678** Contract with Central City Concern for \$192,888 to provide emergency repair and maintenance services to non-profit public facilities and residential hotels and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168226. (Y-4)

**Commissioner Mike Lindberg**

- 1680** Accept contract with Alliance Corporation for the Rose City sanitary sewer as complete and provide for final payment (Report; Contract No. 29007)

**Disposition:** Accepted.

- 1681** Accept completion of the Albina Basin CSO sump Unit 6 project and authorize final payment to Moore Excavation, Inc. (Report; Contract No. 29045)

**Disposition:** Accepted.

- \*1682** Authorize a contract and provide for payment for the Sullivan Basin CSO sump project Unit 1 (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168227. (Y-4)

- \*1683** Agreement with Montgomery Watson Americas, Inc. for services to accommodate compliance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168228. (Y-4)

- \*1684** Agreement with KPFF Consulting Engineers for \$182,704 for engineering services to prepare plans and specifications for water main replacement and provide for payment (Ordinance)

**Disposition:** Ordinance No. 168229. (Y-4)

REGULAR AGENDA

- \*1679** Authorize Purchasing Agent to sign a Purchase Order as a contract with Security Control Systems, Inc. for Datapark Parking Garage revenue control equipment at the estimated amount of \$13,810 without advertising for bids (Ordinance)

**Discussion:** Cay Kershner, Clerk of the Council, noted that there had been a request to return this to Commissioner Kafoury's office.

**Disposition:** Referred to the Commissioner of Public Affairs.

- 1654** **TIME CERTAIN: 9:30 AM** - Adopt the report and recommendations for consolidation and process modifications for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and the Arterial Traffic Calming Program (Resolution introduced by Commissioner Blumenauer)

**Discussion:** Commissioner Blumenauer said even though there are serious problems in Portland as traffic continues to grow and transportation resources have been reduced, the City is recognized for its creative approach to dealing with these problems. Before Council today is an effort to do further streamlining, driven in part by lack of budget resources, and partly because of the success of a number of problem-solving initiatives. The shortened process is projected to cut in half the time a project takes, which is currently a year and a half, and this is likely to mean there will be more people appearing before Council in opposition to some of the projects. He said, however, the Bureau expects to do about the same amount of work with the scarce dollars that are available.

Susan Harnutt, Bureau of Traffic Management (BTM), said these recommendations are intended to simplify and enhance Portland's traffic calming efforts. This report has taken nine months and incorporates input from a technical advisory committee and two separate citizen committees. It contains four measures aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of BTM's current traffic calming program in the wake of budget reductions. She said efficiencies will be achieved primarily through a reduction in the time involved in projects. Also, because of increased knowledge about speed bump effectiveness, new program options will be offered and BTM will be able to expand the number of projects and shift some of the traffic calming efforts. In addition, neighborhoods will have the option of buying speed bumps if their streets are low on the priority list. The proposal calls for merging two programs, the Neighborhood Traffic Management and Arterial Traffic Calming Program, into one. It also calls for streamlining the public participation process and adds two new options for addressing streets with less complex problems. The new approach separates traffic calming projects into three categories: 1) collector streets; 2) complex local service streets; and 3) simple service streets. Other

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changes reduce the overall planning time for a typical collector or complex local street project from 26 to 13 months, primarily by scaling back on the number of public meetings. The area to which mailed meeting notices will be narrowed but at the same time alternative methods for reaching the public will be expanded, such as neighborhood newsletters, street signs and use of local newspapers. It also eliminates the formal Traffic Advisory Committee but maintains an interactive discussion process with affected residents. This change will reduce the efforts directed at achieving consensus and more residents may bring their concerns directly to Council. Existing ballot procedures will be maintained except on complex service streets that use diversionary devices where there will no longer be a difference in the response rate from other projects. This means that a majority of the ballots returned must indicate support for the plan but the requirement that a majority of the eligible ballots be returned will be dropped.

Ms. Hartnutt said another change implements the streamlined speed bump projects and establishes a new option on local service streets that have a speeding problem but do not score high under the existing selection criteria.

