

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:30 a.m. - Item 966

Testimony was not heard on this item

No.	First	Last	Zip
1	Jennifer	Pereau	97219
2	Shannon	Hiller-Webb	97239
3	Jim	McLaughlin	97239
4	Kat	Adler	97239
5	Deb	Kolodny	97239
6	Janet	Hawkins	97221
7	Marianne	Fitzgerald	97219
8	Merilee	Karr	97239
9	Carol	Porto	97239
10	Adam	Lamotte	97239
11	Kathryn	Daly	97239
12	Rob	Lennox	97239
13	Joyce	del Rosario	97201
14	Will	Fuller	97219
15	Janet	Coleman	97239
16	Sam	Pearson	97219
17	Marie	Tyvoll	97239
18	Leslie	Hammond	97221
19	Diane	Victoria	97239
20	Douglas	Rogers	97221
21	Amelia	Fowler	97239
22	Leif	Lidin-Lamon	97201
23	Mike	Linman	97219
24	Don	Baack	97239
25	Dean	Smith	97221
26	Glenn	Bridger	97239
27	Tatiana	Lifshitz	97219
28	Patty	McMahon	97035
29	Richard	Freimark	97221
30	Steve	Mullinax	97221
31	Claire	Carder	97219
32	Allen	Field	97214
33	Laura	Campos	97239
34	Teddy	Okonokhua	97219
35	jackie	Phillips	97239
36	Claire	Coleman-Evans	97221

37	Andrea	Wall	97239
38	Jack	Klinker	97219
39	Doug	Klotz	97214
40	Steph	Routh	97266
41	Charlie	Van Rossen	97201
42	Michael	Kaplan	97239
43	becky	kuhn	97229
44	Lotus	Romey-Yu	97206
45	Lee	Buhler	97239
46	Marlene	Howell	97219
47	John	Liu	97232
48	Linda	Nettekoven	97214
49	David	Johnston	97219
50	Tiffany	Johnson	97206
51	isabela	villarreal	97215
52	Stephenie	Frederick	97206
53	Jim	Gardner	97201

**From:** [Kim Sordyl](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Audit  
**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 10:08:18 AM

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City Council City of Portland Members,

I am writing about \$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds. THE TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IS NOW.

Fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Kim Sordyl  
Portland

**From:** [Carol Porto](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** do not fund SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 12:15:22 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council Commissioners Hardesty, Eudaly, Ryan, Fritz,

Contrary to their claims, SWNI does not do much service to the community. It has evolved into an organization that exists only to serve itself.

The SWNI board makeup stifles the voice of neighborhood associations by having five or more committee chairs and four officers as voting members. The committees are very sparsely attended but claim to take issue positions in the name of all the neighborhood associations even though decided by a very few individuals.

The president of SWNI spends her time maligning other board members in emails, skewed emails, articles and presentations with claims and false conspiracy theories with wanton regard to the truth.

SWNI leaders openly make wild claims of bias and dishonesty against the independent auditor hired by the city, certain city employees and elected officials. SWNI attacks anyone that holds different opinions and has consistently for a long time.

SWNI received a 65K PP loan under mostly false premises. The extent SWNI was impacted by COVID-19 was minimal. SWNI did nothing for its constituent neighborhood associations nor provide any COVID-19 relief for anyone else in SW Portland. They misrepresented their situation to the Fed, the Bank and the city. One neighborhood association objected to SWNI taking the PPP loan and has been since ostracized by the SWNI board.

SWNI is spending their existing limited resources on paying a lawyer. Why did SWNI hire a lawyer to represent themselves to the city? Because SWNI lied and refused to submit documents to other SWNI board members and to Civic Life even though they have an obligation to do so. SWNI continues to fight against transparency to this day. SWNI leadership has brought the lack of funding upon themselves. SWNI has shown itself unable to abide by their city contract, unable to be transparent, honest and accountable.

The audit on SWNI has clearly documented not only a toxic culture but mismanagement of funds and willing non-adherence to oversight policies. This methodology is pervasive to the organization. I served on the SWNI executive and



financial committees under least four different presidents and the audit tells the truth. The adherence to policies and expected norms of accounting are not practiced. Existing policies were not even known by most of those members who participated. The procedures I witnessed were sloppy and non-consistent. Budget explanations were often murky and misunderstood. This was the way things were done. The latest regime at SWNI is the most unethical I have ever witnessed in my experience with this organization. I have no confidence in the truthfulness of the Executive Director.

I am sorry to have to submit such a long letter but there is so much wrong with SWNI that is beyond the realm of being fixable. Our tax dollars need to go to an honest, transparent, accountable and equitable organization. SWNI is not one of those and does not even strive to become one.

I have seen members of the SWNI board filibuster to prevent a vote to adopt a racial equity policy. I have seen members of the SWNI board demonize and ostracize other board members who worked to get the racial policy adopted. I have heard SWNI board members make comments against bringing equity principals into the organization while at the same time expressing not knowing what equity was. On numerous occasions, I have witnessed the SWNI board vote against getting any equity training brought into the organization. SWNI now gives lip service to equity practices now only to get funding. It hasn't and will not incorporate principles into the organization.

SWNI is led by a gang of bullies. SWNI perpetuates exclusion even in the way it recruits for board elections. Only selected people of those who have run or held previous positions and friends of existing board members are sought out to run. This has been the nominating practice for years and years.

The current SWNI president was witnessed assaulting a 'troublemaker' in the hallway by a staff member. The president and the ED have not taken any actions when a member reported being demeaned by a SWNI officer. The list of unacceptable behaviors of SWNI leaders goes on and on. It is a litany of shame.

Please assist the neighborhood associations to find other fiscal sponsors. Do not fund SWNI with public money. It wastes our money in a time when every dollar is precious.

Thank you,

Carol Porto

1304 SW Spring Garden St Portland Oregon 97219

503 244 8679

[carolannetteporto@gmail.com](mailto:carolannetteporto@gmail.com)

November 30, 2020

City Council City of Portland  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140  
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings  
and Funding

Dear Portland City Council Members:

I am writing you, Mayor Wheeler and Council members, to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020. As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

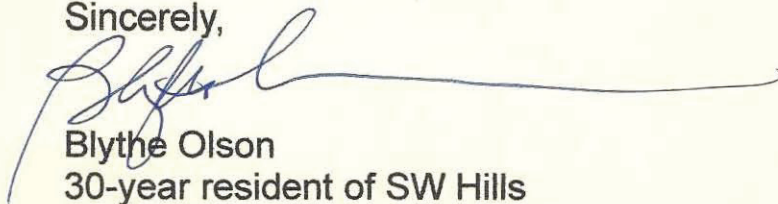
- "In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI's financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in \$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.
- "There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. SWNI's leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics."
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the lack of accountability for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, a lack of transparency, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a 97% error rate for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers. • SWNI currently mismanages 7.35%



of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.

- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing "COVID impact to budget & services. Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI's staff's job security and paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan. In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.
- Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial oversight requirements of board members.
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010. These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, "Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated," and found that "In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model." The time for change is right now. I ask the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer funded financial mismanagement and to end funding to SWNI. I ask the Mayor and City Council to instead fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland. This would be the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blythe Olson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Blythe Olson

30-year resident of SW Hills

cc: [testimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:testimony@portlandoregon.gov)

**From:** [Blythe Olson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI issues and funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 3:02:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [SWNI letter.pdf](#)

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Please see attached scan of hard copy mailed to City Council today. I would appreciate having council members copied on this.

Thank you very much.

Blythe Olson

**From:** [mjones@miltjones.com](mailto:mjones@miltjones.com)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:53:13 AM

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It is evident that there never was any real reason to withhold SWNI funding. The City Council should act immediately, without delay, to reimburse SWNI for funds withheld to date and restore funding going forward.

Thank you,

Milt Jones  
425 SW Bancroft  
Portland, Oregon 97239

**From:** [Melanie Billings-Yun](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 966 OCCL proposal to amend grant with Southeast Uplift  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:39:17 AM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

On behalf of the board of the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL), I am writing to urge you to defeat proposal 966 to transfer district coalition funds to Southeast Uplift and instead to continue funding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI).

While we recognize that the recent forensic audit by Marsh & Minick identified a number of areas for improved oversight, management and equity education, it found **no evidence of fraud** or other criminal activity over the past ten years. We are concerned about the lack of due process in City Council's decision to withhold funds based solely on allegations of *potential* for financial mismanagement. We understand that SWNI has offered to undergo an audit by an external CPA to provide a complete picture. To transfer SWNI's funding and responsibilities before that process is complete would be a rush to judgment without a fair hearing of all evidence. Further, the rush to transfer responsibilities without sufficient forethought or planning would create chaos at a time that is already taxing everyone's abilities to cope with the constant change. The damage will fall not just on SWNI, but equally onto the 17 neighborhood associations who rely on SWNI and its staff to provide essential services, from filing government reports to IT and communications support to providing educational forums on issues affecting our neighborhoods.

We therefore ask that you stay your decision to transfer funding of SWNI until you are able to hold a comprehensive hearing of all the evidence and render a determination on the issues the organization needs to address as well as the remedies that would most reasonably and effectively accomplish those goals.

Respectfully,  
Melanie Billings-Yun  
SWHRL President

**From:** [Maryellen Read](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony from Collins View Secretary  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 12:22:46 PM

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Good Afternoon Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members:

**I, the Secretary for the Collins View Neighborhood Association Board, am writing to support SWNI and its importance to our community, and I am asking you, as our elected City Council Commissioners and Mayor, to restore SWNI's funding.**

Collins View Neighborhood Association and all Southwest residents rely heavily on the infrastructure of the SWNI neighborhood coalition to get business done and to provide a bridge with city government. **This is the description of “equity” in citizen involvement in governance.** SWNI's institutional knowledge of our Southwest neighborhoods' livability issues, terrain, priorities and concerns cannot be replaced. Collins View is represented by SWNI.

We depend upon SWNI for support, guidance, valid information and help in serving our Collins View residents. **SWNI has never let us down.** Whether it be supplies and suggestions for our National Night Outs or the annual Safety Fair, or filling out necessary forms, or keeping our accounts, SWNI staff have been our trusted, enthusiastic, cheerful and energetic support system.

**As the Collins View Neighborhood Association Board Secretary, I am asking you, as our elected City Council and Mayor, to restore SWNI's funding immediately.**

Thank you for your service,  
Respectfully submitted as testimony,  
Maryellen Read, Secretary for the Collins View Neighborhood Association

## FAR SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.



December 4th, 2020

To: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

Hon. Ted Wheeler, Mayor, City of Portland ([mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Dan Ryan ([commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty ([joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Amanda Fritz ([amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly ([chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov))

From: George Vranas, President of the Far Southwest Neighborhood Association ([geopeter2@gmail.com](mailto:geopeter2@gmail.com)), FSW Board members, and FSW residents, listed below.

**RE: Agenda Item 966, To amend a grant with Southeast Uplift (SEUL), by as much as \$145,000 and reassess the district coalition model. This resolution, to be introduced by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly at the December 9, 2020 hearing of the Portland City Council, would transfer management of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc (SWNI), and its funding and resources to SEUL.**

Dear People: We are opposed to commissioner Eudaly's resolution, which will be introduced during the lame-duck period following the November election. With only a few weeks remaining in Chloe Eudaly's term, this attack on the very autonomy and existence of SWNI shows unwarranted animus to our coalition by Ms Eudaly. The introduction of this draconian plan now, following a forensic audit that turned up no serious financial wrong-doing over the past decade, looks like a last-ditch attempt to harm SWNI, before the commissioner is replaced. The impacts of this resolution on SWNI and SEUL appear rushed, and are not well thought out. **Therefore, this resolution must be voted down.**

The city must decide, in consultation with SWNI, what the best steps forward should be. Such decisions should not be made with regard to political deadlines. Whatever the city decides on this issue must be undertaken after the new year, with SWNI and the new members of the council, as part of an in-depth plan to resolve any issues between SWNI and the city.

SWNI has been suffering for many months because our funding has been withheld by the Office of Civic Life. A forensic audit by a group selected by Commissioner Eudaly and Civic Life Director Suk Rhee, concentrated on an embezzlement at SWNI that occurred ten years ago, and for which the embezzler was jailed. Since then, new financial controls, approved by the city in the decade following the theft, allowed SWNI to operate smoothly and appropriately, without complaints from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, the predecessor of Civic Life.

SWNI must be given access to its funding now and allowed continued control over its management; to tear this away from SWNI, and to make us subservient to another coalition in another part of the city is wrongheaded. Such an action is truly punitive, and damages the long-held understandings of Portland as a city of many unique and interesting neighborhoods that have equal access to government. Conjoining SEUL and SWNI, or any other neighborhood coalition, will be a burden for all affected coalitions. Such plans must be fully considered and studied; they cannot be passed abruptly, and without neighborhood involvement, only weeks away from major personnel changes in government. Therefore, we urge you to vote down this resolution, and allow SWNI and the city to resolve any outstanding differences after the new city council is installed.

George Vranas (President, FSWNA)  
Mary Ventura (Secretary-Treasurer; Schools)  
Lawrence Teeter (Watershed-Parks)  
Greg Dorros (land-use)  
Eddie Martinez (resident)  
Marcy Brillman (resident)  
David Ereth (resident)  
Robert Schwerchel (resident)  
Andrew Nelson (resident)  
Peter R Johnson (resident)

Martha Campbell (Vice President, FSWNA)  
Virginia Frederickson (Transportation)  
Marcia Leslie (Public Safety)  
Susan Mensah (resident)  
Al Salinas (resident)  
Michael Brillman (resident)  
Susan Levinson-Epstein (resident)  
Pauleta Robertson (resident)  
Marigrace Nelson (resident)  
Teddy Okonokhua (SWNI Treasurer)



**From:** [George Vranas](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Leslie Hammond](#); [Bogert, Sylvia](#); [Peter Robert Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Far SW letter in opposition to Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 1:44:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [SWNI support letter 1203 copy.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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## FAR SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.



December 4th, 2020

To: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

Hon. Ted Wheeler, Mayor, City of Portland ([mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Dan Ryan ([commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty ([joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Amanda Fritz ([amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov))

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly ([chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov))

From: George Vranas, President of the Far Southwest Neighborhood Association ([geopeter2@gmail.com](mailto:geopeter2@gmail.com)), FSW Board members, and FSW residents, listed below.

**RE: Agenda Item 966, To amend a grant with Southeast Uplift (SEUL), by as much as \$145,000 and reassess the district coalition model. This resolution, to be introduced by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly at the December 9, 2020 hearing of the Portland City Council, would transfer management of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc (SWNI), and its funding and resources to SEUL.**

Dear People: We are opposed to commissioner Eudaly's resolution, which will be introduced during the lame-duck period following the November election. With only a few weeks remaining in Chloe Eudaly's term, this attack on the very autonomy and existence of SWNI shows unwarranted animus to our coalition by Ms Eudaly. The introduction of this draconian plan now, following a forensic audit that turned up no serious financial wrong-doing over the past decade, looks like a last-ditch attempt to harm SWNI, before the commissioner is replaced. The impacts of this resolution on SWNI and SEUL appear rushed, and are not well thought out. **Therefore, this resolution must be voted down.**

The city must decide, in consultation with SWNI, what the best steps forward should be. Such decisions should not be made with regard to political deadlines. Whatever the city decides on this issue must be undertaken after the new year, with SWNI and the new members of the council, as part of an in-depth plan to resolve any issues between SWNI and the city.

SWNI has been suffering for many months because our funding has been withheld by the Office of Civic Life. A forensic audit by a group selected by Commissioner Eudaly and Civic Life Director Suk Rhee, concentrated on an embezzlement at SWNI that occurred ten years ago, and for which the embezzler was jailed. Since then, new financial controls, approved by the city in the decade following the theft, allowed SWNI to operate smoothly and appropriately, without complaints from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, the predecessor of Civic Life.

SWNI must be given access to its funding now and allowed continued control over its management; to tear this away from SWNI, and to make us subservient to another coalition in another part of the city is wrongheaded. Such an action is truly punitive, and damages the long-held understandings of Portland as a city of many unique and interesting neighborhoods that have equal access to government. Conjoining SEUL and SWNI, or any other neighborhood coalition, will be a burden for all affected coalitions. Such plans must be fully considered and studied; they cannot be passed abruptly, and without neighborhood involvement, only weeks away from major personnel changes in government. Therefore, we urge you to vote down this resolution, and allow SWNI and the city to resolve any outstanding differences after the new city council is installed.

George Vranas (President, FSWNA)  
Mary Ventura (Secretary-Treasurer; Schools)  
Lawrence Teeter (Watershed-Parks)  
Greg Dorros (land-use)  
Eddie Martinez (resident)  
Marcy Brillman (resident)  
David Ereth (resident)  
Robert Schwerchel (resident)  
Andrew Nelson (resident)  
Peter R Johnson (resident)

Martha Campbell (Vice President, FSWNA)  
Virginia Frederickson (Transportation)  
Marcia Leslie (Public Safety)  
Susan Mensah (resident)  
Al Salinas (resident)  
Michael Brillman (resident)  
Susan Levinson-Epstein (resident)  
Pauleta Robertson (resident)  
Marigrace Nelson (resident)  
Teddy Okonokhua (SWNI Treasurer)

**From:** [George Vranas](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Peter Robert Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Far SW Neighborhood testimony re Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 2:17:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [SWNI support letter 1203 copy.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Please find attached PDF giving testimony regarding Portland City Council Meeting, agenda item 966, December 9th, 2020. Thank you,

George J Vranas, President, Far Southwest Neighborhood Assn.

**From:** [Maryellen Read](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Funding SWNI Agenda #966  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 2:44:58 PM

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Dear Council Members, **RE: Agenda Item #966**

**I am writing to support continued funding of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.**

I have been a resident of Portland's Collins View Neighborhood since 2000, and have participated in the Collins View Neighborhood Association for most of that time.

SWNI's unflagging support, communication and advice is essential to our residents. My personal interactions with the SWNI staff, and our neighborhood requests, have always been met with helpful, cheerful and positive immediate responses. SWNI is our Neighborhood Association's mainstay. SWNI's guidance allows community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level.

**Restore SWNI's City funding.** Collins View Neighborhood Association and residents rely heavily on the infrastructure of the SWNI neighborhood coalition to get business done, and to provide a bridge with City government. **This is the description of "equity" in citizen involvement in governance.** SWNI's institutional knowledge of our Southwest neighborhoods' livability issues, terrain, priorities and concerns cannot be replaced. Collins View is represented by SWNI.

