



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

**OFFICIAL
MINUTES**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS **29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2007** AT 9:30 A.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Commissioner Adams, Presiding; Commissioners Leonard and Sten, 3.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karla Moore-Love, Clerk of the Council; Harry Auerbach, Chief Deputy City Attorney; and Dave Kline, Sergeant at Arms.

| DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS NO EMERGENCY ORDINANCES WERE CONSIDERED THIS WEEK AND ITEMS WERE NOT HEARD UNDER A CONSENT AGENDA | | Disposition: |
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| REGULAR AGENDA | | |
| Mayor Tom Potter | | |
| Office of Management and Finance – Human Resources | | |
| 1016 | Create a new nonrepresented classification of Portland Streetcar Operations Supervisor and establish a compensation rate for this classification (Ordinance) | PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM |
| 1017 | Change the salary range of the nonrepresented classification of Law Office Administrator (Ordinance) | PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM |
| 1018 | Create a new represented classification of Development Services Technician Trainee and establish an interim compensation rate for this classification (Ordinance) | PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM |
| 1019 | Create a new nonrepresented classification of Development Supervisor II and establish a compensation rate for this classification (Second Reading Agenda 989) (Y-3) | 181226 |
| 1020 | Change the salary range of the nonrepresented classification of Sustainable Development Director (Second Reading Agenda 990) (Y-3) | 181227 |
| Office of Management and Finance – Purchases | | |

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| 1021 | Accept bid of 2KG Contractors, Inc. for the Combined Pool Upgrades and Improvements for City Swimming Pools for \$929,100 (Purchasing Report - Bid No. 106909) (Y-3) | ACCEPTED PREPARE CONTRACT |
| 1022 | Accept bid of Wildish Standard Paving Company for the Portland International Raceway Repave and Realign Main Track Surface Project for \$2,000,246 (Purchasing Report - Bid No. 107782) (Y-3) | ACCEPTED PREPARE CONTRACT |
| Office of Management and Finance – Revenue | | |
| 1023 | Approve contract with Emerald's Towing and Recovery, LLC, District 2, for towing and storage of vehicles (Second Reading Agenda 1012) (Y-3) | 181228 |
| Police Bureau | | |
| 1024 | Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Port of Portland to establish guidelines to determine primary law enforcement agency jurisdiction in the Portland International Center, protocols for responding to major events and to investigate major crimes that occur on Port of Portland property within the city limits (Second Reading Agenda 995) (Y-3) | 181229 |
| Portland Development Commission | | |
| 1025 | Accept approvals and denials of the Limited Tax Abated Single Family New Construction, Rental Rehabilitation and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Properties from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 (Resolution) (Y-3) | 36528 |
| Commissioner Sam Adams | | |
| 1026 | Create the City of Portland Sweatshop Free Procurement policy for uniforms and clothing purchases to be fully implemented in 2008 (Resolution) Motion to change resolved paragraph to provide funding in the fall 2007 budget monitoring process. Moved by Commissioner Sten and seconded by Commissioner Leonard. (Y-3) (Y-3) | 36527 AS AMENDED |
| 1027 | Authorize payment to Sweatfree Communities, Inc. to support formation of the State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium (Ordinance) | REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER OF UTILITIES |
| Bureau of Environmental Services | | |
| 1028 | Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Portland State University to coordinate Community Watershed Stewardship Grants (Ordinance) | PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM |
| Office of Transportation | | |
| 1029 | Grant revocable permit to Restaurant Services, Inc. to close SW Stark St between 10th Ave and 11th Ave on September 2, 2007 (Ordinance) | PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM |

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| <p>1030 Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Metro for the City to receive \$30,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds for the CarpoolMatchNW project (Second Reading Agenda 1000)</p> <p>(Y-3)</p> | <p align="center">181230</p> |
| <p align="center">Commissioner Randy Leonard</p> <p>1031 Direct the Office of Management and Finance to negotiate a fair purchase price for video replay screens owned by the Portland Winter Hawks and have them installed in Memorial Coliseum before the first home game of the 2007 Winter Hawks hockey season (Resolution)</p> | <p align="center">REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY</p> |
| <p>1032 Establish Code to regulate sales of graffiti materials (Second Reading Agenda 984; add Code Chapter 14B.85)</p> <p>(Y-3)</p> | <p align="center">181231</p> |
| <p align="center">Commissioner Dan Saltzman</p> <p align="center">Parks and Recreation</p> <p>1033 Delegate to the Director of the Portland Parks & Recreation bureau the authority to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements with the Portland Development Commission to provide professional, technical and construction services for parks, natural areas and recreation facilities improvements (Second Reading Agenda 1004)</p> <p>(Y-3)</p> | <p align="center">181232</p> |
| <p align="center">City Auditor Gary Blackmer</p> <p>1034 Assess property for sidewalk repair by the Bureau of Maintenance (Hearing; Ordinance; Y1063)</p> <p>Motion to overrule remonstrance: Moved by Commissioner Leonard and seconded by Commissioner Sten. (Y-3)</p> | <p align="center">PASSED TO SECOND READING SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AT 9:30 AM</p> |

At 11:47 a.m., Council recessed.

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A RECESSED SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS **29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2007** AT 6:00 P.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Commissioner Adams, Presiding; Commissioners Leonard and Sten, 3.

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

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| 1035 TIME CERTAIN: 6:00 PM – Develop options to provide affordable health care services to uninsured workers of City contractors (Resolution introduced by Commissioner Adams) Motion to amend to designate Commissioner of Public Utilities to bring funding forward in the fall budget process; to designate that Health Care consultant have extensive relevant expertise; that the Project Committee be jointly appointed by the Mayor and Commissioner of Public Utilities; to provide for town hall meetings. Moved by Commissioner Sten and seconded by Commissioner Leonard. (Y-3) (Y-3) | Disposition: 36529 AS AMENDED |
| 1036 Authorize contract with a healthcare consultant to develop options to provide affordable health care services to uninsured workers of City contractors (Ordinance introduced by Commissioner Adams) | REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER OF UTILITIES |

At 7:47 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 File.

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Closed Caption File of Portland City Council Meeting

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

Key: ***** means unidentified speaker.

[The following text is the byproduct of the closed captioning of this program. The text has not been proofread and should not be considered a final transcript.]

AUGUST 29, 2007 9:30 AM

Adams: For those of you that haven't, the decorum of the room is that you don't clap or those kinds of things. If you like something that somebody said, you do jazz hands like this.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: We all need to practice that. Everybody?

*****: [laughter]

Adams: Very good. Making sure. Staff, you're good sports back there. We're just waiting for commissioner Leonard's arrival, and we'll have a quorum and begin. Also, when you come forward to testify, you have to state your name, and you'll be given three minutes. The timer clock will beep and warn you when you have 30 seconds left, and then it will beep loudly when your time is up.

*****: [roll call]

Adams: We have no communications this morning. We have no consent agenda item. We have 19 regular items on the calendar. And if it's ok with the city council, i'd like to extend courtesies to -- we have two elected officials here. One is labor commissioner dan gardener and senator brad avakian. If you want to come forward -- did you want to testify, senator? Ok.

Leonard: Good morning.

*****: Good morning. Thank you.

Adams: Glad you're here.

Dan Gardner, Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries: For the record, my name is dan gardener, commissioner of the bureau of labor and industries. I'm here to testify on the sweat-free workplace ordinance. I want to thank you for inviting me here today and thank the city council for listening to my testimony. Rumor has it in the hallway that it's commissioner Leonard's birthday, and I wanted to wish him a happy birthday. I understand -- is it your 60_th_?

Leonard: 38.

Gardner: Just checking.

Adams: We should take a vote on that. You swore to tell the truth, the whole truth.

*****: We should always tell him to turn his collar down on his birthday.

Leonard: That's what happens.

Adams: It's the don johnson look from the '80_s_. He's in his mid 30_s_.

Gardner: Careful. I remember that series.

Leonard: Yeah. [laughter]

Gardner: As labor commissioner and electrician, i'm always proud to stand in support of workers' rights, and the Oregon bureau of labor and industries was founded over 100 years ago. In his 1903 inaugural address, governor george chamberlin called for the creation of the bureau of labor to study conditions in Oregon's factories. Our first missive was to cause to be enforced all laws recording employment of children, minor, and women operating in workshops, factories, mills, and

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other places. And all laws enacted for protection of the working class. In those days, the bureau dealt with ensuring workers had access to proper sanitation, ventilation, and lighting. We worked on creating safe, clean workplaces that paid fair wages and set limits on the working day. Now here we are 100 years later and still trying to bring safety and fairness to Oregon workers. But now it's time to take the next step. We must not allow public moneys to go into the pockets of businesses who do not comply with the basic standards of health, safety, wages, and hour laws. This is more than a strong symbolic statement. It's a legitimate issue of economic justice for all Oregonians, and it's a way to change how these companies do business and more municipalities in states that get involved, the larger impact we have and the faster this will change. Unfortunately, many u.s. Corporations continue to use sweatshops despite these horrible human rights violations 'cause it results in cheaper labor and thus bigger profits, but there is more to business than the bottom line. The means absolutely do not justify the ends and all of us here know that sweatshops are just bad business. That's why i'm proud to be here today, not only to praise the hard work and efforts of the sweat-free coalition, the northwest Oregon labor councils, and the unions and importance of this issue but to strongly urge you, the Portland city council to, adopt a sweat-free government purchasing ordinance. Nationally, sweat-free groups have asked local representatives. Already the cities of san francisco and los angeles have adopted sweat-free ordinances with living wages and a budget of \$100,000 each for staffing and independent monitoring to ensure the good intentions are translated into good results. As a place that has always been on the cutting edge of social justice issues, it is just good sense that the city of Portland consider how and where we spend our funds. We should set an example for our neighboring cities and states that we won't let our taxpayer dollars go into the pockets of these corporations who force their employees to work in unimaginable conditions. Therefore I ask today the city council to take the important first step to bring the underprivileged countries dignity, a decent wage, and a chance to organize against oppression. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you, commissioner. And I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for coming before the city council. I think you're the statewide official that has been willing to appear before us more than any other. So thank you for that and also thank you for the excellent work that you do as the state's labor commissioner. Senator, good to see you.

Brad Avakian, State Senator: Thank you, commissioner. Brad avakian, state senator northwest Portland and here to testify also on the sweatshop-free ordinance and very pleased to see this up today, especially right before the labor day weekend. As you know, there are some legislators who have contemplated similar statewide law, but the city of Portland taking the lead is a very nice thing to see. No city, no state is ever without its trials regarding equal rights, but one of the great legacies of Portland and of the state is that, when it comes to the rights of its individuals and the best lifestyles of its individuals, the city of Portland also rises to the occasion, and so I am very, very pleased to see you bringing this ordinance forward today. The commissioner mentioned the importance of economic justice, which this ordinance brings, and I will echo that, that it brings something even more in addition that, and that's one of human rights. This sets a standard not only for the city of Portland and will for the state of Oregon but it also sends a very clear message to anybody wanting to do business with us that we have certain expectations regarding the rights of humans and, for that reason in particular, I strongly urge you to pass the ordinance and am fully supportive of all of your efforts. Thank you.

Adams: Thanks, senator. For those that might not know it as well, senator avakian has been a leader on many issues, but I wanted to take this opportunity to especially underscore thanks for being here today but underscore your work in the area of environmental justice. You've been a tireless advocate. You've paid attention to this issue not only for the city of Portland, the Portland region but for the whole state.

Leonard: If I could say a couple things, dan and I had the opportunity to serve together in the

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legislature. What he's saying here today is absolutely consistent with his entire career as an adult, I think, for working-class people. Brad and I never had the opportunity to work together, but Brad shared the committee last session that our biofuels ordinance went through in which the oil industry tried everything possible to have Portland's ordinance repealed and Brad was a wall and stood up for Portlanders. And having never worked with you before, frankly I didn't know what to expect. I was so impressed with your work and your commitment to doing the right thing. It's very much appreciated by me. I was looking forward to having an opportunity to tell Portlanders what a great senator you've been on our behalf. Thank you.

*****: That's very nice. Thank you.

*****: The best you get from us is a "happy birthday," but that's good, too.

Adams: Unless there's objection from my colleagues, Carl La, I'd like to move agenda item 1026 to be heard next, which is the sweat-free procurement policy. We've got a lot of people in the audience. If you wouldn't mind reading 1026?

Item 1026.

Adams: Council, it's my honor to bring forward this resolution. This resolution sets in motion a process to create the city of Portland's sweatshop-free procurement policy for uniform and clothing purchases to be fully implemented in the months to come. As a first step, I will nominate a committee, with your approval, to serve and to designate as designated to create the actual policy and the code of conduct for the city on this issue. My staff will submit the funding request during the fall, 2007 bump to support our involvement in the state and local sweatshop-free consortium. This resolution does not implement a sweat-free purchasing policy and does not extend beyond apparel at this time. This resolution, we set out to do two things. One, to help support the launch of the national effort that joins state and local governments together to end state and local government's procurement of sweatshop workplace garments, and we begin the process to create this policy for Portland. We are benefited by the fact that a number of cities have gone before us, and we are able to learn from their successes and their challenges. In both these efforts, our goal is to act on our values as a community and to lead by example as a government. Now, the national effort in March, 2007, sweat-free communities, convened a historic meeting of human rights activists and public officials to agree to form the state and local government sweat-free consortium that will pool resources to investigate and monitor supplier factories, work with suppliers to coordinate and implement codes of conduct, and verify compliance with the codes of conduct. This resolution calls the city of Portland to join the consortium as a provisional founding member. When the consortium represents a critical level of purchasing power, within a year, we're told, the sweat-free consortium will be able to take action on our behalphen. With this resolution, we will join the states of Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Madison, and Providence in this effort. Our commitment today is intended to send a clear message that we support this national effort and intend to be a part of the founding government bodies. Our financial commitment upfront makes it clear to our partners and underscores our commitment to the consortium's success. In making it work here in Portland, while we are helping to get the national consortium off the ground, we will take this opportunity to find a policy that will work for the city of Portland in our uniform and apparel purchasing. We will ask our suppliers to disclose information about the name and location of their factories so that we can contribute this information to the consortium. A diverse committee, made up of advocates, uniform wearers, experts, and apparent experts will create a policy and code of conduct that conforms to the spirit of this resolution and works in practice. Given the experience of other jurisdictions, we know that making this policy operational is a crucial step towards real progress. Our goal with this resolution is to act on our community values, and I ask the city council for your consideration. I want to thank upfront a number of individuals and organizations locally, especially the Global Exchange, the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, Portland Jobs with Justice, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, public

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sector unions such as the laborers and afscme, the Portland firefighters union, the Portland police union, ainsworth united church of christ, foundation garments incorporated, and the national workers rights consortium and sweat-free communities organizations. In addition to senator avakian and commissioner gardener, I want to thank debra schwartz, Portland's sweat-free congresswoman pain coordinator, for her tireless efforts in working with us. Thank you. If we could clap, you deserve a big round of applause. Jeff bayer and christine moody from the bureau of purchasing for working with us on this. Jim van dyke and the city attorney's office. A very special thank you to my staff as well, terry richardson and kimberly schneider. Speaking of kimberly schneider, i'll ask you to give an overview of the resolution.

Kimberly Schneider, Mayor's Office: Sure. Good morning. My name is kimberly schneider, and i'm being joined by terry richardson in spirit, who's not here for health reasons but has been overseeing this for the last year. I want to give a brief overview, talk about the amendment, and then talk about the committee nomination process. Jeff baer, director of purchasing, joins me in responding to the questions you may have. As commissioner Adams said, this represents two concurrent steps. First of all, we'll be appointing a nine-person committee win the next month made up of diverse stakeholders, including public employees who wear uniforms, advocates, supply experts, city purchasing director. It will be appointed and facilitated by the commissioner of public utilities, and their goal will be to create a code of conduct and a policy before september of 2008. Once the codes are adopted, the policy committee will be disbanded to be -- so that there will be an oversight committee that will meet and report to council annually on the process. In terms of supporting the national consortium, we will be joining the consortium and contributing 1% of the cost in uniforms and clothing that we purchase, which is what the consortium is asking of its local jurisdictions who have joined it. And it will be an ongoing membership fee. Finally, in terms of the amendment, following financial planning's recommendation, the resolution will direct our office to prepare -- i'm sorry. The resolution will direct our office to prepare a budget amendment for the fall bump. This is stabs council's policy and intention to make these payments at the time and gives financial planning clear direction to recommend the approval. As such, in the second, be it further resolved, the amendment replaces the second sentence, which is upon passage of an ordinance with the commissioner of public utilities will bring forward actions in the fall, 2007 budget monitoring process necessary to pave the sum of \$20,000 to sweat-free communities, inc., to support the formation of the consortium.

Jeff Baer, Director of Procurement: For the record, i'm jeff bayer, the director of procurement with the bureau of purchases. I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the proposed resolution to create a sweat-free procurement policy. I really do applaud the efforts of the sweat-free communities. Although at times we've probably differed in our approach, I think we are really on the same page in regard to our intent to work with our uniform suppliers who do have a satisfactory record of performance and integrity. We certainly do not want to be doing business with companies who utilize sweatshop labor. In that regard, I actually have done a fair amount of research to find out how other public agencies are approaching this subject, one of which I recently attended the san francisco sweat-free procurement advisory committee. In fact I saw valerie orth, who chairs that committee, in the audience this morning. It was very helpful to understand some of the challenges they have undergone over the past two years. And, with that, i've also engaged in -- on the national level, teleconferenced in with representatives from the city of austin, city of milwaukee, wisconsin, state of maine, and also san francisco and state of california. For me, I guess what i'm really looking for is this policy committee. I think we really need to have strong representation from suppliers to really bring them into a dialogue that helps us create a policy that really works. We can learn from the folks that have actually gone down this road and create a policy that is solid in the end. Regardless of where we end up, I think it's my intent to stay engaged nationally. I think it's in line with some of our other national discussions we've had on our

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sustainable procurement issues. With that, i'll just stop. If you have any questions -- i'm sure there will be a lot of testimony coming up, too.

Adams: Any questions for this panel? Thank you very much. We have four individuals for invited testimony. Debra schwartz, carol stalke, chia budd, and valerie orth.

Harry Auerbach, Sr. Deputy City Attorney: Commissioner, did you want to have somebody move your amendment?

Adams: Thank you.

Sten: So moved.

Leonard: What's the amendment?

