

CITY FAIR WAGE POLICY PROPOSAL- \$15/HRIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

✓ Dana Carstensen	Laborers 483 representative	dana@luna483.org
✓ Scott Gibson (VIDEO)	Laborers 483 representative	scottg@easystreet.net
✓ Eric Dash	2134 NE 55th Ave PARKS and RECREATION	pineconesoftball@gmail.com
<del>Robert Anthony</del>	<del>AFSCME 88, Transition Projects Inc.</del>	
✓ John Talbot	AFSCME 88, Central City Concern	jelloismeat27@yahoo.com
✓ <del>Linda Sporer</del>	<del>SEIU Local 49</del>	
✓ <del>Quang Nguyen</del>	<del>SEIU Local 49</del>	
✓ Father Jack Mosbrucker	retired minister	jamosb@hotmail.com
✓ Joe Rastatter	2006 NE 50th 97213 CIVIC STADIUM WORKER	joerastatter@gmail.com
✓ Icarus Jacoby Smith	PARKS & REC seasonal worker	icarus.smith@pcc.edu
✓ Anne McDonnell	Laborers 483 128 NE 50th Ave 97213	peaches11084@gmail.com
✓ Tim Norgren	15 NOW	tnorgren@juno.com
✓ Nic Caleb	Right to the City Coalition	nick.caleb@gmail.com

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NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Chris Ferlazzo	<sup>PORTLAND</sup> Jobs with Justice	chris@jwjpdx.org
✓ Toby Green	Laborers 483 representative	ranting@gmail.com
✓ Shamus Cooke	15 NOW pdx	shamuscooke@gmail.com
✓ Robby Schaul	Laborers 483	
✓ Matty Meme Ellison	Laborers 483	matthew.edward.ellison@gmail.com
✓ Matt Marino	650 NW Irving 97209	mrmarino88@aol.com
✓ Gerry Mohr	5318 SE Harold St. 97206	gerry.mohr@earthlink.net
✓ Mark Vorpahl	2409 NE MLK Apt. 301 97212	vorpas@yahoo.com
✓ Laurie King	Portland Rising	
✓ Jamie Partridge	5831 NE 10th Ave 97211	jamiecp7206@aol.com
✓ Melissa Vullono	6505 NE 34th Ave <sup>Socialist</sup> <sup>Alternative</sup>	melissanet97@gmail.com



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NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Alex Anderson	10414 SE 24th Ave. Milwaukie, OR 97222	Luaman@gmail.com
✓ Rob Wheaton	725 NE 30th Portland, OR 97213	rwheaton@oregonafscme.com
✓ BAKER SCHONCHIN HOLDINGS CORPORATION	JERRY ANDERSON, PR REP 920 NW KEARNEY ST #110 PDX 97209	MARTHAOPEREZ@yahoo.com
✓ Ted Pyke	2910 dupont	Teddy.136cypk
Greg Wilkes	403 136th Portland OR	GregoryRayWilkesJr@gmail.com
✓ Romeo Sosa	1131 SE Oak St Portland	romeo@portlandvix.org
Bob Tackett	9955 SE Washington St.	BTackett@nwac.org
STEVE SHUMATE	7325 SE Powell Blvd PDX	Shumate.Steve@gmail.com
✓ Charles JOHNSON	731 SW Salmon ST	wdmichtom@gmail.com
✓ Bill Michtom		
✓ LaQuida Landford		

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✓ Steven Entwistle		
✓ Judith Pullman		



Testimony to the Portland City Council  
 Provided by Guoung Nguyen  
 Member, SEIU Local 49

Re: Proposed increase to the City's Fair Wage Policy

February 18, 2015

Good afternoon Mayor Hales and Commissioners.

My name is Guoung Nguyen. I have been working at the Portland Building for the last 5 years and with PHC for the last 18 years. I am also a proud member of my SEIU local 49.

My co-workers from the Portland Building are also here today. Most of them, like me, are immigrants to this country. We have experienced and escaped great tragedy. Kadar and my other three co-workers are from Somalia. Behara is from Bosnia. I have a co-worker from Sierra Leone and Vietnam. I, myself, immigrated to the United State 22 years ago from Vietnam.

Most of my immigrant friends tell me I am lucky. I have a union job, free employee paid healthcare, and make more than minimum wage. It is very hard for immigrant workers to find and secure a union job. Despite working hard, we constantly struggle with language, communication, and cultural barriers. Most immigrants have large families and a commitment to their extended family here or back home. So when my friends tell me I am lucky, they are right. I only have one young daughter who is 20 years old. She is currently attending University of Oregon. She wants to be a medical doctor. Like most immigrants, I do work and struggle to provide a better future for my daughter. As a working mother, I could not afford to support her or even buy her books. I could not afford to buy her a bus ticket; so she could come home once in a while. I also wonder if I could afford to attend her graduation ceremony in person. All I can do is pray and wish her well.

