



Laborers' Local 483 Municipal Employees



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Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

December 7, 2011

Dear City Council:

Last month, fifty of our members attended your Council meeting to declare an emergency. We asked you to work with our union to implement portions of the City's Emergency Transition Services Program if it is true that budget cuts are imminent before approval of the next fiscal year budget. We have not heard from the Bureau of Human Resources regarding our appeal.

The City of Portland is at a critical junction. We commend Mayor Adams for showing interest in a sustainable local economy and the movement against corporate personhood as a stance against economic inequality at the national level. Laborers' Local 483 believes that the City must also be socially responsible in its own funding practices. In the City of Portland's Statement of Net Assets as of June 30, 2010, a balance of \$110,186,791 million dollars is listed as unrestricted Internal Service Funds. Our understanding is that unrestricted Internal Service Funds are made up of charges to the Bureaus that would otherwise be used for services, and that charges reflect actual expenses. For this reason, a responsible practice for the City is to keep the Internal Service Funds tending towards zero. With City reserves and other funding in good shape, we urge Council to not go overboard in its accounting for the sake of high-end investors. At this time of unemployment and underemployment, we reiterate that policy decisions in favor of the 1% cannot be made at the expense of City services which ensure the well-being of 99% of the public. Again, we call on City Council to recognize the emergency of the situation.

In the long-term, Local 483 commits to advocating for new funding models for Bureaus

December 7, 2011, Laborers' Local 483, Re: Preventing Cuts in PBOT

that operate on unsustainable revenues like the gas tax. As a stop-gap measure, we suggest a holiday on Internal Service charges. We see the 110 million Internal Service Fund balance as a sign that the City of Portland has substantial resources that can be used to provide support to operating budgets like the Bureau of Transportation and other public facilities that desperately need to provide services and get people to work with living wage jobs. We are eager for publication of the City's net assets in the 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. We view those assets as an opportunity for City Council to ensure that services like transportation, education, and public safety are accessible and provided by dedicated frontline employees who earn living wages and healthcare.

In short, we believe responsible governance requires Council to examine its Internal Service Funds to prevent cuts to city services. If cuts are imminent, we ask Council to declare a fiscal emergency before considering layoffs.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

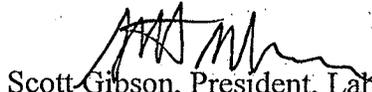
Very truly yours,

Executive Board, Laborers' Local 483

Signed December 6, 2011



Richard Beetle, Business Manager, Laborers' Local 483



Scott Gibson, President, Laborers' Local 483, Parks and Recreation



Kevin Stampflee, Vice President, Laborers' Local 483, Bureau of Transportation



Farrell Richartz, Recording Secretary, Laborers' Local 483, Bureau of Transportation



Mike Murphy, Member-at-Large, Laborers' Local 483, Parks and Recreation



Wesley Buchholz, Member-at-Large, Laborers' Local 483, Bureau of Environmental Systems

--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: Monday, November 21, 2011 8:27 AM

To: Parsons, Susan

Subject: Council Agenda ~~Nov 30th~~ Dec 7th

Dear Susan:

I would like to be placed on the schedule on Wednesday, November 30th at 9:30 a.m. I am a staff member of Laborers' Local 483, and will be speaking about the Bureau of Transportation.

Thank you very much for your time. Happy Holidays!

Erica

Erica B. Askin

Laborers' Local 483

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Erica@liuna483.org

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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.

11/21/2011

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

DEC 07 2011

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 02 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		