

Good morning Mayor Hales and Commissioners.

My name is Sarah Kowaleski. I've worked at the Multnomah Arts Center for over five years. My work has included booking important life events for my community, processing need-based scholarships, and connecting the public to social services in a multi-purpose building. I not only connect the public with social services, but need them myself. I have years of service to the City, and years of empty cupboards.

But I'm not here today just talk about my story. I am here today on behalf of hundreds of Rec workers - my colleagues who teach classes for our children, ensure pool and water safety, and support elders. Many staff have worked as "casual" workers for 9, 10, even 24 years, often without benefits and a living wage, job security, or basic workplace protections.

This time last year I spoke to City Council about the misclassification of work in community centers. Since that time, some progress has been made on that issue, BUT the larger problem remains.

There are still hundreds of Rec workers still struggling with poverty wages under this city's employment. Recently, Mayor Hales, you pledged to push the City Council to recognize a new classification of Rec worker. This is a path to living wages, benefits, and union protections. In support of this effort, over 350 of my coworkers signed a petition asking for \$15/hr and more opportunity for year-round jobs. The packet of signatures before you now represents the aspirations of hundreds of my coworkers. From instructors to full time coordinators who program classes, we stand unified to end this decades-long problem of low wages.

A pathway to better wages couldn't come soon enough.

Portland is becoming more and more stratified by race and class--and the city government is no exception. As we strive to implement equity in city services and internally, it gives me pause to know that casual workers who face low-wages are 20% more likely to be women like myself and 10% more likely to be people of color. In a city with the fastest growing rents in the country, we are also the most prone to displacement.

On May 13, you passed the Fair Wage Policy creating an avenue for living wage work for city contract workers. Today, I ask that you extend the same living wages to your own employees by creating an ordinance that would voluntarily recognize a new classification of Rec worker by Dec 16.

Parsons, Susan

From: Sarah Kowaleski <sarah.kowaleski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 4:30 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: City Council - request to speak

Council Meeting Date: December 2nd 2015

Today's Date: 11.20.15

Name: Sarah Kowaleski

Address: 1319 SE Main St

Telephone: 860.965.5426

Email: Sarah.Kowaleski@gmail.com

Reason for Request: To address council about living wages, benefits, and job protections for City of Portland Recreation Staff.

Signed: Sarah Kowaleski

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Request of Sarah Kowaleski to address Council regarding living wages, benefits
and job protections for City Recreation Staff (Communication)

DEC 02 2015

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 23 2015

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Suzanne Parsons*
Deputy

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