With the increase minimum wage I could afford to attend her graduation ceremony, I might even be able to afford to cover some of her college books expense in her last year. That will make me a proud mother and an accomplished immigrant.

Thank you, Mayor Hales. Thank you, Commissioners.

Guoung Nguyen  
 8437 SE 78th Pl  
 Portland, OR 97206

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
 INTERNATIONAL UNION  
 LOCAL 49

3536 SE 26th Avenue  
 Portland, OR 97202-2901  
 503.236.4949  
 Fax 503.238.6692  
 Toll Free 800.955.3352  
 Toll Free Fax 888.595.7979  
[www.seiu49.org](http://www.seiu49.org)





Testimony to the Portland City Council

Provided by Linda Sporer

Member, SEIU Local 49



Re: Proposed increase to the City's Fair Wage Policy

February 18, 2015

Good afternoon Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

My name is Linda Sporer and I have been a security officer at the Portland Building for over 5 years. I am also a proud member of SEIU, Local 49.

I am literally here today because of you and my union, SEIU local 49. I am currently undergoing chemotherapy. Before security officers organized with SEIU local 49 two years ago, all of my wages would go to cover my medical expenses. As minimum wage workers, security officers were accustomed to not expect any wage increases, let alone dream of affordable healthcare coverage.

Without the City's commitment to using a union contractor, without you the Mayor and Commissioners supporting security officers during our first union contract bargaining, and without my union, I would not have been able to afford the cost of my healthcare and I would not be alive today.

As a union security officer, after taxes I currently take home \$1560/month. My utilities, including gas, water, electricity, cable, phone, and garbage service cost me \$570/month. Each month, I pay \$109 for car insurance, \$150 for my medicine, and we pay \$1,100 for rent. I want to point out that my husband and I only pay \$1,100 for rent because my daughter is our landlord. Market value rent for my home could easily be upwards of \$1,700 a month. After paying all of my bills, I have a mere \$439 left for food and other activities. If I was renting a house at Portland's expensive rental prices, I would not have anything to eat.

So as you can see, I am very excited by the Mayor and Commissioners' proposal. The extra income would mean I could afford to give my grandchild a Christmas gift. I might be able to afford to pay my own daughter a full rental price.

The City has proven that time and time again they will step up for the working class in our community. From passing mandatory sick days, to standing with security officers as we organized our union to improve standards, I have no doubt that this initiative will also pass.

I would like to thank the Mayor for leading on this issue, the commissioners for supporting the raise, and everyone else who has worked on this initiative.

I appreciate you having me here and letting me share my stories. This raise is going to make an immediate, real, and meaningful impact on my family, my co-workers, and myself.

Thank you,

Linda Sporer

11521 NE Siskiyou

Portland, OR 97220

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
LOCAL 49

3536 SE 26th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202-2901

503.236.4949

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Testimony to the Portland City Council  
 Provided by Mark Jefferies  
 Member, SEIU Local 49

Re: Proposed increase to the City's Fair Wage Policy

February 18, 2015

Good afternoon Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

My name is Mark Jefferies, and I am a janitor here at Portland City Hall and a member of the Service Employees International Union, Local 49.

I have been working here for close to three and half years and for PHC NW for over 12 years. I'm proud of the work my co-workers and I do, and we appreciate the support and recognition we receive from the people here.

This afternoon I want to voice my support for a \$15 an hour minimum wage increase for the city workers and contractors.

I know of janitors with large families who struggle to make ends meet. We janitors work physically demanding jobs and should be compensated accordingly.

With the extra income, my wife and I can chose to put more money towards retirement. A \$15 an hour wage would help with maintenance and unexpected repair costs, such as the recent work performed on our car that cost us over \$2000. Extra income could also be used to help offset our contributions to our daughter's community college education.

My daughter is employed and rents an apartment. My wife has an office job in the private sector and our combined income allows us to get by all right. However, we would have had strong financial challenges without the City's commitment to using a union contractor and our union standing up for working families.

So along with my co-workers, union members, and the city employees, I look forward to this beneficial wage increase.

Thank you for listening to me on this important issue.