Under this option, a simplified selection criteria and planning process will be used which is intended to take a street from project initiation to construction in six to eight months. The final proposal, residential speed bump purchase projects, will allow residents to purchase speed bumps on qualifying streets and will require a public participation process during the planning phase. Payment options will include a permit or Local Improvement District (LID) process. The permit process will be initiated in FY 95/96 and the LID option will be added three months later. Current costs for the permit process are estimated to be \$400 to \$1,000 per household, depending on the number of speed bumps and number of participating households. For an LID, current costs are estimated at \$8.00 - \$15.00 per month, per household. An LID would require participation by all property owners and this was of some concern to citizens on the program development committee.

Ms. Harnutt noted some drawbacks in the proposal, including a reduction in BTM's ability to educate citizens about how to participate in government decision making. The shift away from consensus building could lead to an increase in the amount of contentiousness at City Council. Also, the ability to identify and channel project proponents is reduced because of the elimination of the formal traffic committee. However, these drawbacks are balanced by the benefits, which include enhanced public accessibility through consolidation of the two programs, reduction in per project cost through streamlining, provision of new options for the use of speed bumps on streets with less complex problems and, finally, repackaging of the program into a more efficient and effective format.

Dr. Joseph Cimino, 4010 SE 42nd, 97206, described a traffic speeding

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problem on SE 42nd between Powell and Holgate where there are no lights, speed bumps or stop signs. He said he is concerned for the safety of his and other children on a street where there appears to be no way to control the traffic. He said City staff told him his street is ranked about 39th on the priority list and would come up in about 13 years. He said he cannot wait that long. He was also told he could get a radar gun in about six weeks which would result in sending letters to speeders in another six weeks. He said getting such letters would not matter to these people and he does not think another option, putting up a banner asking people to slow down, will solve the problem either. While he favors streamlining, the criteria eliminates streets like his and the rationale for not putting a bump on his street is that it could push volume to other side streets. He said there are no other through streets and he learned from City staff that his street had too much traffic to qualify for a speed calming device. That kind of logic does not make sense. He said when there are high volume streets there should be a traffic calming device in place.

Commissioner Blumenauer suggested he continue talking to the Police Bureau as he gets such complaints all the time. He said it is a resource issue and a question in terms of police enforcement of traffic safety. He said he hopes Council will consider investing more in traffic enforcement as issuing some tickets would make a big difference.

Mayor Katz said she thinks there needs to be a response to the policy issue also.

Commissioner Blumenauer said there can and will be.

Jim Wygant, a member of the committee working on the NTMP revision and former member of the NTMP project in Eastmoreland, 7505 SE Reed College Place, 97202, urged support of the proposed revisions. He said the citizens group did not rubber stamp the Bureau proposals and suggested a number of changes which were incorporated into the final proposal. He said the committee was interested in identifying how time was being lost and how it could be saved. Most of the committee felt that a lot of time was lost on citizen complaints the City could do nothing about and also on complaints by people outside the affected area. Finally, because of the length of time the process took, time was being lost on the continual reeducation of people as new people came to meetings and raised issues that had already been considered. They also wanted to provide the greatest voice to those most directly affected, the people living on the streets, rather than those driving through and, in many cases, contributing to the problem.

Regarding the Eastmoreland project, Mayor Katz asked how early in the process were they able to identify conflicting views.

Mr. Wygant said they started with the idea of putting in lots of traffic

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circles and diverters and then found, after conducting some tests, that they were not as effective as had been believed. He said the same thing could have been accomplished with a shorter time line as, a year into the process, new people were coming in and suggesting things the rest had already rejected. A lot of time was lost bickering and arguing. He said anyone who has been through an NTMP process knows it is highly confrontational and can create a great deal of stress in the neighborhood. Having a process that goes on too long and gives voice to people not directly affected by the problems or the remedies does not help anybody.

Mayor Katz said identification of the issues seems to have occurred relatively early and asked if the contentiousness was due to the time it took to bring people in.

Mr. Wygant said most of the contention came from people who were against any project or change and were not open to any compromise.

Commissioner Blumenauer noted that consensus was never reached in this neighborhood.

