

Hello. My name is Norberto Lopez.

I have been employed with the City of Portland for six months. I'm a utility worker in the Sewer cleaning division at PBOT. My primary responsibilities involve Emergency Response, Traffic control and assisting Sewer systems cleaning operators.

By maintaining our infrastructure and protecting public health, water quality, and the environment, our bureau contributes to the livability of Portland. The proposed budget cuts threaten services that are vital to our community.

Portland citizens are affected by flooded streets caused by storm water systems at maximum capacity. Backed up sewer systems, when overloaded, become potential sewage spills in Portland homes, streets, rivers, creeks, and waterways.

We are responsible for routing traffic on busy Portland streets requiring maintenance. During inclement weather, our snow and ice operations clear the streets in order to provide safe passage for Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Response crews. We provide daily commuters the ability to travel to and from their respective neighborhoods and places of business.

Our sewers are deteriorating due to aging pipe systems requiring maintenance, overhauling, and redesign. Our streets are crumbling from the wear and tear and heavy use of commuter cars, public transportation, and large over the road semi's. The wear and tear is constant and requires ongoing maintenance.

This ongoing maintenance is what my coworkers and I address on a daily basis. Covering the many miles of sewer and street is already an operational challenge at our current staffing levels. Cutting 100 positions will dramatically reduce our capacity, impacting operational goals, and create an emergency situation for the City of Portland and its citizens.

I am a divorced single father of two daughters. My 17 year old daughter Bianca is a Junior in High School and my 12 year old daughter Stephannie, a sixth grader. Both of them live with their mother. They rely on my income to meet their daily needs and maintain the basic quality of life they are accustomed to.

If these cuts to PBOT go through, I will be laid off. My joining the ranks of the unemployed will have a dramatic effect on their lives and will threaten their current living situation. I'm not a home-owner, but I am in danger of not being able to provide the necessary financial assistance to help my children and their mother hold on to what little security and hope they have while they deal with the real threat that they might lose their home.

I believe the hardships that my family faces are shared by many of my fellow employees. Some of us who are directly threatened by these proposed cuts left better paying jobs for the opportunity to work for the city of Portland. We chose the City because of its reputation for providing job security and for the competitive benefits offered as part of the employment experience.

Because of the current economic conditions, the jobs we left behind are no longer available. My coworkers' families, like mine, are asking themselves, what will become of us?

I urge you not to create job loss in your quest for cuts. We need to look at longer term budget concerns. We need to coordinate strategic thinking.

"This is an Emergency for Portland families" and I, my family, and the families of Portland call on City Council to stand up for the families of the 99% and work for solutions, not cuts.

Thank you

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**Parsons, Susan**

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**From:** Norberto Lopez [norbertolopez46@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 3:15 PM  
**To:** Askin, Erica; Parsons, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: Council Agenda Dec 14th

Susan, thank you for allowing me an opportunity to speak in front of the council on December 14.

Kind regards,  
Norberto Lopez

-----Original Message-----

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 12:30:51  
To: "Parsons, Susan" <Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov>, norbertolopez46@yahoo.com  
From: "Erica Askin" <Erica@Liuna483.org>  
Subject: Council Agenda Dec 14th

Thank you very much, Susan.

Norberto Lopez would like to reserve a space on Council's communications agenda on December 14th to speak about the impact of potential infrastructure budget cuts. He will confirm with you by email.

Thanks again for all your help!

Erica

Erica B. Askin

Laborers' Local 483

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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.

Request of Norberto Lopez to address Council regarding the impact of potential infrastructure budget cuts (Communication)

DEC 14 2011

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Filed DEC 09 2011

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

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