Mark Jefferies  
 4650 NE 36th Ave  
 Portland, OR 97211

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
 INTERNATIONAL UNION  
 LOCAL 49

3536 SE 26th Avenue  
 Portland, OR 97202-2901  
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[www.seiu49.org](http://www.seiu49.org)



February 10, 2015

37112

AUDITOR 02/17/15 AM 11:24

The Portland City Council/Mayor Charlie Hale  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Room 110  
Portland, OR

From: DeEtta Leppert, Registered Democrat  
7967 SE 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. #8  
Portland, OR 97202

Re:

- (1) Amanda Fritz's smoking ban proposal
- (2) Mayor Hales Street Fee proposals (and The Arts Tax)
- (3) Mayor Hales proposal to pay employers to hire ex-felons and do away with background checks.
- X (4) Mayor Hales proposal to raise the minimum pay wage of Portland City employees to \$15.00 per hour
- (5) Mayor Hales agenda to provide low income housing to veterans

Dear Members of the City Council,

I have recently become aware of some proposals that I disagree with or am concerned about. I am a born Oregonian and moved to Portland 54 years ago when I was in grade school – I have seen many changes in Portland over the years, some good and some not so good.

I voted for Amanda, Steve, and Mayor Hales (I'm sorry I do not remember if I voted for the other members of the council; but if they are democrats I probably did). I was hoping that this Mayor and this council would accomplish good things for Portland and correct some of the decisions of past councils and Mayors.

I know that all of you must want the best for Portland and its citizens or you wouldn't have put yourselves in this position and I thank you for doing so, I know it can be a thankless job. I know that you work hard and put a lot of effort into accomplishing things; but, there are some things that I feel are either frivolous, not a priority, not broad enough, or that I do not agree with.

- 1) With all due respect I feel that Amanda's smoking ban in parks is not a priority and somewhat frivolous in the fact that it will be impossible to enforce. Cigarette smoke in a large outdoor area dissipates into the air and I don't think smokers are going to the parks and getting right in children's faces to blow smoke at them. If it's the parents smoking in the park while playing with their children then they would be doing the same thing in their own back yard or probably indoors at their homes. There is more pollution in the air from other sources than from cigarette smoke. I feel that the council should put their efforts toward more pressing issues. Additionally, smoking and tobacco is legal not only in Oregon but in the United States.
- 2) I totally disagree with Mayor Hales Street Fee proposal and would like to thank Amanda for refusing to vote for it. I do not have a car because I cannot afford the upkeep on one plus I don't like to drive; but the main reasons I am against it are that:



- a) **It is not a fee – it is a tax. A fee is something you pay for a service rendered, call it what it is.**
- b) **Over the past few years it seems our road money has been spent on bicyclists in the form of bike lanes, bike only streets with cement dividers, signage, paint, and other associated costs. I don't know if any of the road money goes toward the Springwater Trail but it seems it is becoming more a place for the homeless to camp than a way to bicycle around the city. The "bike only" street at SE 13<sup>th</sup> and Spokane had the cement dividers put in and now they have gone back and put big (ugly) yellow flags (or whatever they are called) in; evidently because people kept driving over the dividers (including a Portland Police car I saw turn onto Spokane from 13<sup>th</sup> and get high centered on the divider). I walk past there probably at least 4 times a day, 7 days a week and may see 1 or 2 bicyclists use that street every couple of days. If we are going to use our road money for the bicyclists make them pay for it. Because a lot of them do not follow the rules of the road I think all bicyclists over a certain age should have to pass a test and be licensed (for a fee) and their bikes should have to be licensed and registered (again for a fee).**
- c) **The Mayor/The Council should not just impose taxes/"fees" without a vote of the people and any voters information should inform voters in detail exactly how it will be taxed, who pays, how much they pay, and where the money will be spent. When people first got the bill for the Arts Tax no one knew what it was and thought it was a scam (really, a post card in the mail simply addressed to "resident" saying to go on line and pay money), no one remembered it being on the ballot, and according to everyone I've talked to they don't remember voting for it. Most people I know agree that the poorest people are pay the highest percentage of their wages for it. Someone making \$1.00 over the poverty level pays the same as someone making \$200,000.00 a year, do the math. Most people are upset because it's not just for art in schools but also supports the opera, symphony, and theatre – things that people barely making ends meet and trying to feed their children can't even go to – we feel we are supporting something that only benefits the upper class (somewhat like taxing the poor to benefit the rich) – let them pay for it. When it comes to art in school, from what I've read, it only benefits some of the schools and some of the grades; plus as a child I got my art from Sunday School, Girl Scouts, after school or park programs and at home. Art is fine if we can already afford the subjects that will prepare children for the future and give them acceptable class sizes. The main subjects we should concentrate on are Math, Science, History and Government, Technology, Foreign languages, Computer sciences, health and physical education, and of course basics like reading, writing, and spelling. A lot of us were hoping that Mayor Hales would overturn the Arts Tax; but instead it appears to have set precedence for unfair taxes when the City wants money.**