Mr. Wygant said, however, that when it came time to vote on a semi-diverter that required quite a high level of acceptance, the Traffic Bureau received one of the highest returns it has ever had, about 90 percent, with 60 percent in favor. Thus, while the contention was never resolved, the issue was decided democratically. Now that the project is complete, everyone seems happy and the complaints have all evaporated.

Commissioner Blumenauer said the people who show up in Council will be those who are most strongly opposed and politicians do not like to hear anyone who is cranky. However, these changes do mean the Council will have to exhibit more leadership as there will be more controversy. He said he is convinced this program is critical to the livability of the City and that more, not less, should be done but he does not want Council to vote for this and then, the first time a contentious project comes before it, make staff go back and process it for another six months.

Mr. Wygant said there will be complaints from those opposed.

Mayor Katz said it places an extra burden on staff to hear all the issues initially.

Mr. Wygant said there is still a mechanism in the proposal for meetings and input.

Earl Grove, 607 NW Skyline Crest, 97229, Transportation Committee Chair, Forest Park Neighborhood Association, and a member of the Citizens Focus Group, said the group identified the issues early on and believe the result is a superior product which resolved those issues. He said because



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of budget restraints they had to set up fences as to where things start and stop and there were very difficult decisions. However, this addresses the need to get small projects going forward at a much smaller cost. He said their experience has also led to the placement of the first set of speed bumps in Multnomah County. He said both the Neighborhood Association and the Transportation Committee urge adoption.

Tom O'Keefe, United Community Action Network (UCAN), said they wish the City would consider reducing residential speeds from 25 to 20 miles per hour.

Paul Richmond, Box 454, 97207, said it is ironic that there is not enough money for public safety in the form of speed bumps while there seems to be lots of money for tactical operations of the Police Bureau. He noted the item on Consent today involving payment of a \$96,975 claim against the City resulting from a paramilitary raid which netted one marijuana cigarette. Of the 142 new officers added to the Bureau, 54 are in tactical operations, a division which has grown from 2 officers in 1989 to 56 in 1994. He said this division is also conducting educational programs for children which teach them to give information about their parents, neighbors and other school children.

Regarding Dr. Cimino's testimony, Ms. Harnutt said staff has learned that speed bumps do divert traffic and is concerned about where that traffic goes. A maximum volume of 1,700 cars per day has been set as the limit for streets eligible for speed bump installations. She explained why that number was chosen, adding that when negative impacts are created on other streets, mitigation is necessary so that the problem does not just move from street to street. She said as their knowledge about the impact of speed bumps increases they may be able to increase the volume from 1,700 to 2,000 cars a day or more. Dr. Cimino's street is still on the NTMP list and while they hope to get through it more quickly, she cannot predict when they will get to his. Regarding the identification of issues, she said they are taking steps to identify them at the very beginning.

Mayor Katz said the change in process will take much more intense staff work and puts the burden on them to deal with contentious issues in a much shorter time.

Commissioner Blumenauer said this is a resource question as people want more help and Council needs to invest more in this area. It is also a public safety law enforcement issue as citizens are being asked to design things to stop speeding while the Police are issuing fewer and fewer traffic tickets. Council will have to walk the talk as it has the worst public safety record of any City in the state with a population over 19,000. He said staff has come a long way but Council needs to support them.

Commissioner Hales said the traffic calming program is a success story and the streamlining is appropriate. People need plenty of opportunity to participate but the process should not be so truncated that people get burnt out.

Commissioner Kafoury said the clarion cry in the southwest area is for more sidewalks and traffic enforcement. This is a very good step but more resources and policing activity are needed.

Mayor Katz said she still maintains that the City must adjust its own way of doing business and staff must rethink how they respond to the public. Another aspect is allowing the community itself to make a financial commitment and she supports this. She said, however, the comments she has heard will not require reopening the two-year budget process. She said Council has never turned its back on its responsibility and has taken the heat even though sometimes things are returned to bureaus.

**Disposition:** Resolution No. 35217. (Y-4)

1655

**TIME CERTAIN: 10:15 AM** - Declare an assessment be conducted of Portland's neighborhood network/citizen involvement system (Resolution introduced by Commissioner Hales)

**Discussion:** Commissioner Hales said this is the time, after 20 years of success, to reexamine the City's neighborhood system, rather losing momentum or waiting until there is a crisis.

