

Comments of Victoria Taft before the Portland City Council May 23, 2012

Good morning. I was born and live in the City of Portland. I am a constituent. I am a taxpayer.

I'm here today because recently you've been considering the idea of raising garbage and water rates AGAIN and I'm here to ask, 'please don't.'

I'd like to introduce you to the OTHER Portland. It's the Portland with which you're apparently not familiar. They're the people too busy working to take time off to testify.

Here are a few of their stories:

A young couple saved up and bought a house –against my advice—in the City of Portland. He now daily complains of bag bans and forced composting and higher costs passed by you. They don't know if they can afford your next whim.

Another couple I know were forced by this recession and recent employment setbacks to downsize their house but chose to live outside of the City of Portland because can't predict future costs here. There's no predictability from a council that thinks its job is to do *everything* instead of sticking to what's in the charter.

A neighbor came by the other day to talk over the fence about what was going on in the 'hood. I hadn't seen him for awhile because he's moved his business to another state. Now he'd like to move everything out. What measures 66 and 67 started, you're likely to finish.

Another neighbor stops his bike ride routinely in front of my house and we chat about his and his wife's business--which they've moved over to Hawaii---because Portland has gotten so expensive. It's *cheaper in Hawaii*.

It's so expensive here that I know a family whose main breadwinner had to take a job over a thousand miles away to keep up with the growing costs of living in the City of Portland. There aren't many jobs here but there are plenty of expenses.

There are certain roads I can't drive on because you won't fix them. The Victoria Taft Show will be producing a calendar for next year. We're calling it, "The Portland Pothole Calendar." Photo submissions are welcome.

The current urban renewal areas on the books between 2010 and 2015 by the PDC's estimate will deprive Portland Public Schools schools of \$163,000,000. Now you've announced plans to start seven new urban renewal areas

Urban renewal areas siphon money from basic services like education, fire and police.

You're laying off Portland Police Officers now because you allowed your personal political beliefs to color your response to Occupy Portland, allowing them to trash the parks and incur unnecessarily long police overtime.

Now you come back to the law abiding taxpayers to pay for your dalliances.

I know it's fun to give money away to charities and good causes. Schools, grant programs to PCC, sustainability centers seem fun to you.

But you're spending other peoples' money so you can feel charitable. That's not charity. That's something else. That's stealing. There are people who have been picking up the tab for you for years and they're spent. They're tired. That's the OTHER Portland.

Please don't raise your taxes and fees on us.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: epeterson@kpam.com

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9:53 AM

To: Moore-Love, Karla

Subject: 5/23/2012 citizen communications request

Name: Victoria Taft

Address 6605 se lake road Portland, Oregon 97222

Comments re: Garbage rates and Urban Renewal

rates

Request of Victoria Taft to address Council regarding garbage and urban renewal
(Communication)

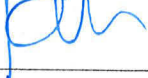
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MAY 18 2012

Filed _____

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		