Adams: To come back through the bump.

Leonard: Seconded.

Adams: Could you call the roll only the amendment to 1026?

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: Well, it's been a long road. Congratulations so far. Thank you, debra, for being here. Go ahead.

Deborah Schwartz, Coordinator, Portland Sweat-free Campaign: Thank you, commissioner Adams. My name is debra schwartz, and i'm the coordinator of the Portland sweat-free campaign with global exchange. Again, thank you, commissioner Adams, for the important issue -- for bringing the important issue of sweatshop abuses before our city council for a resolution and vote. I would also like to thank commissioner Leonard, commissioner Sten, commissioner Saltzman, and mayor Potter. Finally I would like to thank the 45-plus labor, faith, political, who have passed a sweat-free policy that includes a code of conduct that protects workers' rights, funding for independent monitoring, and policy and oversight committees free from conflict of interest. Specifically I want to address three key points included in the proposed resolution. First, the proposed resolution calls for disclosures of suppliers' factory names and locations. When companies do make factory names and locations publicly available, workers can register complaints, and independent monitoring associations can investigate reported problems and work together to help correct violations. I up a played the city of Portland for taking this important first step. Numerous colleges and several cities have made this essential information public. Second, this resolution and accompanying ordinance will support the formation of the state and local government's sweat-free consortium which will collaborate with other public agencies to share information and cost of monitoring suppliers. No single state or local government has adequate resources to monitor and verify working conditions and enforce sweat-free standards of supplier factories beyond their immediate jurisdiction. But because there is a large number of public entities committed to sweat-free procurement, it is now possible to pool resources and ensure -- to ensure code of conduct compliance. This is a really important step to make sure that the city of Portland continues to be a leader in sustainability and worker resolutions. Finally, the final ordinance, to make sure it's fully and properly implemented, while we applaud the city of Portland for taking steps to make sure that this policy is extremely enforceable, on behalf of the coalition and members of the campaign, I believe I would like to point out that it would provide a potential conflict of financial interest to allow suppliers to create the very policy that would let them qualify for city contracts. We believe that it is also unfair business practices to allow suppliers to oversee and review their own eligibility for those same contracts. I believe we can work together to create a diverse committee in the best interest of sweatshop workers in the city of Portland, and I look forward to creating a committee with the utmost integrity. So today we ask the city of Portland to pass a sweat-free procurement resolution to make sure our city does not purchase goods from sweatshops and deny people their legal rights and dignity. More than 170 different cities, states, districts, and schools nationwide have passed similar policies. The city of Portland, including the sustainability resolutions passed in 1994, can join with cities and states nationwide and work here

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locally to create a policy that can be effective for the dignity of all workers. This resolution is an important first step to address sweatshop conditions. I thank you, commissioner Adams, for your tireless work on this important issue. Thank you.

Adams: One thing just so that everybody knows city suppliers being on the committee, they will not be on the committee. Part of the length of the discussion of bringing this forward is that the discussion of how to include the expertise of suppliers without giving them the role of voting on the policy, and I think we've had a really good discussion that they will not be on the committee that votes on the creation of the policy, but they will be brought in as often as needed to make sure that we've got -- the committee has their point of view. But the voting on the policy, the committee that votes on the policy that comes before the city council, will not include anyone with a conflict of interest such as a city supplier, current or future city supplier.

Schwartz: Thank you, commissioner Adams.

Carol Stahlke, President AFSCME local 189: Good morning. My name is carol stahlkee. I'm the president of afscme local 189. I represent the public employees throughout all the bureaus in the city of Portland. I would like to thank you for bringing this. I think this is a historic day for the city of Portland. It goes in line with everything that we've already done here. It's a huge step in making sure that the taxpayers aren't paying for inhumane working conditions or poverty wages. We're always talking about our living wage. Lives wages, a living wage ordinance for working families and how everyone deserves health benefits, it's our opportunity to walk our talk. There's going to be a lot of changes in the next year. There's going to be a lot of changes in our global economy in the next year, couple years. I think that the more that we raise the bar now and fight the sweatshop labor, then in the future, as more cities, counties, and states come onboard and pass the sweat-free resolution, it will become evident that we don't need sweatshops. With incentives to perform and the living wage, that will result in better goods and services and productivity and healthy employees with dignity. I know that we can get there together, the city of Portland. We've done a lot together so far. Working together on this policy committee will be important. I'm looking forward to working on it. Hopefully I can. I think that it will be important to have industry experts there. I would like to ask that the nomination process be in the city council forum or some sort of public forum.

Adams: I'll be nominating. I think kimberly, who testified -- just to clarify, i'll be nominating, but the city council would approve.

Stahlke: Ok.

Adams: I'll be nominating who would be on it, but the city council will actually create and approve the nominations.

Stahlke: Perfect. Then I would -- i'm in support of the sweat-free resolution obviously. I'd ask for your support of the sweat-free resolution and also your support of the committee creating the policy into the future.

Adams: Thank you. And thanks for all the good work you do in partnership with us, not just on this but all kinds of issues. It really takes a whole village to keep city government running.

Stahlke: It does.

Adams: Especially our workforce.

Stahlke: Thank you, sam.

Chie Abad, Global Exchange: Good morning. Commissioners, thanks for being here. My name is chia bud, and I work for global exchange, which is an international nonprofit human rights organization based in san francisco. But before joining global exchange eight years ago, I used to work as a garment worker at sacco corporation for six years in japan commonwealth. I used to work in which in tie pan they use the label "made in the u.s.a.," so I am an example of an individual who can prove that accounts of sweatshop labor of not just allegations but actual living conditions when I was there working for six years. Saipan is a u.s. Territory in the south pacific. So while working

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there, I experienced working 14 hours in a day, seven days in a week, especially during the peak of the production from may till october. So inside the factory, we have no ventilation at all. We drink the rain water. We have older system that we need to finish every hour. I also used to live in a squalid, unsanitary, overcrowded barracks with bunk beds only, a tin roof, tin walls, and concrete floors. And multiple women are fired if they got pregnant. So on january 13 of 1999, three separate lawsuits were filed in behalf of my co-garment workers in saipan who work in the factories that sew clothes -- clothing for u.s. Clothing retailers. I play a major role in 26 retailers in which they settled the lawsuit in 2002, getting \$20 million to pay back workers back wages and to create an independent moratory to prevent future abuses. We want to pass a resolution to make government purchases. For workers like me, we need to pass a resolution here in the city of Portland to ensure that our tax dollars are not supporting sweatshops. Such resolution includes the suppliers' full public disclosure of the factories, funding for independent monitoring, and creation of a policy and oversight committee, including abdicate. It is crucial that neither of these have representatives from garment industry, because it is a conflict of interest. So workers like me whose human and labor rights are violated by sweatshops deserves a policy free from the industry influence. So city council members, please pass this resolution because this will help workers, because we will create a demand or market for sweat-free garments and therefore which will lead more to no sweat factories and therefore give workers more opportunities to work under the dignified labor conditions. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much. You're not allowed to clap. So you wave your hands. You came late. Jazz hands. Talk a little bit more, if you would, about the prevalence of sweatshops in the territory of the united states. I don't think most people would know that garments made in -- where you were working get labeled made in u.s.a., and I don't think that the public knows that there are sweatshops that make items that say "made in the u.s.a." could you talk a little more about how common that is?

Abad: Well, in saipan, which is this is a u.s. Territory in the south pacific, the u.s. Government allowed them to use the "made in the u.s.a." label, like, a tariff-free if they export the goods from saipan to the united states, and they are also allowed to hire guest workers to do those jobs and stuff like that. So now, like puerto rico, saipan -- what else? The federal states of micronesia, the fiji islands. All can say "made in the u.s.a."?

Abad: Yes, sir.

Adams: Thanks for being here.

Abad: Thank you, sir.

Valerie Orth: My name is valerie orth. I'm the chair of the san francisco sweat-free procurement advisory group. I came here today to applaud commissioner Adams and the chairman of Portland for taking a stand against sweatshops and edge courage steps to create and implement a strong policy. Chia bud's personal story alone underlines the importance of tax dollars to subsidies. We have learned much from the implementation and enforcement process in san francisco. The ordinance was passed in september, 2005 as the nation's strongest anti-sweatshop ordinance so far. I believe, as commissioner Adams has stated, that the city of Portland can learn from our process as well none of the contractors who supply san francisco comply 100% with our sweat-free ordinance.

This should not come as a surprise, because sweatshops in the garment industry are the norm, not the exception. And the ordinance prohibits the city of san francisco from purchasing goods made in sweatshops. The strategy then is to work with the contractors to disclose necessary specifics such as factory locations so the city can improve the working conditions in the factories where it actually has purchasing power. No city on its own, however, has enough market presence and resources to ensure that vendors and companies further down the supply chain make the changes required for code compliance. Portland is solving this problem, as stated in the resolution that will hopefully be passed today -- Portland is solving this problem by delaying code implementation until 2008 when

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the state and local government sweat-free consortium is operational. The consortium will create enough purchasing power to effectively implement the procurement policies and improve working conditions on a greater scale. Thank you for your work in making sure tax dollars are not used to subsidize sweatshops, and I look forward to the success of Portland's sweat-free law.

Adams: I have a question. Based on your work on this issue -- and we get the national consortium off the ground, when we get to \$100 million, sort of, worth of national textile garment buying power, in your opinion is that big enough to sort of get the attention of the industry and the suppliers to start making the changes in their procurement and manufacturing policies?

Orth: Yes. I think for sure that will be enough purchasing power. One important thing that I believe the consortium -- international consortium is working to create is a list of factories that all the cities and states can consolidate their purchasing power, and that way, with a handful of factories as opposed to hundreds and thousands of factories that we are kind of dispersed at this point, we can keep a closer watch and what's actually going on in the factories and support workers' struggles and improve working conditions there.

Adams: Really appreciate you traveling from the bay area to be with us today, and thanks for all your early work on this issue.

Orth: Thank you.

Adams: Thank you all. All right. We're now going to take public testimony. If you signed in, then you will be called. If you did not sign in, then you will not be called, and we just call the testimony in the order in which people signed in. Karla?

Moore-Love: We have 13 people signed up.

> [names called of those testifying]

Adams: I just want to state for the record that that is one of the few leaders of faith who have actually dunked me in a dunk tank.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: She has a fierce right-hand pitch.

*****: Well, thank you. [laughter]

Leonard: Did it feel good? [laughter]

*****: But I throw left-handed.

Adams: It was all a blur to me.

*****: It was great. Baptism again, and I've never done an immersion again.

Leonard: Did the water begin boiling when Sam entered it?

*****: Actually, it was pretty tepid.

Leonard: Was it?

Adams: Glad you're here, Reverend.

Rev. Lynne Smouse Lopez: Thank you. I thank you for the opportunity to be here and to speak and for you to take this step in justice for our city. As a former pastor of a church in south central Los Angeles, I can tell you that sweatshops were very much a reality there, as they are here and around the country. I pastored some people who worked in sweatshops and also did piecework work at home and that amounted to the same. Poor and unsafe working conditions, unethical treatment, and below-standard subsistence wages is what they earned. As part of Ainsworth United Church of Christ in northeast Portland, we are an open and affirming church, and we are a just peace congregation. We took a stand to support sweat-free -- the sweat-free ordinance in Portland. We've continued to be involved and concerned about workers' rights and workers' justice. Because of our faith tradition and because of the commitment of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, which has always been a denomination to stand for worker and economic justice as well as racial and other kinds of justice, we've decided to stand and speak up and be very much involved in this movement. As disciples of Christ, in our faith, we believe that we are called to stand, and we follow Jesus who stood for the poor, the abused, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. It's an issue of faith

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for us as well as moral and ethical behavior and state of mind. The people in our state, in our country, and around the world are suffering. Suffering as they toil in unsafe working conditions earning less than what they need to live and survive. Just so we can have a bargain, so we can buy something for less. I as much as anyone, with two teenagers, love bargains. I really do. But I can no longer be silent when the bargain means others must suffer. We don't want our tax dollars to pay for this suffering or support sweatshops, and we call upon you to pass this resolution. We also call upon you -- and i'm glad you clarified it -- that nobody on the policy-making committee or the policy-implementation committee be a supplier that would potentially supply for Portland. But we do understand and know the need for their input in the process so that they can present and share their perspective. But certainly they should not have the decision to vote on that. So we thank you for that. We know that there are a lot of important issues in our city to deal with, and this is definitely one that affects far more people than I think any of us can imagine. I call upon you to go forward with this and help us to make this piece of economic justice a reality. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much. Representative, it's an honor to have you here.

Brad Witt: Thank you. Brad with it, united food and commercial workers, local 555. I'm representing nearly 6000 retail and health-care workers who live or work in the city of Portland. Appearing today in support of the sweatshop-free resolution ordinance and oversight committee and would like to express our gratitude for the commissioner's attempts to eliminate conflict of interest in the implementation of that oversight function. Our sector of the retail garment industry is characterized by very low profit margins. Meanwhile, our members in that industry receive union wages plus a full compliment of benefits, which includes medical insurance, and that coverage includes all family members at no additional cost to the employee as well as a defined benefit, the old-fashioned good kind, of a pension plan. When our good union employers are put into a position of having to compete against sweatshop conditions -- and, again, I emphasize the low margin that our retail garment employers face -- this threatens to topple this entire wage and benefit package, and this, I suggest to you, represents the underpin things of middle class america. This is yet another threat to the survival of the middle class in this country. That is why your resolution is so important. This is why your work that you're doing here today is so important. Aside from this downward spiral, even worse are the sweatshop conditions themselves that some nonunion workers in the retail garment industry face. Regular violations of eeoc provisions, particularly with regard to equal pay for women workers, rampant violations of wage and hour provisions, particularly overtime that is not paid, lunch breaks that are not provided, and child labor that is regularly abused. The same is true for environmental regulations as well as a blatant disregard for our national policy of the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. In addition, there are a number of employers who fail to provide and to pay their fair share of health insurance costs both of their employees as well as for the rest of us in today's society. One employer alone has estimated, because of their failure to provide health insurance for their employees, it shifts cost in the neighborhood of \$2.5 billion to taxpayers. Commissioners, this is an exceedingly important move on your part. I commend your efforts. I commend your interest in america's workers, in the workers, the working class in your city, and I thank you for taking this up. With that, if you have any questions, i'd be happy to try and answer them.

Adams: Well, I just thank you for being here and for your testimony, but I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your service in the legislature. You've been part of the thin edge of the wedge in the discussions down there on how to bring greater worker protection, worker justice in the state legislature, and congratulations on being part of just a superb legislative session. Good job.

Witt: Thank you, commissioner Adams.

James Hester: Thank you, commissioners. Thank you for having us here today. I duly appreciate your hearing this testimony today and taking up this issue. I am incredibly grateful to be here today

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with sisters and brothers and the labor movement and the workers' right movement and the social justice movement to speak on this issue and to join with them, and it's a great day in Portland, I believe, because in the city of Portland and Oregon, we always seem to be on the cutting edge of moving things forward, and I think this is simply one more way. As Thomas Jefferson said, I believe, the boisterous waves of liberty sometimes create a storm, but the other side of that storm is calm because you reach your destination. In any event, the issue before the council is a labor issue a worker issue, but it's also moral and a faith issue. Sweatshops exist in our midst and are harmful to the very moral fabric of our society, I believe. A morality that calls in America, in Oregon, in Portland for fairness and equality for all know matter where that person may live, whether it's in downtown Portland or whether it's in downtown Los Angeles or San Francisco or New York or in Saipan, everybody should be treated equally. Allowing business operations such as sweatshops -- these sweatshops -- to exist anywhere in the world is simply mandating a form of slavery throughout the world. We have an opportunity here today to make a difference in movement to set people free, to allow people to be treated fairly and equally. There's two -- as I was looking at this issue -- and I'll try to make it brief. I may have to cut it to one, but I'd like to remind us all of two examples. In March of 2006 in New York State, the legislature and union leaders gathered to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the Triangle Shirt Waist Company fire which led to the death of 146 garment workers. That event occurred on March 25th, 1911. As fire swept through that factory, trapping workers on the top three floors of a factory, the exits were blocked and the fire escapes were defective. The tragic death of these 146 people, mostly if not all young women, garment workers, all teenaged girls and young, led to the first safety laws throughout the country. And then I also want to remind people that -- and I'm reminded of this because of our sister from Saipan that spoke -- that it exists today in India and countries throughout the world, but I want to speak specifically of India, the Carpi kids in India who are indentured and live in slavery, live as slaves sometimes for generations. We have to take action. This is a little way of impacting that type of behavior. And I think I'll just close with that. I think history lessons is good enough, but I think this is just such an important day for the city of Portland, for all of us who worked so hard for these justices throughout the world, and to remind us of those people who sometimes have given their lives so we may all have a better life.

Adams: I appreciate you reminding us that this really is, for many people, a life and death issue. The history of it is very important. Thank you very much.

Adams: Good morning. Welcome to the city council. Glad you're here. Please state your name, and you have three minutes.

Jennifer Sergeant: My name is Jennifer Sergeant. I work at the Oregon AFL-CIO, and I'm reading the testimony of our president, Tom Chamberlin. Oregon voters statewide twice reinforced their belief in fair wages for a hard day's work. In 1996 and again in 2004, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted to raise the minimum wage to among the highest in our nation. In Multnomah County, the results were even higher. Clearly fair pay for a hard day's work is an Oregon value. Why then are our taxpayer dollars spent to effectively hire workers who toil for pennies an hour and in conditions that we would never tolerate here at home? Is it OK because they live somewhere else? Is it OK because we can't see them? The fact is that we should not be funding the expansion of sweatshops anywhere. The exploitation of workers simply because they live outside our state's borders is a violation of a widely held and twice affirmed Oregon principle of worker fairness. I commend commissioners Adams, Leonard, Saltzman, Sten, and Mayor Potter for taking up this very important issue today. Growing up in Portland, I, Tom Chamberlin, thought that sweatshops were an archaic way of doing business that gave our country the Triangle Shirtwaist fire which you heard about a few minutes ago. That fire was a terrible event that taught us a painful full lesson. The grief and anger that followed that event gave our union movement a shot in the arm. Since that time, our workplaces, the safety has improved immensely and, with some notable

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exceptions, our workplaces are safer than ever but only when they're on our shores. Cross an ocean or visit certain american cities, and you get a different story. I know you've heard several stories of that already today. While many of us struggle with our monthly bills, few of us literally fear for the survival of our families, but that's because we're in Oregon and the rules are different here. I'm skipping some of the testimony from what you've already heard. I'm proud to be here today before you representing 135,000 working men and women of the Oregon afl-cio. We are steelworkers, k-12 support staff in every county, teachers, electricians, and much more. By joining together and bargaining for better wages and benefits, we earn higher wages, health care, retirement benefits, and better safety than we would alone. We commend the commissioners for hearing us today. I hope you will support the Portland sweat-free procurement resolution. Portland is the perfect city to stand up to this worldwide injustice. In closing, i'd like to say that I stand here today in solidarity with the other endorsers of the Portland sweat-free consortium. Several afscme although locals, musicians, carpenters, communication workers, laborers, letter carriers, northwest Oregon labor council, firefighters, student commercial workers, and hotel and restaurant workers. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you for being here. Good morning.