Diane Linn, Director, Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA), said they are excited about taking a hard look at a nationally-recognized 20-year old neighborhood system where face-to-face democracy is taken seriously. While there is no perfect way to do such an assessment and there will be controversy, they are proposing selection of a 25-member task force. Each coalition was asked to submit three names to serve on the Task Force. The Task Force will select its own chair and interview finalists for the consultant's position. Citizens will be involved every step of the way. Whether the process yields major or minor changes, the City is approaching this with an open mind and hope to reach agreement about how to involve citizens in government. They expect there will be conflict and welcome it in some ways. The system in Portland is great but the question is whether we have the guts to make it better. She cited support from Sarah Newhall, a former ONA director.

Charles Flake, 6520 NW 6th, #3, 97211, said this disturbs him for several reasons, including his inability to speak to Commissioner Hales about it despite repeated attempts. He said when this was presented to the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association there was a tentative disagreement because, after the coalition submits three names for the Task Force,

Commissioner Hales selects the one individual to be on it. That tells you that a dynasty is being created on behalf of ONA and loses the very reason why ONA was created, to allow citizens to speak. He said the wording needs to be changed or the citizens will lose the rights the City tried to give them. He said he is totally opposed to this unless it is presented in another way.

Ned Look, 770 NW Westover Square, 97210, supported the resolution, particularly the selection of an outside consultant. He agreed with Commissioner Hales that Portland has the outstanding example of how neighborhood associations should work, noting that when he served on the Portland Development Commission some years ago they had a terrible time getting citizens to attend the meetings. He also stated that the funding of ONA through the General Fund is unique throughout the country. As prior director of the Community Foundation, he said it has spent over \$300,000 in support of neighborhood committees and, with the help of the Ford Foundation, has also been very active in neighborhood economic development. He stressed that as Metro takes over more regional responsibilities, it becomes increasingly important that neighborhoods are truly represented. He said one concern is to make sure that citizens are properly represented and he does have the sense that citizens are not involved to the extent they should be. How you get that to happen is an ongoing challenge as you need to be terribly sure neighborhood associations are not controlled by a hardcore group of activists but are truly representative.

Earl Grove, Forest Park Neighborhood Association, representing the Neighbors West/Northwest Coalition, said they applaud this procedure. He said they believe their coalition is the most effective coalition in the City and rate its efficiency at about 80 percent, about as high a percentage as can be reached while still remaining democratic and allowing for off-the-wall participation. He said they see some coalitions, however, that appear to be down in the 10 or 20 percent functionality range. He said they also believe their coalition's efficiency is better than ONA's efficiency by a bunch. He said they are sometimes critical of the ONA office and believe it too should be examined. They also submitted three names and were told that all were turned down because of past disagreements with ONA. He said they are disturbed by that.

Jim Hibbard, President, Southwest Hills Residential League, said his organization, a member of ONA but not of a coalition, is very supportive of a study of the whole neighborhood association process.

Ron Fossum, 5533 NE 30th Ave., Chair, Concordia Neighborhood Association and board member of the Northeast Coalition, said assessment is a good idea but objected to the selection process, not because he believes Commissioner Hales would be unfair, but because citizens need to perceive

that the process is fair from the very beginning. He said he has talked to many people and the perception is that the process is flawed, comparing it to the selection of the Tri-Met board by a distantly-accountable governor. Council needs to look at a different way to get candidates and how they are selected. He said he does not know what the solution is but people's perception right now is that the process is flawed and if the City has to start out overcoming that handicap, it is in serious trouble.