We depend upon SWNI for support, guidance, valid information and help in serving our Collins View residents. SWNI has never let us down. Whether it be supplies and suggestions for our National Night Outs or the annual Safety Fair, or filling out necessary forms, or keeping our accounts, SWNI staff have been our trusted, enthusiastic, cheerful and energetic support system.

Restoration of City of Portland funding is critical to SWNI's financial future. It is up to elected officials to preserve this community investment and further allow community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level.

**Restore SWNI's City funding.**

Respectfully,

Maryellen Read, Resident of Collins View 97219; [maryellenread@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenread@gmail.com)

TO:

Mayor Wheeler: [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Amanda Fritz: [amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty: [joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly: [chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Dan Ryan: [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)

Auditor Mary Hull Caballero: [auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov)

Southwest Neighborhood Office: [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org)

**From:** [Leslie Baird](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item 966, Amend Grant with Southeast Uplift  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 3:03:10 PM

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**Dear Mayor Wheeler, Auditor Caballero, and City Commissioners:**

I have been an avid volunteer on the Crestwood Board for many years. While on the board, I have worked with Sylvia Bogert, who has assisted us with many issues and projects. We as a neighborhood have relied on SWNI for advice, for website help, NNO events, etc., etc. We have also enjoyed the SWNI newspaper as a communication tool for the neighborhood for years.

I was involved with the neighborhood association when the unfortunate incident with the embezzlement and had interacted with the person who was guilty of this. I have faith that Sylvia had performed her duties to the best of her ability, at the time, and I don't fault her with the problems that occurred.

I am not familiar with the details of all the fiscal controls now in place, but I have known and worked with Sylvia and SWNI for such a long time. I have faith in the organization as it stands.

I am now asking that you please restore full funding to SWNI. We do rely on SWNI for so much support. I follow the opinions of the Crestwood Neighborhood letter.

Sincerely,

Leslie Baird, former Crestwood Neighborhood Assn. secretary and neighborhood volunteer.

--

Leslie Baird Design  
lesliebairddesign.com  
503-307-8892

**From:** [PRAKASH JOSHI](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM 966 SWNI funding  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 3:32:00 PM

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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY **AGENDA ITEM 966**

Hello,

Thank you for allowing **Collins View Neighborhood Association** to testify:

My name: Prakash Joshi ( on behalf of CVNA Board)

EMAIL:CVNAmail@gmail.com

ZIP: 97219

### **HERE IS OUR TESTIMONY:**

Honorary Mayor, Commissioners,

The Board of Collins View Neighborhood Association requests that the Mayor and City Commissioners kindly consider our sincere testimony regarding SWNI.

CVNA's partnership with SWNI is irreplaceable as echoed by most neighborhoods in the southwest.

Before we list all the ways SWNI has been an accommodating and helpful entity, we wish to bring your attention to a **very important aspect that should play a deciding role in any decision the city makes regarding SWNI:**

**The assistance and help SWNI provides/has provided to the city project managers and planners in designing and formulating solutions specific to our neighborhoods is invaluable.** A case in point is the SW light rail project. We believe SWNI was an indispensable partner to the City of Portland in design and logistics of this very large project. SWNI's role in assisting the city to build it the right way and for the right reasons was an example of SWNI's central role in this project. It is our observation and experience that the city's bureaus often depend on SWNI to gage the pulse of our neighborhoods and their needs.

**Simply put, our positive interaction with the City of Portland is often facilitated by SWNI.**

**SWNI has been a solid two-way facilitator to the neighborhood associations and the City of Portland.**

SWNI facilitates and provides co-operation between and amongst the southwest neighborhoods and is a preferred forum for the common ground that we all share in the southwest. Often improvements in one neighborhood also effect similar undertakings in other neighborhoods in the southwest and this is perhaps the most important link that SWNI provides for all neighborhoods in the southwest coalition.

It is our strong view that **continued adequate funding for SWNI is vital and necessary** for our neighborhood's livability.

Thank you.

Sincerely

CVNA Board.

**From:** [Sam Pearson](#)  
**To:** [sam.pearson](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** testimony  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 9:45:36 AM

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Good morning Mayor and City Councilors. I come before you today to testify on behalf of Southwest Neighborhood Inc. I have been a resident of Portland for 71 years and have seen the area grow over the years.

SWNI has been a part of southwest Portland for 41 years, serving the people who make up the diverse population that is southwest portland. Land use questions are asked, candy is given out to the children at Halloween, schools issues, all sorts of issues are asked and answered not by the city bureaus but by SWNI.

As a three time elected president of SWNI I signed the Grant Agreement #32001238 in June of 2015 which covered the five year period of time up until June 30, 2020. This agreement has many needs that were required by the City of Portland to be accomplished. Never in this time has ONI or Civic Life expressed any problems. Section 3.96 of City Code is the rule book that we must live by in our actions in the Neighborhood associations system along with our contracts to the City.

This grant agreement has very specific statements of what has to be provided, records covering a five years period, not the ten year period asked for in the audit. The ability to audit financial or performance audits for a five year period, again not the ten year period. The Standards covering the movement of Coalitions and neighborhood associations are very clear as to the how, why, and means to do so. This is part of City code and should be followed by even City Council in the end of year close out of Council.

Last but not least, I find that the word of 20 people who are trying to disparage a great institution and people who have given their time to the betterment of SW Portland is discouraging and a crime as stated in the ONI Standards on page 14 section 2 A, item VI , "communications should not include statements that could be considered libelous or defamatory."

Thank you for listening and please make the right decision and fund SWNI.

**From:** [Maryellen Read](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ROBERT MAJURY](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN TESTIMONY Agenda item 966. SWNI Funding  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:49:08 AM

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December 5, 2020

TO:

Mayor Wheeler: [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz: [amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty: [joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly: [chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Dan Ryan: [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)  
Auditor Mary Hull Caballero: [auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov)  
Southwest Neighborhood Office: [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org)

**RE:Written Testimony: Agenda item 966. SWNI Funding**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members:

Please accept this written testimony:

My name is Johnette Majury, living at 10409 SW Fourth Avenue, Collins View Neighborhood. I am writing to urge funding for the Neighborhood Association to continue. My husband & I have lived in our home and neighborhood since 1968 and have long attended Collins View Neighborhood meetings.

We have benefited over the years from that link to the neighborhood.

When Lewis & Clark College began expanding their campus into the neighborhood we were able to participate in their plans through the Neighborhood Association. It allowed us to have a firm voice in making requests and limits on the College's expansions with both the City Council and the College.

We have also benefited in many other ways. Gatherings supported by the Associations educating us on disaster plans, planting of trees to improve & preserve the canopy of green in our area, visits by local police to garner a feeling of mutual safety in our neighborhood. Lists of emergency & non emergency numbers to call when problems arise on our own streets or in the general neighborhood.

Even in this time of social distancing the Neighborhood is sending out updates and information for us to plug into to help deal with the stress and confusion.

We all know that budgets are stretched to the limits, but to disconnect the Neighborhood funding is to greatly lessen the base of Portland's claim to "livability".

We are individuals living on a street and we need the Neighborhood Associations to bring us together to share in all that is good in Portland.

Thank you for your kind attention and support.

Johnette Majury, 97219, [robertmajury@comcast.net](mailto:robertmajury@comcast.net)



**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: We support SWNI Funding Agenda #966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 7:04:02 AM

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**From:** Maryellen Read <maryellenread@gmail.com>

**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 10:53 AM

**To:** "Wheeler, Mayor" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Eudaly <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Ryan Office <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>, "Office@swni.org" <Office@swni.org>

**Cc:** ROBERT MAJURY <robertmajury@comcast.net>, Anna Browne <Anna.Browne@standard.com>, Brendan McGillicuddy <brendanmcgillicuddy@comcast.net>, Elise deLisser <ezdzt1@comcast.net>, Fran Laird <lairdfran@gmail.com>, Gene Lynard <glynard@comcast.net>, John Miller <john@timehaven.us>, Maryellen Read <maryellenread@gmail.com>, Prakash Joshi <artalive@comcast.net>, Robert Fischer <drbobis@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** We support SWNI Funding Agenda #966

December 5, 2020

TO:

Mayor Wheeler: [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Amanda Fritz: [amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty: [joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly: [chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)

Commissioner Dan Ryan: [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)

Auditor Mary Hull Caballero: [auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov)

Southwest Neighborhood Office: [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org)

**RE: Agenda item 966. SWNI Funding**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members:

My name is Johnette Majury, living at 10409 SW Fourth Avenue, Collins View Neighborhood. I am writing to urge funding for the Neighborhood Association to continue. My husband & I have lived in our home and neighborhood since 1968 and have long attended Collins View Neighborhood meetings.

We have benefited over the years from that link to the neighborhood.

When Lewis & Clark College began expanding their campus into the neighborhood we were able to participate in their plans through the Neighborhood Association. It allowed us to have a firm voice in making requests and limits on the College's expansions with both the City Council and the College.

We have also benefited in many other ways. Gatherings supported by the Associations educating us on disaster plans, planting of trees to improve & preserve the canopy of green in our area, visits by local police to garner a feeling of mutual safety in our neighborhood. Lists

of emergency & non emergency numbers to call when problems arise on our own streets or in the general neighborhood.

Even in this time of social distancing the Neighborhood is sending out updates and information for us to plug into to help deal with the stress and confusion.

We all know that budgets are stretched to the limits, but to disconnect the Neighborhood funding is to greatly lessen the base of Portland's claim to "livability".

We are individuals living on a street and we need the Neighborhood Associations to bring us together to share in all that is good in Portland.

Thank you for your kind attention and support.

Johnette Majury, 97219, [robertmajury@comcast.net](mailto:robertmajury@comcast.net)

**From:** [MJ Ingalsbe](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Agenda Item #966 - Wednesday, December 9, 2020  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 11:26:25 AM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Eudaly, and Commissioner Ryan,

I am writing in opposition to the ordinance proposed by Commissioner Eudaly to transfer SW neighborhood district coalition administrative responsibilities to the SE Uplift coalition for the remainder of the 2020-21 fiscal year. I would like SWNI funding to instead be restored.

The SW neighborhood associations, including my neighborhood of Hayhurst, rely on SWNI's support and expertise. Transfer of administration to another coalition would be costly, inefficient, and detrimental to ongoing neighborhood operational support. If better financial controls are needed by SWNI as the audit attests, a new financial control system can and should be implemented with the necessary oversight and accountability. Consistent and accurate fiscal reports should be required of SWNI and the other coalitions by the Office of Community and Civic Life. I was surprised to learn that the Office of Community and Civic Life does not already have such a reporting process in place to ensure ongoing accountability.

A plan to implement any needed improvements to SWNI coalition financial management should be developed rather than the drastic and ill-conceived proposal to transfer administration mid-year.

Sincerely,

Marita Ingalsbe

6214 SW 41st Ave  
Portland, OR 97221

**From:** [Fran Laird](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony - Agenda item 966 - SWNI funding  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 11:31:04 AM

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Re: SWNI funding - agenda item 966

I have lived in the Collins View neighborhood in SW Portland since 2006. Since 2009 I have been fortunate to serve on the Executive Board of SWNI and the board of CVNA.

The SWNI office is a meeting place for SW Portlanders, organizing events and a connector among the 17 SW neighborhoods who depend on SWNI. When something happens in one neighborhood it will eventually affect all and having the interaction and direction that SWNI provides guides us.

When voting on funding SWNI please also consider the staff who will lose their jobs and benefits during the worldwide pandemic and economic crisis. A decision made by you on December 9th will have repercussions besides the political motivations.

The "urgency" of this decision is questionable. I know that this is a decision that you take very seriously, not as a personal vote, but thoughtful and beneficial to the City of Portland and to your constituents.

Please vote to fund SWNI.

Fran Laird  
97219  
[lairdfran@gmail.com](mailto:lairdfran@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of support for SWNI - Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 7:07:32 AM

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**From:** Fran Laird <[lairdfran@gmail.com](mailto:lairdfran@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 11:39 AM  
**To:** "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <[AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter of support for SWNI - Agenda item 966

Re: SWNI funding - agenda item 966

I have lived in the Collins View neighborhood in SW Portland since 2006. Since 2009 I have been fortunate to serve on the Executive Board of SWNI and the board of CVNA.

The SWNI office is a meeting place for SW Portlanders, organizing events and a connector among the 17 SW neighborhoods who depend on SWNI. When something happens in one neighborhood it will eventually affect all and having the interaction and direction that SWNI provides guides us.

When voting on funding SWNI please also consider the staff who will lose their jobs and benefits during the worldwide pandemic and economic crisis. A decision made by you on December 9th will have repercussions besides the political motivations.

The "urgency" of this decision is questionable. I know that this is a decision that you take very seriously, not as a personal vote, but thoughtful and beneficial to the City of Portland and to your constituents.

Please vote to fund SWNI.

Fran Laird  
97219  
[lairdfran@gmail.com](mailto:lairdfran@gmail.com)

**From:** [Dan Rosenhouse](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Calendar Item #966--Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 3:17:29 PM

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- I have been a resident of the Ashcreek Neighborhood for over 30 years. Problems with the administration of SWNI ought to be dealt with by putting controls in place that minimize the possibility for the kind of problems that have arisen. The answer is not to place the responsibility for Southwest neighborhoods in a different geographic area that is less convenient for residents and that has its own issues and priorities to deal with. It is especially wrong to take this action without public input (or even a request for same) from the residents of the affected neighborhoods. Please reject this proposition.

Daniel Rosenhouse

**From:** [Nancy Vandervelde](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 3:28:17 PM

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"I live in SW Portland and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966" would be of great help.

Nancy Vandervelde

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Funding SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:05:25 AM

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**From:** Vicki McNamara <[vicki@vmconsult.net](mailto:vicki@vmconsult.net)>  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 3:51 PM  
**To:** "Wheeler, Mayor" <[MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Fritz <[amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Hardesty <[joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Eudaly <[chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Ryan Office <[CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)>, "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <[AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov)>, "office@swni.org" <[office@swni.org](mailto:office@swni.org)>  
**Subject:** Funding SWNI

Dear Council Members and others: **Agenda Item #966**

I have been a resident of Portland's West Portland Park Neighborhood since 1998. My husband and I became involved with WPPNA over 10 years ago. We are writing as both residents of WPP and also past officers of WPPNA. Through very rocky times (with the then president) SWNI was a vital life-line of support for the NA. Without the guidance and support of SWNI (after the difficult president was finally removed), WPPNA would have had to start from the beginning. We were able to meet the director and staff to have our questions answered, learn what works best and to begin to move WPP in a positive direction.

SWNI's strong support, communication and guidance is essential to all of our NAs and their residents. Our personal interactions with the SWNI staff have always been met with poise, respect, and always clear strategies for moving forward. SWNI is WPPNA's "glue/backbone". WPPNA and local residents utilize SWNI's knowledge and expertise to get the "job done". Examples include: National Night Out (Capitol Library), Movies in the Park (Jackson Middle School), partnerships with the two local mosques, NET Annual Safety Fair, Watershed Office helping remove invasive species and replant native plants/trees; and the Soccer-A-Thon (raised money for Markham Elementary's purchase of Chromebooks). Without SWNI's help before and during the aforementioned events, they would not have been nearly as successful.

SWNI's long term-knowledge of all SW Neighborhoods cannot be lost nor replaced. SWNI has NEVER turned us away or not been helpful.

Restoration of SWNI's funding is critical to its financial future. We STRONGLY urge you to vote FOR funding restoration to help support our local equity and governance at the neighborhood level.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael McNamara (Past President WPPNA) e-mail: [mike@vmconsult.net](mailto:mike@vmconsult.net)

Vicki McNamara (Past Secretary WPPNA). Info below

4035 SW Comus St.

Portland, OR 97219



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Vicki McNamara, Ph.D., L.P.C.

Education Consultant: School Counseling

4035 SW Comus St.

Portland, OR 97219

Cell: 503-260-1099

[vicki@vmconsult.net](mailto:vicki@vmconsult.net)

**From:** [willatit@aol.com](mailto:willatit@aol.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** item 996  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:14:18 PM

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- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on southwest Portland. It was developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input. I have lived in the Southwest for 27 years and have never had anything but positive experiences with the local government officials.....

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [willatit@aol.com](mailto:willatit@aol.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [willatit@aol.com](mailto:willatit@aol.com)  
**Subject:** item 996  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:15:39 PM

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‘• This proposal will cause significant negative impact on southwest Portland. It was developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.’

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [willatit@aol.com](mailto:willatit@aol.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [willatit@aol.com](mailto:willatit@aol.com)  
**Subject:** item 996  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:23:01 PM

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I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve Ashcreek and 16 other neighborhoods in SW Portland. I do not understand how or why Ms Eulay has so much power when she is on her way out; she has known for her distaste for all Neighborhood Ass't's.....is she being a petty vindictive loser?

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Alycia Thibadeau](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject item #966  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:43:14 PM

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I have lived in SW Portland for 10 years and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966.

Alycia Thibadeau  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Avvy Mar](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest neighborhood inc  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 5:40:20 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge that the suggestion of defunding the Southwest Neighborhood Inc. be withdrawn. The needs of our part of Portland should not be folded into another group already dividing its resources between 19 other neighborhoods.

It is unfair and would diminish the participation of our neighborhood in strong dialogue with concerns and resources that SE Uplift is in no position to add to its many duties. We've utilized SWNI funding for 40 years. Please don't disempower for whatever reason is being used to divert funding. Our voices matter.

Avvy Mar, PhD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
503.299-4057

ash reek neighborhood resident

**From:** [Bob Nesler](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 6:47:02 PM

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I am a resident of SW Portland and have lived here for more than 22 years. I oppose the effort to defund SWNI immediately. Doing so will have an adverse effect on my neighborhood, Ash Creek NA, and the many neighborhoods served by SWNI. It is unreasonable and unrealistic to expect SE Uplift to absorb the responsibility of serving the SW neighborhoods now served by SWNI. I urge you to vote no on agenda item #966.

Bob Nesler  
SW Portland

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stewart Rounds](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [roundsstewart@gmail.com](mailto:roundsstewart@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** testimony on Item 966 of City Council Agenda for December 9, 2020  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:01:35 PM

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Greetings.

Please make this testimony part of the official written record. Thank you.

Item 966 of the City Council Agenda for the meeting on December 9, 2020, proposes to introduce the results of a financial audit of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI) and then to remove funding from that organization and transfer that funding to another organization.