Heidi Carlson: My name is heidi karlston, and I am president of foundation garments, a clothing boutique on northeast alberta street. We are in had business first and foremost to make money. However, we are not willing to do that at the expense of quality of life of other people. Does that make running our business easier? Absolutely not. First off, our prices are higher than other boutiques on the same street. There are things people have repeatedly asked me more that I have not been able to find a sweatshop-free source for yet. When I do find a vendor, I can't afford to personally go and visit the factory to verify what they tell me about their labor practices are true. There's no way for me to google the name of the factory and no independent source for this information, and I have to rely on trust. When i'm not sure, then I don't buy from that company and lose the opportunity to expand my line. And even though I ask as many questions as I can before working with a new company, when the shipments arrive, sometimes we discover that some of the items weren't made where or how they told me, and I have to send them back, which then messes up my whole season. So why do I go through this effort? It should go without saying, but it's the right thing to do. I couldn't sleep at night knowing that I made money off of someone else's suffering. I remember reading an article that got to me on salon.com about one particular sweatshop and how workers were fined for yawning, for going to the bathroom, for basic human functions. For many of these people who weren't making more than \$7 to \$8 a day, the \$12 fines kept them constantly in debt to the factory. I do it because it helps bring this problem into the light. It's often out of sight, out of mind. I've had some sales reps from los angeles and other cities that were taken aback when I asked them about their labor practices of their lines. Like it had never crossed their minds that they might be involved in sweatshop labor. I also do it because it makes things easier for other people, my customers who want to do things right, and because every bit of demand I create helps level the playing field between the many extremely talented local designers I work with who are facing many of the challenges I am because of their unwillingness to use sweatshop labor to keep costs down. Why should the city of Portland do it? Portland is viewed by the whole country, if not the world, was a progressive city on the environment, transportation, and city planning, and we need to be progressive on this issue as well. If the city adopts this ordinance, it's going to have far more impact than my little boutique and lasting change. At first purchasing may be more difficult, like mine, part of why it's difficult the chicken and egg problem. The suppliers won't exist until the demand exists, and demand won't exist until the suppliers do. Something needs to happen to break the cycle. Most of all, the city budget is the taxpayers' money. The ones that know about this issue, many of whom are my customers, don't want it spent that way, and the ones that don't know about the issue are the ones who really need this city to show its leadership the most bypassing this ordinance. Thank you.

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Adams: So what's the name of your shop?

Carlson: Foundation garments.

Adams: And what's the address?

Carlson: It's 2712 northeast alberta street.

Adams: So 2712 northeast alberta street. And what are the hours of operation?

Carlson: We're open every day from 11:00 to 7:00. On thursday, friday, and saturday, we're open until 9:00 p.m.

Leonard: So it's 1212 27_th_ and alberta?

Carlson: And we have men's and women's closing.

Adams: Tell us about the kind of products you sell. We can ask any questions we want.

Carlson: All right. Awesome. Well, we do have kind of a modern edge to our clothing style.

Leonard: Like what I wear.

Carlson: Exactly. Very modern.

*****: [laughter]

Carlson: And I carry a lot of local designers, a lot of the lines that I carry actually handmade by the designers themselves because it's really one of the only ways I can assure how it's made. Basically we have, like, men's bike knickers since Portland is a big biking town. They've got big pockets in the back to put your u lock in.

Adams: What's your number one selling item for men and for women?

Carlson: For men, I sell some handmade belts and wallets from a group of artists in oklahoma city. And for women, i'd have to say it's this handmade underwear, bras and panties, from a woman in ashland, north carolina.

Adams: And that's the first time those two words have been said in Portland city council.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: 27_th_ and alberta. The name of the store again?

Carlson: Foundation garments. And we also have a web site, www.foundationgarmentsinc.com.

Adams: Thanks for being here and for being a good sport.

Bill Michtom: Hi. I'm bill mictim. I had a much longer statement, but it sounds like that you have clarified or changed what I was going to talk about, so I want to ask a question. Suppliers will have no authority to make policy? Is that correct?

Adams: Correct.

Michtom: And will they be full members of these committees that will be part of this process or will they be called in as -- you know -- like expert witnesses and that would be that?

Adams: Called in as expert witnesses. It's really important to the purchasing bureau, who i've been facilitating the conversations w the advocates, that before the committee decides what the policy is that they get the input of suppliers, buff it will be simply the input. The suppliers will not be on the committee. They will not be making decisions. They will not be on the committee to make decisions.

Michtom: Then I have just one thing not to say but to do.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

Adams: Welcome to the Portland city council.

*****: Thank you. Before we begin, I want you to know I will not be testifying. I'm merely here as a translator assistant.

Adams: Excellent. Great. Please start.

Dana Welty: My name is dana welty, and i'm a registered nurse, a member of Oregon nurses association, and i'm here this morning as co-chair of jobs for justice. For anyone in the room who doesn't know -- and I don't think there are many -- jobs of justice is a coalition of 85 unions and community groups, and we come together to support workers and worker rights in this area. And

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our work is in four main areas, global justice, the right to organize and bargain, health care, and immigrant rights. I want to take this opportunity, since you're here in front of me, to thank all of you for being part of our workers' rights board. Thank you so much. Jobs with justice has worked on global worker justice for all of our 16 years. Glob bag trade rules have been fought for and set up in the interest of large corporations to push costs and therefore labor standards down. As a result, sweatshops flourish, as we've heard this morning. When the system encourages moving work to the lowest cost producer, it sets up competition between workers, between factories and countries, resulting in unsafe health and working conditions and poverty wages. That's what we're all here to talk about today. In the 1990_s_, jobs with justice worked on the nike "justice do it" campaign, and we focused on nike because they're based in Oregon and because they were a leader in the race to the bottom, moving their work to the places with the lowest wages. They helped create a globalized supply chain based in sweatshops. Because of our pressure and that of many other groups that we worked with on this issue, nike has made some changes, but the system, the logic of the system, and the unfair trade rules that they helped to create continue to bolster sweatshop economy. So we urge you to pass this resolution and to create this policy and oversight committee without voting members from industry suppliers. We applaud your efforts or, I should say, the change that you've made and that you won't be having suppliers be part of the committee. Because of the conflict of interest and the potential for that to compromise the integrity of these groups. We need an economy that works for workers here and around the globe, and the Portland city council has taken important steps to move in that direction, and I just want to name a few. There was the anti-mai resolution in 1999, the fair wage contracting ordinance that we worked with you on in 1996 and 1998, the right to organize and support for the employee free choice resolution. Thank you, thank you. And your support for buying log goods and services. So the sweat-free procurement resolution is a logical and important next step to take to ensure worker justice in this area and around the globe, and we thank you for hearing about it this morning. I just have to say it's a great day when this many people come together in the city of Portland to talk about workers and worker justice. Thank you.

Mary Mendez (spoke through interpreter): Translator: My name is mary mendez, and I work in -- that collaborates with workers in the united states and mexico. Some of our members in mexico work in export-oriented factories that belong to large transnational organizations. In these factories, the majority of our workers are women and, on some occasion, people of very young ages. The women work very difficult shifts of 10 to 12 hours, seven or six days a week below what is a dignified wage. They take home oftentimes \$10, which is not -- a day, which is not enough to feed and support their family. So many of these workers face no job security and health problems such as lung breathing problems, problems with their bones, and also problems due to exposure of chemicals. One of the things I would like to tell you guys especially about is the sexual harassment the that occurs in some of these factories. Unfortunately mexico doesn't have a law against sexual harassment in the workplace. This is very common in places of work, and oftentimes women workers have to -- to put up with the desires of their supervisors in order to continue working. And I believe that the only way to change this is by social and labor organizing to create an independent manner. Thank you, and I think this is the only way to move forward. I hope you support this, and please take into consideration the lives of these workers on this very important matter.

Adams: Muchas gracias.

Arthur Stamoulis: Good morning. My name is arthur stamoulis, testifying today on behalf of the Oregon fair trade campaign, based here in Portland. Thank you very much for the opportunity to express our support for the proposed sweat-free resolution. The swear trade campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental, human rights organizations that advocate for fair trade policies that improve quality of life for working people in Oregon and around the world. Obviously no one in our coalition wants taxpayer money going to support sweatshops, and we want to thank

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commissioner Adams and all of you for your hard work and support for this important measure. In my experience, when people learn about the exploitative and often dangerous working conditions in which garments are often produced, one of the first questions is, well, what companies should I boycott or what stores are ok to shop from? The problem that consumers face today is that it's often extremely difficult to learn under what conditions a particular item was produced. And while there are certainly exceptions. We've heard about some of those exceptions today. One brand is often just as guilty as the next, not only utilizing sweatshop labor but in hiding that information, withholding that information from consumers. And, again, as we've heard, even shopping from the "made in the u.s.a." label is no guarantee the item wasn't produced in a sweatshop. I'm very happy that the sweat-free ordinance that's beginning to be developed through this resolution will help address all these issues. Obviously proper oversight enforcement is critical. No one wants a feel-good measure. I'm very happy that by partnering with the other cities and states around the country that have already passed their own sweat-free rules, we can work together to develop best practices, enforcement mechanisms in a very smart, cost effective manner. Just as important, by joining together with other large purchasers, we can help create a significant market for sweat-free goods that, over time, may actually shape the options available to individual consumers and even the ways that entire industries operate. That's the ultimate goal here, and that's why partnering with other cities and states is so important. Obviously this resolution is the important first step in the strong policy that follows that needs to be adopted and implemented as soon as 'sake possible. I'm very happy to hear that conflict of interest will not be permitted in the policy-making body that will be forming the final rules. I think this is a very important historic day for the city of Portland. Once again we're showing that this city is a leader in sustainable development and a model for other cities and governments around the country and the world. So thank you.

Adams: Elliott, if you want to come forward and sit in the fourth seat, we'll be ready to go. Good morning everybody. Welcome. Glad you're here.

Richard Beetle: Thanks to the council for having us come forward and giving us the opportunity to testimony about this very important issue. My name is richard beetle, and i'm the business managers of laborers local 483. I'm here to speak in favor of the sweat-free resolution. My workers understand about the decline in wages and working conditions. Not only do we lose when our union employers close their doors and lay off workers to move jobs to low-wage havens all across the globe. We also face downward pressure when our wages -- when the products made in those low-wage havens compete against products made by our responsible, unionized employers. It is with this understanding of this relationship of the goods made in sweatshops and the decline in their own living standards that our members are increasingly making hard decisions of where they shop and what products they buy. They want to buy the products that reflect the values and protect their living standards. They are increasingly choosing not to shop at wal-marts and not to buy products that violate workers' rights. They know low prices sometimes come as a very high cost. I have better than 600 members working at the city of Portland, and when we put on our uniforms at the bureau of environmental services and when we wear our city-supplied hats and t-shirts at the Portland parks and recreation and bureau of maintenance, we need to be assured that these products are not produced under sweatshop conditions. By passing this sweat-free resolution, we can be assured that our city shares our concern for workers' dignity and respect. The city also needs to guarantee -- and I want to congratulate them for guaranteeing this -- policy that the committee that will recommend the code of conduct and the sweat-free procurement policy will be free of any conflict of interest. By not allowing industry suppliers to have a seat at the table, we can be assured that the independence and core fun of the committee will be -- core function of the committee will be left intact for protecting workers' rights. By joining with the better than 170 different city districts, school districts, cities, counties, and states that have passed sweat-free procurement policies, Portland, a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and progressive pro

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worker/family initiatives, will be able to guarantee that the uniforms and clothing that are provided to their public employees, truly reflects our city's values and principles. Thank you.

Adams: Thanks for being such a good partner in my bureaus of bureau maintenance and bureau of environmental service and keeping things going. Really appreciate it. Good morning.

Martha Perez: I'm martha perez. Thank you, commissioners, for your support and for visibly wearing the pink sticker. You, too, erik. My position is i'm a general political activist and concerned citizen today, and i'd like to invoke constituency air time to dedicate this oral testimony to our -- today commemorates the two-year anniversary of hurricane katrina and all the issues with respect to labor that the aftermath continues to play in that area and beyond. I'd also like to dedicate this to the exploited workers who were victims of the raid at del monte recently. And i'm here as a consumer because I live in the pearl district where we have over 40 restaurants that depend on several types of workers, and it would be cruel to just be able -- cool to just be able to go into any store in Portland but particularly the pearl district and feel proud of the consumer, knowing that the labor or the services of the materials rendered were done so in a good way, and this resolution, i'm sure, will pave the way towards doing that. Also, as a parent, i'm concerned about how nast that, cafta, ifta has failed our children and our current workers. People are angry. They want something better than just stuff going overseas or things like that. We have to deal with this in some construction way, and so today I ask for your unanimous support in passing this resolution. It's not set in stone. I'm sure we can always improve something. We can never perfect it, but we can always improve it as we go. I guess that's all I have to say, and have a nice labor day. Take care of your families and each other. Thanks.

Adams: Thanks for being here.

*******:** You're welcome.

Roger Heldman: Good morning. My name is roger heldman. I'm one of the owners of blumenthal uniform company. We've a 59-year-old firm. We began doing business in the city of Portland in 2000. We currently service the uniform contracts for the police bureau and the fire department. We service several hundred public agencies throughout the northwest.

Commissioners, we want to tell you that we applaud the city's initiative to ensure that it only spends its monies with suppliers that are law-abiding and treat people humanely. Our company is committed to ethical and legal business practices and humane treatment of all people involved in the supply chain of products and services that we furnish. The vast majority of the uniforms that we furnish to the city of Portland come from two companies with first class domestic manufacturing facilities. Fetchhammer brothers is a subsidiary of brookshire hathaway, utilizes union plants in kentucky, maryland, and tennessee to produce the shirts, pants, dress coats, and jackets worn by the police bureau and the fire department. They've earned a high reputation for their commercial and ethical practices. Watershed, incorporated of salem, Oregon produces highly technical garments for public safety agencies and the u.s. Military. I can tell you from firsthand experience that the facilities of both companies are something that we can all be proud of, and I know that both companies would welcome a visit by anyone representing the city of Portland. We urge the city to meet with its suppliers and our manufacturing partners as part of the policy-making process. The goal is to create an ordinance that meets the sweat-free goals of the city without eliminating firms that the city would otherwise want to retain as suppliers. Recently the city of san francisco had an experience where their ordinance was written in such a way that some of the domestic union plants could not comply with the ordinance, and thus they were unable to furnish uniforms to the city. This demonstrates what can occur when input isn't sought from all parties. We would welcome the opportunity to have our suppliers meet with city officials to review the proposed policies and ensure that it will allow the city to accomplish its goals of securing sweat-free uniforms in a manner that will meet the agency's needs for timely delivery of specialized items at a reasonable cost. Again, we support the city's efforts to ensure the apparel it purchases is produced under conditions

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everyone can be proud of. We want to see an ordinance enacted that enables the good intentions of the supporter of sweat-free to turn these intentions to effective results. I'd be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

Adams: I have a question for you. One, I commend you for your intentions and efforts as a business person and as a supplier to public agencies.

*****: Thank you.

Adams: Why aren't more companies acting out of the values that you seek to act out of? Is it anything other than greed?

Heldman: I would say to you that I think most companies in our industry that i'm familiar with are well intentioned. There are definitely companies that don't adhere to the same standards and, as noted by several people this morning, they do make it difficult to compete. So just on that basis alone, besides just being the right thing, we're supportive of this.

Adams: Is there a fair amount -- is it possible that there is also ignorance among the industry? They just haven't chosen to look where they get their supplies?

Heldman: I think there definitely is. Candidly, we have not had a formal policy in our company of who we choose as our suppliers. We naturally try to do the right thing and -- but as a result of this process, we are enacting a formal policy that we expect our suppliers to adhere to in terms of essentially being law abiding, humane treatment of the people that work for them and the people that they work with. Two concerns that come to mind with the ordinance. Again, I can't speak for the manufacturers but just based on what I heard about in san francisco. One is that it's certainly understandable that you want to know the location of all the facilities that are used. The manufacturers, when they sub contract, they often make a major investment in the subcontractor in time, effort, design, and they view the subcontractors as trade secrets. And there are some horrible examples of what can occur, but there's also many fine subcontractors, and I think that, if there was a way for the city to ensure the confidentiality of the information, there would like I be more cooperation. It's my understanding that some firms chose not to participate in san francisco because they valued this information. The other area that i've heard of -- and, again, i'm not an expert in this. This is information i've learned, heard in the industry -- is that in ensuring compliance, you should utilize an unbiased third party. As I understand, there are firms that specialize in this. They're not beholden to any special interest in the manufacturers or other outside parties.

Adams: Thank you for your support of this. And we already have some results in terms of your taking your good intentions and making them company written policy, formal policy. That's great. I think your feedback is really useful. I think the trade secret issue is one that I think we look forward to working through so that trade secrets don't mask 1000 sins.

Heldman: Right.

Adams: So I think we've got work to do, and I think we can work through it. Thanks for being here.

Heldman: Thank you.

Adams: Professor?

Elliot Young: Thank you, commissioner Adams. My name is elliot young. I'm associate professor of history at lewis and clark college, and i'm used to disagreeing with people, so i'm tempted to support sweatshops.

*****: [laughter]

*****: But i'm not --

Adams: Fight the temptation.