- 3) I was just reading on line about Mayor Hales agenda to do away with criminal background checks. I'm sorry I would not want to work in a surrounding where there might be someone who was in prison for sexual assault, physical assault, theft or home invasion. I think this is a dangerous proposal fraught with problems. I think even worse is his idea of paying employers large sums of money to hire ex-felons. For one the City evidently does not have money to be used for other very urgent needs like roads, sewage, reservoirs, etc. – so where do we get this money. Also, if the city pays an employer to hire a known felon and that felon commits a crime against the employer or another employee then can the city be sued or held responsible for damages for what basically is bribing a company to hire that person? I would think the City could be held responsible. Additionally, why should criminals be given priority over all the other law-abiding citizens who can't get work and can no longer support their families?
- 4) As for Mayor Hales proposal to raise the minimum wage for City employees to \$15.00 an hour I feel it is unfair to all the other workers in Oregon who do not work for a city, state, or county agency. People in the private sector work just as hard or harder and don't get near the benefits. When you include the benefits City workers get they are already making over minimum wage. Don't get me wrong, and with all due respect to the Mayor, because of the high cost of living in Portland I realize that it's hard for people (including myself on Social Security) to make ends meet and I agree with raising the minimum wage but feel it should be state wide (or at least City wide if there is such a thing – Portland does have a higher cost of living than say Vale, Ontario, Lincoln City, etc.).
- 5) Regarding Mayor Hales agenda to provide low income housing for Veterans, it is an important issue and may be a start but it's a problem that extends far beyond Veterans. We have a huge and growing homeless problem in Portland and a lack of available affordable housing. I am astounded at the ever-increasing cost of renting an apartment in Portland. All the new apartments going in around us are renting for \$1200 to \$1500 a month – some of that for studios. There are a couple of low-income housing options in our area (which I believe to be for just over 55) but I've heard there is a 2 to 3 year waiting period to get in. I am sure there are a large number of homeless Vets, but there are also families that due to unemployment issues have lost their homes and have nowhere to go, disabled people who can't work and have applied for disability but because it can take 3 years (if they are even approved) they have in the meantime lost everything, alcoholics and drug addicts (of which I'm sure some are Vets) that cannot work because of their addiction, there are those who just do not want to work and like that way of life, and last but not least all of those with mental problems which again could include Vets with PTSD. I knew a lot of Vietnam vets who came back with not only PTSD but also drug and alcohol problems. I think we need to address the entire homeless problem and the causes of their homelessness. They say Portland has become a haven for homeless people from all over the country because they are told that Portland loves their homeless people and will feed them, give them shelter, let them camp wherever they want, let them sleep on the streets, in doorways, in the City Parks and won't bother them. In our area we have seen a sudden increase in the number of homeless meth and heroin addicts and dealers that are bothering the businesses, trespassing on private property, taking over parking lots. We are finding more and more used needles

even on private property. My brother lives in the same complex I do and there was some cardboard behind our dumpster the other day so he went to pick it up and put it in the dumpster and suddenly realized his hands were covered with some homeless persons diarrhea and then I noticed it had ran off the cardboard all over his clothes – which he had to destroy. Someone had gone behind the dumpster and it was definitely human and not animal. Another resident has found used needles on our apartments property. I don't know what the answer is but do know that the homeless situation should be a top priority.

In my world I don't think the Opera, Symphony, Theatre, smoking, bike lanes and streets, Street Seats, and such things should be top priority in Portland; I feel the priorities on the agenda for Portland's Mayor, City Council, and Police should be:

- a) Cleaning Portland up – it used to be a beautiful city with some sense of safety and security. You look around now and it looks dirty, cluttered with debris from the homeless, some pretty scary people walking down the streets yelling, kicking, slugging at imaginary things (I would say high or very mentally disturbed), and with roads in bad need of repair, etc.
- b) The homeless situation
- c) Affordable housing
- d) Road repairs
- e) Our aging sewer system
- f) Crime and lack of punishment
- g) The drug problems
- h) The increasing gang violence
- i) Employment/Unemployment
- j) Education/school improvements/safety
- k) Our reservoirs
- l) Our bridges

I wish to thank you for reading this and considering my views (which also voice the views of most of the people I know) and I hope I have not offended anyone. I do feel you are doing a good job and that there are a lot of problems Portland faces; however, in the face of huge problems it can sometimes be easy to concentrate on small things with an easy fix instead of the large problems that are not so easy to find a fix for. I really feel that without concentrating on the major problems facing the City that the other small stuff doesn't really make a big difference in how the City works, grows, operates, it's opportunities for a decent life, or it's livability.

Sincerely,

DeEtta Leppert

Cc: Mayor Hales