

Testimony at Portland City Council - October 2nd, 2019

Subject: Proposed changes to Portland City Code 3.96

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners, thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today.

My name is Chelsea Powers, I'm the Chair of the Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association (BDNA). Many of you are familiar with Brentwood-Darlington and know our history of being annexed late into the City and the infrastructure and equity issues we struggle with to this day. I am here today to speak about proposed changes to Portland City Code 3.96. These proposed changes have the potential to severely impact Brentwood-Darlington and other SE neighborhood associations' ability to serve our neighborhoods. While we agree wholeheartedly with needing changes to create a more equitable, inclusive, and accessible system, we feel the language as currently proposed will not actually achieve those goals.

Since 2016, Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association has won three grants*, two directly benefiting City bureaus and infrastructure projects. Currently, we host approximately 30 public meetings, an average of 4-6 FREE events, and at least 4 FREE partnered events per year. This is a fraction of what we do on an annual budget of approximately \$5,000, just under \$1,500 of which comes from a City grant to our neighborhood coalition, SE Uplift. This is important because my board of 12 volunteers provides the City of Portland with an average of over \$150,000** in free labor per year.

You can imagine our shock when we learned of proposed Code 3.96, already months into the process, and saw that it removed all references to neighborhood associations **and** all the responsibilities of the City and neighborhood coalitions. Reading current Code 3.96, we were again shocked to learn how much support had been withheld over the previous years and what a difference it could have made.***

A small amount of money can make or break many neighborhood associations. Endangering our support through forcing neighborhood coalitions to compete for grants risks our entire being. If neighborhood coalitions are unable to obtain grant funds in the new system, the neighborhood associations they support lose the essential services of insurance and fiscal sponsorship. Changing the code to remove meeting and record standards that protect us all does not feel like a move that includes more residents. All recipients of public funds must always be required to be open and transparent. These rules keep neighborhood associations publicly accountable for their actions and allows government at all levels to work with us in good faith. Furthermore, our residents rely on our records to stay informed when they cannot attend meetings and events. We are an integral part of the City framework and the repercussions of neighborhood associations failing would be felt by every resident, regardless of their opinions on the current system.

It is my hope that Civic Life will present a full communication, outreach, and project plan to begin a renewed phase of this process. One that brings **all** stakeholders to the table, both those currently supported and those who aren't. Director Suk Rhee, said in a previous meeting that "Updating the

code is a referendum on government..." but, "not a commentary on who was supported in the past." If that is truly the case, stop forcing us to be adversaries in our own communities and give us the opportunity to be allies in this process. There is room for everyone at the table if we all work together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Powers

*2016 Regional Flexible Funds Grant via Metro for Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Infill Project
2019 SEUL Small Grant for Multi-Language Neighborhood Resource Guide
2019 Transportation Growth Management Grant

**According to independentsector.org, the industry average rate for volunteer work is \$25.43 per hour.

12 member board x 10 hours per week x 50 weeks = \$152,580 per year

***For example, we spent 6 months asking the City Special Accommodations fund to reimburse us \$432 for sign language translation services at an event with a hearing impaired speaker. We were denied, despite having been told we would be reimbursed. To put that in context, that's nearly 10% of our annual operating budget and doesn't include the hundreds of hours spent emailing and calling both the City and SE Uplift that could have been spent on community needs instead.

From: [Chelsea Powers](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Cc: [Libby Deal](#)
Subject: Re: council testimony time slot reservation
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 8:51:34 AM

Hi Karla!

I confirm I am taking Libby's spot on October 2, 2019 and will be speaking regarding proposed code change 3.96.

Thanks!

-

Chelsea Powers
7213 SE 60th Ave
Portland, OR 97206
541-951-0048

On Wed, Sep 18, 2019, 8:26 AM Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hello Libby,

Thank you for letting me know you are giving up your spot on Oct. 2nd.

Chelsea – please reply to this email that you are taking this spot and what your topic will be.

Best,

Karla



Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City Hall Rm 130
503.823.4086

From: Libby Deal <libbydeal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: chelseapowers@gmail.com
Subject: Re: council testimony time slot reservation

Hi Karla,

Here is the information for the person who is taking my testimony slot on October 2. I've also copied her on this email.

Chelsea Powers
7213 SE 60th Ave, Portland, OR 97206
[541-951-0048](tel:541-951-0048)

Thank you for making this switch,
Elizabeth (Libby) Deal

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2019, at 10:14 AM, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

Sorry you are not able to make it on October 2nd for your Communication spot.

Yes, you may give your spot to someone else. Once you know who will be speaking in your place, they have to send me their name, address, phone, date they are speaking (Oct. 2nd in your place), and topic no later than September 24th.

Thank you,

Karla

<image007.jpg>

Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 823-4086

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

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From: Libby Deal <libbydeal@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 9:05 PM

To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Re: council testimony time slot reservation

Hi Karla,

There is a possibility I will not be able to give testimony on Oct. 2, there are other people from my group who would like to give testimony on the topic that I would have. Is it possible to "give" my spot to one of them? If so, what is the deadline for me to notify you of this switch?

Thank you,

Elizabeth (Libby) Deal

On Thu, Aug 1, 2019 at 10:58 AM Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

Confirming what we spoke about earlier, you have a spot to speak for three minutes on October 2nd in front of the Portland City Council. Communications are the first item on the official agenda and we start at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to provide written material, please bring seven copies.

Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our community members but does not always allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Council take place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd floor, Council Chambers.

Please let me know if you are not able to keep this appointment.

Sincerely,

Karla

<image001.jpg>

Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 823-4086

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

<image002.jpg>

From: Libby Deal <libbydeal@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: council testimony time slot reservation

Hello Karla,

I'd like to reserve a slot to speak to City Council on Wednesday, Oct. 2 about the proposed code 3.96 change by the Office of Community and Civic Life.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Deal

202-841-6663

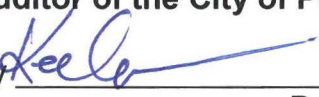
LibbyDeal@gmail.com

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Request of Chelsea Powers to address Council regarding the proposed changes to Code 3.96 (Communication)

OCT 02 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed SEP 24 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland
By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		