Steve Johnson, 3707 SE Johnson Creek Blvd., 97222, said he has been involved in neighborhood activities since 1972 and also works at Portland State University (PSU), where he developed the neighborhood information profiles in order to help distribute funds equably through the City. They have also just completed a process of community asset building with Multnomah County, which involved 400 citizens, in identifying community resources. He said citizens and government are at a crisis point because the issues have become so complex, making it hard for citizens to get involved at an opinion level if they do not have the knowledge or skills to fully participate. Unfortunately, neighborhood associations have begun to determine their effectiveness by how many people show up at meetings rather than realizing that people may be involved but just do not like to go to meetings. He said the fact that only four people show up at a meeting may not indicate that people do not care and it is time to take a hard look at how citizen involvement is evaluated and at different ways to evaluate it. Unfortunately, some neighborhood associations are not truly representative and do not look at regional perspectives, instead becoming very insular and fighting among themselves. At PSU they are developing a class on effective citizen involvement and would welcome having students involved in the reevaluation of the program. Finally, the crisis in citizen involvement is not just limited to ONA; now just about every bureau has education outreach and money has been diverted from ONA to those efforts, perhaps because of some failure of the neighborhood network. For that reason, perhaps evaluation should not be limited to a neighborhood perspective as there are innumerable other ways citizens are involved.

Mayor Katz said she is glad he raised the issue of bureau outreach as that became a budget issue. There is a lot of outreach going on and she does not know if that is because of the failure of anybody or because of the need for each individual bureau to do it. They are trying to see if there is a more efficient way of accomplishing that same task and provide opportunities for neighborhood associations to bid on some of these projects since people come to them anyway. She asked him to share any information he had.

Patrick Jones, 2736 NE Ridgewood Dr., current ONA Bureau Advisory Committee Chair, described his extensive involvement in neighborhood organization, including the coalitions. He said his concern with what he experienced at the coalition level led him to look for some other avenue to affect change. He said the ONA Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC)

appeared to have the potential to look closely at the coalition model but it became apparent that many of the issues were controversial and must be addressed through some larger forum which this resolution would create. He said the BAC supports the resolution even though it realizes that a committee of 25 people is a lot of people and many others will want to be involved also. He said they assume there will be a broad and diverse selection of citizens on the committee and that it will look at neighborhood participation in the broadest sense, beyond even the association and coalition level. He said the study should include how the other bureaus do their outreach and affect direct communication to the neighborhood.

David Sweet, Bureau of Buildings, Neighborhood Inspection team, said since the Neighborhood Congress last year he has been meeting with other City staff and neighborhood coalition chairs to discuss issues around citizen involvement. He supported the resolution, adding that the Bureau of Buildings tailors its enforcement services to respond to the needs of neighborhoods and the work that it does can be very intrusive, thus requiring strong community support. He said the bureau does its best work when it can target problems where a consensus has been reached about their priority. Without consensus, the City is in danger of squandering its resources on the crankiest members of the community. The Bureau looks to form partnerships with neighborhoods to improve livability and need the active involvement of concerned citizens and represented groups of citizens. They look forward to improvements in the citizen participation process.

T. J. Browning, 3545 SE Ankeny, 97214, expressed concern about not hearing about this until yesterday. She said the current system seems to have turned into the tail wagging the dog as Laurelhurst views its coalition as an obstacle, just another bureaucracy to get through rather than a service that supports its goals. She said there is something wrong with that as the neighborhood associations are supposed to be a means for the community to share views and solve problems, not for trying to get through another bureaucracy at the coalition level, and then ONA, and then the government. The system is backwards. She concluded by noting that because she has no clue about this resolution or the procedure she is very nervous about how citizens are informed.

Tom O'Keefe, UCAN, said he lives in the Vernon neighborhood and supports this process as currently there are 23 neighborhood associations that overlap boundaries, which is very confusing to people. He said only four to five people attend his neighborhood association meetings, even though he lives in a neighborhood where gunshots ring out several times a week. He suggested that funding be made available so that every neighborhood association could produce a newsletter.

Scott Pratt, President, Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association, said he only found out about this yesterday, raising concerns about the process and also

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questioned holding this meeting during the daytime. The entire system does need to be examined and he supports efforts to do that. However, people should be notified and given the opportunity to participate.

Kay Durtschi, Southwest Neighborhood Information, said as past chair of a coalition, her group initiated some of the action addressed here, mainly in order to get better communication between the coalitions/ neighborhoods and City bureaus. She said with a new leader at ONA, that took a different direction but communication is still a key issue. The Neighborhood Congress revealed that people did not feel adequately represented. However, neighborhood associations are not representative but participatory organizations, a key philosophical point that needs to be stressed. When Sarah Newhall did her assessment some years ago, the equity problem between coalitions was very apparent and that also still needs to be addressed. She urged that the coalitions be given the right to choose who they want to represent them on this task force.