Two issues are important here:

1. The scope of the financial audit includes a time period for which a financial crime was committed, discovered, successfully prosecuted, and resolved. That crime occurred back in 2010. The perpetrators were caught and penalized. SWNI changed and improved its financial procedures since that time. No evidence of financial fraud or financial crime has occurred associated with SWNI since that 2010 crime. It is inappropriate for the financial audit to include any information about that 2010 crime when it was fully resolved and has nothing to do with the financial operations of SWNI today or in recent years. If anything, the report should be used as evidence to support the fact that SWNI is being operated quite properly today and in recent years. Please do not be misled by a report that focuses on fraud that occurred in 2010 and which has already been discovered, successfully prosecuted, and resolved.

2. SWNI provides critical support and services to citizens and neighborhood organizations in southwest Portland, has done so for many years, and the citizens and organizations of southwest Portland will suffer harm if SWNI is "de-funded" and those support funds transferred to another organization based in another part of the city. For many years, I have been active in neighborhood associations and various southwest Portland activities that are supported by those associations or directly by SWNI. SWNI provides critical timely information to the citizens of southwest Portland through its outreach (emails, etc.) and newsletters. It provides the legal financial supporting framework for the neighborhood associations in southwest Portland. It would be a great hardship for SWNI to be de-funded. It would harm the activities and the voices of residents of southwest Portland if SWNI were to be de-funded. More to the point, there is no reason to de-fund SWNI.

I implore you to properly fund Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. as a critical resource for the citizens of southwest Portland. This is important. Thank you.

-Stewart Rounds  
7609 SW 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97219



**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:07:03 AM

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**From:** Deirdre Dant <dantdeirdre@comcast.net>

**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 7:31 PM

**Subject:** Support for SWNI

I am reaching out to you because I support Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI). I have lived in the West Portland Park Neighborhood since 1992. Before Covid-19 I frequently attended West Portland Park neighborhood association meetings.

SWNI has supported and promoted our neighborhood events. Such as our neighborhood night out, and our movie in the park event at Jackson Middle School. SWNI organized different events that showcased what the different neighborhoods have accomplished (neighborhood clean up events, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and much more). SWNI helps build community within the neighborhoods in SW Portland.

SWNI also helps promote safety within the SW neighborhoods. With our meandering sidewalkless streets, SW Portland has unique safety issues for pedestrians and bike riders. SWNI helped organize safety vigils to illustrate the safety needs.

Without SWNI and all the neighborhood associations, the people of SW Portland will be under-represented.

I have found the West Portland Park neighborhood association to be a welcoming and safe place where all neighbors can come together and discuss issues that are going to impact the livability of their neighborhoods. We need this system of representation. SWNI supports our neighborhood.

Please vote to restore SWNI's funding.

Thank you,  
-Deirdre

Deirdre Dant  
503-522-4558  
Real Estate Broker  
Residential Realty NW

*I am never too busy for your questions or referrals!*  
Licensed in the State of Oregon  
Lic.# 201204056



**From:** [Maureen Bray](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 996 - December 9, 2020  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:46:10 PM

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I'm a SW Portland neighborhood homeowner who is *strongly* opposed to the reckless suggestion that Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. be defunded. We need to keep our local, community-based neighborhood association here, where we live and work. We do not want SWNI's contract to serve Ashcreek Neighborhood Association to be dissolved and handled by another organization outside of our area. I've lived here for over ten years and have found our Neighborhood Association to be helpful, community-focused, and successful in serving our needs well.

I haven't seen any valid reason to defund our SWNI organization, and feel that the suggestion to do so was made by soon-to-be-Ex-Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who no longer has 'skin in the game' and has made a reckless suggestion that will deprive the people living within SWNI the local focus that they expect and deserve.

SWNI has helped Ashcreek Neighborhood Association in many ways; here are just a few of them:

- + Development of excellent walking trails to be used by all who live in the community
- + Fundraising to complete the design, purchase, and installation of benches at the Smith School Field and community playground
- + Development of the important Emergency Response Network
- + Organizing neighborhood gatherings for positive encouragement and to discuss important community issues as they arise, right here in our neighborhood

This important matter deserves more community input and analysis.

***Please, reject item #966!***

Sincerely,

*Maureen Bray*  
5131 SW Orchid St., Portland OR 97219

**From:** [Michael Flores](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SW Ashcreek  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 8:05:52 PM

---

I'm a SW Portland neighborhood resident/homeowner who is *strongly* opposed to the reckless suggestion that Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. be defunded. We need to keep our local, community-based neighborhood association here, where we live and work. We do not want SWNI's contract to serve Ashcreek Neighborhood Association to be dissolved and handled by another organization outside of our area. I've lived here for over ten years and have found our Neighborhood Association to be helpful, community-focused, and successful in serving our needs well.

I haven't seen any valid reason to defund our SWNI organization, and feel that the suggestion to do so was made by soon-to-be-Ex-Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who no longer has 'skin in the game' and has made a reckless suggestion that will deprive the people living within SWNI the local focus that they expect and deserve.

SWNI has helped Ashcreek Neighborhood Association in many ways; here are just a few of them:

- + Development of excellent walking trails to be used by all who live in the community
- + Fundraising to complete the design, purchase, and installation of benches at the Smith School Field and community playground
- + Development of the important Emergency Response Network
- + Organizing neighborhood gatherings for positive encouragement and to discuss important community issues as they arise, right here in our neighborhood

This important matter deserves more community input and analysis.

***Please, reject item #966!***

Sincerely,

Michael Flores  
9110 S.W. 52nd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Terri Preeg Riggsby](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#)  
**Subject:** I Oppose #966 - Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 8:20:42 PM

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Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

I have lived in SW Portland for nearly 22 years and have worked with SWNI through the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and as an engaged neighbor for about 18 years. I oppose item #966, defunding SWNI.

I recognize some management concerns that have recently been raised; however, I believe these can be resolved without closing SWNI's doors and cutting its current staff. SWNI is absolutely a community asset. It serves many critical functions, including dissemination of timely and key information regarding public safety, transportation, neighbor support programs for food, rent, and utilities, and engagement opportunities for \*all\* SW Portland residents.

I believe the proposal to close SWNI was made without adequate analysis or community input, and should therefore be rejected. I know that our City's government can do better and I have confidence that it will support our communities by voting "No" to item #966.

Thank you,  
Terri

Terri Preeg Riggsby, SW PDX Resident  
she/her  
Executive Director, Tryon Creek Watershed Council  
President, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Chair, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District  
971-404-4909

**From:** [Judy \(Samples\) Helmke](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject item #966  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 8:49:49 PM

---

I live in SW Portland and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966.

Thank you.

*Judy (Samples) Helmke*  
*CEO/Consultant*  
*c3Linkage LLC*  
*503.475.5757*  
[www.c3linkage.com](http://www.c3linkage.com)  
*connect.collaborate.consult*

**From:** [Penny](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council calendar Item 966  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 8:58:59 PM

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As a home owner in SW Portland for over 24 years, I am very concerned that Cloe Eudaly is quietly pushing through a defunding of our South west Neighborhoods, Inc. I strongly oppose #966.

As home owners, our families and our properties have benefited greatly from the efforts of our neighborhood specific group of fellow neighbors. The committees recruit volunteers who follow through because they live here.

Portland city government focuses on overall city needs. Each neighborhood has different needs which can best be determined and supported only by those who live in the neighborhood. If a neighborhood decided BY VOTE to give up their own Assoc that might work for those who don't have people to serve. We do and we want our staff and Ashcreek Neighborhood assoc to continue as it has in the past 40 years.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Penny Price  
SW Merlin Ct.  
Portland 97229

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:07:15 AM

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**From:** Mark Nicholson <nicholson.mark@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 7:35 AM  
**To:** "Wheeler, Mayor" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Eudaly <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Ryan Office <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** "office@swni.org" <office@swni.org>  
**Subject:** Support for SWNI

Portland Council Members,

I am writing to you as one who urges you to continue the funding of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc (SWNI) organization. It came to my attention that the council is considering removing its funding and bundling it with another organization; this is not acceptable. SW-Portland is a very different area than SE-Portland - just as there has long been a difference between "Eastsiders" and "Westsiders" in Portland. Each is unique and beneficial to the overall diversity and vibrancy of Portland as a whole. Simply "combining" these is not going to build that up; in fact, it will reduce it considerably in my opinion.

My community of Ash Creek is one of the neighborhoods supported by SWNI; our direct community organization is too small to have much effect on any issues which arise, so being part of the SWNI considerably improves my neighborhood (and many others!) through both active involvement and informing the communities it serves about situations which come up which affect one, some or all of the communities.

SWNI organizes several events each year which are unique in that it brings together residents of my own community, as well as the larger set of communities. Its 40-year history of serving the community and fostering an environment which builds direct relationships between people is something which is becoming more absent in our society and should be supported, not hindered. Strong, healthy, connected communities are what build cities -- and Portland should be exemplary in this aspect.

I am making a specific, direct request:

Please **REJECT** item #966 and *RESTORE* SWNI's city funding

As a resident of Portland SW and Ash-Creek, it is organizations like SWNI which are building the framework of strong communities from the ground-up. The overall cost of supporting this



organization is small in the overall budget, but the impact of that small amount is big. SWNI relies on this funding to continue its operations and good work.

If there are concerns about SWNI from the City's perspective, open a public forum, have SWNI contact all of its residents to come to that forum and present your claims publicly.

Thank you,

Mark Nicholson  
Ash Creek

**From:** [David Lacagnina](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Object defunding of SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:22:12 AM

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Dear City Council and City Auditor,

I am a resident in SW Portland, and I object to the defunding of the Southwest Neighborhood Inc.. This decision is important and it deserves community input and analysis. Please reject item #966.

Sincerely,

Brenda Gluszek

**From:** [doria mateja](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject Resolution (Council Calendar item 966) that would no longer fund SWNI (Southwest Neighborhood, Inc.)  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:09:40 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

We urge you to **reject** Council Calendar item #966, the Resolution to de-fund the South Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI) group.

SWNI has been good and strong advocate for Portland's west side neighborhoods. We have lived in the Ash Creek neighborhood for over 25 years.

We find this resolution to be very poorly-timed and rushed. With Portland Planning Bureau moving ahead with the [West Portland Town Center](#) project, the neighborhoods in the area need and rely on the strong support of SWNI.



#### West Portland Town Center Plan

The West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Plan will lay out a vision for a healthy, connected, and multi-cultural tow...

We also find it poor timing that this is being pushed by outgoing Commissioner Cloe Eudaly. We've read the 'audit' that was prepared that Commissioner Eudaly is using to further her Resolution, and found it to be full of mis-representations and inaccuracies. This is **not** the type of document that anyone should use as justification for basically disbanding the group that represents all the interests of the southwest Portland neighborhoods and effectively disenfranchising that population.

We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.

The City of Portland has always supported neighborhood representation. Now is not the time to stop that support. This is not the way the City should do business.

Sincerely,  
Adam & Doria Stellmacher  
8845 SW 54th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Marcella Vail](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rejection of #966 - Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:23:45 AM

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Hello,

I am a resident of Ash Creek Woods in SW Portland and just learned of the abrupt move to defund the Southwest Neighbors, Inc. (SWNI). I oppose the move to defund SWNI and request more community input and review. With young school-aged children, we have great interest in the future of Smith School and SWNI has been driving the advocacy of reopening the school. The organization also supports our local neighborhood community by maintaining our neighborhood trails, raising funds, and establishing our neighborhood emergency response network. Again, more resident review and input should be conducted and greatly considered before this decision is made.

Marcella Vail  
she/her  
6345 SW Dolph Dr  
Portland Or 97219

**From:** [Peter Trumbo](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject item #966  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:59:48 AM

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Are you serious, this is another hair-brained idea of Edulay's. I live in SW Portland and SWNI benefits me and my community. Community!!! Local folks working together in their neighborhoods, what a concept. But it is 2020 so let's just keep piling it on folks.

If SWNI isn't perfect then let's work on it but throwing it out is like a scorched earth policy.

Respectively submitted,

Peter & Michelle Trumbo  
9015 SW Lancelot Lane, Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Hal Howard](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:31:02 AM

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I urge the City Council to reject Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI). This sudden addition of the proposed resolution had precluded community input. As a long-time board member of Ashcreek Neighborhood Association, I have seen firsthand the critical role SWNI plays in civic involvement in my area of Portland. The current freezing of funds has significantly impacted our organization by severely limiting communication and community outreach.

I urge the Council to delay any action until next year when cooler heads prevail and the newly elected council members have the opportunity to objectively and thoughtfully review the financial audit and issues related to SWNI. It is my understanding that the City Council's approval of the audit was to deal with financial aspects only. While I support several of the recommendations for improvement of SWNI's operations, this audit delves into irrelevant past history (2011 embezzlement of funds where it was reported and the former employee was found guilty), and goes into equity issues unrelated to finances. I am personally aware that SWNI and Ashcreek NA is diligently working to improve equity and inclusivity just as the entire city government is struggling with this issue.

It seems to me that the audit was poorly executed with a preconceived outcome in mind. I do not know Commissioner Eudaly's motivation, I can only speculate this resolution is founded in revenge by a defeated council member in her last few weeks in office and her staff for a perceived slight by the SWNI Board and/or staff.

Please reject Calendar item 996.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Howard  
9112 SW Excalibur Pl.  
Portland, OR. 97219

**From:** [Dan Kesler](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:39:03 AM

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I live in SW Portland and oppose the move to defund SWNI. There is no way the Southwest Neighborhoods will receive the attention they need if they are combined with the 19 counties the SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition already serves. And I suspect those 19 counties will also suffer. Please reject item #966".

Dan



**From:** [Janet Brittle](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item #996  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 12:01:04 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I live in Southwest Portland, and I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve Ashcreek and 16 other neighborhoods of SW Portland.

SWNI has been a valuable resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.

This is an unwise and ill-conceived action proposed by a lame-duck Commissioner (Cloe Eudaly), who was defeated in her re-election bid in November, and is leaving office in less than a month.

This proposal will cause significant negative impact on Southwest Portland. It was Developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences, nor was it fashioned with any form of real community input.

This proposal should be rejected out of hand. This is not the way our city government should do business.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Brittle

Janet Brittle  
[janetlakatos@me.com](mailto:janetlakatos@me.com)  
Home (503) 245-1307  
Cell: (503) 407-6415  
Fax (503) 208-8096

**From:** [DIANE HOFMANN](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 996 Should Be Rejected  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 1:26:01 PM

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Dear City Council,

We have lived in SW Portland for over 30 Years and object to the defunding of the SW Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and elimination of it's contract to serve Crestwood & 16 other Neighborhoods in SW Portland. The SWNI has serve the area well giving us a voice in matters that affect the area.

Please reject Council Item 996.

Thank You,

Barry & Diane Hofmann  
5947 SW Luradel St.  
Portland, OR 97219  
[bdhofmann@comcast.net](mailto:bdhofmann@comcast.net)

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

**From:** [Susan Cole](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item 966  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 1:35:15 PM

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Hello -

I live in SW Portland (Ash Creek Woods) and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more Community input and analysis. Please reject item 966. Thank you. Susan E. Cole

**From:** [Dave Johnston](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Bogert, Sylvia](#)  
**Subject:** Item #966 Wednesday Dec. 9, 2020  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 2:16:02 PM

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We urge the City Council to continue funding for SWNI. It has served the people of SW Portland well over the years. The current staff know the people and neighborhoods well and are better able to serve them than new less knowledgeable staff would be.

We have been active in the Collins View Neighborhood Association for over 25 years, including as Board Chairs and Land Use Chairs although we do not currently hold an office. During that time SWNI with Silvia Bogert and her staff have provided essential assistance, leadership, encouragement and logistical support to the people and Neighborhoods for numerous projects. Among them:

The SW Community Plan;  
The Conditional Use Permits for both Riverdale High School and Lewis&Clark College;  
Development of the Riverview Natural Area under the Parks Bureau;  
The advisory committee to develop the Campus Institutional Zones for the City including Lewis&Clark College;  
The 2035 City Comprehensive Plan (including the foundation for the Equity Committee);  
and, many other projects.

We note that our Neighborhood, Collins View includes many, people of color including Black, Asian, and Hispanic residents living in the most affluent parts of Collins View,

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave and Dixie Johnston

**From:** [Love Jonson](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Redirect inequitable SWNI funding  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 2:16:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.04 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.12 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.26 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.18 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.33 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-12-06 at 2.11.45 PM.png](#)

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Hello Mayor and Commissioners,

I know you're aware of the number of shocking issues related to SWNI, but the one that's most pressing for me---and the reason I am **urging you to redirect funds** to SEUL in the short-term and another organization(s), particularly BIPOC-led organization(s), in the long term---is SWNI's **blatant disinterest in and hostility toward equity and racial justice**.

