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To Portland City Council, December 30, 2015

As you know, Portland and many other places are in a “state of emergency” regarding housing and homelessness, which at least in part, is the result of the corporatization of our society and the concentration of wealth in the top 1%. Too many corporations pay their employees less than a living wage, send jobs overseas, and don’t contribute their fair share of taxes to our society, all after using public coffers for their specific infrastructure needs. Not only our homeless, but our schools and roads testify to this state of affairs. As more and more ordinary hardworking people find it impossible to pay the exorbitant rents in our cities, I predict that the homelessness problem will only grow and intensify, a tragic result of national policy.

I want to thank you for the measures you have already taken to address the housing crisis here in Portland, such as the 90-day eviction and rent increase notice. I would like to see Portland take other steps as well, such as establishing an **ongoing city policy** requiring every rental building over 10 units to have **30% of their units affordable**, subsidized with **taxes on take-out meals and other non-essential goods**. Other affordable housing revenue could be derived from establishing a **very high tax rate on profits for developers building outsized McMansion-type houses** to offset the rise in home prices that these kinds of homes help to drive. If the earlier proposed **\$25,000 demolition tax is reconfigured**, it could also raise money for affordable housing, as well as help to save the character of our old neighborhoods.

Which brings me to another issue: Oregon and Texas are the only two states not allowing Inclusionary Zoning, a ban which was almost repealed in the last legislative session. **I am asking that you put pressure on the legislature to repeal the ban on Inclusionary Zoning. Tax rebates could be offered to developers who turn old homes into multi-family units.** Inclusionary Zoning seems like a good middle ground between tearing down good old homes, and saving them to create multiple residences out of what was previously only one. (Lack of parking space in this regard should not be considered a relevant issue at this time in history since we need to move beyond the insane extravagance of the private automobile toward public transit for the sake of the planet, and the continuation of all species including our own.)

I hope you will use your power to make, or pressure the state legislature to make, the changes suggested above. I would like to see Portland, along with the state of Utah, serve as a positive example for other cities across the country. We need to do everything we can to make this country work for the average person and to reclaim it from the greed of corporations and developers who are using it for their own ends without regard for the consequences to the larger community. As I walk down many SE Portland streets that increasingly are lined from one end to the other with the tents of the homeless, it’s clear to me that the efforts of the many charitable organizations, the shelters, the food and clothing drives, are woefully inadequate to the task ahead. The only real answer is intelligent policy, which does not favor the wealthy developers and corporations who seem to approach every community they come to as if they were looking for a Going Out of Business sale. Contrary to what our actions as a society often suggest, we don’t need

the big corporations with their low-wage jobs, their outsourcing, their hoarding of profit, their use of public coffers for their business needs and their consistent environmental destruction. And we don't need those rapacious high-end developers who give us segregated neighborhoods, and cause home prices to skyrocket, leaving us with streets become shantytowns of homeless tents. **What I am finally asking of you is that you use your position of power to require of any corporate entity that comes to Portland looking for opportunity that they pay a truly fair share of taxes, pay living wages and full benefits to all employees, pay for any infrastructure needs their business has, and respect the rights of both humans and the larger environment.** If they expect to come here and take advantage of the community, then we don't want them here. Anything less than maintaining these values will result in the many tents we see outside, and the many more homeless people we don't see living in their cars or doubling up with relatives. These are the values that need to prevail not only here in Portland, but across the country and in national policy. Thank you.

Kirsten Davis  
3646 SE 33rd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97202

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Kirsten Davis <isabeest@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2015 3:02 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** Communication Request

Hello, my name is: Kirsten Davis at 3646 SE 33rd Ave. Portland, OR 97202, phone 541-913-0903. I would like to speak during the December 30 city council meeting regarding the issue of homelessness in Portland.

Thank you!  
Kirsten

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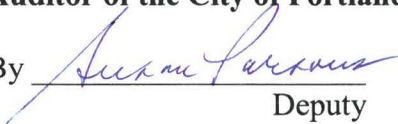
Request of Kirsten Davis to address Council regarding homelessness in Portland  
(Communication)

DEC 30 2015

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed DEC 22 2015

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By   
Deputy

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