


\$15/HR MINIMUM CITY FAIR WAGE POLICYIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Linda Spover	11521 NE SISKIYOU SEIU LOCAL 49	
✓ Felisa Higgins	6131 SE 84th 97266 SEIU 49	felisah@seiu49.org
		
✓ HIRAM ASMUTH	7129 SW 2nd, 97219	ENCORE POLITICAL SERVICES @ hotmail.com
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✓ JOE WALL	7348 SE Division St	



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

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

May 13, 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 and say thank you for the \$15 an hour minimum wage increase for 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. The \$15 an hour wage will help with maintenance and unexpected repair costs, such as the recent work performed on our car that cost us over \$2,000. 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 and would like to say thank you to the Commissioners for making this happen.

Thank you for listening to me on this important issue.

Mark Jefferies
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Testimony to the Portland City Council

Provided by Linda Sporer

Member, SEIU Local 49

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

May 13, 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 \$1,560/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 that the Mayor and Commissioners are taking this important step to raise wages under the Fair Wage Policy. The extra income will mean I'll be able to afford a Christmas gift for my grandchild. I might even be able to afford to pay my own daughter a full rental price.

The City has proven that time and time again that 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 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

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