See these screenshots of facts conveniently compiled by [https://www.instagram.com/swno\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/swno_/):



**Why did it take**

**4 years?**

**SWNI board refused and**

**actively voted against**

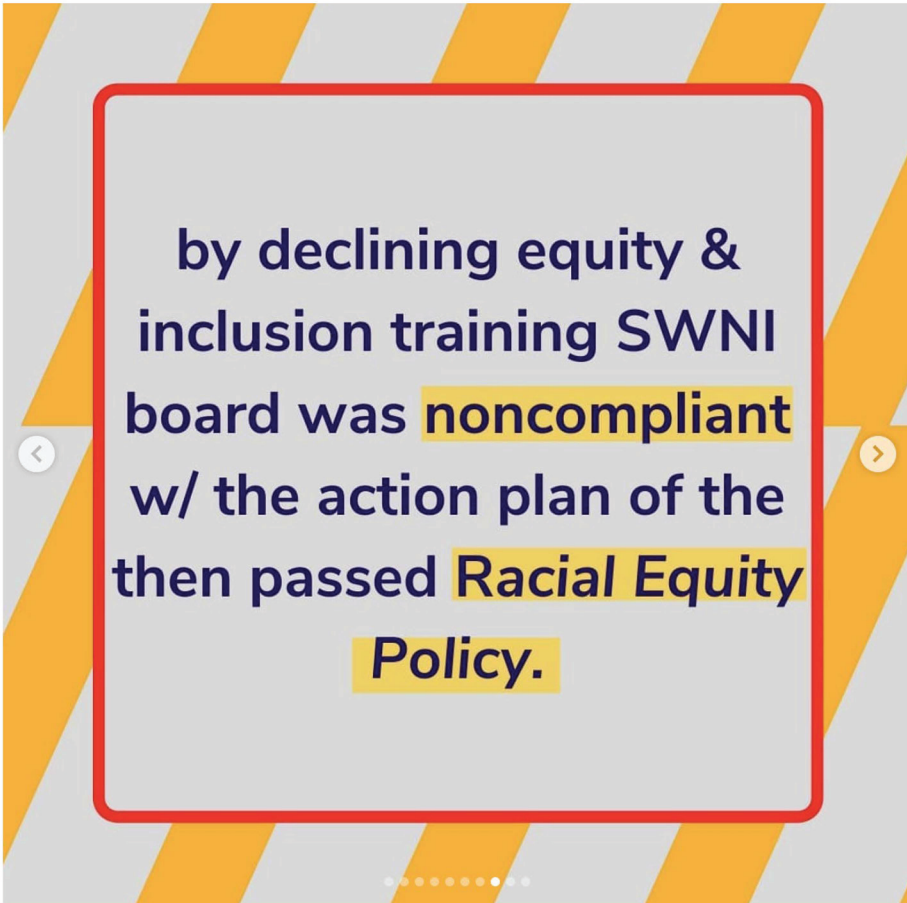
**being guided by equity**

**as a priority. Racial  
equity only became a  
priority when their  
funding was at risk.**

**OCT 2019:**

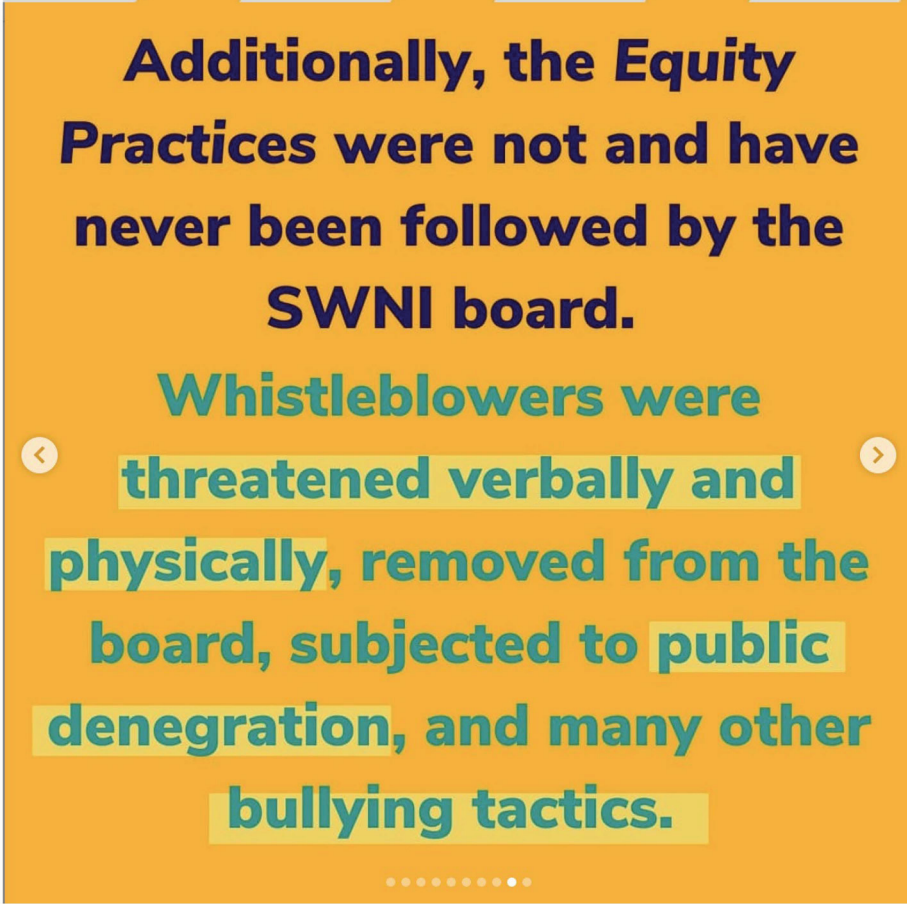
**equity & inclusion  
training**

**PROPOSAL FOR SWNI BOARD  
IS BROUGHT TO A VOTE.  
BOARD OVERWHELMING  
VOTES DOWN THE NEED FOR  
EQUITY & INCLUSION  
TRAINING.**



by declining equity & inclusion training SWNI board was noncompliant w/ the action plan of the then passed **Racial Equity Policy**.

**Additionally, the Equity Practices were not and have never been followed by the SWNI board.**



**Whistleblowers were threatened verbally and physically, removed from the board, subjected to public denegration, and many other bullying tactics.**



**The city of PDX funded SWNI  
with taxpayer monies for 4  
years despite their intentional  
refusal to pass a racial equity  
policy and action plan.**

**Community members from SW  
attempted to testify publicly  
before city hall on the lack of  
equity & inclusion and bullying  
tactics, but their testimonies  
were publicly suppressed.**

Thank you, and I hope we can consider this as one step in reorienting how we relate to our neighborhood associations/coalitions and the organizations serving the Portlanders we as a city have ignored for generations.

Love Jonson



**From:** [Sheila Fagan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Restore SWNI Funding  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 2:54:33 PM

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For all the reasons Tony indicated in his letter regarding the importance of SWNI expertise and mentoring in promoting communication and involvement in our neighborhoods regarding so many important changes, improvements, and livability issues I support restoring the SWNI funding. These past years I have been to Crestwood, Multnomah, and Ashcreek neighborhood meetings regarding transportation and the growth of the city and the neighborhoods. I am always impressed with the knowledge, care, and fairness of the volunteers.

Sheila Fagan  
4229 SW Collins St.  
Portland 97219

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Disavow SWNI Report  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:07:46 AM

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**From:** brian hill <brian.hill5@comcast.net>  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 4:05 PM  
**To:** "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Disavow SWNI Report

I am writing to you to express my strong support of the SWNI. I am the treasurer for the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association and know firsthand the critical support SWNI provides for our association in terms of supporting the treasurer's function. From attending the Ashcreek monthly meeting (open to anyone who wants to attend and automatically member if you live in the Ashcreek area) I have learned of SWNI's importance of coordinating the actions of the southwest neighborhoods in land use, school, trails, NET teams for example. As an indication of the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association support of SWNI an unanimously vote was given to donate funds to SWNI to help cover their payroll for December. I have learned that when this need was identified to the community funds to cover the total shortfall was raised in short order, a sign of community support.

The requested financial audited by the Portland City Council was converted by the by Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life (OCCL) into an inaccurate and bias opinion report which lack any possible creditability in the public view since SWNI was not offered an opportunity to respond to the many flaws with in audit before its public release. The lack of creditability to the public as demonstrated by the funds raised to support SWNI salaries and the discussion at two meeting I attended where not a single word to support the audits findings and in fact most of the meeting was spent discussing how to prevent any action base on this biased "audit".

The only acceptable outcome is to full fund SWNI and disavow the OCCL audit. I will follow your vote on this important matter.

**From:** [Will Fuller](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966 Amend grant with Southeast Uplift  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:41:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [SWNI-Support-2020-12-06.docx](#)

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Portland City Council,

I urge you to vote down the hastily-drawn ordinance to defund SWNI. As a response to the SWNI audit, it is too much, too soon.

First, this ordinance is too much.

Yes, the audit found problems with SWNI management, but are they so horrifying that SWNI deserves the death penalty? As Shakespeare's Mark Antony said at the assassination of Julius Caesar, "the evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." This must not be with SWNI.

As with Caesar, there is great good with SWNI. You will hear from many people about the valuable services that SWNI provides. I add a fervent "Amen!" Over decades of involvement as an active Multnomah resident, past SWNI Schools Committee chair, and founding member of the SWNI Equity Committee, I have enjoyed splendid service from dedicated staff and volunteers at SWNI. Loss of such service would be a loss to civic involvement in Portland.

This ordinance is not the only call for SWNI's death.

A small band of dedicated activists is calling for death by poisoning with toxic solutions.

The prolonged choking off of SWNI funds threatens death by strangulation.

Now, by eliminating staff and support, this ordinance would add death by firing squad.

The repeated pick, pick, pick, at SWNI is like being nibbled to death by ducks.

And the last duck is lame. That's why this ordinance is too soon.

This ordinance comes barely two weeks after the audit was released, less than a month before new commissioners join the council, and in the holidays. This is no time to tie up the council with such a drastic demand. Give the new council time to consider a range of options and come to thoughtful, productive, solutions to the audit findings.

On a personal note, I have testified before you in support of Commissioner Eudaly's proposals for more equitable civic engagement. I cannot, however, support this ordinance.

Don't try to assassinate SWNI. It is much too soon, and much too much.

Will Fuller (he, him, his)

503-764-5501

[wwfuller@teleport.com](mailto:wwfuller@teleport.com)

3824 SW Canby St

Portland, OR 97219-1543

**From:** [Mark Dustan](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Council calendar #966  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:58:51 PM

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To City of Portland Commissioners:

Mayor Wheeler: [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz: [amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty: [joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly: [chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Dan Ryan: [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)

I am a native Portlander. I moved into the Ashcreek neighborhood in 1980. During that entire time Southwest Neighborhood Association has provided assistance to the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association.

Today, I am appalled. I recently learned that Chloe Eudaley is proposing that immediately the SWNI be totally defunded. Earlier this year, she requested an audit of the organization based on a request from a former disgruntled board member. I think legitimate independent audits are very helpful.

I later learned that Chloe Eudaley had suspended all payments under the SWNI contract. This made it difficult in providing the great service they have offered for the past 40 years. So I sent a letter to all the members of the City Council, requesting that the audit be expedited as to not permanently damage SWNI. My letter was ignored by all except Amanda Fritz, who thanked me for my concern. The audit took almost half a year with no funding provided to SWNI during that time. I am certain that the ulterior motive was to bankrupt the organization and lose its staff. However, the Neighborhood stepped up and help partially fund operations

Even more troubling was what I read in the bogus Audit report. It

appears that they took talking points from the former Board member and wove in data linked to negative irrelevant information. With a bit of research, I discovered that former volunteer has extracted several hundred thousand dollars from other Oregon public agencies by filing lawsuits. The Council should investigate how such a biased audit could become part of the public record. I expect the Bogus report was not cheap. You should question its credibility and review letters submitted by other Neighborhood associations detailing the erroneous information

Chloe Eudaley is proposing defunding SWNI and turning over the duties to the SE Uplift Coalition. When researching the SE Uplift organization (which I had never heard of, I find that they have financial problems, staff turnover and the biggest issue is they have no knowledge of what the Southwest Portland residents need or want. This would be a no-win situation for SW residents. We are already suffering from the defunding debacle. The needs of SE Portland are dramatically different than SW Portland. Believe me I know I grew up in Lents.

I think that Southwest residents deserve the opportunity to express how they can be supported and not having former commissioners completely demolish the infrastructure built to support residents over the past 40 years.

I was told by a former boss do not just come with complaints, come with a solution as well. So here are my suggestions:

1. Discard or investigate the bogus audit report allowing feedback from both sides of the situation.
2. Do not defund SWNI, but rather restore their funding under the contract.
3. Ask Chloe to depart, thank her for her service and not allow her to dismantle any other City relationships or contracts
4. Ask SWNI to provide a solution to any legitimate concerns that

came up in the audit

5. Please ask what the members of the Neighborhood Associations need and want from SWNI
6. Do not assign our neighborhood organization to SE Uplift Coalition

Mark Dustan

Lifelong Portland resident

Long time member of Ashcreek Neighborhood Association.

8210 SW 62nd Ave.

Portland, OR 97219-3124

503 703 1872

[markdustan@cs.com](mailto:markdustan@cs.com)

**From:** [Gary Schultz](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Concil Calendar Item #966  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:43:30 PM

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Please reject Council Calendar Item #966

Please reject the proposal to defund SW Neighborhoods Inc. I have lived in Portland most of my life and in SW for the last 46 years. SWNI has been an active part of our neighborhoods for nearly that long. SWNI supports a coalition of 17 neighborhoods. I am a longtime member of Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) which has effectively worked hand in hand with SWNI to help make our neighborhoods more resilient.

The proposal to "defund" SWNI is a tool to tear down existing infrastructure. But it does not move any of our neighborhoods forward. The Commission's closed door discussions used an audit which appeared to pick and choose what data to consider. The SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition serves its constituency well and would benefit financially from SWNI's demise. But is it insufficiently equipped to represent the diversity of the entire city.

Respectfully,

Gary D. Schultz  
9030 SW 55th Av.  
Portland, OR 97219



**From:** [Gayle Green](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** defunding the SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:59:40 PM

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Dear City Council,

Please do not defund SWNI. We have lived in the Ashcreek neighborhood for 28 years, since 1992 and the SWNI has been a wonderful resource for us during those years. We have drawn information from it monthly and posted it to our community notice board in front of our house.

The folks who maintain our trails are tireless workers. They have done a wonderful job of keeping the trails in great shape in the neighborhood.

The SWNI has also coordinated emergency response for the neighborhood. We need more community organizations like this, not less.

We understand that this proposal was not openly discussed and may have been politically motivated in its nature.

Please listen to the voices of the people who will be affected.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peter and Gayle Green

**From:** [Aaron Brown](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvest SWNI-earmarked funds to more equitable, accountable civic nonprofits  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:07:41 PM

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Mayor Wheeler, members of the Portland City Council -

I'm writing to add my voice to the chorus of community leaders concerned about the recent news of SWNI's chronic mismanagement of municipal funds, and a request that the city council approve the motion to shift SWNI's funding to SEUL, as well as to approve a motion to reassess the district coalition model.

I'm an ardent fan of the decentralized, collaborative neighborly decision-making promise that neighborhood associations ostensibly claim to provide to the city - unfortunately, stories of financial mismanagement as well as obstruction of efforts to diversify our NAs and provide more affordable housing make it hard to support continued municipal financial support of these institutions in their current forms. As a grantmaker, the city has responsibility to ensure these community organizations are using their resources fairly and equitably. To tackle the Dickensian wealthy inequality permeating our society and our city, we need an infusion of accountability for funding and providing more collaborative, equitable, and representative mechanisms for local democracy. This latest news about SWNI suggests this entity is actively unwilling to submit to said accountability and oversight, and therefore I strongly encourage the city to act with conviction and instead divert resources to community institutions more in line with our ostensible anti-racist values.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

Aaron Brown  
(he/his)  
503 830 8577  
[www.amb.fyi](http://www.amb.fyi)

**From:** [BRYNNA Hurwitz](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FULLY FUND SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:00:16 PM

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## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SWNI

### **Please restore all SWNI funding and Keep SWNI funds in Our Community**

There are needs in every part of our city. In SW, we have a mosque and lots of Somali families, with whom I've worked directly. We have Neighborhood House that serves our SW citizens from preschoolers to seniors. And, we have Stephen's Crossing. Because this high-needs population is small, it doesn't receive services that those in other parts of Portland receive.

### **This is not equitable. SWNI successfully serves the needs of ALL residents of SW Portland.**

This area has been painted with a broad brush as a hot bed of privilege and wealth. In the Hayhurst neighborhood, where I've lived for many years, we are a modest community with economic diversity as well as ethnic diversity. I live here because I can interact with a diverse population. I wonder if because some of us have opposed high-end, expensive and exclusive housing developments, we are being targeted.

Low-income housing is needed in SW, not new houses in the \$800k+ range. Don't punish SWNI for working with people like me who oppose exclusive, racist housing developments.

### **KEEP SWNI FUNDS in SW to HELP ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS!**

I have worked as a volunteer, directly with the staff at SWNI. Learning about the topography, water systems and landslide hazard zones, I found Sylvia Bogert and the other employees to be professional, always respectful and very hard working.

SWNI has helped me understand the recent developments in my Hayhurst neighborhood.

SWNI has allowed me to meet candidates in their forum.

SWNI has given me the opportunity to meet neighbors and enjoy summer in National Night out and Movie night events.

I am half Arabic (Syrian) and half Jewish. Unfortunately, in Portland over the last 40 years, especially during the 911 time, I was the recipient of racist remarks.

This is not true of SWNI. NEVER have I experienced any bias, any hint of disrespect, or prejudice.

SWNI is an essential part of the Hayhurst community, a community that is still rural, with mixed income levels and an area with modest homes.

We need this grass-roots organization to continue to help us and serve us.

I need this trustworthy and helpful organization so I can continue to have access to information about my neighborhood. Whether it's knowledge about the land, the developments, summer events or candidate forums, I need SWNI and rely on it to make Portland a better place to live for me and for all SW residents.

**Please restore full funding to SWNI and KEEP SWNI FUNDS in the neighborhood it serves.**

Thank you-  
Brynna L. Hurwitz

**From:** [BRYNNA Hurwitz](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY FOR SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:19:35 PM

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Thanks for taking my testimony. It's heartfelt and I sure hope it's read:

SWNI funds need to stay in the neighborhoods that it serves.

I have lived in many places in Portland and call the Hayhurst neighborhood home now. This area is rural with gravel roads, unimproved pot-holed roads and no sidewalks. Rather than arguing about SWNI and the audit that is ripe with problems, fill the pot holes. Improve our streets. How about adding sidewalks?

The children here deserve safe streets and safe routes to school. This access to safe streets is completely inequitable and this level of danger seems to be exclusive to the SW.

While SWNI may not be able to add sidewalks, it can improve the safety of our children's lives by offering a sense of community and a resource for all our neighbors. Why defund SWNI now? It's been a rough year---can't we keep the funding for families to gather together at the Movie in the Park? National Night Out? Candidate forums?

SWNI is one of the only resources the City of Portland offers us. Did I mention we have NO storm water system?

Show some respect for all of Portland's community members. Even those of us on the edge, bordering Beaverton. We're still here and relying on what little we get from the city.

Glad you listened-  
Tim Van Wormer



**From:** [pamela waldman](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:42:45 PM

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I live in SW Portland and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Waldman  
8805 SW 56th ave  
Portland, Or. 97219

**From:** [Keely Rademacher](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SWNI  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:26:40 PM

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Hello,

I live in SW Portland and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and restore SWNI's city funding.

Thank you,  
Keely Rademacher



**From:** [Ben Donora](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Item #966: defunding and dissolution of Southwest Neighborhood Assoc.  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:49:28 PM

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Many SW neighbors including myself urge the Portland City Commissioners to NOT defund and dissolve the SWNI contract. SWNI connects 40 (!!) local neighborhoods including the one I live in (Ash Creek) to each other as well as advocating for our smaller neighborhoods to the city.

