



Laborers' Local 483 Municipal Employees



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Phone: (503)239-5676
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Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

November 16, 2011

Dear City Council and Members of the Public:

We declare an economic emergency in the City of Portland. We ask Council to please do the same.

We are the 900 member public employee union who maintain your infrastructure, including your gold medal parks renowned for their beauty, your clean roads and bridges, your safe water, and the vibrant community centers where your children learn and play. We support the public through our daily labor.

Mayor Adams has asked our Bureau of Transportation to cut 16.2 million dollars in infrastructure services that have already been depleted over the last 10 years. At least 100 layoffs of full-time represented employees – a third of our Union members in that Bureau - are expected. At the maximum request in Parks and Recreation, up to 49 layoffs of full-time represented employees are projected. Without us, our roads will crumble, our parks will be trashed, our families will have no community centers to bring their children, emergency crews will not quickly arrive to disasters, and our neighbors will not get to their jobs or lead healthy lives. Without us, the City suffers. Cuts of this size are an emergency.

Behind the desks and shovels, in trucks, standing at machines, and wearing hard hats are people. High unemployment within our city requires many of us to provide for our children longer and take care of our extended families. Those few of us who do not have families see the need to contribute even more to our neighbors knowing that people are in dire need right

November 16, 2011, Laborers' Local 483, Re: Potential Layoffs

now. Our union membership is often in the forefront of civic participation – whether it be at our churches, in our neighborhood associations, or even knocking on doors to provide support to our neighbors suffering during this economic crisis. Mayor Adams and City Council: we need jobs, not cuts. Layoffs of this proportion are an emergency.

We also ask you to consider how massive layoffs will increase wealth inequality and depress labor standards in a community already struggling with a lack of family-wage jobs. We know our union is strong. And strong unions set a pay standard that nonunion employers in Portland, and in this region, follow to stay competitive. Our union thereby reduces wage inequality by maintaining a healthy standard of living more for low- and middle-wage workers than for white-collar workers, managers, or bankers. What our membership does not earn in actual wages, we bargain in healthcare and benefits, ensuring the well-being of our members through their natural life-conditions and old-age. Setting the standard for healthcare locally will eventually lead to a system of healthcare for all. We see the current strategy of hiring non-union contractors, “temporary” and “seasonal” employees as a reckless strategy for Council and our Bureaus to take because doing so will only cause more wage and health inequality in this City. Drastic reductions in labor standards are an emergency.

Outside your doors, thousands have gathered over the last month to express discontent with the economic choices of our governments, which have favored the wealthy over the majority of constituents. We will once again express the frustration of the 99% tomorrow in a national day of action that focuses on the failure of our leaders to create good jobs while at the same time pursuing job-killing budget cuts. Knowing what may be coming our way, we ask Portland to exercise leadership by example. We are mere days away from the recommendations of our Congressional “super committee,” which will very likely include \$500 billion in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. The bad decisions of Congress make it even more imperative that our local officials lead wisely. Lead working people into good jobs that serve the community. Lead us out of desperate unemployment. Lead us into an empowered

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Col. Pac. Building and Construction Trades Council | District Council of Trade Unions Representing Public Employees

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society where your constituents feel successful at the end of the day because they have provided for their families and positively contributed to their communities. During this emergency, leading is what we elect you to do.

Laborers' Local 483 asks you to declare a fiscal emergency and work with us to implement portions of the City's Emergency Transition Services Program that will mitigate the downturn's negative effects on City employees. This emergency calls for you to put people to work in jobs that serve the public over profits.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Very truly yours,



Farrell Richartz, on behalf of Laborers' Local 483 Executive Board and PBOT membership



Richard Beetle, Business Manager, Laborers' Local 483

Endorsed by General Membership of Laborers' Local 483, November 15, 2011

--Affiliated--

Oregon AFL-CIO | Northwest Oregon Labor Council | O.S.I. District Council of Laborers.
Col. Pac. Building and Construction Trades Council | District Council of Trade Unions Representing Public Employees

Parsons, Susan

From: Erica Askin [Erica@Liuna483.org]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2011 1:23 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Cc: Farrell Richartz
Subject: RE: Council Agenda Nov 16, 2011

One clarification: Farrell's title is Utility II worker, and he works in the Street Cleaning Division. Thank you!

From: Erica Askin
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2011 1:00 PM
To: 'sparsons@ci.portland.or.us'
Cc: Farrell Richartz
Subject: Council Agenda Nov 16, 2011

Dear Susan:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me on Friday. Farrell Richartz and I would like to set aside 2 spaces for Council Agenda on November 16, 2011. Farrell is Recording Secretary of Laborers' Local 483 and a Street Cleaner at the Bureau of Transportation. I am a staff member of Laborers' Local 483. We will both be speaking about the Bureau of Transportation.

Please feel free to call me with any questions at 971-322-8747. Thank you.

Erica

Erica B. Askin
Laborers' Local 483
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Erica@liuna483.org
office: 503-239-5676 ext. 4 | mobile: 971-322-8747



I'm sticking to the union!

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended for the exclusive use of the addressees and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify Erica Askin by telephone at 971.322.8747 or by e-mail at the address indicated. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient is not a waiver of any privilege or other applicable protection.

11/7/2011

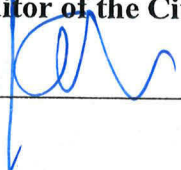
Request of Erica Askin to address Council regarding the Bureau of Transportation
(Communication)

NOV 16 2011

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 10 2011

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		