Young: Yeah. I'm not here today to do that. I want to talk to you this morning about the tragic history of sweatshops in our country and the importance of public intervention to prevent the egregious exploitation of workers' rights, and i'm heartened that we've had several mentions of the triangle shirtwaist company fire in 1911. I wanted to talk a little about the history of that. Two

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years before that, the women at the triangle company actually walked off the job, which led to a massive strike of 20,000 garment workers. After four months of bargaining, the international ladies garments workers union negotiated a elective bargaining agreement covering most of those workers, but the triangle shirtwaist company refused to sign the agreement. The triangle company employed 500 workers. Most of these were young immigrant women from Italy and eastern Europe.

Some of the women were as young as 12 or 13 and worked 14-hour shifts during a 60-hour to 72-hour work week sewing clothes for a wage of \$1.50 per week. When the fire started, the women at the top of this nine-story building, instead of incinerating in the building, chose to jump off of the building and died that way. In a speech a few days after the fire, Rose Schneiderman, a prominent socialist and union activist, made the following poignant and relevant statement. She said, I would be a traitor to these poor burned bodies if I came here to talk good fellowship. The old inquisition had its rack and thumb screws and its instruments of torture with iron teeth. We know what these things are today. The iron teeth are our necessities. The thumb screws are the high-powered and twisting machinery. And the rack is here in the structures that will crumble the minute they catch on fire. Unfortunately we still have sweatshops in our country and around the world that pay poverty wages, employ child labor, and that don't meet the minimum safety standards. We only have to look to the Del Monte produce plant in Portland to see how close to home this issue is. In the early 1990's, I worked as an ILGWU organizer in Brooklyn and witnessed firsthand the grim conditions to which the largely immigrant workforce was subjected. I also saw these factories close their doors as the machines and jobs were shipped to Mexico, Central America, and China. We in Portland cannot prevent global capitalism from exploiting workers, but the city can make a powerful statement by resolving not to support such practices. The sweat-free procurement ordinance sends a strong message to suppliers that exploitative labor practices are bad for business.

The public outrage at the tragedy that occurred in 1911 as 146 young women perished at the triangle shirtwaist company led to reforms that are still with us today. Council members have an opportunity today to help prevent the tragedies of tomorrow in sweatshops in Los Angeles, Juarez, Mexico, and Shanghai, China. Portland prides itself on being home to creative individuals who care about the environment and the world. This is a perfect opportunity for the city council to practice what we preach and live by our best principles. The cost of becoming sweat-free is relatively small.

The cost of not becoming sweat-free is enormous and undermines the core of Portland's integrity. Thank you.

Adams: Thank, professor. What a great way to end testimony. Council, discussion? Any questions for Jeff or Kimberly? Hearing none, let's move to council vote. I just want to underscore my thanks to everyone involved with this, especially Debra and, on my staff, Kimberly and Terry who's worked on this for a month, couldn't be here today because he's sick. Thank you. I'm proud to have been part of it and very pleased to vote aye.

Leonard: Advocating for workers' rights has never been real popular because, by definition, you're representing the powerless against the powerful, the monied interest who oftentimes takes advantage of workers in order to maximize the profits. But as I've said a number of times, it's a real honor for me to serve on a council not where just I feel like I can articulate my concerns for working class issues but I actually work with a particularly, as it happens to be, the two gentlemen on my left, who have consistently stood up and done the hard thing time and time again for workers' rights since I've been here on the city council, so it's just another great example of why I enjoy being here and working here, because we don't just talk about the right thing to do. We often do the right thing. And it's a real honor to be able to vote for this, and I appreciate Commissioner Adams' focus on not just bringing this forward but also in a manner that reflects the concerns of those we're trying to advocate for. Aye.

Sten: I feel a bit inspired this morning. It's wonderful to sit and listen and don't have anything to add because you're saying it so well. Debra and the organizers, this is one of those issues that I

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think is maybe symbolic of a bigger question, which is how things are all interrelated. At first glance, when this came up, there was some sense that it was just symbolic. Does this really do anything? Is the city tied into it? I think you've done a wonderful job of working to show the connections, relevancy, and also to build a strategy that will make a difference and that others can join. I loved my friend buzz's testimony about how our workers need to feel when they put on their uniforms. I did, as a fire commissioner, do some research very early on in this discussion, and I believe all of our uniforms in the fire bureau meet all of these standards. It's perfectly clear that you can get good, solid uniforms that meet all the right standards. And so if there's any situations where we're not, we can fix it. It's wonderful to hear the leader from san francisco, because I do think that the united states has a remarkable way of sometimes leading the world but then pretending we can't affect it, and I think this is a pretty clear sense that this can ripple. It can get things done. And it's not only critical that we start seeing -- the days of free trade -- and that's kind of a term that people will grab different ways, 'cause there's no such thing as real free trade. There's all kinds of rules, restrictions, tariffs, and quotas throughout the world -- are certainly here and becoming more diverse and global is good for Portland. We were a very white city when I grew up here, and I think we're stronger for becoming more a part of the world. But it has to be done in a way that respects workers' rights, environmental rights. We have everything coming from lead paint and toys coming from china to clear signs of worker abuse that you're talking about today. And so I think this is a small but very concrete and tangible step we can take to continue to try and shape a global world where we all work together. I really love when you can make the point but also do it in a way that's effective. I want to end by thanking commissioner Adams and terry and his team for taking this on. It was a tough one to figure out how to exactly do. As sam basically stepped forward and said, I think there's support on the whole council to do something around this topic, but I will actually step in and try and figure out what and how. And i, for one, greatly appreciate him doing that, because it made it easier to get this done, and it was not an easy piece to do. Great work, president Adams. And I will vote i've.

Adams: Thank you. Congratulations, folks.

*****: [applause]

Adams: All right. The rest of our agenda is equally important issues but perhaps not as -- I don't know.

*****: Oh. You haven't heard from the winterhawks yet.

Adams: The rest of our agenda is fascinating, but it does not deal with the issue of sweat-free communities. We'll be talking about tow trucks, pool upgrades, sidewalks, graffiti, and winter hawk scoreboards --

Leonard: Video screens.

Adams: Thank you all for being here today. Karla, would you call item 1016? Oh. You want to do winterhawks?

Leonard: Yeah. That would be great. That's a resolution, 1031.

Item 1031.

Adams: Unless objection, let's hear 1031 next. We'll just plow ahead.

Adams: If I could get those of you that will not be testifying on or seeking to observe any other council item to please visit our lovely foyer, i'd appreciate it.

Leonard: Do we have reps from the city who were involved in the discussions with the winterhawks here? Jack, come on forward.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: Wow:

*****: I noticed that you had an interpreter early. I may have to interpret for tomahawk seeing as he cannot speak.

Leonard: Let me give the council and the public at large watching the background to the resolution

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that we are discussing at that point. The coliseum is used by the winterhawks to play hockey games for their regular season and hopefully the playoffs this year. For a number of years, they have not had video screens in which to do instant replay for the fans at the game. And I don't want to even begin to explore here why that may not be other than to say that both commissioner Sten and I became aware of this last year and committed both of ourselves and offices and efforts to try to remedy that. It came to my attention about two weeks ago in a conversation I had with jack when he called me to give me an update, for a variety of reason, that was not happening. And, again, I don't want to necessarily burden the public and the council with why that was not happening. What was important to me was it wasn't happening and the parties were polarized. There are three parties involved in this, the winterhawks, the blazers, who the city hires to manage the coliseum, and there is the city. I think it's fair to say that all the parties weren't talking in a way that, at least in my view, were getting us to resolving the issues. So yesterday I asked those that worked for the city and those that represent the winterhawks, which is in the form of jack donovan, to come to our office, and we actually negotiated a deal. And the deal is that the winterhawks, who have purchased screens, will have them installed by the city who will rent them this year for \$40,000 through the playoffs. Next, if they prove to be as effective as the winterhawks think -- and there has been some question about whether or not they're the best screens for the fans because of the number of pixels. We may want to have actually better screens with more pixels, but that's to be decided by all of us together by the end of the season -- then we'll purchase other boards. If they seem to work as satisfactorily as has been suggested, then they'll stay and the city will purchase them for an additional \$125,000, I assume at the end of the season. That's basically the agreement that we've come up with. I'm happy that we can use this resolution as a forum to have the discussion more about the next season and maybe you can share with us our chances of getting into the playoffs and winning and whatever else you'd like to, jack.

Jack Donovan, Winterhawks: Well, number one, i'd like to say "thank you" very much for stepping up and picking up the banner for us on this issue. I know commissioner Sten was over at the game and had a chance to see the facility. I think that the one thing that came to mind for me -- we've just purchased the team a year and a half ago. This has been a 15-year sort of journey. Our fans -- our thousands of base fans -- are very vocal. We call them the many vocal. It used to be the few vocal. Now there's the many vocal. This was the issue of concern for all of them in that we believe that the veterans' memorial coliseum is a venue that has not been kept up to where it should be. And the number one issue was the replay screens.

Leonard: John, can you come forward, too, and sit up here? I'm sorry. Go ahead, jack.

Donovan: And we believe that the winterhawks, who have been a leasee for 30-plus years -- you know -- we want to make that our home. We have a situation where we're mandated to play x amount of games over in the rose garden, and we're working on that with the blazers at this time. In reality, in order for us to be able to be the leader of the western hockey league, which Portland was the flagship of the league for years, going all the way back to the buckaroos. This is a legendary franchise in a legendary building. We've had an nba championship there, the beatles there. We've won two memorial cups and numerous little league championships. We have over 100 guys who play there who still have great memories of Portland, Oregon that have played now in the nhl. And our goal, when we purchased this team, was to bring back the luster that the Portland winterhawks have had in the past. And that's still our goal, but we can't do it alone. We can't just do it with what we do on the ice. Our fans now are used to more. We play games over in the beautiful rose garden. It's a fabulous place and it's going to get better. But it's still not our home. It's the home of the trailblazers. And we want this to be our home. And now that there's funding that's being available, we hope that we can be a part of the process as to how the monies are spent down in the veterans' memorial coliseum to keep that building up. To me, it's a timeless design that can be utilized for many, many years to come. Does it need some repairs? You bet. Part of that is that there is a time

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period that went by that it really wasn't taken care of, and I think it was probably systematically trying to be put to sleep. Well, we don't want to be that way. A lot of our fans think we bought this team to move it. We bought this team -- I moved my family here. I bought a home here. This is where we want to play hockey. This is where we want to be with the western hockey league. We believe in Portland. We just hope that the city council in their wisdom can believe in our journey that we're trying to create a great hockey franchise and make it even better for the future. And we think we've made the first few steps. We've had a marvelous draft this past year, possibly arguably the best draft in the history of the league. We also feel like we've had the youngest team in the history of the league last year, so they got beat up pretty good. Right, tomahawk? Ok.

*****: [laughter]

Donovan: And tomahawk was out there fighting his way through it as well. So it's our goal to make the memorial coliseum a city building, a place of pride for all of the fans and all of the other sports events and other events that go there and utilize the building, including the world-famous rose parade. This building deserves more, and I don't think we're really fighting more for the winterhawks than we're fighting for the building, and we believe that the fans of hockey, the instant replays have become a part of the game. And to have those boards 15 years ago, to have video replay 15 years ago, and then not have it, we've allowed Portland in the sports world to slide backwards, and that's thought what we're looking for. We want to start plunging upwards and onwards and make this the pride that it should be.

Leonard: That's excellent, and i'm really happy that we're able to help get there. And you did the thing that a lot of people don't think of first when you were having the problems. You picked up the phone and called, and i'm really glad you did, because I didn't know about the issues. None of us knew about the issues you were dealing with, and we're happy to help. So we have a great partnership. The winterhawks are a great team. The fans are passionate. I have a lot of personal friends, as you know, that are fans, and I called them to ask them about it, and I had to hold the phone out a little ways and I realized, we've got to get this thing fixed. It's a problem. So I really appreciate your helping and pushing and calling to and working with us to help produce a solution. We have ken and john here, too. Did you want to say anything, either of you?

John Acker, Facilities: Well, my name's john acker. I'm with facilities with the city of Portland. I just wanted to point out we spent over \$750,000 on the building last year, including a zamboni, improvements in food service and things like that.

Adams: Could you explain to the public what a zamboni is?

Acker: It's a machine that makes the ice smooth. I'm not really sure how it works, but it's a machine that's used on the ice sheet. And so the city has been keeping up the building. It needs some work, absolutely, but we have been investing in the building and in things that helped the hockey team. So I just wanted to point that out kind of as --

Leonard: But I went over the deal before you got here. Let me recant it and make sure i've got it right. Basically the deal, as I understood it, was we're going to rent the boards from the winterhawks this year for \$40,000. We're all going to take the opportunity as partners, the winterhawks, the fans, and the city, to observe the boards once they're up and make sure they meet the needs of the fans and make sure they're not inferior. If they are, we'll pay the \$40,000, remove them at the end of the season, and get better boards. If we all agree they're satisfactory and work in the way the fans expect and the winterhawks and we expect, we'll purchase them for an additional \$125,000.

Acker: That's correct. That's my understanding. And we're going to try -- the time is getting shorter, and we're going to try to just hit it hard and make sure they're installed.

Leonard: Excellent. Thank you for your great work. Ken was instrumental yesterday as well in coming up with this deal. Appreciate everybody's work.

Donovan: And we feel the same way. We feel there's been a real team effort here recently, and

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again many thanks to you. We feel we called the right guy to help us get this thing moving forward.

Leonard: Thanks. Appreciate it. So i'm going to ask that we direct this resolution back to my office if there's no objection.

Adams: Any objection?

Leonard: We might have public testimony.

Adams: Is anyone signed up? You've signed up.

*****: [laughter]

Adams: I don't know winter hawk language.

Donovan: Thank you very much.

Leonard: I don't know if we've ever had a hawk testify.

Moore-Love: There's seven people signed up.

Adams: Because we're on -- commissioner Leonard has a prior engagement at noon. I'm going to ask that you limit your testimony to a minute. So we'll be asking that everyone testify for a minute. One minute. So be sure and please state your name, and you have one minute.

Tony Stacy: Hey. Commissioners, good morning. My name is tony stacy. Just a quick follow-up on what jack donovan said. We're here to ask the council to consider this scoreboard resolution.

Memorial coliseum is a crown jewel that has a long history, was built for the veterans as a memorial. Many family events have passed through the venue and the city has the power to continue that tradition. The old girl needs a step up and a little bit of help from the council and from the city. 15 years ago when they had replay video boards, they suddenly went away and were never replaced. This is a city-owned building managed by an organization that has said that they would act in the best interest of the city of Portland. We're asking that, with the help of the city council and all the players, that we can pass this resolution and move onto help bring memorial coliseum back up to the standards it once was.

Adams: Thanks for being here.

Ron Murray: My name is ron murray. I represent the united association of plumbers and steam fitters, and we are asking that you support commissioner Leonard's resolution. Our interest is not simply to support the winterhawks and sports in the city of Portland but it's a little machiavellian, I suppose, too, in that we are also going to ask that you support the fans that attend the games at the memorial coliseum and that you support the memorial coliseum itself. We do think that -- i'm a lifelong resident of the city of Portland, much younger than commissioner Leonard, though.

*****: [laughter]

Murray: But I do remember the Portland buckaroos and have attended these games for 30-some years. Over three decades. And I do think we see some disrepair in the coliseum. As the building trades, we would like to ask your assurance that what I understand is a designated maintenance fund be spent on the coliseum and that this council support all the users of the coliseum. Lastly, i'm passing around some posters for you to see. It's a partnership between the Portland winterhawks, the united association of plumbers and steam fitters, and the Portland fire bureau who we have a tremendous program each and every year to support fire life safety and the city of Portland, the winterhawks a tremendous partner as has the city. We particularly want to thank commissioner Sten and would ask all of you to attend the broom ball hockey game. We'd like to get you all out on the ice and let you get very bloodied as you're familiar with here in the council chambers.

Adams: With an invitation like that, how can we say no?

*****: Thank you.

Adams: Amanda?

Amanda Fritz: Amanda fritz speaking only for myself. Our family loves the Portland winterhawks. We still have the front page of the Oregonian from when we won the memorial cup framed and on our dining room wall. And the video screens certainly enhance my enjoyment of the

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game since I can hardly see the puck. But I am concerned you are voting on money for the video screens before passing a resolution calling for decent wages and benefits for the janitors who clean the coliseum. These janitors earn poverty wages. They recently received a 20 cents an hour increase to \$8 an hour, but their hours are limited and uncertain. They don't have affordable health care. Newspapers report that they can be called in for just an hour or two of work. You spent quite a lot of time talking about sweatshops over which the city of Portland has limited control. Certainly using our city's buying power is appropriate in that issue, but the city owns the coliseum. How is it that it's taken years to get the management there to employ responsible clean company that treat janitors fairly and with respect? How long must janitors work in a city-owned building and wait for justice?

Adams: Thank you very much. We actually have been working on that with John and his team and hopefully will have something in the next 30, 45 days.

Fritz: Thank you.

Leonard: Thanks for bringing that to my attention, Amanda.

Denny Meyer: My name is Denny Meyer. I own Meyer Sign Company of Oregon. We've been contracted by Jack -- want me to sit down?

Leonard: Yeah. You make us nervous when you stand.

Meyer: Basically we've been contracted to put the video units in, and we did the field surveys and figured out that it's no problem to put them in there. Basically we've tested these units in two different occasions, once at our facilities in Tigard and the other facility was the Mayflower moving in front of the Blazers people. Basically these are 20-pixel units. They're good units. I think you'll see that they work perfectly.

Leonard: Excellent.

Meyer: I'm also a season ticketholder and hockey player. We need these.

Leonard: That's especially why I wanted you to sit down. You're a hockey player.

Meyer: You can't sit at one end of it and see the instant replay on the other end and get the game. In the Rose Garden, you get the videos and the fan participation. I think it's going to increase the crowd, increase what we do. We really need these units. Now, Rob works for me, and he's a designer and also he's tested these units and can talk about the units themselves.

Leonard: You're going to actually install the units?

Meyer: I was planning on installing them and then basically all this other stuff has been going on for six or eight months, whatever it is. I've already surveyed them. I know what I've got to do.

Leonard: The only thing that's left now is you.

Meyer: You need to make a decision.

Leonard: It has been decided.

Meyer: Then we've got to stick to timing.

Leonard: When can you be out there putting them up?

Meyer: Soon as I get the list of venues and everything else in there.

Leonard: You get them up this afternoon, we've got a check.

Meyer: I don't think it will be quite that fast.

Leonard: You're holding us up again.

Meyer: I've been waiting to do this. Rob will speak on the other issues.