I volunteer on the SW Trails maintenance team and am an active AshCrest Neighborhood Emergency Team (A-C NET) member. These two organizations provide livability and safety efforts which are supported in several ways by SWNI.

Abrupt actions by outgoing national, state or local officials is often short sighted, punitive, ill conceived, and divisive. Item #966 is exactly that which we do not need more of in Portland, in Oregon, or across the USA.

We in Southwest look forward to your leadership to oppose Item #966 and work to keep Portland moving forward together,.

Thank you,

Ben Donora  
67141 SW Orchid Drive  
503 312 4838

**From:** [Andrea Wall](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966 testimony to Portland City Council  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:37:42 PM

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Dear Portland City Council Members,

This written testimony is in regards to Agenda Item 966:

I am in support of the continued funding of SW Neighborhood, Inc with financial oversights in place and for it to remain at its current site at the Multnomah Art Center in SW Portland.

My name is Andrea Wall. I am a Hillsdale resident, neighborhood volunteer and activist. I am also the steward of the SW 25th Ave Community Trail. This trail is a safe route to school and is used by a diverse group of people to safely navigate the area. I work with a committed group of volunteers and under 8 grants to do restoration work along this trail. Four years ago, I had no project funding, few volunteers and could not identify a native plant. Now with the assistance of over 400 volunteers and a contractor, and 8 community grants, over 16,000 sq ft of invasive plants have been removed and replaced with 2000 native plants.

Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director of SWNI, Inc taught me how to apply for community grants and my first for this trail project was a small grant awarded to me by SWNI. So she helped get me started and is supportive of my efforts.

Erik Horngren, Manager of the Westside Watershed Resource Center, based until recently out of the SWNI office at the Multnomah Art Center, has taught me about native plants, invasive plant removal, storm water management, and loans tools to me and the trail volunteers to get the job done. We have developed a power point presentation together about the importance of urban green spaces. We also work together to provide free nature education along the trail to children from nearby schools, some underserved, that we hope will begin again post-covid.

These relationships and tools are important to me as I work to help my neighborhood and the environment.

SW Portland has special needs due to its hilly topography, clay soil, and storm water management issues. Moving the

SWNI office to SE Portland just does not make sense. Moving the SWNI office across the river will likely decrease SW citizen involvement in their neighborhoods. This contradicts their mission statement which is to encourage more community involvement.

I recommend that the SWNI,Inc office remain in SW Portland, that its funding be restored and that there be financial oversight of their budget and expenditures. That way, this organization can remain in the neighborhood to help its residents help their neighborhoods and also be fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wall

Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters

6411 SW 25th Ave

Portland, OR 97239

503-244-4283

12-6-20

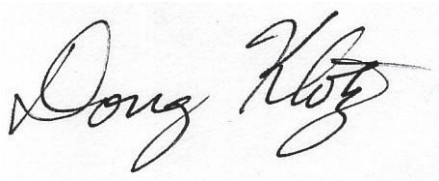
Mayor Wheeler and Council Members

Re: Item 966, Dec. 9, 2020 Ordinance to Amend grant with Southeast Uplift in amount not to exceed \$145,000...

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners: I am troubled by the lack of transparency and the mishandling of city funds paid to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. I support the removal of their funding that took place in July. I also support this Ordinance, reallocating the funding to SE Uplift.

I am currently a SE Portland resident, and attend many SEUL-sponsored meetings. SEUL is a competent organization under the leadership of Director Leroy Eadie, and they will bring needed transparency, management, and a focus on equity and anti-racism, to providing services to the SW neighborhoods for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-2021, if not longer.

It is clear from the Forensic Audit that SWNI is not up to the job, and their troubles reflect on the entire system. This is a constructive step toward rebuilding trust in the Neighborhood system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Klotz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Klotz" clearly legible.

Thank you.

Doug Klotz

1908 SE 35th Pl

Portland, OR 97214

**From:** [Doug K](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item 966 12-9-20 Amend grant with SE Uplift  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:43:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [12-6-20 Doug Klotz on Ord 966 12-9-20 pdf.pdf](#)  
[12-6-20 Doug Klotz comments on item 966 12-9-20.docx](#)

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Doug Klotz  
1908 SE 35th PI  
Portland, OR 97214

Attached are my comments on Item 966: Amend grant with SE Uplift for the 12-9-20 Morning Council Session, as pdf and as jpeg (identical content)

Thank you

Doug Klotz.

**From:** [Beth Omansky](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Beth Omansky](#)  
**Subject:** December 9th City Council Agenda Item #966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:47:39 AM

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12/6/20

Re: Public testimony re: December 9<sup>th</sup> Agenda Item #966

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council,

When I first moved to Portland in 2003, I knew no one. I wanted to be involved in my community, but I did not know where to start. One day, I ran across a meeting notice for my neighborhood association. So, I attended that meeting in SW, found a welcoming atmosphere, and became active in the organization.

As a member of two oppressed minority groups, I find the neighborhood association and SWNI important venues for me to advocate for relevant concerns and to feel that my volunteer activities count for something meaningful.

Over the years, I served as Chair of our Public Safety Committee, Vice-Chair of the neighborhood association, and a founding member of SWNI's Equity and Inclusion Committee. As the direct result of my participation in SWNI, my neighborhood became home, my "Cheers", if you will, where neighbors know your name, where neighbors care about neighbors, and neighbors care about their communities, and where SWNI makes itself available to support our efforts.

Last year, two people got involved in SWNI, not in a spirit of cooperation or common purpose, but as toxic disrupters. I don't know their ulterior motives, but I do know their cunning misrepresentations have served only to tarnish the reputation of a vital community resource, made the Office of Community and Civic Life leadership appear naïve and foolish or worse (apparently having fallen prey to calculated misinformation and outright lies) brought this entire mess to the news media, and now, at the feet of the City Council.

If there are problems in the organization, as is the case with nearly every organization, let's work on them together. Allow SW residents to engage in the critical decisions. Allow adequate time for wide public comment, especially from members of all the SWNI-related neighborhood associations. Please do not pull the rug out from under us – the boots on the ground volunteers, so well supported by SWNI. . It would be grossly unfair of the City Council to allow a few noxious voices drown out the rest of us who have been dedicated to our associations for decades.

It takes only one stone to derail a train. Please do not allow this to happen to SWNI. Vote "No" on the proposed ordinance to divert SWNI, including its funds to Southeast Uplift where people would lack institutional knowledge and not be available to hear or understand SW Portland concerns. Please vote to fund SWNI through FY20-21. Allow SWNI to continue its work on behalf of all its affiliated neighborhood associations and residents.

Sincerely,  
Beth Omansky, PhD  
7852 SW 31<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219  
BethFOmansky@aol.com

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

—  
[BethFOmansky@aol.com](mailto:BethFOmansky@aol.com)

**From:** [Yahoo Desk](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item #966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:56:52 AM

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I am a long time resident of SW Portland (40 years) and am against defunding Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. as proposed by Commisioner Eudaly. This important issue deserves more community input. Please reject item #966 and allow us to keep this valuable resource.

Thank you,

Chuck Quarterman

10330 SW 53rd. Ave.



**From:** [J.G.](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Office@swni.org](#)  
**Subject:** Comment/Testimony RE: Dec. 2020 Agenda item 966 -- defunding of the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. Coalition (SWNI)  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:58:15 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Mayor and City Counsellors:

On December 9th the Portland City Council will be addressing the issue of completely discontinuing funding for the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. Coalition (SWNI) and giving the SWNI funds remaining for the fiscal year to an eastside neighborhood coalition: Southeast Uplift. This is an outrageous proposal and smacks of 'Trumpian' logic to penalize entire groups of people that should be fairly represented in a government system because a person/persons are accused of mishandling their authority. Even if proven true, the solution is to fix the problem, NOT disenfranchise the citizens of 17 SW neighborhoods under the umbrella of a legitimate neighborhood coalition.

SWNI's guidance allows community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level. Southwest residents rely heavily on the infrastructure of the SWNI neighborhood coalition to get business done, and to provide a bridge with City government. This is the description of "equity" in citizen involvement in governance. SWNI's institutional knowledge of our Southwest neighborhoods' livability issues, terrain, priorities and concerns cannot be replaced, must not be ignored and certainly not be abandoned.

Restoration of City of Portland funding is critical to SWNI's financial future. It is up to elected officials to preserve this community investment, assure competent, ethical management and further allow community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level. Maintain SWNI's City funding.

With expectations of a fair resolution to this issue,

J.E. Gordon  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Mary Wagner](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:07:34 AM

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I have lived in the SW Neighborhood for 40 years, and really appreciate SWNI. Please keep it intact with funding as a strong advocate for SW neighborhood needs.

- I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve Ashcreek and 16 other neighborhoods in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing. [Give personal examples if you can. Include how long you've lived in SW Portland.]
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by a Commissioner (Cloe Eudaly) who was defeated in her re-election bid in November and is leaving office in less than a month.
- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on southwest Portland. It was developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mary Wagner

**From:** [Tony Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvestment of SWNI funds to SE Uplift (Item 966)  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:21:09 AM

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Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to reinvest the funds currently allocated to SWNI to SE Uplift. The audits and reports of fiscal mismanagement at SWNI are deeply troubling.

I served as President of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association for 4 years and was a board member for a total of 6 years. I have seen the benefits and issues of the NA system close up. SE Uplift is not a perfect organization, but it has generally been an organization which seems to be a good steward of the public money and an organization which is not focused on pushing a particular agenda. I cannot say the same for SWNI.

This is not a fix for the NA system issues, I supported the code change project and I still do. Given the significant issues exposed by the audit of SWNI, interim action is required.

Thank you,  
Tony Jordan

From: Katherine Christensen  
3441 SW Dolph Ct.  
Portland OR 97219

Date: 12/7/2020

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Fritz  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Commissioner Dan  
Commissioner Eudaly

CC: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

Re: Council Calendar item 996 AND SWNI Fund Management AND transferring SWNI  
funding and administration to SEUL  
Wednesday 12/9/2020 9:30 AM Portland City Council Agenda topics

Hello:

I have been an active member of my SW Portland Neighborhood Association for close to 10 years, spent time on the NA board and represented the Transportation Committee. The past 2 years I've been a member of the SWNI board. SWNI is an amazing organization that supports SW Portland in many ways. The SWNI staff has done an excellent job in facilitating the many volunteer hours needed to support SW Portland with:

- Monthly publication of SW News to educate and inform people about issues that affect people in SW Portland and events and activities in our local neighborhoods;
- Periodic all-household mailings to reach those in the community who may be interested in the services such as the early responses to COVID;
- Committee support to help people advocate on issues of concern, such as transportation, public safety, parks, equity and inclusion, schools, watersheds and land use, and periodic local workshops and trainings on timely topics;
- Building and maintaining trails through our neighborhoods;
- Fiscal sponsorships for neighborhood projects such as parks work parties and community building events;
- Building up a Neighborhood Emergency Response network;
- Being informed about and advocating for all of us on important issues;

This Letter refers to these agenda topics:

1. SWNI has had no loss of City of Portland funds.
2. Transferring to the [SEUL](#) the city's \$145,000 contract with [SWNI](#) for January to June, 2021, the remainder of the 2020-21 contract. This envisions firing all but 2 of SWNI's 6 staff and SEUL taking over all of SWNI obligations to 17 neighborhood associations and a 20 organization Board. SEUL already oversees 20 neighborhood associations and a 27 person board.

3. Calendar Item 996 - "reassess the district coalition model for fiscal year FY 21-22 to simplify administration and reduce duplication; embody the City's values of anti-racism, equity, transparency, communication, collaboration and fiscal responsibility; apply an equity and resiliency focus as adopted in the City's response to pandemics of racism and COVID-19; and comply with City procurement and grantmaking policies."

### **1. There has been no loss of money to the City of Portland.**

The City's auditor Marsh & Minick was hired to perform a forensic audit covering over a 10-year period that produced unsubstantiated findings aimed at discrediting SWNI. Findings lacked context and documentation to support its findings of \$179,000 of financial mismanagement for the scope period, particularly since SWNI learned its lesson and implemented strong fiscal controls beginning in October 2010.

SWNI has not been given an opportunity to respond to the audit nor respond to Civic Life's proposal to shift its grant funds to another coalition. There has been no opportunity for the civic dialogue which should be the basis for major funding decisions such as this proposal. Civic Life's claims of dysfunctionality among SWNI Board members overlooked efforts taken by the SWNI Board in 2019-2020 to improve communications among its Board members.

### **2. Transferring the SWNI contract to SEUL**

This relates to the Forensic Audit Rhee commissioned to examine 10 years of SWNI's records. It found "evidence of financial mismanagement," though it did not find any actual theft, embezzlement or fraud beyond the 2011 confirmed embezzlement; at most it describes sloppy bookkeeping and insufficient board oversight.

Regardless of the Audit findings, transferring SWNI's contract to SEUL is a very bad idea, it is poorly thought out, and the last gasp attempt of an outgoing Commissioner and Civic Life Director to weaken a coalition they do not like and the coalition system in general:

- Any specific financial mismanagement and lack of internal controls the audit found should be addressed and fixed by SWNI. Proper bookkeeping and financial management controls are not rocket science, the purpose of an audit is to give a roadmap how to fix such problems.
- What happens after 6 months, the contract is given back to SWNI?
- SEUL in no way has the capacity to administer SWNI's contract; hire, train, and manage 4 new SWNI staff; take on 17 more NAs, a 20 person board, and oversee 7 SWNI committees; and continue to oversee its own 20 NAs, a 27 person board, and numerous board committees. In the last 2 years SEUL has eliminated 2 full-time positions and is currently 1 person understaffed from 2 recent staff departures. Plus, it would have the added role of reorganizing SWNI and implementing the financial management/internal controls the Audit says are weak or lacking in an organization that the SEUL Director and staff are totally unfamiliar with.

- It violates the procedures in the [ONI/OCCL Standards](#) V.E. for NAs to realign with a different coalition:
  - "Change in organizational affiliations for Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions is a major issue which entails considerable time, communication and dollars. Such action must not be undertaken lightly nor as a result of momentary problems or personality disputes." Standards V.E.
  - "Realigning a Neighborhood Association with a District Coalition with which it does not currently share a boundary is not allowed." Standards V.E.3.b
- It violates [SEUL's Bylaws](#) which limit it to serving only the SE area. For SEUL to take on SWNI's contractual obligations exposes it and the SEUL Board to potential grievances and lawsuits by people in either the SEUL or SWNI boundaries for breach of their fiduciary duty of loyalty to its 20 Board Members organizations and the duty of obedience to comply with its Bylaws and the city's Standards.

### **3. "Calendar Item 996 Reassess district coalition model for fiscal year FY 21-22"**

This issue is completely unrelated to the SWNI audit. The audit in no way addresses any administrative, transparency, or equity issues with the coalition model in general. Suk Rhee and Eudaly are trying to bootstrap onto the SWNI matter a last minute extreme truncation of their previous plan for a 3-year process to update Code 3.96 and reexamine the coalition model that involved creating community and stakeholder engagement plans. See attached Code Change and Coalition Reassessment Timeline.

The next Commissioner and Director overseeing OCCL should design and oversee the reexamination of the coalition model.

The City's formally adopted values of anti-racism, equity, transparency, communication, collaboration and fiscal responsibility, the equity and resiliency values adopted in relation to racism and COVID-19, and its procurement and grant-making policies are already requirements Civic Life is bound to follow and apply to its contracts with the coalitions.

Sincerely,

Katherine Christensen

Mayor Ted Wheeler <[mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)>  
 Commissioner Fritz <[amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)>  
 Commissioner Hardesty <[joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)>  
 Commissioner Dan <[daniel.ryan@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:daniel.ryan@portlandoregon.gov)>  
 Commissioner Eudaly <[chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)>  
[cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

**From:** [Katherine Christensen](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Ryan, Dan](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); ["Katherine Christensen"](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Wed. 12/9/2020 9:30 am Council Agenda item 996 AND SWNI Fund Management AND transferring SWNI funding and administration to SEUL  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:46:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [12-9-2020 KC's City Council Letter.docx](#)

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Please see my attached testimony

**From:** [ELLIOT WAHBA](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item #966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 11:15:29 AM

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RE Item #966

I object to defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. SWNI has been a very valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. It will have a very negative impact on SW Portland.

This proposal must be rejected.

Thank you very much,

Elliot Wahba  
Ash Creek



**From:** [Steph Routh](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvest SWNI-earmarked funds to more equitable, accountable civic nonprofits  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:08:46 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

As a former nonprofit executive director (of Oregon Walks), nonprofit co-founder and Board member, and someone who has been involved in civic engagement in Portland for 20 years, I am writing to call on you to reinvest the funding traditionally budgeted to SWNI and to instead invest in one or more nonprofit organizations dedicated to civic participation with a better track record of accountability, transparency, and equity. I believe the draft ordinance accomplishes that near-term goal. We also need to recognize that there is a more structural issue that we need to address in the new year.

The [issues recently brought to light through an independent forensic audit](#) conducted by Marsh Minick, P.C. are endemic in quasi-governmental relationships, as [Jim White of Nonprofit Association of Oregon penned last year in his letter of support of code change 3.96](#):

“Nonprofits must be treated as independent businesses regularly reconfirming the support of their communities through constant interactions and evolution. We must compete for community support by offering the best opportunity for community-led solutions to be recognized and supported financially through community fundraising and, when contracted by government, competitive processes...Creating direct-line funding into specific organizations is unhealthy both for government and for the nonprofit’s long-term sustainability.”

The recent independent forensic audit findings regarding SWNI’s financial practices as requested by City Council on July 9, 2020 are troubling. Here are just a few findings that I find particularly concerning:

- SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life *every year*.
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.
- “SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.”

I have coordinated independent financial audits as part of my past work in nonprofit management. The fact that SWNI has not engaged an independent auditor in the last 10 years, particularly after a felony embezzlement, is shocking to me. If my organization had received audit findings like those described by Marsh Minick, P.C., I would immediately organize a finance committee with the express purpose to advise our board and overhaul our financial manual to incorporate all elements of the management letter. What I would certainly NOT do is suggest that the audit gave us a "clean bill of health," which is how SWNI Board President Leslie Hammond characterized the audit.

Further, SWNI has special privileges not afforded most other community-based groups—land use appeal waivers and an exception to registering as a lobbying group with the city, as just two examples—which further obscure the reality that SWNI is an independent nonprofit that has no greater accountability mechanisms to the public than any other 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The findings of the forensic audit clearly demonstrate that SWNI has been neither accountable nor transparent in their governance. As an independent nonprofit, it is SWNI's Board's responsibility to review findings and take corrective action as they (and ultimately the IRS) see fit. As a grantmaker, it is the City's responsibility to review findings and make fiscally responsible funding decisions.

