

Agenda Item 611

TESTIMONY

10:30 AM TIME CERTAIN

FRIENDS OF TREES CONTRACTIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (PRINT)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE *(Optional)*Email *(Optional)*

✓ Charles JOHNSON		

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Philip Fensterer <fensterer3@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Commissioner Fish
Subject: Friends of Trees contract

I am unable to attend today's city council meeting but want to write quickly to express my support of renewing the contract with Friends of Trees. As a volunteer with the organization, I see first hand all the good that they do and I that this is money invested well in a future of cleaner air, cooler temperatures and restored habitat.

Thank you,
Philip Fensterer
8347 N. Hendricks St.
Portland, OR 97203

187793



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Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.
717 N. Killingsworth Court, Portland, OR 97217

June 6, 2016

City of Portland Commissioners
1221 SW 4th Street
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioners,

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (POIC) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Friends of Trees grant application.

Established in 1968 as a community-based organization, POIC has been the African American community's answer to redlining and similarly discriminatory practices that keep people of color unemployed, underemployed, and unable to access economic opportunities. As a member of the international OIC network, POIC provided culturally relevant adult workforce training and placement to adults throughout the 1970s. In 1983, Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) was founded, and the organization shifted its focus to serve youth of color and those living in poverty. RAHS is accredited by the NW Accreditation Commission and operates three campuses—North Killingsworth, East Portland, and New Columbia—serving 525 students this year.

Many of our students have either been expelled or dropped out of public high school, and are homeless, gang-impacted, teen parents, and/or have drug/alcohol issues or criminal records themselves or among their families. RAHS provides open-door, year round access for students to connect with caring adults who understand the compounding issues they face outside of school and who are committed to helping them earn their high school diploma or GED. RAHS has a 73% graduation rate amongst students who enroll and attend classes.

Friends of Trees has consistently provided opportunities for our students to participate in job training, coaching, and leadership training through their Neighborhood Trees and Greenspace programs. Students apply for positions and participate in resume writing and interview processes. More than 100 RAHS students have been placed in paid positions with Friends of Trees over the past eight years.

Thank you for investing in increasing our urban forest canopy and for supporting organizations that help young people become responsible citizens and stewards of our natural environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McFerrin II", is written over a horizontal line.

Joe McFerrin II
President/CEO