Robert Nowell: My name is Robert Nowell. I work for Denny. And I've set up these displays multiple times actually and have run a variety of different video on the displays, and they function quite well for these displays. And I think they will be very appropriate at the coliseum and I don't see any problems with viewing instant replays on them or whatever video you want to display with the correct software. You could have very sharp text and graphics. Some of you were there to see the displays at the storage facility where they're located, and we did not have that software to show you the detail that can be achieved with these I.E.D.s and text also.

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Leonard: Looking forward to seeing them.

Gil Frey: My name is Gil Frey, and I'm from Milwaukie, Oregon, and I've been here before on behalf of the Coliseum. I'll try to read this real fast. I would like to recommend that the city of Portland commit itself to quality maintenance and improvements of the Memorial Coliseum which was dedicated to veterans upon its completion. Continued quality commitment serves the citizens of the city of Portland, people of the area, and also throughout the world at Rose Festival time. We should all be informed or reminded that the land and parking areas at the Coliseum and the land on which the Rose Garden rests is mostly owned by the city. It is understood that Mr. Paul Allen owns some of the land on which the Rose Garden rests. The "redo it" campaign on behalf of the Memorial Coliseum to be converted into some other usage started before 9/11/01. It was introduced in October, 2000. The veterans probably have a better appreciation since we're now actively at war in Iraq. My opinion is that the entire property on which the Memorial Coliseum sits represents a memorial to the veterans. The Memorial Coliseum was dedicated to veterans shortly after construction was completed. Later the memorial walls were added to the facility because of the efforts of many dedicated local veterans and a positive response to --

Adams: And I hate to interrupt you, sir, but your time's up. Can you finish up?

Frey: A positive response financially and otherwise by the city of Portland and the Blazers. We now have three flags installed in the Rose Quarter property, the American flag, the Oregon penalty flag, and the P.O.W. And "lost in action" flag. Those are all installed on the property. Thank you very much.

Adams: Thank you for your testimony. That concluding our testimony? And that council item goes back to your office.

Leonard: Yes.

Adams: Thank you all for being here this afternoon.

Leonard: Thank you to everybody for their good work.

Adams: That takes us back then to Item 1016.

Item 1016.

David Rhys, Bureau of Human Resources: I'm here to answer any questions that the council may have on this and the next four items we don't have any other presentation. These are routine items that would have been on the consent agenda had we have a consent agenda today.

Adams: Perfect. Any questions from council? Anyone signed up to testify?

Moore-Love: I did not have a sign-up sheet.

Adams: Anybody in the room that would like to testify on 1016? 1017, 1018 or 1019?

Harry Auerbach, Sr. Deputy City Attorney: I just want to say 1017 is critical to our office.

Adams: Yes, it is, I'm sure. Please call the vote.

Moore-Love: On 1016?

Adams: Correct.

Moore-Love: It's a nonemergency. These will pass to second reading.

Adams: Thank you. 1019?

Moore-Love: Do we need to read these titles do the record?

*******:** Yes.

Moore-Love: [reading agenda item] a ad unless council has any questions on any of these or there's someone that wants to testify --

Leonard: 1019 actually.

Moore-Love: We can't vote on that.

Adams: I want to make sure there's no one here to testify on any of the other first readings. Please call the vote on 1019.

Item 1019.

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

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Adams: Please call 1020.

Item 1029.

Adams: Is anyone here to testify?

Leonard: Second reading.

Adams: Thank you. Please call the vote. Aye.

Leonard: Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: 1021.

Item 1021.

Adams: Jeff?

Jeffrey Baer, Director, Bureau of Purchases: For the record, i'm jeff bayer, the director of the bureau of purchases for the city of Portland. This is the follow-up to the ordinance that was approved by the council back in june to award the contract to 2kg contractors for the combined pool upgrades for the amount of \$929,100.

Adams: Ny questions from council? On these purchasing reports, remind me. Do we vote?

Moore-Love: We get a motion to accept.

Leonard: So moved.

Adams: And seconded. Please call the roll for 1021. Aye.

Leonard: Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: 1022.

Item 1022.

Jeffrey Baer: Similar circumstance for this as a follow-up to the ordinance as passed earlier back in june as well for the award of the contract to wildish standard paving for the resurface work at the p.i.r.

Adams: A motion to accept.

Leonard: So moved.

Sten: Seconded.

Adams: Moved and seconded. Anyone here to testify? Please call the roll. Aye.

Leonard: Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: Item 1023.

Adams: Please call the vote.

Leonard: Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: Aye. Item 1024, second reading.

Item 1024.

Adams: Please call the vote.

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye

Adams: Resolution number 1025.

Item 1025.

Adams: Do we have staff in the Council Chambers?

Sten: I actually can answer any questions council might have. This is the implementation of our tax abatement program for affordable housing projects. Specifically single family homes and the rental rehabilitation properties. The Council will recall we revamped the guidelines pretty dramatically about a year ago to limit these just to affordable projects to fit all the criteria council put in place at that time.

Adams: Questions from Council? Would anyone like to testify? Please call the vote.

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye

Adams: We have already dispensed with 1026. 1027 has been withdrawn, unless there is council objection. That gets us to 1028.

Item 1028.

Adams: This is an item that would normally be on the consent agenda, but we lack appropriate

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quorum so staff is here to answer any questions council might have. Anyone here to testify? This is a first reading. That moves us to 1029.

Item 1029.

Adams: This is a routine matter required by state law. Staff is here to answer any questions council might have. Hearing none, is there anyone here to testify on item 1029? This is a first reading, moves to second reading. We have a second reading on item 1030.

Item 1039.

Adams: Please call the vote.

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: Next item for consideration is 1032

Item 1032.

Adams: Commissioner Leonard.

Leonard: Thank you very much. This is the second reading. We have continued in my office to meet with the industry. I met this week with a number of small hardware stores. I've committed to them to establish a work group to develop administrative rules to address issues that fall within implementation of the ordinance. I look forward to passing this and moving on and actually making a difference in neighborhoods in Portland as to the out of control graffiti that is currently happening. I am convinced that based on the experience of other communities throughout the united states has worked successfully. So I appreciate very much my colleagues support on this.

Adams: Call the vote.

Adams: I just want to thank you commissioner Leonard for your leadership on this issue. Again, for me this is following up on the 1998 voluntary compliance approach that has not worked. I think this is an appropriate response to the very real quality of life crime that we're facing with graffiti. Aye.

Leonard: Again, thank you everyone. The police bureau was instrumental in crafting this ordinance. The hearings officer who's going to be the adjudicator of any violations was instrumental in crafting the ordinance. Numerous community members, oni, crime prevention staff. Aaron Johnson in my staff spent nearly a year working on this. I appreciate all of their hard work and look forward to making a difference in Portland. Aye.

Sten: I also want to thank commissioner Leonard for working on this. I don't think anyone believes this will solve the graffiti problem, but it is getting a lot worse and we need to take a more comprehensive approach. I think this is part of it. I have been approached by quite a few retailers and other folks who are basically taking the position of maybe there are some ways to do this better.

And it's typical that the idea would be that even though this has been in the works for quite sometime, that if we just delay this, we would come up with a better idea. I've assured folks that I believe this workgroup is a serious approach and that my experience has been that once you pass something people get very serious about improving it. As opposed to delaying it. I trust that if improvements come along that some of the requirements that we have put in place with this vote turn out to be onerous and ineffective and we will revisit those and attempt to make it better. But the intent of this is solid and the thinking is solid and I believe this will spur industry to help us improve upon this package. I think in life as in politics the perfect is sometimes the enemy of the good, and I think this is good. Aye.

Adams: Karla, please call item 1033, second reading. Call the roll.

Item 1033.

Adams: Aye. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Item 1034.

Adams: This is a routine matter. Staff is on hand to answer any questions that council might have. Does staff have any information that makes this unique? We do have people signed up.

Sharon Simrin, Auditor's Office: This is an assessment for sidewalk repair authorized by the

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bureau of maintenance. We do these assessments four times a year. I think some material was sent to you.

Adams: yes, we have exhibits and the ordinance here.

Simrin: Some information about the person who is going to testify today.

Adams: right. Lets take the testimony. We might have questions from council after that.

Teresa Teeter: Teresa Teeter, downtown citizen advocate. I hope this ties in. a lot of the sidewalk repairs around downtown Portland before the max train, the new one being put in. Last fall I photographed mayor potter with a wheelchair group trying to get around downtown. Right across the street from city hall there is an asphalt rise in the wheel chair ramp. When I brought it to people's attention and disability people, the max people, trimet, they said it will be taken care of when the new max comes through. There wasn't a lot of budget and everything. And I'm like, there's people in wheelchairs waiting to come across the street now. We can't—it would take a small bump grinder 2 seconds to get that bump out of there. It wasn't appropriate to begin this kind of answer and so the problem has existed over the 9 months time before they finally made it up to this part of the town. Also I don't believe trimet negotiated sidewalks very well. When they moved the buses down this way, and I drew a blueprint for you to widen the sidewalk by the parks area over here for people waiting for buses. If you can take all this into consideration for your tax assessment of more funding to go back through and re-widen some sidewalks, since buses are still stay down at this end of town, so the max can go through, I'd appreciate it. thank you. I am a disabled person and I have to negotiate a bike and eventually possibly a walker through.

Adams: Teresa, you said you gave this information to trimet?

Teeter: I drew a map and brought it to your office. And I also contacted trimet. I asked if—

Adams: Do you know Michael levine's committee?

Teeter: No I talked to Nicole cheron downstairs.

Adams: Stop by my office and get the contact information for Michael Levine who heads up the disabled advisory task force for us and trimet. If you would coordinate with that group it would be very helpful.

Teeter: ok because they forgot to put in a wheelchair ramp at the first bus stop.

Sten: I know next week I'm taking part in the exercise where we'll be going in a wheelchair and try to navigate it ourselves.

Adams: That should heighten council interest.

Teeter: Thanks.

Patrick Giardelly: I'm representing the giardelly family at 516 se 28th on a sidewalk repair assessment. We're asking of a price reduction of over \$900 to \$500 on the repair. Would appreciate, or some other amount. The sidewalk has—when they put the replacement in has some footprints and other marks. The amount does not seem appropriate. The city inspector was out, but you can walk out and see it yourself. One of the problems, you sit there and look at someone's sidewalk and wonder—hate to say it—sometimes you don't want to bring out an inspector because sometimes you end up worse off. You have a simple question, oop, well we've got to get this in violation. On a personal note, the sidewalk at 516 is used generally—this is a personal family note—for beer drinking and crime use. So we don't feel we get full benefit. We're asking for a price reduction since we provide a number of services to the neighborhood in the sense that we're there on the property keeping crime and other things from happening in the neighborhood. Thank you.

George Bean, Supervisor from Sidewalk Section, Transportation Maintenance: Quick history.

The property was originally posted in April 2004 and with that posting the estimate was sent out to the property owner \$190, if the city of Portland does the repairs. But also letting them know that if the repairs are not done in a timely manner the costs can increase.

Adams: Did you mean to say \$190?

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Bean: No, \$690. Sorry. The property owners are allowed to do the repairs themselves, hire a contractor or allow the city crews/contractor that works for the city to make the repairs. The property owner did take out a permit in June of 2004 that expired in August of 2004. There were no repairs done. We renotified the property owner in May of '06 that the repairs needed to be complete with a new estimate of \$793 due to cost increase. Nearly one year later, our contractor did the repairs in May of '07 and the property owner was billed \$909. That's \$827 for the repair work, 10% to the auditor's office, brought it up to \$909. The footprints that were mentioned, our inspector went out and took a look. They are not imprints into the sidewalk. They are merely a light mark that will wear out with time. Someone got evidently into the concrete when it was very firm, but still allowed more water to come to the surface. So there is no damage to the repairs.

Adams: Questions from Council?

Auerbach: You need a motion to overrule the objection.

Leonard: So move.

Sten: second

Adams: It's been moved and seconded to overrule the objection. Please call the roll.

Adams: I appreciate your testimony, but I'm going to rule in favor of the overrule. Aye.

Leonard: Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: So this moves to a second reading. That calls to conclusion, our morning session. We will reconvene at 6:00 pm here in these chambers.

Meeting recessed at 11:47 a.m.

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Closed Caption File of Portland City Council Meeting

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

Key: ***** means unidentified speaker.

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Adams: Please call the roll [clerk calling roll]

Adams: Please read the item.

Item 1035.

Adams: Thank you, Karla, and members of the city council. I just have a few introductory remarks and then if kimberly will walk through the resolution and then we have some invited testimony. And then we will hear from folks that have signed up to testify. With this resolution tonight, if it's passed it sets a process in motion and the goal of this resolution is to develop options to provide affordable health care services to uninsured workers of city contractors. I think today's front page of "the Oregonian" couldn't have said it any better. It reports that almost 18% of Oregonians lacked health insurance last year, and we know that some of those people work for city contractors. Why we are doing this, access to health care insurance has particular relevance to me. Personally, and it's an issue that I repeatedly supported as a member of the city council, as a young man thinking that I was very healthy, and trying to stretch the dollars as far as I could. I had an emergency health care issue, appendicitis that led me into personal bankruptcy. And as a member of the city council, in the last two and a half years, I have supported the equal benefits ordinance that made a requirement that city contractors that provide spousal benefits had to provide those same benefits to domestic partners. And I voted against the contract for the seasonal park workers because it did not include any health care provisions for the city's seasonal health care workers. So through my own experience and through my work in the community, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of not having health insurance. And I hope that with this resolution, that we will be able to manifest the ability to show that the city of Portland has the ability using its buying power to positively impact health care coverage for our own employees of the contractors that we do work with. This resolution affirms the commitment of our city to lead by example, and act in our community's values, and it also confirms our support for wider efforts by the county, state, and federal government, to provide universal health care. But we are not going to sit by any more and simply wait for them to fix it for all of us. We see this as a complimentary process, as complimentary effort to those county, state, and national efforts. Therefore, this solution proposed in this resolution is to see what's possible. There are many people to thank. This has been a two-year effort. Ever since cherie harris and I had breakfast with the northwest label council two years ago, where this issue was brought up, and cherry said why the heck don't you do something about health care? And I said, well, let's try. The metropolitan alliance for the common good that includes the faith leaders of beth israel, st. Andrews, st. Charles, christ the king, immaculate heart, united methodist, the peace community, st. Claire, st. Thomas, st. Ignatius, st. Philip neri and the sisters of the holy name. The leaders. Millwright, operating engineers, pile drivers, sieu locals and also the black parent initiative, central city concern, coal shalom community, phoenix rising recovery association, and andre baugh of group a.g.c. And lillian and venetta of the county, jim van dyke of the city attorney's office, my colleagues on my own staff especially terry richardson to who are health residence couldn't be here tonight and also kimberly snyder who has picked up his work in the last couple of weeks while he's been sick. So with that, I would like to turn it over to kimberly

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to do an explanation of not only the resolution but the amendments and then we will go from there.

Kimberly Schneider, Commissioner Adams' Office: Ok. Thank you. And I am just going to do a quick overview of the resolution, the submitted amendments and then I will provide clarification to some questions that have been raised. So "the Oregonian" article points out disconcerting trend toward higher insurance rates even as our economy performed well. The census bureau attributed the growing uninsurance rate to the decline in employer-based coverage for workers and their families. In fact, full-time workers, not the unemployed, accounted for the most growth of uninsured adults. As commissioner Adams mentioned, this resolution will set a process in motion to provide health care options to workers of city contractors. The purchasing bureau will create an r.f.p. For the health care consultant based on the scope of work, which you have seen in exhibit a. The health care expert will help us to understand the problems using both quantitative and qualitative analysis. Mayor Potter and commissioner Adams will concenctly nominate committee members made up of a diverse group of stakeholders. To begin when we have engaged when we have engaged the consultant. The committee will evaluate alternatives and work to gop recommendations. These will be brought to council by march 1, 2008, and we expect to present an ordinance to council soon after. Commissioner Adams mentioned, I would like to submit four amendments. I will go through these really quickly. They are quite small. In the first, be it further resolved we are going to ask that we replace the city with the commissioner of public utilities will bring forward actions in the fall '07 budget monitoring process necessary to, and then it continues with higher -- hire a health care consultant. This will allow for clarity for the financial folk. And the second -- i'm sorry. In the first be it further resolved after hire a health care consultant, (we will insert who shall have extensive relevant expertise.) This helps to clarify the legal of expert we intend to hire. And the second be it resolved, further resolved after the project committee will -- we will insert jointly, appointed by the mayor and the commissioner. And following the third be it further resolved paragraph we would like to add a paragraph that reads, "and be it further resolved that a series of town hall meetings will be held following the assessment to allow for public input."

Adams: These amendments were done at the request of office of management and finance and the mayor's office.

*******:** Exactly.

Adams: Anything else?

Schneider: I wanted to go over some questions that I have gotten and hopefully clarify a few things. So one question that we have been getting a lot is who exactly will this resolution cover? For what time period? What's the size of the contract? And I want to be clear that these questions are for the committee. As they, the answer to them requires more information than they have. And we are not creating or implementing a policy today. We are setting a policy in process. Another question we have gotten a lot is, doesn't the prevailing wage requirement make this policy redundant? Will small business have to pay twice? The answer has two parts. The first is that for the contracts of less than \$750,000 which is the prevailing wage cutoff, the answer is no, prevailing wage requirements don't address those contract. The second is that any proposed solution will take the prevailing wage into account. There's a possibility of using the cash in lieu of fringe benefits as an appropriate contribution into an insurance pool, or perhaps only contractors not paying prevailing wage would assess the insurance benefits. In any case prevailing wage will be considered when seeking a solution.

Adams: It will be up to the committee to consider that issue.

Schneider: Exactly. Right.

Adams: Those were the questions?

Schneider: Yes.

Adams: Ok.

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Schneider: Thank you.

Adams: Thank you. All right. We have some invited folks to testify. Cherry harris from operating engineers local 701. Father chuck leanhart from st. Andrews catholic church. Ed blackburn from central city concern. Keith edwards from ibew. And raymond, former mayor of el paso, texas.

Linly Rees, Deputy City Attorney: Commissioner Adams, did you want to move your amendments before you begin the testimony?

Sten: I move the amendments.

Leonard: Second.

Adams: Please call the roll on the amendments.

Adams: Yes. **Leonard:** Aye. **Sten:** Aye.

Adams: Well, cherry, congratulations on getting us here this far.