Now is the time to more equitably distribute those funds dedicated to civic engagement. It is time for City Council to stop rewarding bad behavior and instead invest in more equitable, fiscally responsible community-based efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Steph Routh

--

**Steph Routh** (pronounced like "South")

971.506.8385

[stephrouth.com](http://stephrouth.com)

[LinkedIn](#)

**From:** [Peggy Moretti](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on calendar item 996 re defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:32:48 PM

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*Please enter this testimony in the record.*

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members,

This attack on Portland's neighborhood associations really must stop. While there is ample room for improvement, the latest move to dissolve and defund the Southwest Neighborhoods coalition would do a disservice to the communities represented. As a resident served by SWNI, I object and urge you to vote NO.

In our current form of City government, the neighborhoods associations are the only form of local representation, making a merger with all of SE Portland completely unacceptable (not to mention unwieldy).

There has not, to my knowledge, been any effort to engage the citizens who would be impacted by this action, and at the very least it deserves further analysis. How does such a major consolidation serve us better?

This is not reflective of how our City should conduct business.

Thank you.

**Peggy Moretti**  
SW Vista Avenue  
Portland, OR

**From:** [Dean P. Gisvold](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Defunding Southwest Neighbors Inc and dissolution of contract services  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:54:18 PM

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Mayor and City Commissioners,

Over the weekend, I received emails regarding the proposed (by Comm Eudaly) defunding of SWNI and termination of its contract to provide services. This appears to be phase II of her plan to get rid of neighborhood associations and coalitions in Portland. Her first effort through Civic Life was put on a long term pause for future discussion.

I object to such defunding and contract termination for the following reasons.

First, as a long-time Portland resident and participant in neighborhood association, I know first hand the value of the neighborhood coalitions, the city funding, and the many neighborhood associations.

Second, like the other neighborhood coalitions, SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for the residents of Southwest for over 40 years. SWNI should at least fulfill its current contract or continue to serve in its present form and staffing until discussions can take place with residents, and others in the City. This action needs a serious pause for the same reasons given for the City Life action.

Third, it appears to be abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Eudaly on her way out the door, without opportunity for discussion of the whys and the impact on SW residents. Further, no public process appears to have been followed. Where is the analysis of the issues and the consequences, and where is the community input.

This proposal should be rejected. Thank you for your consideration.

Dean Gisvold, 2225 NE 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, Or 97212

**From:** [Leslie Pohl](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Do not defund SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:10:37 PM

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**"I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.**

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau  
Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

**From:** [Robert Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Defunding Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI)  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:12:20 PM

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City Council Members:

I am writing to support the on-going funding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI). I am Treasurer of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and have been active in HNA matters as a Member and/or Officer for about 15 years. I support continued funding of the 17-NA Member coalition for two different but complementary reasons. (1) SWNI has organized and in other ways support a broad range of specific events, programs, and activities which have benefitted NAs and Southwest residents: insurance which protects NAs from lawsuits relating to projects/activities; monthly publication of the SWNI News with information that residents and NAs use to track the work of colleagues in all SW neighborhoods, civic events, business reports; support for National Night Out each August; candidate forums preceding elections; annual program to recognize police contribution to our communities; assistance in writing and updating NA by-laws; funding of small-grant program for neighborhood goodwill projects; establishment of an equity and inclusion committee and workshops for the public; organizing and staffing the twice-annual SOLVE cleanup of neighborhoods; supporting the efforts of the Schools Committee to bring technological equity to under-served families within the SW, including residents of Stephens Creek Crossing and through SW schools. There are more programs, of course, but these are the ones I personally experienced.

And (2), Portland is fortunate in having established and supported a network connecting its 95 official neighborhoods through seven Coalitions. Rather than trying to create an entirely new network and de-funding the existing Coalitions, I recommend that The Office of Civic and Community Life and the City Commissioners encourage community associations and residents to bring their concerns to the existing Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions, join the land use, school, transportation, parks, and other working committees to strengthen them and provide the greater diversity they need to look like the resident population throughout Greater Portland. Granted, there are numerous organizations other than Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions which compete for the time and energy of city residents. But, with greater contributions of time by, for example, renters and landlords through NAs and Coalitions, we can give City Council a broader perspective of what neighborhood residents want and need. In that way, NAs and Coalitions can have greater influence over City policies.

Robert Hamilton, Treasurer  
Hillsdale Neighborhood Association  
Email: [Robu43@gmail.com](mailto:Robu43@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 503-320-5994

**From:** [Lauren Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 996 - PLEASE DO NOT DEFUND SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS INC  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:36:45 PM

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Hello -

I live in SW Portland (and have for the past 19 years) and oppose the move to defund SWNI. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 - it had been proposed by an outgoing Commissioner and I do not feel it is in the best interest for the SW Portland community.

Please restore our funding so this neighborhood can continue to thrive. Residents of Multnomah County pay an extraordinary amount of taxes, and we should not be excluded from funding which makes SW PDX a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Lauren Anderson

(represented by Ashcreek Neighborhood Association)

**From:** [mjones@miltjones.com](mailto:mjones@miltjones.com)  
**To:** [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:47:34 PM

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1. It is now evident that there never was any real reason to withhold SWNI funding. The City Council should act immediately, without delay, to reimburse SWNI for funds withheld to date and restore funding going forward.

2. The proposed ordinance provisions suspending the City of Portland relationship with SWNI and shifting SWNI responsibilities to SE Uplift should be rejected because:

- These are not emergency matters.
- They have not been discussed with the affected communities or organizations.
- The affected organizations have not had an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes with each other.
- The City has a well-defined collaborative process for changing District Coalition relationships with Neighborhood Associations that would be circumvented. These are contained in the Standards for Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement adopted by the City Council in its Resolution 36329.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Milt Jones  
425 SW Bancroft



**From:** [Lotus Romey-Yu](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvest SWNI-earmarked funds to more equitable, accountable civic nonprofits  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:52:14 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

Civic engagement is a powerful way to rebuild our government institutions and practices to be more fair, just, and in service of all Portlanders. That work belongs to us all, not just to a few independent organizations that have had the benefit of decades of no-bid contract funding from the city.

As aa active Portland community member, I am writing to call on you to reinvest the funding traditionally budgeted to SWNI and to instead invest in one or more nonprofit organizations dedicated to civic participation with a better track record of accountability, transparency, and equity.

The [issues recently brought to light through an independent forensic audit](#) conducted by Marsh Minick, P.C. are endemic in quasi-governmental relationships, as [Jim White of Nonprofit Association of Oregon penned last year in his letter of support of code change](#):

“Nonprofits must be treated as independent businesses regularly reconfirming the support of their communities through constant interactions and evolution. We must compete for community support by offering the best opportunity for community-led solutions to be recognized and supported financially through community fundraising and, when contracted by government, competitive processes...Creating direct-line funding into specific organizations is unhealthy both for government and for the nonprofit’s long-term sustainability.”

This issue is an inevitable outcome of a calcified city code 3.96. The recent independent forensic audit findings regarding SWNI’s financial practices as requested by City Council on July 9, 2020 are endemic, and troubling. Here are just a few findings that we find concerning:

- SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life *every year*.
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.
- “SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with

governance documents, standards and ethics.”

SWNI has special privileges not afforded most other community-based groups—land use appeal waivers and an exception to registering as a lobbying group with the city, as just two examples—which further obscure the reality that SWNI is an independent nonprofit that has no reliable accountability mechanisms to the public.

The purpose of Civic Life’s funding should be to connect people and communities with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive, at times iterative, accountable to community concerns, and that reflect an equitable distribution of public resources in order to benefit our community as a whole.

The findings of the forensic audit clearly demonstrate that SWNI has been neither accountable nor transparent in their governance. As an independent nonprofit, it is SWNI’s Board’s responsibility to review findings and take corrective action as they (and ultimately the IRS) see fit. As a grantmaker, it is the City’s responsibility to review findings and make fiscally responsible funding decisions that will benefit the community at large.

Now is the time to more equitably distribute those funds dedicated to civic engagement. It is time for City Council to stop rewarding behavior that is not accountable nor transparent, and instead invest in more equitable, fiscally responsible community-based efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lotus Romey-Yu (She/Her) Foster-Powell Neighborhood association Volunteer Coordinator  
SE Uplift Neighborhood Representative

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Lotus (She/Her Pronouns)  
SE Uplift Neighborhood Representative  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association**



**From:** [Margaret Davis](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** regarding Council Calendar item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:16:36 PM

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Dear City Council, I hope you are doing well and staying safe.

Please reject item 966, defunding SWNI and moving its neighborhoods to SE Uplift's purview. That organization has plenty to do with its 19 neighborhoods.

Neighbors in SWNI deserve local geographic representation as promised under the neighborhood association system. I know SWNI was more vocal in its work speaking up for itself and neighbors—I'm sure it has learned its lesson! New leadership can help, hopefully by still representing neighbors' wish for local control and preservation of viable affordable housing. I recognize you are under a lot of commercial pressure to open up prime demolition-development sites, perhaps especially in Southwest? (RIP is a gift that will soon start giving—no need to pile on.)

Commissioner Eudaly's mission to remove a long-established (and formerly national model) of citizen representation should not succeed now that her policies and leadership are on the way out.

Tangentially, CNN is not receiving its city stipend in a timely manner, making it hard to offer services to its neighborhoods. This was discussed at our meeting December 2, 2020.

Instead of eliminating SWNI please focus efforts on bolstering the only form of feedback many citizens have with their city officials. Long live democratic representation, however time-consuming and challenging it might be.

Finally, reject 966, fund all the neighborhoods and on time, and have wonderful holidays.

Thank you!

Margaret Davis  
NE Portland

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[Margaret Davis](#)  
Ma Nao Books

[manaobooks.com](http://manaobooks.com)

**From:** [mjones@miltjones.com](mailto:mjones@miltjones.com)  
**To:** [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:20:25 PM

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1. It is now clear that there is no reason to withhold SWNI funding. The City Council should act immediately, without delay, to reimburse SWNI for funds withheld to date and restore funding going forward.
2. The proposed ordinance provisions suspending the City of Portland relationship with SWNI and shifting SWNI responsibilities to SE Uplift should be rejected because:
  - These are not emergency matters.
  - They have not been discussed with the affected communities or organizations.
  - The affected organizations have not had an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes with each other or their members.
  - The City has a well defined collaborative process for changing District Coalition relationships with Neighborhood associations that would be circumvented. These are contained in the Standards for Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement adopted by the City Council in its Resolution 36329.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Milt Jones  
425 SW Bancroft

**From:** [Julia Daigneault](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 996 Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:40:25 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. I urge you to please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now. SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource to the residents of SW Portland for over 40 years. I want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing. SWNI provides support to help people advocate on issues of concern, such as transportation, public safety, parks, equity and inclusion, schools, watersheds and land use. They build and maintain trails throughout our neighborhoods.

The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland. This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Cloe Eudaly without opportunity for dialogue about its impact on the City of Portland. This is being pushed through right before Commission Eudaly leaves office because she was NOT re-elected by the voters in Portland. This proposal will cause significant negative impact on the people of Southwest Portland. It has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input. This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Sincerely,

Julia Daigneault  
SW Portland Resident  
HNA Board Member

**From:** [Scott McClain](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Support for SWNI on December 9, 2020  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:19:44 PM

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Scott McClain writing on behalf of our family currently living in the Markham neighborhood since 2006. Over the last 10 years, we have participated in a variety of community events which were organized, coordinated and popularized by SWNI, Inc. Additionally, I have served on numerous committees, focusing upon public affairs and broadening community involvement. The SWNI Schools committee, which I chaired during Summer 2020, has been a strong supporter of exploring racial equity issues between and within public schools, including the current effort to rename Woodrow Wilson High School.

I would like to endorse the work SWNI has begun in various committees to bring new voices to the table. As a white and mestizo Latinx cisgender male, I see the conflict between various groups understanding that white people have claimed many of the decisionmaking spaces. We do want to develop openness where BIPOC people see closure and barriers.

Therefore, I would say that the city may need to order additional professional support for equity and training around financial management inside of SWNI. I do not agree with the perspective that SWNI does not have the competence to put its financial house in order.

I would add that our Markham community has put live-streaming and Zoom technology to use as we publicize our monthly gatherings. Perhaps these Youtube recordings, Zoom meetings and live-streaming efforts could also foster improving relations with BIPOC community in SW neighborhoods?

I think it would be a terrible harm to the community if you were to defund SWNI. Even if our neighbors are not as progressive as most Portlanders, we need to show them that their input is still valuable to city leadership and the overall community planning effort into the future.

Thank you for your attention to the upcoming vote.

Stay safe and be well,

Scott McClain

*Scott McClain*  
*Spanish Interpreter & Translator*  
*Bilingual English/Spanish Tutor*  
*503.841.9811*

**From:** [John Liu](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 996 (SWNI Defunding)  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:25:35 PM

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My name is John Liu. I live in Laurelhurst and am on the board of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association and the board of Southeast Uplift (SEUL).

**I oppose item #996 which seeks to defund Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI), terminate its District Coalition contract, and award that contract to SEUL.**

**This proposal is based on a biased, politically motivated, and inadequate so-called "audit".**

- The audit does not establish material financial mismanagement over the last decade. All financial criticisms in the audit pertain to events occurring over 10 years ago.
- The audit does not identify significant business mismanagement.
- The audit's criticism of SWNI's PPP loan is unfounded. SWNI was entitled to apply for the PPP and was wise to do so, as the Office of Civic and Community Life (OCCL) withheld SWNI's funding.

**This proposal is a last-minute motion by a Commissioner who will cede leadership of the affected bureau in less than a month.**

- A lame-duck Commissioner should not be permitted to rush through such a serious decision without adequate public input or analysis by council.
- This matter should be handled by the new council with input from the new commissioner in charge of OCCL, after the council has been seated and had adequate time to review the evidence.

**The SEUL board has not indicated its willingness to take on the contract or even discussed the topic.**

- SEUL is already responsible for some 20 neighborhoods, far more than any other District Coalition.
- SEUL faces challenges of its own, has only a handful of staff remaining, and is geographically far from southwest neighborhoods.
- As a SEUL board member, I at this point do not see a good reason to permit SEUL to take on responsibility for southwest neighborhoods.

**I ask you to restore SWNI's funding for now and refer this matter to the new council.**

John Liu

**From:** Elinor Cannon  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:40:13 PM

Dear City Council -  
I strongly object to the defunding of SW Neighborhoods, Inc. SWNI has been an incredibly valuable asset to me as a community member and social service worker in SW Portland.

For the past three years, the SUN program at Jackson Middle School has received small grants from SWNI that have allowed us to offer important after-school enrichment for middle school students and their parents. We have been able to offer coding classes for free, giving historically underserved students a taste of technology work. We have also been able to offer ESL classes for recently resettled refugees, including child care for their children. This has allowed many immigrant mothers to learn crucial English language skills while their kids play happily and safely with our staff. Lastly, we have partnered with the SW Watershed Resource Center for the past four years to help clean up Jackson's grounds and care for and plant over a thousand native plants.

In addition to all the ways mentioned above, SWNI has also improved life for SW Portlanders by sending out a community newsletter, helping host events, and improving the neighborhood trails. SW Portland is not an easy neighborhood to navigate for the underprivileged. With its windy roads, lack of sidewalks and public transportation, and scarcity of social service resources, it is not easy to live here. Every year, more and more families are being displaced, unable to afford rent in SW or get their needs met. SWNI is one of the organizations working to combat this crisis, and we need them.

Defunding SWNI and moving them to the jurisdiction of SE Uplift is an absurd and harmful proposal for SW residents. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

Sincerely,  
Elinor Cannon - Jackson SUN Site Manager



ELLEY CANNON | نور كانون  
Jackson SUN Site Manager  
*Pronouns: she/her or they/them*  
**P:** 503-489-8675  
**E:** [ecannon@impactnw.org](mailto:ecannon@impactnw.org)  
**IMPACTNW.ORG**



**From:** [Doug](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reject Item #996 (SWNI)  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:45:35 PM

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**I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.**

Doug Clauder  
0302 SW Nebraska St  
Portland OR 97239

**From:** [Jackie Haddon](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:21:24 PM

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I strongly oppose Council item 966. I have been a SW Portland resident for the past 6 years and am a strong supporter of our Neighborhood Associations

Jackie Haddon  
503 267-3708

**From:** [Vivian Solomon](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Counceil Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:24:58 PM

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Please do not defun Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and/or transfer SWNI's work to SE Uplift. SE Uplift already supports 20 neighborhoods - adding the 17 neighborhoods (plus 3 business neighborhoods) in SWNI will not help anyone. It will reduce assistance to and functionality of all 40 neighborhoods.

Commissioner Eudaly has been trying to get rid of SWNI for quite some time, and this is just the latest salvo. It is no better thought out than previous attempts, and she has not provided any opportunity for dialog about the impact of her actions on the City of Portland. The alleged fund mismanagement was not transparent and there is no loss of money to the City of Portland. SWNI does a great job, I regularly read the newspaper and keep informed on what is going on in my neighborhood and surrounding areas. I participate in events that SWNI puts on. I regularly walk the SW trails that have been created by SWNI and its volunteers; we have an awesome urban trail system - you should come and walk it! Please don't shut it down.

Thank you for voting against defunding SWNI.

Vivian Solomon  
2112 SW Luradel St.  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Jack Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Neighborhood association  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:33:08 PM

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Hello -

I understand that there is a possibility of defunding the Southwest neighborhood office in lieu of transferring that funding to SE Uplift on the docket for Wednesday 12/9 council agenda. Commissioner Eudaly has been defeated, and is making fairly radical changes on the way out.

I've lived in SW Portland for 5 years and grew up in the area. I have found my SW neighborhood association to be helpful, welcoming, and frankly a lifeline should an earthquake or other disaster occur.

I would strongly oppose a last minute change by an outgoing commissioner without proper investigation and thought.

Jack Kaplan (Ashcreek)

**From:** [Steve Mullinax](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Mullinax](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:35:23 PM

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My name is Steve Mullinax. I have been a volunteer for the Bridlemile Neighborhood Association for the past twenty-two years. I have served as a board member of that association for the last ten years, including several years as chair. I have served on the SWNI Board, currently as first vice president, earlier as Parks and Rec Centers Committee chair. In 2020, to-date, I have logged over 340 volunteer service hours for SWNI.