Mr. Flake said more people would be here in opposition if they had known this was coming to Council.

Charlotte Uris, 2526 NE 10th, said even though she is a neighborhood activist she is unaware of what the resolution actually says. She said she is committed to ensuring that citizens have access from the bottom up. There are always going to be people who do not attend meetings and no system, even with improvements, can ever be created that will get people out in mass. The main goal should be to provide access when it is wanted and Council should not worry about overburdening citizens as people have to figure out how to deal with the system. Access from the bottom up should be considered in determining how this task force is structured.

Commissioner Hales said if this is passed he intends to appoint a committee and bring that list to Council for affirmation. He said the committee needs to be broadly representative of the community, including coalitions, neighborhoods and other community organizations but it should not be delegates from those interests. This task force should be representative but not a house of delegates.

Commissioner Blumenauer said people in the neighborhoods have assumed an amazing set of responsibilities to make sure that the communications, facilitation and delivery of City services is done properly. He said Portland can have the best of both worlds -- a large diverse city with economies of scale and local units that can facilitate a sense of intimacy and provide a community feeling. Or, it can have the worst, a large impersonal City with people lost at the grass roots level. He said he believes this is a genuine attempt to make sure Portland has the best of both worlds and after 20 years it is appropriate to reconsider the process. If this review is done right, it will improve the quality of the governmental product.



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Commissioner Hales said this process will give the City an opportunity to demonstrate again that a neighborhood system adds to the riches of the City. This process will give citizens an opportunity to look at what has worked and what can be improved. He said there will be lots of opportunity for citizen involvement and the ONA director and staff are very capable of leading this process and making it credible and effective.

Commissioner Kafoury said this is a happy event. She noted that when she tried to do something similar several years ago, she quickly retreated, for many reasons, one of them being intense opposition to review from the coalitions. She agreed with Mr. Johnson that the City is doing business differently now than 20 years ago and this is not the only citizen participation activity available now. Given the amount of information and activity going on in the community, people are not going to know about every single thing. That should not always arouse mistrust even though it is an understandable reaction. Representative government does not mean everyone will know about everything or will be represented on every single activity. She said she hopes the focus can be on the substantive issues of City government and not just the process. How is Southwest going to get where they want on neighborhood traffic or how is Northeast going to address public safety? Those topics are not on a lot of neighborhood agendas but they need to be, rather than merely worrying about whether everyone knew about a meeting or had seen a resolution.

Mayor Katz said Commissioner Kafoury raised some of the critical issues she hopes will be addressed. This is 20 years of incredible history but after 20 years it is time to see if it can be done better and if any organizational changes are needed, including the way the City is organized. She raised some issues that need to be addressed: 1) the involvement of other community organizations not a part of the neighborhood association; 2) neighborhood association funding (now at the \$2 million level), what this has done to the dynamics of the organization and what equity issues are involved; 3) the autonomy of City-funded boards vis-a-vis City staff; 4) holding regular meetings as a neighborhood congress to discuss issues that ought to be addressed as a City, not a geographic area; 5) examining boundaries, including issues with the County; and 6) outreach and the need to be far more proactive rather than simply reactive in pulling people in. She said there are wonderful opportunities to address these issues and she hopes people do not get hung up on who appoints what individuals.

**Disposition:** Resolution No. 35318. (Y-4)

At 11:30 a.m., Council adjourned.

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WEDNESDAY, 2:00 PM, OCTOBER 19, 1994

1685

**TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM** - Appeal of Ashgar R. Sadri, applicant, against Hearings Officer's decision to impose Condition C in approving application for a recreational vehicle park and a manufactured home subdivision located between NE Marine Drive, NE Faloma Road and NE 13th (Hearing; 94-00309 PU SU EN)

**Disposition:** Appeal withdrawn.

BARBARA CLARK  
Auditor of the City of Portland

*Cay Kershner*  
By Cay Kershner  
Council Clerk