*******:** It's been a long time coming.

Adams: Yes.

Cherie Harris, Operating Engineers Local 701: Good evening. I think you all know who I am. But I will state my name for the record. My name is cherry harris with the operating engineers. I am on staff with the operating engineers local 701 and I am also a leader and former co-chair with metropolitan alliance for common good. This resolution commits the city to an important examination of best practices from around the country to address the health care needs of our citizens. We believe it's time for city council to make sure it's not adding to the lack of health care access in our community, but instead, is using our tax dollars in responsible ways and putting forth your best effort to find real solutions to a huge health care problem. You recently took up an issue that uses the city's power to encourage responsible investment in our energy resources. Because of your action the city of Portland is the first in the nation to require that all diesel fuels sold within the city contain a minimum blend of 5% biodiesel. And all gasoline contained 10% ethanol. I am sure when you were working through that process you heard the argument from many that this won't solve the problem. Or global warming is such a huge problem, that this effort won't really have an impact in the larger scheme of things so why bother? Let somebody else fix it. But you didn't go there. You chose to be part of the solution. That move took a lot of courage and we applaud your bold move to confront an issue of national urgency, our energy independence and creation of al stern active fuel markets. With this resolution, we are asking you to take another bold step. And join other cities across the country in looking for creative, local solutions to this national health care crisis. About a year ago, my union, in partnership with other local unions, surveyed local construction workers to find out how many people, how many working construction people had health insurance. Here's what we found out. Union members all received comprehensive family health care benefits provided by their employers. For nonunion workers, the picture was very different. Less than 2% received employer-provided family health benefits. About a third received employer-only coverage, but their family members were left wanting. While a few of the nearly two-thirds who lacked employer-provided coverage had insurance benefits through a spouse, most had no benefits at all. And couldn't afford to purchase insurance benefits for themselves, let alone their families. In fact, one fellow we spoke with was embarrassed to tell us what he earned. And another one said, are you kidding? Health benefits? I make \$8 an hour. While some of the job sites where our survey data was collected were private projects, many were p.d.c. Jobs, and did not pay prevailed wages or fringe benefit dollars. All the listed companies on the survey were names that were readily recognized by city bureau of purchasing staff. In other words, every one of those contractors either have been or currently are active bidders on city projects. Besides collecting survey data from construction workers, we also talked to leaders in other met method alliance for common good member institutions and discovered that everyone was deeply impacted by the number of uninsured in their churches, synagogues and nonprofits. The front page of the Oregonian today, as you said, commissioner Adams, reported that the percentage of Oregonians without health

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insurance now stands at nearly 18%. , over 600,000 people. We researched options across the country over this two-year period, and found successful models in houston and san francisco that both require health benefits for workers on publicly funded jobs. And also create revenue for the public health system so people have access to basic health care. Leaders met with the directors of Multnomah county health department and found great interest in working together to find a model that works for Portland. There is no question that some contractors will have problems with this resolution and any ordinance that is proposed. We recognize that work needs to be done to improve the business landscape for small contractors. And I believe there are opportunities before us to do just that. Like improving the sheltered market program, which many small contractors say doesn't work for them, or finding more creative ways to address bonding issues so that small contractors can bid on bigger jobs. But those issues need to be dealt with separately and should not muddy the waters on increasing health care access for the people who so desperately need and deserve it. We have been working from the beginning to ensure that this effort does not hinder small contractors' ability to work on city jobs. But as with any bold policy change that affects thousands of lives in Portland, it will take courage from you to stand up to the status quo and ensure that taxpayer money is invested in jobs with health care and health care services. I encourage to you support this resolution and its amendments and take a bold step of leadership to guide the process as we move forward to examine and recommend real solutions to a difficult and complex problem. Thank you.

Adams: Very well said. Thank you, cherry. Everybody practice, no clapping. Sorry, for those of you that arrived late we gave the exception for his birthday because he is so old. [laughter] other than that to indicate support you do the jazz hand thing.

Harris: I have letters from a few of our signatory contractors who wanted to raise their opinion in support of this effort. They feel very strongly that this is the right move to make.

Adams: Thank you very much. Father.

Rev. Chuck Lienhardt: My name is chuck linehardt. I am the pastor of st. Andrews catholic church which is a member of the metropolitan alliance for common good. Our core team about two years ago did a survey in our congregation and found that 30% of the people that attend the spanish service are without any insurance at all and 10% at the english service are without any health insurance. So it became a top priority of our parish. We, along with mac g, negotiated with providence hospital and the whole organization decided not to do it but our parish decided to accept their offer to give us a four slots a month in the providence health clinic on interstate. And so we have people from our parish have worked and particularly a couple people have worked with those individuals that don't have insurance and we have been able to get 30 people of just about roughly 30 people into that health care program. All of those people either worked themselves or have a spouse who works or the adult in their family, an adult in their family working but are without insurance. We are just now ready to go to the wider community and provide that assistance with providence to other individuals. My concern, and I think the concern of our parish has basically been for health care and the number of people that don't have it. We believe, as a church, as I think most faith communities believe, that it's a fundamental right to have health care of every individual. Human being. But I know that that's not -- is going to be a long time probably before we have universal health coverage in this country. So I think initiatives like this that take a part of the problem, something that the city can use its resources to promote health care with the people that -- the contractors with the city, I think is a step in the right direction. Any way of using our tax dollars to give an incentive or assistance to contractors and getting insurance for their workers or providing broader health care for the general public I think is a step in the right direction. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you, father. I think your words and cherry's are well spoken. That just add a little bit of dimension to it as well. The seattle post intelligencer newspaper recently did a four-part

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series on the working poor and they looked at the local area up near Seattle, compared to Portland and they found that 9% of folks who worked in the Seattle area were working at poor wages compared to 21% in our area. So there are differences between cities. And we have a real problem here and I think you said it well. Ed.

Keith Edwards: Thank you for inviting me to speak tonight, commissioner Adams. And I want to thank all brothers and sisters in the MACG for all the work they have done to help co-create this resolution and get it here tonight. Central City Concern board of directors has endorsed resolution h because of this lack of insurance and the crisis in our health care system has impacted central city concern in three major ways. The first is in our services. We run the old town clinic on Northwest Burnside where we see about 3500 medical patients a year, probably another 2,000 in our alcohol and drug treatment. And mental health services. Only collectively in all three types of services, only about 35% are currently insured. So we're picking up at the safety net clinic and we are not the only safety net clinic that's facing this problem. A lot of uninsured people. So the cost shift from the lack of coverage for a lot of uninsured people, including employed people who do not have health care coverage are shifted to that safety net clinics. It's not -- there's not a cost, if the cost is being shifted to those systems. It affects us in two other ways in those services. We have people who have gained employment while in our services. They may be getting medical care for us. They maybe have a chronic medical condition. But they can't leave our services because the job they got is not -- doesn't have health insurance benefits. So they are going to lose their medications, they are going to lose their health care if they leave the clinic. We have another set of people who come in because they're addicted and they need to get into sobriety, have a chronic mental health condition. We have gotten them back on the road to recovery but they can't find a job with health benefits so they stay in the clinic. What this means we reach a ceiling in our capacity and because there's not enough employers out there providing health care coverage, we can't get more homeless people in the clinic who have no ability to work at that point. So it places a ceiling on the capacity of our services. The second dimension it hits us on is that, as a nonprofit agency, we provide health care benefits to our workers. And we have seen a yearly increase in our health care premiums between 10 and 18% a year for several years now. It is really a financial back breaking problem for us. This is not just affecting obviously central city concern, but the city of Portland, our school system, the county, other nonprofits in the area, and this -- it is known well in research that a significant fact neither increase of these premiums is cost shifting going on when other entities and institutions are picking up the cost of that uncompensated care, they're shifting it to health insurance programs. The third dimension that it hits us in is that we operate five business enterprise ourselves. Those business enterprises include a secondhand store, a maintenance program, a painting program, a janitorial program, and a clean and safe program. I should actually refer to them as businesses because they operate as businesses. And we employ almost exclusively formerly homeless people. They all have health benefits. We are bidding for jobs out in the community, some of them with city-related funds, some of them with Portland school-related funds, some of them with Portland business alliance-related funds, and we believe we have not been competitive in some bids for some jobs because our health benefits that we pay our workers cost us out of the bid. We are not competitive. And we and our enterprises jointly employ about 40 people. We are a small business. We are committed to providing those health benefits with people for our janitors, for our maintenance workers, for our painters. But we are going to have hard time maintaining that in the future if we can't get work. We have struggled to make it work. We are making it work. But we believe there should be a level playing field as much as possible, these problems for small business people, small contractors need to be worked out. But we are one of them and we endorse this resolution wholeheartedly. It's only by the precious of cities and counties and unions and churches throughout this country, small businesses, contractors who see the light

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here that we are going to ever get any kind of national health insurance that makes any sense. And I hope this is an important step on the west coast for making this happen. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much for your testimony. Keith edwards, ibew, and the honorable raymond caballero. Is he here?

Raymond Caballero, former Mayor of El Paso: Raymond caballero. Former mayor of el paso. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of items 1035 and 1036. I think it's a great idea to look into this issue of health coverage on city contract. Sometime back, I found myself, as mayor, in the city slightly different than Portland. Dreadful numbers. The number of uninsured in el paso, the percentage approached 70%. Regrettably it was the subject brought up in the national debate between vice president gore and then candidate george w. Bush where the city was mentioned with the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation. Texas, of course, as you can see from this morning's "oregonian" if you can say leads the nation in that statistic. Been there for a long time. El paso as you probably know is on the border and has scarce resource. Nevertheless, I commend you, Portland, for addressing the issue because your numbers are getting worse. What you have, you start out with a appropriation, traditional and often by law that you are required to award contract to the firms submitting the lowest responsible bid. What that does oftentimes, because health care is such an incredible expense item, to any business, 15, 20%, whatever it might be, few firms who insure their employees can really compete in this bidding process with firms that do not provide health coverage. So what we do is we simply follow this, give it to the lowest bidder approach. What are we doing in government? We are exacerbating the problem. We are rewarding those firms that do not have the appropriate values of providing insurance to cover health, and we are punishing the firms with good values. And governmental contract being such a large part of any economy, this has a very large impact in the area. It really makes it no sense even if you were bitter miser and hated every penny you paid in taxes, you should be for governments providing or -- not mandating or at least evening the playing field, whatever the wise city attorney might propose because it you might not be able to mandate it. But certainly what you might be able to do under best value contracting, if it's permitted under state law, is at least to even the playing field and not punish certain employers. We did that. Now, I can tell you that I thought, that's the end of my political career and that's it. [laughter] and I can tell you that it didn't end for that reason. Maybe for other reasons but not that one. Because surprised by talking to the chambers, associated general contractors, the hispanic chamber, people not often associated with coming up with benefits for employees, they really stepped up. Because you have to admitted that it's terribly difficult, especially for small business and now even for larger businesses to obtain health insurance. I am not sure somebody is wearing a affordable health insurance. I don't know that that's possible. It's an oxymoron. It's all expenses but the business community stepped up to try to create associations, to help small business get coverage. There are a lot of factors and details. What is insurance? Is it faux insurance? Does it really cover how many employees you want it to cover? Do you cover families and partners and what not? Those are all the details but as a starting point I can tell you it's good politics, it's good public policy, it's good economics. Health care here is probably your largest industry. It depends on having a good number of people who are insured with appropriate rates of reimbursement to do health care providers. It makes sense on any basis to go forward. Thank you for allowing knee come here and I commend you for at least looking into the issue.

Adams: Thank you for your testimony. Very well said.

Leonard: Thank you.

Adams: Andre baugh and fay birch and our first --

Moore-Love: Ben nelson.

Adams: Ben nelson. And this is as long as they want. Thank you for being here and we appreciated it and you know how this goes.

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Andre Baugh: I'm andre baugh and I am with group agb and a member of am co-and I live in Portland, northeast Portland. Council, I want to take the time and thank you for bringing this forward. First I want to state up front I support health care. I don't think that there's anybody in this audience that does not support health care. And it is or is the most important issue facing the country, facing the state, and specifically this city. So just put that aside. So in terms of the health care issue before you today, I support that. That resolution. What I want to do is raise a couple of concerns that I have with the resolution, and hope that you take these into consideration as you move forward. First, I wanted to limit and ask you to limit its scope to city of Portland residents and to family members of the contractors. That it is for -- I mean if the contractors are going to participate in this, that it is really for the contractor's families, not for other members. There certainly is, and I am not discounting that there is an issue of health care that is in this city. But it's the contractors that are going to have to pay for this at the end of the day and it should just benefit their families. If we are talking about something else that goes to a larger, I think, you know, council would have to think about, do they want to get into the health care industry to serve all of their citizens? So I would ask that you limit that issue and scope it to just the things -- contractors' families. The other part of that is that contractors today, as you all know, through the prevailing wage, pay or pay their employees a fringe benefit which theoretically and I am not saying that it covers, but theoretically pays for health care. The idea that this would contribute to that or be part of that, that contractors don't end up with paying double. So that they pay just that. If they want to contribute the employee wants to contribute because he can't take that away from a contract -- from an employee as a contractor. The other side is that there are other initiatives within the state that are going on, specifically with -- at state level, the governor. If for some reason there should be a universal health care package passed -- we can all debate its probability -- but if for some reason it does pass, I would ask that whatever comes out of here is kind of sunsetted and we leverage whatever the state does. So that the state, the city is not competing but the state -- the city is leveraging what the state has. And I think you can get a better proposal out of that. In the last thing that I would ask is that as we go forth and this committee is that we've kind of rushed this particular proposal to council. I know there's a resolution h but this particular proposal didn't get a lot of airing. 245 that the minorities and other people have equal representation to mac g and some of the other people throughout and that the health care industry is fully represented so that we have a good group to really try to achieve this. And that I would ask council to get an interim report from the consultant as they go through this so that you kind of know where we are halfway through or something like that so that people have an opportunity to evaluate its progress, if it's moving forward, what are the issues. But that you just don't wait until the end to say it didn't work or it's not working. Thank you. And I do support it. I just ask that you take into consideration those issues.

Leonard: So i'm sorry, andre, you said include the health care industry in the discussion?

Baugh: Yes.

Leonard: Did you mean by that the insurance companies?

Baugh: The insurance companies, because the issue is really -- is really as I read this is to provide options. You know, and so --

Leonard: What have they ever done to help find a solution to the health care crisis? That's what I really want to hear. I don't want to have a discussion. I don't want to do that. What have they done except when they had proposed to reduce health care costs put up misleading ads to kill them, to go out of their way to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to keep the status quo? Because they make money at it. How can we earnestly accept the health care -- well, I don't mean the health care industry. The insurance industry --

Baugh: I think there's two parts. There is -- and I have done a little bit of investigation, you know. Today, right now, the state through some efforts of the legislature last legislature, has the -- if you

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do not have prescription drug insurance through avelordly and others, you can sign up for the Oregon health plan today. So the state is doing some things. Those -- the kind of the backbone premise of those, as I understand it, is the reducing the cost for the hospitals and the health care industry. I would agree with you, they have not done anything to contribute to this conversation. But I think it's a fait accompli to say you are not going -- because they haven't done it today, I happen to believe in the -- you know, I don't know, the Colin Powell theory you need talk to your enemies, too, so they may be our enemy but without them in this discussion, I think you are limited to your options.

Leonard: Well, just to kick that one step further, I actually think that applies very much to people who have earnest disagreements about their cultures and their boundaries and I get that analogy. This is about profits. It seems to -- if you say health care industry and you meant by that the hospitals and doctors, I get that. But I'm just -- I don't want to make too big a deal out of it but I am a little nervous about having those that are actually profiting and benefits from it part of a conversation that doesn't seem like they have any interest in resolving versus countries who are fighting who do have some interest in finding a solution.

Baugh: And I will grant you that. But I think the -- rather have them at the table than, and at least be able to say, we did invite them, they may not have contributed, they may run ads or whatever but at the end of the day they can't say they weren't a participant. And that to me I think you are looking at also to try to leverage potentially what the state is doing or how do we tap into some of the state resources? And we're going to have to have not everybody at the table but at least say we invited them in the door. And I'm just saying, make the invitation. Everybody has a choice to say no.

Leonard: Thanks.

Adams: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Fay Burch: Good evening. My name is Fay Burch and I also live in northeast Portland. I am here today to represent a minority contracting organization called the National Association of Minority Contractors, namely of which I am vice president. Our organization is chartered by the National Association of Minority Contractors in Washington, D.C. The item we are discussing today unfairly targets contractors when many small business sectors have the same challenge of finding and maintaining quality health care. Our local chapter has 40 members. 10 of our members are signatory to unions, three to IBEW, seven to carpenters and laborers, several members are affiliated with AGC and ABC. So we are here today because you care about our health and the health of our workers and you want to level the playing field from your view so smaller, nonunion contractors can't bid lower than union companies and they by take the pressure off your market recovery fund. Or put another way, you want an even larger share of the work. We think things -- we think to keep things level and out of concern for our health there are other issues you might address. You might address the fact that we get invited to bid or participate in one in 10 contract opportunities in our fields. If you cared about your health -- our health you would be concerned that we don't always have work for our companies and our employees. If you cared about our health, you might address the fact that we pay more than twice as much for materials and supplies on the same project and from the same supplier. Our bonds and insurance are higher than majority for union firms because, guess what, we don't have the years of experience due to historic exclusion practices by the trades. Bonding companies also read the papers and understand the market and they know we may not be working tomorrow and that we may not be their best investment. So if you cared about our health you might be concerned about the relationship between economics and health care. How you can only provide work to your employees for three to six months, and go in and out of benefits for provide their health care for the months they are not working. If you cared about our health we wouldn't have to beg and plead and go to meetings after meetings after meetings and down right demonstrate to participate on projects that you have purposely locked us

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out of such as the south waterfront. If you really cared about our health you would level the playing field. We would have steadier work and be able to provide quality benefits for ourselves and our employees. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Ben Nelson: Good evening. Commissioner calms, commissioner Leonard, commissioner Sten it's a pleasure to be here. I'm ben nelson, an organizer with the laborers international union, a member of the laborers local 143 and a co-chair with metropolitan alliance for common good. I appreciate, I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue. I would like to first say, in response to some concerns about small businesses hopeful through the process and the committee and the process between now and the type of ordinance we can sit down and resolve these issues to do benefit of small businesses. And while we maintain a focus on health care which is why we started 24 to try to deal with some. Health care concerns in our community. Having said that, I have -- want to talk about some small amendments that we have. There's about nine or 10 different versions of this resolution over the course of the last year, year and a half, crafting resolution h was mentioned. That was the previous version but I think that makes nine different letters in the alphabet so there's been quite a few different versions and this last one has went wrapped for, leading up to the hearing here, just a week or so. And there were, of course, over the last couple days, readership and mac g has put together and I have copies of some of what we think are small changes but we are hoping you can consider those here this evening.

