

DFO Council Testimony 3/20/2013

Charlie LaTourette
Executive Director
The Dental Foundation of Oregon
PO Box 2448
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Good Morning Mayor Hales, and City Commissioners

I'm Charlie LaTourette and I'm the Executive Director of the Dental Foundation of Oregon. We deliver free dental care through our mobile dental clinic called the Tooth Taxi and we spend a lot of time in the greater Portland area where there is significantly more dental decay than in cities where there is community water fluoridation. In fact, Portland children have 40% more dental decay than kids in Seattle – which has had water fluoridation for decades.

I'm horrified by what I see through the work of our free mobile dental clinic. I'll never forget the 13 year old boy who presented to us. He had been suffering with a tooth ache for over a year and the pain had become so excruciating that he tried to pull his own tooth with a pair of pliers...failing a making a mess.

Thousands of low-income children in Portland are suffering dental decay that causes real pain and suffering. They are missing school.

Portland children and adults too often are ending up in hospital emergency rooms with severe infections that can even be life threatening. It doesn't have to be this way.

Decades of research and experience has shown that community water fluoridation reduces dental decay by 25% or more. The CDC named water fluoridation as one of its ten great public health achievements of the 20th century. Over 200,000,000 American's already enjoy this community health benefit. But not here in Portland.

Every major trusted health organization in the country supports it, and over 3,000 scientific studies spanning nearly 50-years have shown community water fluoridation to be safe and effective.

It also saves money. Every dollar invested in fluoride saves \$38 in unneeded dental treatment. That saves our community potentially millions of dollars. But it also saves thousands of dollars per person – money that many families and individuals can not afford to pay for care.

The science is clear. The need is clear. It is time we implement community water fluoridation in Portland. Thank you very much.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Charles (Charlie) T. LaTourette [charlie@smileonoregon.org]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 8:25 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Charles (Charlie) T. LaTourette
Subject: Testimony Request

Hi Karla,

I would like to sign up to deliver testimony on Wednesday morning March 20, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall.

Charles LaTourette
PO Box 2448, Wilsonville, OR 97070
503-594-0881
Date Requested: March 20, 2013
Topic: Community water fluoridation

Thank you very much.

Charlie LaTourette
Executive Director
The Dental Foundation of Oregon
503-594-0881
www.SmileOnOregon.org

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Request of Charlie LaTourette to address Council regarding community water
fluoridation (Communication)

MAR 20 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAR 15 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		