SWNI has provided insurance coverage, materials and organizing support for many Bridlemile NA events, such as National Night out and Movie Nights, over my years in Bridlemile.

Over a period of about ten years, Bridlemile NA volunteers, organized as the Bridlemile Creek Stewards, did restoration work for local streams. We removed many truckloads of invasive plants, and planted thousands of native plants. We successfully completed several Portland BES Community Watershed Stewardship Program grants, for which SWNI was the fiscal agent and provided supporting letters. SWNI provided insurance coverage, tools and publicity for dozens of restoration events.

Under a 2017 grant from PBOT, SWNI supported BNA and Southwest Trails, Inc. in rehabilitating a trail used daily by neighbors accessing schools, grocery stores and bus stops.

BNA's projects would not have been possible without SWNI's support. SWNI's staff has always been courteous, capable and helpful.

I ask that you restore SWNI's city funding at the earliest opportunity. The neighborhoods of SW Portland rely on SWNI for a wide variety of crucial services. City funding is indispensable to continue SWNI's services, and to preserve the city's forty year investment in local governance.

Steve Mullinax  
First Vice President of SWNI  
Member of the Board of Directors of Bridlemile NA

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>



7688 Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219

*"We envision that the Multnomah Neighborhood will remain a place defined by conscientious decision about the preservation of our canopy of trees, open space, and natural areas; limited and thoughtful residential and commercial development; small businesses; and safe streets. It is our vision that the Neighborhood will retain and judiciously improve on its small-town historic charms and small-scale main street Village character. The [Plan's] policies and objectives were formulated to help realize our vision for Multnomah's future."*  
(Multnomah Neighborhood Plan 1995)

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December 7, 2020

To: Council Testimony [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

Cc: Mayor Wheeler, [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Eudaly, [chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Fritz, [amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Hardesty, [joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)  
Commissioner Dan Ryan, [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)  
Director Suk Rhee, [suk.rhee@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:suk.rhee@portlandoregon.gov)  
SWNI Board & Neighborhood Chairs [board@swni.org](mailto:board@swni.org)  
Multnomah Neighborhood Board and Committee Chairs  
SWNI Director, Sylvia Bogert [Sylvia@swni.org](mailto:Sylvia@swni.org)

**Testimony:** [Ordinance to reallocate funding to SE Uplift](#)

We implore you to amend Commissioner Eudaly's [Ordinance; amend Contract No. 32002080](#) and restore funding to the SW Neighborhood Inc. ([SWNI](#))

We support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

Please consider these points as you deliberate:

- Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., (SWNI) serves 17 neighborhoods in SW Portland and more than 80,000 residents.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for the [Multnomah Neighborhood](#) for over 40 years.
- Executive Director, Sylvia Bogert has been a welcome cornerstone to SWNI. Her staff work tirelessly to support our volunteer efforts including but not limited to event planning, meeting coordination, outreach, and a host of other community services.
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.
- Commissioner Eudaly has not exhibited due diligence with the community about its impact to Portland. It has not received full analysis of its consequences.

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Chair—Maria Thi Mai \* Treasurer—Sim Hyde \* Committee Chairs: Equity—Will Fuller \*  
Land Use—Jim Peterson \* Watershed—Murphy Terrell \* Special Advisor—Carol McCarthy

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7688 Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219

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We believe neighborhoods give individuals a collective voice. Yes, neighborhoods can and will make improvements but let's not dismantle them. The bottom line is that this proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Maria Thi Mai  
Multnomah Neighborhood Association Chair  
7688 SW Capitol Hwy Portland OR 97219  
503.539.4966 [Multnomah-chair@swni.org](mailto:Multnomah-chair@swni.org)  
<https://swni.org/multnomah>

**From:** [MNA Chair Multnomah NA](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [board@swni.org](#); [Bogert, Sylvia](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Maria Thi Mai](#); [Sim Hyde](#); [Katherine Christensen](#); [James Peterson](#); [Carol McCarthy](#); [Edith and Will Fuller](#); [Murphy Terrell](#); [Tad Davis](#)  
**Subject:** REJECT Council Item 966 and Fund SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:37:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [2020 Dec 8 Fund SWNI Testimony.pdf](#)

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We implore you to amend Commissioner Eudaly's [Ordinance](#); [amend Contract No. 32002080](#) and restore funding to the SW Neighborhood Inc. ([SWNI](#))

We support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

Please consider these points as you deliberate:

- Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., (SWNI) serves 17 neighborhoods in SW Portland and more than 80,000 residents.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for the [Multnomah Neighborhood](#) for over 40 years.
- Executive Director, Sylvia Bogert has been a welcome cornerstone to SWNI. Her staff work tirelessly to support our volunteer efforts including but not limited to event planning, meeting coordination, outreach, and a host of other community services.
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.
- Commissioner Eudaly has not exhibited due diligence with the community about its impact to Portland. It has not received full analysis of its consequences.

We believe neighborhoods give individuals a collective voice. Yes, neighborhoods can and will make improvements but let's not dismantle them. The bottom line is that this proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

Maria Thi Mai  
Multnomah Neighborhood Association Chair  
7688 SW Capitol Hwy Portland OR 97219



503.539.4966 [Multnomah-chair@swni.org](mailto:Multnomah-chair@swni.org)  
<https://swni.org/multnomah>

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Regards,  
*Maria*

President - Maria Thi Mai  
Treasurer: Sim Hyde

Email: [multnomah-chair@swni.org](mailto:multnomah-chair@swni.org)  
[thimai.maria@gmail.com](mailto:thimai.maria@gmail.com)  
503.539.4966

## **Multnomah's Vision:**

We envision that the Multnomah Neighborhood will remain a place defined by conscientious decision about the preservation of our canopy of trees, open space, and natural areas; limited and thoughtful residential and commercial development; small businesses; and safe streets. It is our vision that the Neighborhood will retain and judiciously improve on its small-town historic charms and small-scale main street Village character. The [Plan's] policies and objectives were formulated to help realize our vision for Multnomah's future. (SW Plan 1995)

**From:** [Sam Pearson](#)  
**To:** [sam.pearson](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: testimony on agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:51:40 PM

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On Sat, Dec 5, 2020, 9:45 AM Sam Pearson <[sfpjr1@gmail.com](mailto:sfpjr1@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good morning Mayor and City Councilors. I come before you today to testify on behalf of Southwest Neighborhood Inc. I have been a resident of Portland for 71 years and have seen the area grow over the years.

SWNI has been a part of southwest Portland for 41 years, serving the people who make up the diverse population that is southwest Portland. Land use questions are asked, candy is given out to the children at Halloween, schools issues, all sorts of issues are asked and answered not by the city bureaus but by SWNI.

As a three time elected president of SWNI I signed the Grant Agreement #32001238 in June of 2015 which covered the five year period of time up until June 30, 2020. This agreement has many needs that were required by the City of Portland to be accomplished. Never in this time has ONI or Civic Life expressed any problems. Section 3.96 of City Code is the rule book that we must live by in our actions in the Neighborhood associations system along with our contracts to the City.

This grant agreement has very specific statements of what has to be provided, records covering a five years period, not the ten year period asked for in the audit. The ability to audit financial or performance audits for a five year period, again not the ten year period. The Standards covering the movement of Coalitions and neighborhood associations are very clear as to the how, why, and means to do so. This is part of City code and should be followed by even City Council in the end of year close out of Council.

Last but not least, I find that the word of 20 people who are trying to disparage a great institution and people who have given their time to the betterment of SW Portland is discouraging and a crime as stated in the ONI Standards on page 14 section 2 A, item VI, "communications should not include statements that could be considered libelous or defamatory."

Thank you for listening and please make the right decision and fund SWNI.

**From:** [Kathleen McCulloch](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:12:14 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved with SWNI as a board member of the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association for the past 3 years. I sat on the SWNI Equity and Inclusion Board and now I am the designated liaison for the HNA for the Boundary Street Neighbors.

On the Equity and Inclusion Board, I and Laura Campos received a SWNI Neighborhood Small Grant to bring Portland Author Laura Foster to the Multnomah Arts Center to give a workshop on preserving the character and voices of our unique Portland Neighborhoods. Over a year ago, Marie Tyvoll and Shannon Hiller-Webb began coming to the EI meetings and essentially held us up for many months. We could not get through meetings because of their agenda and their ensuing vitriol. They finally gave up, thankfully, as the group was strong and did not let the two “take us down” or break us up. I am hoping that you will find that the sentiments of these two neighbors are errant voices, not backed by the collective neighborhood groups.

All of my interactions with SWNI, Sylvia Bogert, and Leslie Hammond have been highly professional and forthright. I have learned much from the people who volunteer their time and efforts to make the Southwest a better place for everyone. I am particularly impressed with the energy and dedication of the Schools Committee with their stand on equity and inclusion and the programs that they are implementing to fight racism.

Regarding the HNA, SWNI has helped promote National Night Out, helped organize a Safety Vigil for our school, advertised our Movie in the Park, and gives the HNA (and the EI) a forum in the SW News. I read the SW News every month because it keeps neighbors informed, and an informed neighbor is a valuable asset to a community.

Thus, I am distressed by the accusations regarding SWNI. The forensic audit **did not indicate any issues of fraud or malfeasance** since the 2010 fraud, a situation that is well known and documented.

**I request that SWNI’s funding be restored. SWNI deserves our trust.**

Sincerely,  
Kathleen C. McCulloch

--

Kathleen C. McCulloch, PhD  
Department of Psychology  
Portland State University

[kcm6@pdx.edu](mailto:kcm6@pdx.edu)

**From:** [Fran Laird](#)  
**To:** [Bogert, Sylvia](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Letter of support for SWNI - Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:24:58 PM

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Done.

On Mon, Dec 7, 2020, 5:38 PM Sylvia Bogert <[sylvia@swni.org](mailto:sylvia@swni.org)> wrote:

Hi Fran,

Thank you for taking the time to write to the City Council in support of SWNI and with thoughtfulness towards Portland's future.

To make sure your comments become part of the Council Hearing Record for Wednesday, please forward to [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov) and write Council Agenda Item #966 in the subject line as you did in this email.

Thank you  
Sylvia

On Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 9:48 AM SWNI Office <[office@swni.org](mailto:office@swni.org)> wrote:

Forwarded from [office@swni.org](mailto:office@swni.org)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fran Laird** <[lairdfran@gmail.com](mailto:lairdfran@gmail.com)>

Date: Sat, Dec 5, 2020 at 11:35 AM

Subject: Letter of support for SWNI - Agenda item 966

To: <[mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[CommissionerRyan@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyan@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[auditorhullccaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhullccaballero@portlandoregon.gov)>, <[office@swni.org](mailto:office@swni.org)>

Cc: Browne, Anna <[Anna.Browne@standard.com](mailto:Anna.Browne@standard.com)>, Brendan McGillacuddy Cell <[brendanmcgillicuddy@comcast.net](mailto:brendanmcgillicuddy@comcast.net)>, Elise Delisser <[ezdzt1@comcast.net](mailto:ezdzt1@comcast.net)>, Lynard, Gene <[glynard@comcast.net](mailto:glynard@comcast.net)>, John Miller <[john@timehaven.us](mailto:john@timehaven.us)>, Maryellen Read Email <[maryellenread@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenread@gmail.com)>, Prakash <[artalive@comcast.net](mailto:artalive@comcast.net)>, Bob Fischer <[drbobis@hotmail.com](mailto:drbobis@hotmail.com)>

Re: SWNI funding - agenda item 966

I have lived in the Collins View neighborhood in SW Portland since 2006. Since 2009 I have been fortunate to serve on the Executive Board of SWNI and the board of CVNA.

The SWNI office is a meeting place for SW Portlanders, organizing events and a connector among the 17 SW neighborhoods who depend on SWNI. When something happens in one neighborhood it will eventually affect all and having the interaction and direction that SWNI provides guides us.

When voting on funding SWNI please also consider the staff who will lose their jobs and benefits during the worldwide pandemic and economic crisis. A decision

made by you on December 9th will have repercussions besides the political motivations.

The "urgency" of this decision is questionable. I know that this is a decision that you take very seriously, not as a personal vote, but thoughtful and beneficial to the City of Portland and to your constituents.

Please vote to fund SWNI.

Fran Laird

97219

[lairdfran@gmail.com](mailto:lairdfran@gmail.com)

**From:** [Pat and Laurie](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:28:19 PM

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My wife and I have been residents in SW Portland for over 40 years. During that time we have worked with and been assisted by SWNI. To hear there is a proposal to eliminate them is unbelievable. They have assisted this local area in countless ways. Please keep the funding for them. They are essential to the livability of this area.

Patrick and Laurie Murphy  
6121 SW Brugger St  
Portland

Smurfs30@comcast.net

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

**From:** [KATHLEEN Haapala](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk - Testimony: KATHLEEN Haapala](#)  
**Subject:** agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:52:08 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **KATHLEEN Haapala** <[k2haapala@msn.com](mailto:k2haapala@msn.com)>  
Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 2:13 PM

Subject: Support for SWNI

To: [mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov) <[mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Amanda Fritz <[amanda@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:amanda@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty <[joann@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:joann@portlandoregon.gov)>, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly <[chloe@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:chloe@portlandoregon.gov)>, [CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov) <[CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov)>, [auditorhulcaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhulcaballero@portlandoregon.gov) <[auditorhulcaballero@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:auditorhulcaballero@portlandoregon.gov)>, [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org) <[Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org)>, KATHLEEN Haapala <[k2haapala@msn.com](mailto:k2haapala@msn.com)>

RE: Support for SWNI

I am a Bridlemile Neighborhood Association Board member and I am sending you this email to show my support for SWNI. SWNI is very important to me personally, to my immediate neighborhood and to the broader SW Community. I have had many opportunities to engage with SWNI over the past several years and have seen first hand the many ways they work tirelessly every day to enrich our community and make it a better place.

I request that the City of Portland immediately restore SWNI's funding. If this funding is not restored, the ability of SW community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level will be irreversibly damaged.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Haapala  
Bridlemile Neighborhood Association Board Member



Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

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Date:

**City Council**

City of Portland

1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 140

Portland, OR 97204

**Council Clerk: Keelan McClymont** [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

**Subject: Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding**

Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020.

As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

- “In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI’s financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in **\$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.**
- “There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. **SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.**”
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the **lack of accountability** for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, **a lack of transparency**, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a **97% error rate** for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers.
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.**
- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing “COVID impact to budget & services. **Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI’s staff’s job security and**

**paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan.** In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.

- **Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial oversight requirements of board members.**
- **Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.**

These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, "Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated," and found that **"In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model."**

### **THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW.**

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer funded financial mismanagement and to end funding to SWNI.

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to instead fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Sincerely,

**From:** [Diana Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hold SWNI Accountable to all taxpayers  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:55:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [LETTER+TO+PDX+CITY+COUNCIL+RE+SWNI.pdf](#)

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The following expresses my concerns as a member of this community. Please read, record and take appropriate actions.

Diana Richardson 1905 SW Sunset Blvd. Portland, OR 97239 503 235 3534  
[licketysplit777@gmail.com](mailto:licketysplit777@gmail.com)

December 7, 2020

To: Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners

From: Jim Gorter  
Southwest Portland

Re: Item 966: Southwest Uplift grant and Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. funding

I am a resident and long time home owner in the South Burlingame neighborhood.

I am testifying in support of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc., the coalition's independence, and I ask for immediate reinstatement of its funding.

When I have needed information or assistance, SWNI staff has been helpful with a quick response. They always answer phone calls with a real, live person. This is unlike calls to city bureaus, commissioners' offices and Office of Civic and Community Life where, even in pre-pandemic days, calls immediately went to voice mail with responses usual coming when I was driving on the freeway. When I stopped by the SWNI office, real people were there to help, unlike some bureaus, even large ones, which leave the front desks unmanned.

When I wanted a printed copy of the City's Comprehensive Plan, BPS had none to borrow. They suggested downloading and printing the several hundred pages myself. SWNI was able to get a hard copy for me. Thank you, SWNI.

Item 966 is a Trumpian lame-duck response of animus towards neighborhoods and towards present and future Commissioners. I urge the continued independence and support of SWNI and to the services it provides to southwest Portland. Please vote NO on Item 966.

**From:** [JAMES C GORTER](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Item 966 testimony, 12/9/20  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 7:24:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [swni testimony 12-7.docx](#)

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Please see attached testimony.

**From:** [Austin DeSimone](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:23:56 PM

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Hello,

As an 11-year resident of Southwest Portland, in the neighborhoods of Ashcreek and Maplewood, I would like to register my strong opposition to proposed Council Item 966, proposed by outgoing Commissioner Eudaly, to defund and terminate Southwest Neighborhood, Inc.

This appears to be an insufficiently studied, hasty decision, based on unfounded and, since determined by audit, false, accusations of mismanagement of City funds. I see no reason why such a move should be rammed through the agenda without serious consideration. Neighborhood organizations are a vital part of our city, and SWNI has been a productive and thoughtful advocate for the needs of our communities here in southwest Portland.

Please do not go forward with this proposal. Our neighborhoods will be poorly served by such an action.

Thank you,  
Austin DeSimone  
4625 SW Caldw St. Unit E  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Brenda Jamsgard](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:32:35 PM

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**Dear Mayor Wheeler, Auditor Caballero, and City Commissioners:**

My involvement with the Crestwood Neighborhood Association and SWNI began nearly 20 years ago when I became a board member of the Crestwood Neighborhood Association, a position I held for 7 years. During my tenure, the Board, with tremendous support and guidance from SWNI and Slyvia Bogart, planned, fundraised and realized a playground at Dickinson Park. We also worked closely with SWNI for further Dickinson Park improvements. Ivy removal in the natural areas and trail work in the meadow area of the Park.

My daughter's Girl Scout Troop worked with SWNI while building two trails through the meadow area of Dickinson Park for a service project. My husband was the acting Park Steward for many years and worked with Parks and SWNI in planning multiple work parties to improve the Park.

In all of these roles and interactions with SWNI I have always been treated with respect and honesty.

SWNI has helped every year with our National Night Out. The staff and Slyvia Bogart have gone the extra mile, literally to insure the success of all of the events and activities that our Neighborhood has worked on.

My husband is the current President of the Crestwood Neighborhood Board and has served on the board in some capacity for the past 8 or so years. He started the Movies in the Park at Dickinson Park, the same year that Parks began the program.

Our kids grew up helping in the Park and running errands to SWNI. We have participated in many SWNI sponsored events as a family for many, many years. Please restore SWNI's city funding. It is a terrible situation to have SWNI continuing to do their work with no funding. It is not equitable to fund the other Neighborhood Coalitions and not SWNI.