Adams: You guys give them to Karla, she will give them to us.

Nelson: Is three enough? Looks like it.

Adams: We are a small but hardy group.

Nelson: So I want to take just a brief minute or two to walk through these real quickly. The first changes in what we have done here, new stuff what's added would be highlighted and bolded and anything that's -- we are proposing amend be removed crossed out.

Adams: Can you give a copy to kimberly as well.

Nelson: First third whereas, we have added a sentence at the end, added to the sentence, city and p.d.c. Are committed to protecting health, safety and welfare of the community. We have added by working with contractors who provide the best value at least cost to the community. That's more a value statement I guess in the whereas, something we feel is important. In the second, be it further resolved that, we have suggesting that the date be moved up a month. The process that's being proposed in this resolution has sort of a three-step process following passage tonight, moving into as kimberly delined out, moving into hiring a consultant and moving forward on that. And then as proposed, february 1st, the report is due to the committee and that committee has until march 1 to make a decision. We are suggesting maybe another month at committee to hash things out, that would be helpful given the complexity. The month of february is just four weeks. And the next be it further resolved that, we are suggesting the following language as you can see, the committee will evaluate the consultant's alternatives and work to develop recommendations. This is new stuff that both extend health care to employees and families of city contractors, and wherever possible, provide a broad impact on the uninsured residents of the city. And rest of it's basically unchanged. That's a reflection of the conversations we have been having over the last two years around what model would work, some ideas that work out in places and san francisco and houston are a couple places we have turned to. So those are fair play models and the community component which is a lot of what folks here have an interest in, just keeping on the table as a value. Then finally, in that, there's an exhibit a that sort of lines out what the consultant would be doing. We include in there a third paragraph, a mention of houston and san francisco to help point to the committee's work towards that. Some research has already been done is the thought and we want to just remind folks to use that as we go forward. And then at the very end, we have, we are proposing the following amendment to the final sentence. "findings will be used to help the city of Portland decide which

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legal and regulatory reform option and mix of interventions will be most successful. " the way it's currently worded it says "whether or not" something of legal or regulatory reform option should be put forward. I guess we are suggesting we sort of all here because we know there is a concern and we should do something. So let's, that question seems sort of answered. Let's put in the resolution which option or which direction shall we go in from here. And that's sort of the work of the committee. That doesn't have much time and the consultant not a whole lot of time to work with so they may as well start talking about what makes sense. So i'm here to offer those on behalf of our leadership as proposals for you to discuss and make decisions around. Thank you very much for your time.

Adams: Thank you.

Leonard: Sir, can you ask you about what -- just so i'm clear on this proposal that you are making to amend, commissioner Adams' resolution, you are asking that the recommendations that this group is going to be developing include recommendations that may or may not extend health care coverage to residents of Portland that are not necessarily related to some employment with a contractor that has a contract with the city but just the general population.

Nelson: That's correct. Yeah. Sort of the county has been discussed here before. And some ideas that have been tossed around involve the county's -- the clinics they fund and run themselves and the pay or play option some cities involve is to play option is you provide health care or pay option you provide some money into the fund but then you got to distribute that fund somehow. So that's one mechanism to do it. For example, san francisco gives that to run their own hospital, city-run hospital. So they put the money there.

Adams: But we have discussed in our discussions and this has been quite the negotiations among other community stakeholders, that we would first look at what are the opportunities for city contractor, employees of our city contractors and we would look at the wider concentric circles after that. Given that this is a very short time line between now and march, we have to go out and do bidding for a consultant and everything else. I'm not sure how far we are going to get. And it is not -- it is not consistent with my conversations with other community stakeholders. But I do appreciate the suggestion. Thank you.

*****: Thanks.

Adams: Karla, next three.

Adams: While -- is keith edwards here?

Leonard: There he is.

Adams: We'll get you in next. You will be the next. Good evening. Welcome to the Portland city council. Please state your name and you will have three minutes.

Mark Johnson: Good evening. My name is mark johnson. I am 44 years old and have a wife and five children. I work for a local nonunion construction company for 15 years. And had no health insurance that entire time. I realize that some of the nonunion construction companies in the area do provide health insurance but mine did not. Nearly four years ago I went to work for ostrander rock construction, and had been a member of the operating engineers local 701 ever since. And in december of 2006, my daughter alysse know we will was born and three weeks after that I was diagnosed with a potentially life threatening form of cancer. My union health insurance not only allowed me the superior care and treatment which ultimately saved my life, it also allowed my wife and I the peace of mind and the sanity to keep our family together through the emotional and financially stressful time. The bottom line is that I am alive as a result of this superior health insurance benefits provided by my union, and had it not been for those benefits I most certainly would have lost my home, my vehicles and all sense of security that my wife and children expect and deserve. In my honest opinion health insurance should not be a privilege for only us fortunate few but a necessity for every man, woman and child. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much.

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Wayne Clarke: Good evening, commissioner. My name is wayne clark. Thank you for having me here. The community investment ordinance will helping workers like me. Thank you for letting me tell you what happened. I had no health insurance and I am now working but I am a veteran. Who developed mental health issues and it causes disabilities. I did get a little social security but I had no mental health or physical benefits available through the Oregon health plan or the veterans administration. The Oregon health plan was not available to me and I could, other than go to the v.a. Hospital for only emergency services. But I didn't have full benefits so I didn't get benefits would that have been provided. I develop some addictions from some disabilities that I had and I contracted something called mrsa. It's a resistant bacteria, a staph bacteria that's very common in hospitals. It nearly killed me. If it wasn't for central city concern at the time I wouldn't have been able to recover from that at all. I didn't realize the how contagious it was and I was quarantined in my own apartment by the c.d.c. Because of it. It's actually like a flesh eating bacteria. It's pretty nasty. But somehow I found central city concern and the community engagement program and I got off the streets and into an apartment with the help of one of the veterans reps there and I was glad to have that happen. I almost died from that mrsa. It was debilitating enough for me to be in a wheelchair. Several related cases of mrsa in the area caused the slow and painful deaths of a handful of people that made headlines.

*****: Please speak up.

Moore-Love: If everybody could get closer to the mics when you speak. If I turn them up any higher they get feedback.

Adams: So if you could move even closer.

Clarke: Very good. Let's see. Where was I? Central city concern referred me to their community clinic and the doctors and basically anyways, without their help I would have not been able to get back to work. The mrsa is gone and my mental health has been managed and I recently earned my cdl, back on my feet now and on June 18 I got the first job I have been able to keep in five years and right now I have been working 12-hour days and I just wanted to say every day that I wake up with new hope and ambition. I moved forward in my day and willingness to move forward in my life and help others is very strong and I have goals and they are reachable goals. If it weren't for the people at central city concern, I would just know I wouldn't have made it. I am a veteran with no health insurance and I was homeless, addicted and mentally ill and sick and dealing and they were there for me. Without them I wouldn't have been able to make it.

Adams: We are glad you are here and thanks for your testimony.

Keva Southwell: Good evening. Keva southwell.

Adams: Did you get -- can you get really close to the mic? Otherwise the folks upstairs can't hear.

Southwell: Ok. In early 2005, I was hospitalized with a strep infection in my blood that caused heart failure. I was released from cardiac i.c.u. Three days later. The next day, actually like 12 hours later, I was readmitted through elevated liver enzymes. All of these health insurance were caused by severe alcoholism and malnutrition. Because I didn't have health insurance, alcohol and drug treatment wasn't even discussed. I didn't qualify for assistance because I was working full time at that point. Consequently my alcoholism and depression increased and my mental and physical faculties rapidly decreased. By early 2006 I was homeless, unemployable. And very ill. Now I was qualified to receive alcohol and drug treatment, thanks to central city concern. I received health care services and medications through old town clinic. Given the opportunity to restore my health and finally receive treatment for depression and post traumatic stress syndrome, I have been able to successfully sustain sobriety. Without programs like the old town clinic, c.c.c., the metro program, I wouldn't be alive. It was a late stage chronic alcoholic at 22 years old. I am now employed at a local hospital and have great health care benefits as of last week. Up until then I continued utilizing old town clinic to treat a recurring infection. Cause unknown, because they couldn't afford testing to find out what it was. Yesterday I got to see a real doctor with my brand-

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new health insurance. For this infection that's apparently back, and they are now testing me for leukemia and lymphoma. At a place like old town clinic had more funding and availability, they would have run those tests. They do the best job they can. And but they need more help because everybody deserves the chance to do something with their lives.

Adams: Thank you for being here. I really appreciate it. Thank you very much. Karla, the next three.

Adams: And keith edwards. Welcome. Glad you're here. If you could please give is your first and last name and you will have three minutes to provide your testimony. Keith.

*****: Hi, sam. How are you doing?

*****: Good. How are you?

Keith Edwards: Thank you for having mir here and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Thank you, commissioner Leonard and commissioner Sten. I am keith edwards. I am a electrician. I start might electrical career back in 1969 when I was about 20 years old. I have had health care ever since. I have had health care since I was 20 for about 38 years now. That's something that I didn't really appreciate until a few years ago but my children have always had health care as well. I have had five children and they have had health care since they were born and they have had health care through my coverage as a worker. Up until their age of emancipation or until they are 23 if they were in school. That doesn't seem like such a big thing except I worked for an employer when I first started out, I work for an employer that had two employees, myself and one other journeyman. That's a small employer. I have also worked for employers that have had 200 employees. Still had health care on both occasions. Same health care on both occasions. So there's a system that does work. I certainly appreciate the fact that you have come forward with this resolution to try to make sure that workers are taken care of. And I hope that we don't lose cited of the target here with all the testimony that you are receiving that we don't lose sight that the workers are the target and they are the ones that need to be taken care of. Health care should be a right. It should not be a privilege. Each and every one of us has, can get sick, fall in an accident, have many crises that come across our paths. Certainly by no fault of our own. And so we definitely need to be protected by at least having health care. That's something that should be afforded to everyone. I have a son, my youngest son has some blood disorders. And we almost lost him on at least two of three occasions that he had to have emergency procedures at the hospital. If I wouldn't have had that health care, certainly we probably would have lost him and certainly we would have been bankrupt because each time his visits to the hospital ironically enough for about \$42,000 on each visit. Certainly I don't have that kind money, my wife or i, and like I say we would have been bankrupt, trying to make sure that our son stayed amongst the living. If you read today's "oregonian" you see on the front page it talks about the fact there's 17.9% of Oregonians that don't have health care. That's an increase of from 13.3%. 13.1% of children don't have health care. That's an increase of 11.6%. The sad part of that is that most of those people are people that are employed, not the unemployed. I would like to read a short exempt from the article. "season survey bureau analysts attributed the growing uninsurance rate to the decline in employer-based coverage for workers and their families. The percentage of americans who get their health insurance through employer-based coverage dipped below 60% last year for the first time in decades. That trend also leaves growing numbers of dependent children without coverage ." children who have no one to fight for them. The sharp rise in the cost of health care premiums increasingly squeezes the middle class. Full-time workers, not the unemployed, account for most of the growth in uninsured adults." so I certainly appreciate your efforts. I hope again that we don't lose sight that the target should be workers and their families who just want to go to work every day, do a job, and have their families taken care of as well in regards to health care. It should be a right, not a privilege. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much. Good evening.

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Dr. Rachel Sototaroff: Hi. My name is Rachel. And I am the medical director at central city concern health services. I spend most of my time at old town clinic and is our primary care sight at central city concern. Old town clinic is a designated health care clinic for the homeless though we serve a number of nonhomeless but also low-income uninsured employed adults. We are an integrated health care clinic. We provide medical primary care, naturopathic care, primary and especially mental health and free pharmacy services for our clients. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year we saw about 3550 unduplicated medical clients, 63% of them were uninsured and 81% were below 100% of the federal poverty level. Our uninsured clients come from two sources. Some come from within our agency. Referrals from our recovery program or our community engagement program. And others are just uninsured people from the community. However, due to budget short falls in the past four months, we have been unable to take any new uninsured people from the Portland community at large. The best way to give you a sense of what our clinic ask is to tell you some stories. I want to tell but alex. He is a 54-year-old man who also happens to work in construction whom I met last july. And when I first met him he came in. He had a big abscess on his arm from shooting heroin. 'S heroin addict and his vision was blurry and his feet were numb from very high blood sugar. He was impossible for him to continue to work at that point. Due to his addiction and his chronic illness and he and his wife were also raising their two grandchildren. I have been able to see alex just about every month since then. He's been clean and sober for nine months. His diabetes is under excellent control and he's one. Most vigilant and attentive patients that I have. And now he's returned to work in construction. And I often wonder how many people out there are like alex, but although can't get into our clinic because we can no longer afford to take them. Another patient whose story is not so rosy is someone named alice, in her 50's, a severe diabetic with congestive heart failure. For many years she had a house and a job and one day she fell down the stairs and suffered a severe back injury, also her job and lost her health insurance. So by the time I method her she had possibly the worst blood sugar I have ever seen. Her pain was out of control. And the bank was foreclosing her hours. And she's had a much bumpier road. Her blood sugar is a little bit better. Her pain slowly coming under control. She did sell her house. And I think ultimately, we might be able to get her back into the work force but it's going to be hard for her to leave us and find a job that has insurance. So she's going to continue to stay with us with or without employment. And what I would like to see is alice to move on and let another homeless person or another person in crisis take her spot but there's no place else for her to go for health care. So my point is that a low-income and uninsured population particularly one with chronic illness is a dynamic and highly unstable one. One minute a person can be housed, employed and without addiction but it doesn't take much for that person to slide and become homeless and struggling with their addiction again. And our clinic works extremely effectively for those who are vulnerable and can he store them to readiness for work. But the problem now is there's no other health care for them to go through so we continue to provide this service for free and can't make room for people who are now at the bottom.

Adams: I have had a chance to tour your facilities and you do an amazing job with very little resources. Thank you.

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

Mike Waterfield: Good evening. My name is my name is waterfield. I have worked in construction for 21 years, the last five years I have worked as a heavy equipment operator with operating engineers local 701. Throughout my career I always had health insurance but I never knew how important it was until february 9th. I was snowboarding at mount hood. I crashed and hurt my left knee. I went down through the slopes and wanted to talk to my doctor. It was his day off. But the nurse told me to come see dr. Kaiser in the same offices and said we will see you in two hours. I drove to vancouver. And limped into my doctor's office to see dr. Kaiser. I told him what happened and what I felt. He looked at me knee, pulled on it and said I don't think it's broken.

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You most likely stressed or torn ligaments in your knee. Probably an a.c.l. I said what do we do? He asked what kind of insurance do you have? I said I have good insurance. He went to the computer and examined loom look at my file and said I will refer to you an m.r.i. If my measures had not been that good he would have arrested are ordered an x-ray which he said should not show ligament or tendon damage. It showed a complete tear of the a.c.l. In my left knee. I was referred right away for arthroscopic surgery and was back to work in only eight weeks. My family and I feel very fortunate that I was back to work so quickly and my knee is completely healed. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you for your testimony. I appreciate it. Karla?

Adams: How many more after that?

Moore-Love: About six more.

Adams: Please state your first and last name.

Stuart Fishman: My name is stuart fishman. I am a grocery clerk and a rank and file member of unites food and commercial workers local 555. I don't represent local 555. But die support my union's effort to pass legislation that would require companies such as wal-mart to provide adequate health care coverage for their employees and their employees' families. Now, this proposed resolution is about whether Portland residents as taxpayers and members of health care plans should continue to subsidize companies that do not or cannot provide adequate health care for employees and their families. If we had a rational health care system that provided basic and portable health care for everyone, this wouldn't be an issue, as you have said earlier. But it is an issue. And I think this resolution is a step in the process of reforming our health care system. I and three other rank and file local 555 members circulate adler at our workplaces in the last couple of days, 10 members who are Portland residents signed the letter and with more time I am sure we would have gotten more signatures and in conclusion I would like to read some parts of this short letter. "we are grows rear workers. We know that companies like wal-mart do not provide affordable and adequate health care for employees and their families. These employees and their families may qualify for public assistance paid for by taxpayers or they may not be able to pay for treatments they receive especially at a hospital emergency rooms, and those unpaid bills are then passed on to our health plans and we pay for them through insurance premiums, or increased co-pays or through reduced service. These employees may also wait longer to seek treatment, thus increasing not only the severity of their medical problems but also the cost of treating them." in an article in the northwest labor press august 3rd stated "last year, an informal union conducted a survey of employees of construction contractors doing business with the city, found that only about a third had employer-provided individual health coverage and less than 5% had employer-provided coverage that included their families." and therefore we are concerned that low-bid contractors providing inadequate employee health care and working on projects paid for by the city cost residents more in the long run than higher-bid contractors who provide adequate health care for employees and their families and therefore we urge that the city council pass this resolution. And I would also like to add that I am a cancer survivor, and I know that without -- one of many, and I know that without union health care coverage I would have lost my house and just about everything. Thank you very much.

Adams: Thank you. Very well said. Good evening.

Tammy Wilkins: Hello. My name is tamara wilkins. I am a 38-year-old single mother. About two years ago I found out I was pregnant and at the time my significant other was working in the construction industry with a company that didn't carry health insurance. When I found out I was pregnant, I had to go to planned parent hood for confirmation because we doesn't have any 348 provider at the time and things at home really got rocky from there. We had some domestic issues to begin with but his income was too much more any public assistance and he didn't work steady enough to finance the medical costs of a pregnancy or childbirth. The stress increased. It I understood up leading towards violence. I ended up having to send my son to my mother's house

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to insure his safety and I chose to leave that environment. Even though I had nowhere to go. I became homeless ended up miscarrying without insurance, I had to access emergency room care for the hospitalization behind the miscarriage and the procedures that were necessary. I didn't have very much work experience and no education. So I was transient for several months. Soon after I became home also my hands crumbled up with a pain situation I thought was carpal tunnel. I had to access medical care through the emergency room. Several times like four or five times, and they kept telling me I needed a referral to a specialist to diagnose carpal tunnel for treatment but without insurance, no specialist would see me. So I kept being sent away.

