

NEW PORTLANDERS POLICY COMMISSIONIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

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Agenda Item 565

TESTIMONY

2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN

**NEW PORTLANDERS POLICY COMMISSION**IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
<del>Salah Ansary</del>	LCS NW	sansary@lcsnw.org
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# Neighborhood House

*Helping Neighbors Help Themselves*

187805

TEL 503.246.1663 ■ FAX 503.245.2819

7780 S.W. Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219

May 26, 2016

Mayor Charlie Hales  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Steve Novick  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Dear Mr. Mayor and Commissioners;

My name is Richard Nitti and I am writing in my role as Executive Director of Neighborhood House. Neighborhood House was founded in 1905 to serve the increasing population of immigrants arriving predominantly from Southern and Eastern Europe. While the countries of origin have changed, Neighborhood House continues to serve new immigrant populations who live in SW and North Portland.

I strongly support the proposed establishment of New Portland Policy Commission on the City Council agenda on May 26, 2016 for the following reasons:

- Portland is a growing city with increasing numbers of our residents who have become Portlanders having arrived as immigrants or refugees. This trend is expected to continue and grow.
- Every year we are reminded of how much our economic, business, cultural, and educational institutions are impacted by world events.
- Portland's political leaders over the years have demonstrated open and welcoming posture towards people from all parts of the world. Establishment of New Portlander Policy Commission would formalize and give institutional support for the new Portlanders.
- Increased diversity from immigrants and refugees brings new opportunities and challenges on how we do business, educate students, hire and train workers, provide services. The successful integration of new cultures, perspectives, and world views into the city's life would enrich us all.

I urge you to vote affirmatively to establish the New Portlander Policy Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Yours truly,

Richard Nitti  
Executive Director