> after several months I heard there was a chiropractic clinic downtown that saw walk-in patients for free, western chiropractic clinic. I had suffered spinal damage during a beating so I went to see if the pain in my hand was caused by spinal damage. They did some x-rays when I got there and they said there was no spinal canceling to explain the pain so they did some blood tests to see if it was rheumatoid arthritis. What they discovered it was arrest lights and it had become debilitating that quick of a rate because I became homeless, and it was the dead of winter. It was the extreme cold that caused my hands to crumple up to the point I couldn't even barely use them. Since that time I have benefit allowed to access medical care and housing through central city concern and the minimum for program and while receiving these services I have been able to pursue an education to become employable. Eventually, I was support not only my son but my disabled mother as well. My second term at p.c.c. Pursuing a year certificate in website development. I will eventually have to address the enormous amount of medical expense I accumulated during that brief period of time I was homeless but for now the best I can do is maintain my education, and postpone employment until I am prepared to file medical bankruptcy or arrange a payment plan to resolve my debt issues. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you for your testimony, I really appreciate it.

Craig Honeyman: Members of the council, good evening. Commissioner Leonard, happy birthday.

Leonard: Thank you.

Honeyman: I don't for a minute think you are as old as commission are Adams suggested you were before you arrived this evening. [laughter] my name is craig honeyman and I am the executive director of the associated general contractors Oregon columbia chapter.

Adams: You only have 30 seconds. [laughter]

Honeyman: I expected that. [laughter]

Adams: I'm kidding.

Honeyman: So I will abbreviate the description of a.g.c. I believe most of you know who we are but we do represent contractors who are both union and open shop. And of all sizes in the industry. I am here this evening to open pose items 1035 and 1036 on the agenda on the surface, the substance of these ordinances appear benign. A study to try and expand options for employers to provide full family health care benefits. And obviously this is one of the most challenging individual and business and economic issues we face in the country today. Witness the testimony we have heard this evening. We support the notion a.g.c. Does of available and affordable health insurance option. Every day we work with our contractors to provide health care benefits through the benefit trust that today insures more than 10,000 lives in the construction industry and it's a program that's growing. We are proud to provide innovative products that make health insurance a affordable option for our members. However, undertaking these ordinances is a potential for a set of contract specification that is flies in the face of Oregon prevailing wage law and could be harmful to small employers. Oregon's current prevailing wage law requires payments of fringe benefits and I would like to correct a staff statement made earlier. It's my understanding that prevailing wage law applies to projects over \$50,000, not over \$750,000. There might be a confusion with the recent legislation passed in salem relative to public-private partnerships.

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Attached to my testimony are a couple of pages out of the current boley prevailing wage book. As you can see contractors are required to pay both base wage and a separately calculated fringe benefit. When contractors are surveyed, each year to determine the prevailing wage they report wages in benefits separately. When a contractor is working on a prevailing wage job he or she must pay the base wage and may offset the fringe benefit payment by providing health care and other benefits to their employees. If a contractor doesn't provide health insurance or other fringe benefits at level that's required then the contractor must pay the fringe benefit directly to the worker in wages. This would enable the work tore choose to obtain benefits on their own or supplement any benefits the worker is able to access through spouse or other means. Any mandate that would add to the requirement already laid out under prevailing wage law we think would be excessive and unnecessary and place a burden on small employers who may only occasionally venture into the public workplace. It's already cumbersome to dictate what kind of health care benefits those contractors should provide would create another barrier to entry, we fear, and would drive some contractors away to bidding for projects with the city. So we urge you not to adopt an ordinance that would lead to such regulation. Let me say, in conclusion, as I see my time is up --

Adams: I am giving you extra time.

Honeyman: Ok. That what I am testifying against tonight is a study. And a study with a presumed outcome. Neither I nor a.g.c. Are closed minded and if you do decide to pass this ordinance I want to pledge to you the commitment of a.g.c. To provide what other factual information and data you need or that the consultant needs to conduct this study. To that end, in the resolution, there's a reference at least the copy I have, to an Oregon insurance division of the a.g.c. We don't have a division as much. I would suggest the reference just be to a.g.c. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Adams: I want to thank you for being here tonight. And you and I have known each other for many years and you are very honorable and able representative. My joke was about the fact you told randy I told the audience that he was 87 years old before I got here. Not the fact that you are from a.g.c. [laughter] what about -- I mean, we have the resolution has bent product of many months of conversations among a variety of stakeholders and there's nothing in it that precludes anything moving forward and there's nothing in it that mandates anything moving forward. What it is is fact finding about the issue. There's a lot of passion in this room. There's a lot of passion around the city and elsewhere to try to address this issue. And what the city's potential pooling power and buying power, the idea of providing employers and employees access, with our heft, potential heft as a partner of providing more options for health care, i'm just not clear about your fear. So if you could tell me what -- is there anything specifically in the ordinance that causes you to be fearful or is it just sort of -- i'm looking for facts here. What about bringing the facts to the surface? Cause you such fear? Or your organization such fear?

Honeyman: Well, I guess what I pledged in the conclusion of my remarks is my willingness to develop some facts for you, at least as they relate to the a.g.c. Membership. 30% of which is union, are union contractors, which do about 50% of the work in this market. The balance obviously are union contractors and the data on them is not as readily available. Obviously the union contractors both for their management and their field employees offer health insurance. My concern, again, not to presume an outcome on the study, is -- but I guess I do a little bit -- is outlined in my statement. The concern the impact this will have on small businesses and their willingness to bid city work. And the possible duplication of a health care system that's already in place under the prevailing wage law.

Adams: I just would pledge to you then, and I think it's been true of almost all the conversations I have had with all parties, is, we are interested in getting the facts. And we are interested in looking at the options. And I don't think anyone should fear the fact finding and optioning from there. But I do respect and hear what you are saying.

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Honeyman: We will assist you, sir.

Adams: Thank you very much. Karla?

Adams: Welcome to the Portland city council. Mr. Posey, would you like to go first.

*******:** I think he's already organized.

Ted Gleichman: Good evening, commissioner. I'm ted gleickman. I am a member of redeemer lutheran church and the intervening spiritual center. And I am here to speak to the issue of level playing field. One of the most common and least analyzed business metaphors. I have provided copies of my written testimony and want to give you a synopsis of that. However, first, I would like to applaud ms. Birch's comments for namco in the spirit of struggle, and the expression of frustration and even anger that I heard in her words, I believe it's important that we all understand that race cannot be separated from the issue of health care in america. From the tuskegee experiments in our past, to the recent work that's been done on the issue of medical arrest par tied, all of us who support this ordinance and this proposed study also, I am sure, support the effort of outreach to people of all races and ethnicities that's necessary to make this doable in a healthy way.

And I believe that this is do belief but I don't believe that it will be easy. Let me know my own background. I have more than a decade of experience on the other side of the table from namco and a.g.c. In purchasing procurement, and supply. Had two national certifications in governmental purchasing and two awards for outreach to minority and women-owned businesses. I have worked with businesses of all sizes and in all industries. But the metaphor of a level playing field is not a metaphor for all seasons. If your competitor offers you a level playing field, and your sport is snowboarding, that person is not necessarily doing you a favor. My point is that any metaphor can be overextended and that's a common issue in these kinds of business difficulty discussions. One general economic arena where it does apply, though, is that of economies of scale. Small businesses and most but not all minority businesses qualify can be at a particular disadvantage in the relative inability to aggregate purchases for maximized cost savings based on economies of scale. But it's important to note that this disparity exists primarily in commodities, specialty goods and other manufactured products. For these areas economies of scale are a real challenge and small businesses generally do not have a level playing field. The issue can also apply in aggregation of services but to a lesser degree. General nonprofessional technical and certain professional services can usually be had somewhat more cheaply from a large business, all or things being equal, because of the cost reductions associated with overhead, not a cost reduction associated with the base price of labor. Especially, of course, in a prevailing wage regime. That is, there is no economy of scale in pure baseline labor costs in such contrast. That is why applying a prevailing wage requirement is, in fact, a boon to small businesses. It eliminates a huge area where large businesses might otherwise compete and therefore often significantly levels the playing field.

Adams: Your time is up.

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

Adams: Very well spoken and we have the written remainder of your remarks.

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

Adams: Thank you for your testimony. Good evening.

Beverly Logan: I'm beverly logan. I live in southeast Portland. And I am a member of st. Andrew church in northeast Portland. I am also a leader with the metropolitan alliance for common good. My comments are my own comments, however. Sort of. I have been part of some of the teams that have met with you three commissioners to discuss the proposal that mack g has put forward. So I guess I would like to straighten out that while workers are a target of our efforts, the target is health care access in our community. And increasing that, not just for workers but for all the residents. We recognize that there's a burden of providing insurance that employers have. We also recognize there are restrictions of current laws and we have taken those things into consideration. We also, I have heard just in the last few weeks that the resolution has changed

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dramatically. I have heard leaders from mac g express interest in working with minority contractors to try to help level the playing field disparities that they experience. But we still are interested in keeping or producing a level playing field for responsible contractors who do provide insurance for health care for their employees. And for those who for whatever reason find that too burdensome and obviously there's reasons why that's difficult for small businesses, we are interested in finding a way to help, to help them either work with the city, stand with them in working with the city to find remedies for those difficulties. I guess andre baugh had said earlier everybody in the room is probably for health care, and I would just add to that that I suspect everyone in the room is probably for supporting minority contractors. But I guess I would just ask that you not wait until those disparities have been remedies perfectly before we start doing something bold to address the needs in terms of health care in our community. Concentric circles sounds like a long-time coming. We want to see workers provided with health care access but also other residents of our community and those who don't receive insurance through their employer should have greater access through their clinics if that's what they have to rely on. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much for your testimony and your work on this issue. Mr. Posey.

James Posey: Thank you very much. My name is james posey. I am the president of namco, national association of minority contractors, and let me ask the tech guy a procedural question. I have a letter here from joanne bowman, Oregon action. May I read that? Will that intervene on my time or should I just submit the letter?

Adams: Protocol is to just submit the letter.

Posey: I will submit the letter but suffice to say that joanne bowman is no slouch on this issue and her comments are well taken. Let me just say that the comments of fay birch are really represents in a very sincere way namco's position on this issue. And there's really nothing I could add to that. The thing that I really want to talk about with my time is this process. I'm concerned that we as citizens of Oregon be truthful. We know this is not about health care. This is about empowering unions and about focusing on unions and their intervention in this city. And this is sad thing for me to sit here and watch as the citizens of this community watch these church people, by the way, a lot of catholics here. I am wondering where right baptist, the presbyterians and the pentecostals? Be that as it may, my concern is that we really tell the truth. You all are focusing on contractors and you all know for a fact that health care is a larger issue. I have a dele. I have employees that come here who work at minimum wage and I would like pay them health care also. This is a broader picture than just contractors. I wish we would just tell the truth. We are using this process, the resolution as a back door approach to really already making a decision in many ways because in honesty, over the last two years, while you guys have been studying this, you haven't involved us in any material way. I am talking about the broader community. You have had the union people here, 701 incidentally is one of the agencies are one of the unions that we had to sue 10 years ago for not allowing a black woman to get her journeyman level. So there arrest lot of inequities here. There's a lot of dynamics here that saddens me. And I wish that these people from mac g would really evaluate what they are doing and why they are doing it. And with that being said, the whole process of having a evaluation or someone, some organization looking at this from a, from the standpoint of telling us what the facts are, that should have been done -- that should have been the first element in this process as opposed to the last element of this process. So I am sort of saddens that we are sitting here talking about health care when we really are not talking about health care. Thank you very much.

Adams: Thank you for your testimony, mr. Posey.

Adams: Is mr. Puckett available? Hi, cliff.

Cliff Puckett: Thank you, commissioner. My name is cliff puckett. I am a representative for the carpenters union in Portland and I am here tonight to talk to you about health care. As you can see this is a community issue. This room is filled. The majority of these people in this room probably

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are not construction workers. But they are all concerned about health care. And serious reform for health care for not just construction workers but all members of our community. This has been a long process we have been working on this. Mack g has been a huge part of it. The majority of mac g is not labor. It's not construction workers. But they see the impact of what a better health care system can do to help improve this community. I would ask you to take another look at the amendments put forth before you tonight and consider how a broader reach would help. That's been looked at over the last year and a half by groups, including mac g and namco was a part of it on considering how we cannot just affect construction workers on these projects but make it touch the lives of all the citizens of Portland. So please, take one more look at that and see if there's something we can do it about it tonight. There's some concern that by setting this to a committee, it's going to go there to die. That's not what anybody in this room wants. We have heard it from a couple different groups tonight that are set to be on that committee that have made it clear they do not want to see a change in the process. They are happy with the status quo. When people on this committee have a determined goal to make a change, to make something better, that's all the amendments that mac g put forward tonight are really asking for. Set a goal that we want this to change. There's enough smart people in this room and this city that can be on this committee that figure out a way to get something better than what we have now. Thank you.

Adams: Thank you very much. All right. Couple of thoughts. You have all had an opportunity to hear some of the conversation among stakeholder groups that has existed and been part of the reason that this process has been two years. There is a question of trust among certain stakeholder groups. And in terms of my proposal, our proposal, that we put forward is to do the basic research in the light of day with a time line and, if my colleagues can tell you, I work hard to stick to the time lines that we put forth. But to do the kind of research with folks around the table so that it's done in the light of day. I think everybody in this room would like to have an impact on all the uninsured in the city of Portland. I think the way to start for the city government, which is not responsible directly for the general provision of general health care in the community, which is a county service, is to at least start with our own contracted work force. And as we do that, we will learn a lot about the big are issue in the community. So that remains. I absolutely hear you. That remains part of your aspirations. It remains part of our aspirations and what I would like to do is to move this conversation forward together with a fact finding effort. And in the process my hope is to try to build some bonds of trust among the many stakeholder groups, that as a city commissioner and as a city council, we need to take -- we need to hear and we need to consider. So I do appreciate the additional amendments that you have brought forward. My preference would be is to move forward with the resolution. It's the differences -- move forward with the resolution that we have before us, that we have worked on, and in the process hopefully make an impact on the bigger, wider problem of lack of health care in our community and our state and in our nation. But it is now time for council conversation. If there's no conversation we are ready to vote.

Adams: I want to thank kimberly snyder, terry richardson on my staff. I want to thank jeff bauer and the folks at purchasing, wherever you are at. I want to underscore my thanks to cherry who has been great about being accessible to me and my staff and thank you all. I really look forward to the next five and six months to see what we can really do to help real people get access to some real good health care. Aye.

Leonard: You know, it is just so difficult to change the status quo in anything and cherry used a good example with the biodiesel ordinance. There are numerous others. Eric Sten's work on housing for the homeless. Sam Adams' work on transportation. You just go down the list and had you start work on this stuff you quickly realize why nothing ever gets done. Because that's the safest place to be is to do nothing. And when you actually propose to do something different like provide health care for people that don't have it, reasons why you shouldn't do it vary from a cost too much to apparently even religion. And I respect the work sam has done on this a lot. And I

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appreciate how hard sam works on these initiatives and balances them. And I am very reluctant at the last minute to come in and second guess something sam has worked on because I honor the work and, in fact, the comments he just made were really getting to the question I had, which was shouldn't we make this a broader analysis and look -- because it is a difficult subject, see what the various options are. But I think his explanation makes sense. I think it is, in my mind, the first step and maybe a multi-step process that we would probably engage in over a period of time to try to get to really the more fundamental issue, and that is, how do you provide access to the health care system as people have so eloquently said here tonight for people that don't have it? That's the real question. It's not about unions and it's not about anything but making sure human rights and dignity are honored in the united states of america. Which by the way, is done better in other countries than we do and that's shameful. It shouldn't be. But that's -- we all know that's the problem. The solution is difficult to find, obviously, and so I want to support sam in his efforts. I want to look very much at this as the first step in a many-stepped process that I think all of us working together can achieve. And I mean all of us. I don't mean just the people interested in health care but those that will be impacted by the cost of that. I think there are things we can and should do to help them as well. I mean this shouldn't be a one-sided conversation. They pay or don't pay and I think all of us have a stake in this. And so again, I appreciate this work very much. It was excellent testimony tonight. I very much enjoyed the hard felt nature of what some of you said. I hope you are doing well. And i'm pleased to vote aye.

Sten: Well, I want to thank cherry and ben and ed and the team that have been work on this a long time. I want to specifically thank individuals who came and told of your hard struggle. I think it's not easy to sit up and do that and it makes a huge difference. Thank you for being that courageous. I am obviously going to support moving forward. There I think there is, this is a tough topic in general, and this initiative itself, I have sat not nearly a hundredth of the meetings you have but a few meetings trying to think this through and I think we have got it narrowed to the point where we can get somewhere. I think there's room to talk about the i. That were brought up about who all could access a pool and other things. I think there's room to talk about how broad it should be defined but I think if we can get it right in the way sam has described it it will be easy to add things because we will actually have something that's working and it's one. These things where it's -- it broadens very quickly. I also hate to say but I want to be clear with something I think everybody will agree with, we have no chance of solving health care in the city hall chambers. It's a national issue. And I hope and you will join me in continuing to push this into the presidential election, where it truly belongs. We need universal health care coverage. It's absolutely affordable and credible people think it can be provided for the same amount of money we are spending on the current system if we do it right. That's really the push. That being said, working at a local level I often could give that speech about just about any topic. We should have help to do all sorts of things. And meanwhile, if in effort gets one person the health care coverage that allows them to avoid some of the tragic, unnecessary pain that we have heard about tonight, then it's well worth the effort. So I think we cannot solve this. We have got to keep focused on the big picture but meanwhile I think we can through this effort get some more people some health care and make a dent that isn't symbolic because it's real lives that are at stake and everyone is important. So I also want to end by thanking commissioner Adams, that he has had several initiatives for those of you that were here all day that were very difficult and has brought them successfully to us. I wish it were finished tonight but this is the piece that will you allow us to be finished. Your activism is terrific. There are questions to be answered. And I look forward to trying to answer them with you and coming to some conclusions. Aye.

Adams: Is congratulations, everybody. The resolution passes. We are on our way. [applause] and unless there's council objection, we will withdraw the 10 whatever.

*****: Clerk: 1036.

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Adams: Right. Thanks.

At 7:47 p.m., Council adjourned.