Thank you for your careful and attentive attention to this matter.

Sincerely  
Brenda Jamsgard  
SW Portland Resident

**From:** [Tony Hansen](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item 966: Crestwood NA SWNI Support  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 8:41:47 PM

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**Dear Mayor Wheeler, Auditor Caballero, and City Commissioners:**

I urge the City Council to reject Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI). Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

For the past several years I have served as the President of the Crestwood Neighborhood Association. Before that I was the leader of the Dickinson Park Stewards. In both positions I have relied on SWNI, and specifically Executive Director Sylvia Bogart for guidance, direction, reminders, and her deep knowledge of my neighborhood. I began as a raw volunteer who was upset with national politics and decided that I needed to focus on the area I could actually impact; my own neighborhood. SWNI and Sylvia were instrumental in my education for serving this neighborhood.

With their support, I led the annual Dickinson Park at the Movies for over 10 years, and hosted the first scheduled movie site for the newly created program that became Summer Free For All. All those years SWNI helped with advertising, publicity, fund raising, and was instrumental with outreach to our neighbors in the Somali community, who attended in great numbers. We also put on monthly work parties in the park, and relied on SWNI for signage, publicity, and volunteer support.

Additionally, for even more years SWNI supported our neighborhood in our National Night Out celebration pot lucks, supplying all the needed infrastructure like tables, chairs, tables, prizes, and information on our neighborhood and services that are available, as well as publicity and guidance for a successful event. We also held several neighborhood block parties that relied on SWNI for assistance with City permits and materials for street closure. Being able to be insured through SWNI was crucial to the success of all our events.

SWNI is our fiscal sponsor for several accounts related to our parks and event funds. They have been consistent in executing the controls in place to manage our accounts. I have full trust in their management.

Annually, SWNI sponsors all-household mailings that help us reach out to all of our neighbors, and I would like to thank SWNI and other coalitions for the all-household mailing early in the pandemic to reach out with COVID resources for all Portlanders.

Finally, as a cyber security expert for nearly 20 years, I have conducted and participated in many audits. The City of Portland should be embarrassed to have paid for such an inaccurate, arbitrary and capricious work product from Marsh Minick, P.C... Issues include a lack of clear timelines or narrative; not making clear that the embezzlement issue was long in the past; and that strong fiscal controls were put in place at that time. This all leads me to believe the outcome was determined before they even began work. This "audit" should be disregarded.



In closing, please restore funding to SWNI. We rely on their ability to do their work so those of us who gladly volunteer in support of our neighborhood and our city can continue being effective with our limited time and resources.

Sincerely,

Tony Hansen, CISSP  
President, Crestwood Neighborhood Association

**From:** [SuBosAd](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [brucead3@gmail.com](mailto:brucead3@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** reject  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:08:41 PM

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Hello - I have had a long discussion with our neighbor who has been a board member of the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association regarding this proposed resolution to immediately define SWNI. I, likewise, urged the City Council to reject Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund SWNI

Sincerely,

Susan Adams  
Portland 97219

**From:** [tylarue@gmail.com](mailto:tylarue@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject #996  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:11:29 PM

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Hello,

I live in the Ashcreek neighborhood of SW Portland and I am writing to say that I oppose the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods (SWNI), and the dissolution of its contract to serve my neighborhood as well as many others in SW Portland. SWNI has been an excellent resource for us and to others who live in our community. I strongly believe that defunding SWNI is an action that warrants greater scrutiny and more input from our community. I would like to ask that you please reject this proposal.

Kind regards,  
Ty Brubaker

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert Bonner](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:13:30 PM

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Mayor Wheeler and Council members,

After living and raising a family in Washington DC for 40 years, I moved to Portland Homestead neighborhood in 2017. In those 40 years in Washington DC, I lived in an area east of Rock Creek Park that was majority black, with a growing Latinx community and a smaller number of non-Latinx white families and mixed ethnic families. There, I helped found a multiracial neighborhood association and then later represented a larger area as an elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for 4 years in the late 1980's. Our Carter Barron East Neighborhood Association was particularly welcoming to alternative uses of the larger homes along 16th ST NW including ethnic churches, alternative schools, and social services, unlike many NIMBY Neighborhood Associations in DC, and sought to support and build our whole community in troubled times.

After retiring from NIH and moving to Portland, I was excited to engage in my new neighborhood. I started attending the regular Homestead Neighborhood Association meetings. There I was excited to find the depth of knowledge of city government and collaborative spirit of its active membership. I also joined the board of Friends of Terwilliger with their focus on helping preserve and maintain the natural and historical values of its parklands. More recently, at the urging of our NA, I took on the role of establishing a Homestead NET where we previously had never had one. These organizations of volunteers have consistently been well supported by the staff of SWNI and the varied support systems they provide. Compared to my prior experience in Washington DC, I have been impressed by the quality of the SWNI support system that consistently empowers residents' involvement in effective volunteer organizations and their collaborative interactions with Portland's government.

Having spent the majority of my life living as a white minority in largely black city, adjusting to the overwhelmingly white culture here in Portland and understanding its past history has been sometimes troubling. So I do understand some of the desire of underrepresented groups to institute systemic change.

However, I am deeply concerned that Portland's strong reactions to the divisive politics in Washington and desire for change are coloring your own responses that could destroy highly functioning links between the city government and local communities such as SWNI and our neighborhood associations. The political and financial attacks on SWNI and its component NAs are extremely damaging to community life and affects many active volunteers in our southwest communities. Defunding and destroying SWNI as a functioning community support hub is exceedingly poor political decision-making.

All governments must be very careful not to demonize any volunteer group in order to achieve greater influence. We must find how better to work together using greater involvement of all community organizations and members.

Robert F Bonner

218 SW Bancroft St

Homestead

Portland, OR 97239

240-838-8933

**From:** [Jan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:17:54 PM

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I have become aware that Chloe Eudaly has proposed defunding SWNI and suggested transferring it's duties to the SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition. I am very angry that she would suggest such an illogical thing! I have lived in the Crestwood Neighborhood for over 35 years. I have always appreciated the monthly SW Neighborhood newspaper. It is filled with information that impacts my community and frequently stimulates my neighbors and myself to participate in local events. I have been able to volunteer in my community when I have read about an organized event that needs more help. I really like how it keeps me informed of what is going on near me! Most recently, transportation issues involving SW portland have been highlighted and provided links so that I have easily been able to fill out questionnaires and make sure my voice is heard.

Why would ANYONE think it is a good idea? I also ask why something so dramatic would not have an opportunity for discussion?? This will dramatically impact my family and my neighbors in the Crestwood Neighborhood. It will also impact all of the other households in the 17 other neighborhoods in Southwest Portland.

I very strongly reject the proposal to eliminate SWNI, and I want it to continue serving me and my community in it's present form and staffing. It bothers me greatly that anyone would think that eliminating SWNI is a good idea. Please, I urge you to REJECT Item 966 on December 9th!

Janet Spalding  
9919 SW 53rd Ave  
Portland, Oregon 97219

**From:** [Elise Saporta](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:19:47 PM

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I am a resident of the Ashcreek neighborhood. I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolving of its contract to serve Ashcreek and 16 other neighborhoods in SW Portland. SWNI has been an asset to our neighborhoods for many years and I think it should continue in its current form. I have lived in SW Portland for 14 years of my adult life. The SWNI is responsible for many things that make these neighborhoods great and safer. Our trail system has been created over time by the SWNI. We have a Neighborhood Emergency Response network and more safety systems in place due to the SWNI. SWNI has advocated for public safety, transportation, sidewalks, parks and other public improvements. These are valuable and needed in our community. Without funding won't be possible.

Please reject item #966.

Kind regards,

Elise Saporta

**From:** [Craig Gerard](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:35:57 PM

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As a resident of South West Portland and a business owner downtown, I'd like to strongly urge the city council to reject Item 966 which would defund our neighborhood associations.

While cost saving measures do need to be put in place, they should be well thought out, discussed publicly, and have strategic value. It seems this hasty plan is trying to be squeezed through in the 11th hour. Our city, our neighborhoods, and our citizens deserve better.

Respectfully,  
Craig Gerard

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Craig D. Gerard  
(he, him, his)

Executive Director

Stone Soup PDX

Mobile: 503-619-7740

**Our Dec Giving Campaign is ON:**

[www.StoneSoupPDX.com/HelpOut](http://www.StoneSoupPDX.com/HelpOut)

Connect with us: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



**From:** [John Prouty](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Defunding SWNI Opposition  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:35:49 PM

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**I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.**

**John Prouty**

**Eve: 503-246-7366**

**Cell: 503-705-9902**

**Fax: 503-246-1920**

5262 SW Taylor's Ferry Road  
Portland, OR 97219

**[johnprouty@q.com](mailto:johnprouty@q.com)**

**From:** [stegnor@comcast.net](mailto:stegnor@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:37:48 PM

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**From:** stegnor@comcast.net <stegnor@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** 'mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov' <mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov>; 'amanda@portlandoregon.gov' <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>; 'joann@portlandoregon.gov' <joann@portlandoregon.gov>; 'chloe@portlandoregon.gov' <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>; 'CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov' <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>; 'auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov' <auditorhullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov>; 'Office@swni.org' <Office@swni.org>  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR SWNI

Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Fritz  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Commissioner Eudaly  
Commissioner Ryan  
Auditor Hull Caballero

As a 37 year resident of and participant in neighborhood activities in Southwest Portland, I write in support of restoring funding to SWNI, the coalition that has held our neighborhoods together and fostered outreach to our underserved residents. Over the years, I have been President of the Homestead Neighborhood Association, Secretary to Southwest Neighborhoods Executive Board, member of Southwest Neighborhoods Executive Committee, Outreach Chair for Homestead and its Parks Committee representative. I organized our National Night Out events. I have volunteered at SWNI's semi-annual neighborhood clean-up events. But for the Covid-19 pandemic, I would have become active in my new southwest neighborhood following our recent move.

Homestead is a challenging place to reach out to the underserved (not a few of whom live in our parks). Per the 2010 census, 2/3 of Homestead residents are renters (mostly students and other temporary residents drawn by OHSU and the medical facilities on Marquam Hill). Over 45% of the neighborhood is wooded parkland. Through the city's small grant program, SWNI helped us develop partnerships with park friends groups and care for this precious resource. Through its cleanups, SWNI helped our neighbors, especially the elderly, get rid of trash and bulky waste. Our major outreach program, our annual National Night Out picnics, would not have been possible without the advice, equipment, publicity and guidance about city rules which SWNI provided. Because most residences are owned by landlords, actually reaching the people who live in Homestead by mail was a daunting challenge: SWNI arranged a special mailing list so that our outreach brochures went to the people who actually lived in Homestead, not the non-resident landlords.

In short, SWNI support was essential to promoting the coming together of our disparate

neighborhood. The neighborhood associations in Southwest Portland depend on SWNI support just to carry on important activities from safety protections, social activities, and caring for the place we live. I ask you to restore funding to this vital support for our citizens.

Susan Egnor

**From:** [vwbus@ckoon.org](mailto:vwbus@ckoon.org)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item 966 - testimony  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:57:56 PM

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Mayor and Commissioners - I write to you about Agenda Item 966, which in effect proposes the elimination of SWNi, and places the administration of its member Neighborhood Associations with Southeast Uplift.

SWNI provides many essential back-end services for coalition members; without that office and the body of knowledge it has built up through the years, each NA would find itself in an endless cycle of re-inventing the wheel, and relearning all the tasks required to properly run their Association.

Simply dumping those responsibilities onto another umbrella group would be disadvantage enough, through operations and workload problems, as well as convenience and access issues, but their very names - SOUTH WEST Neighborhoods, Inc. and SOUTHEAST Uplift point to the true harm. The staff at Southeast Uplift no doubt are extremely well-versed and knowledgeable in the issues before their coalition members, as they are lived experiences for them; each NA in this city has commonality in many things, but each are unique in others - for the southwest, we share their concerns for the unhoused, equity, and street fatalities, but our issues are compounded by lack of infrastructure, terrain, and little access to transit. The solutions used east of the Willamette are not a one-size-fits-all, and often will simply compound our problems if applied here willy-nilly; will our concerns be taken seriously, or will our voices be minimised by an organisation which does not daily live these realities?

As for the charge that SWNI has failed to sustain the trust of member neighborhood associations, I think rather the opposite is true; most of the NAs realize how much work is done for them by SWNI. While individuals at SWNI may sometimes have had unfortunate policy positions, and have certainly been tone-deaf, to say the least, on equity, that can happen anywhere, and those are issues resolvable by personnel changes IN the organization, NOT by destroying the organization itself; when a company has employees or board members causing issues, they are dealt with and refresher training on the appropriate issues is performed. Civic Life would rather throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Last, I am not an accountant - but neither are Marsh Minnick PC; before any action based on their report is taken, an actual *audit* by state-licensed accountants should be performed, via a properly-bid contract. Should that find actual malfeasance, then appropriate measures such as enumerated in this Item would certainly be called for. If the audit finds that, at worst, well-meaning mistakes were made, I trust apologies to the relevant people will be forthcoming.

Craig Koon  
1449 SW Davenport St  
Portland OR  
97201

**From:** [The Newlyn](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI Can Not be DeFunded!  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:02:03 PM

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**I support the city-funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.**

Thanks for your attention to this critical matter,  
Lisa Newlyn  
SW Portland Resident  
(503) 358-2521

**From:** [donna davis](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Wednesday, December 9  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:05:06 PM

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Dear City Council members,

I am writing regarding Wednesday's Agenda, "Item 966 - Amend grant with Southeast Uplift...."

The recent pernicious attack by Commissioner Eudaly and Suk Rhee should be quashed now, once and for all. It is based on a flawed audit that spent much time rehashing well-known ten-year-old events but found no actual financial misbehavior since that time. With very small non-profit organizations occasional recordkeeping errors are inevitable. The loose internal controls that allowed the problems a decade ago were corrected and have worked well since then. This audit tries to characterize as significant a few minor bookkeeping discrepancies that are really trivial in nature. There is no evidence of any intent or wrongdoing involved here.

SWNI provides valuable services to everyone in Southwest Portland. The current campaign to discredit SWNI was initiated by a couple of disgruntled prima-donnas who in the give and take of community discourse simply did not always get their way.

City Council should immediately restore the contract funding withheld from SWNI in order for this important and well-meaning organization to continue its work.

Sincerely,

Donna Davis  
2930 SW 2nd Ave  
Portland, OR

**From:** [Marshall Park NA Chair](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#)  
[Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#)  
**Cc:** [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org); [SWNI Board](#); [Bogert, Sylvia](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 966 - Marshall Park NA supports SWNI.  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:20:12 PM

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To the Mayor and City Commissioners of Portland Oregon,

Regarding Council Item 966 ... I want to let you know of my strong support for SouthWest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI). I have been Chair of Marshall Park Neighborhood Association for over 10 years. During that time, every single interaction I've had with SWNI has been positive. **EVERY ONE!** That's a remarkable record by any standard. The SWNI employees have always been pleasant, hard-working, and professional.

SWNI has been a rock supporting and helping our NA. We are a small NA and we do not have the volunteer numbers to do it all ourselves. SWNI gives us the foundation so we can have a neighborhood association. Without SWNI support, I fear we will be unable to continue with the NA in its current form.

The suspension of city funds to SWNI is unwarranted. The proposal to move the funding to a different coalition does not help us at all. It further punishes SWNI employees and puts their jobs in jeopardy. This is especially harsh during these hard pandemic times.

**Please reject council item 966, and restore SWNI's funding.** Then we can all get on with the many more pressing issues facing us in 2021.

Regards  
Mike Charles.

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Mike Charles, Chair  
Marshall Park Neighborhood Association  
Email - [marshallparkna@yahoo.com](mailto:marshallparkna@yahoo.com)  
Website- <http://marshallpark.swni.org>

Today I am writing to the Portland City Council as a private citizen who had worked with Portland neighborhood associations. Although I worked with several neighborhood associations while I served as Environmental Affairs Manager at the Port of Portland in the 1990's and subsequent to that as a contractor to the City of Portland, I no longer hold these positions today and for the record, I also am not a resident of Portland. Even so, my experience with the neighborhood associations is relevant to the proposed changes before the City Council today.

Over my years working in Portland, the neighborhood associations were a lifeline. I was invited and at times invited myself to rooms full of people to test the waters for Port-associated permits and programs. What I found was a room filled with diverse people who had used the time to vet some of their frustrations regarding the Port. I listened and I learned. No contractor or intermediary could have substituted for the information and honest dialogue and I hope trust, I gained from these meetings. Whether I was at the meetings on Port-related business or on a revitalization project for Laurelhurst Park as a consultant, these neighborhood association meetings provided me an opportunity in a give-and-take setting to refine and make more effective project designs and project goals. The neighborhood association meetings were effective and resulted in more equitable decisions where local stakeholders had an opportunity to voice their concerns and their ideas.

What comes to mind as an example was a Port mitigation project. The project resulted in a dialogue starting with one neighborhood association, and because of questions raised by the Audubon Society, resulted in the Port considering a different location, which brought in another neighborhood association. With competing interests, we were able to have a respectful dialogue with people who were to be directly affected by the Port's decision. We accomplished much in a timely manner and with efficiency.

With respect to Laurelhurst Park project, I served as a contractor to the City to revitalize Laurelhurst Pond. I worked with the local neighborhood association, a group of people who lived directly across the street from Laurelhurst Park and within the near vicinity. These were people who visited the Park often and had visions of what they wanted to see accomplished. They were the "boots on the ground" and their observations informed me of Park operations and visitors and what would work for the neighborhood and what would not. Slowly my design changed and the project turned into a success story.

If in any of these instances the neighborhood associations had not existed, the nature of the projects would have changed and changed to their detriment.

Portland has a wonderful uniqueness in its neighborhoods and in the passion of the people who live there. The associations today are a culmination of years of devoted Portlanders to improve their neighborhoods and to improve their respective associations. Portland's unique neighborhoods have not gone unnoticed. Several years ago, Portland hosted a group of mayors from several cities across the country. One of those mayors was my cousin from Sarasota, Florida, LouAnn Palmer. She came specifically to see for herself Portland's unique neighborhoods and to learn how the neighborhood associations work. She was excited about what she saw here and when she returned home, determined to integrate some of what she learned in Portland, into a future plan for Sarasota.

Portland's unique neighborhood structure and respective associations represent the vibrancy of Portland. To rip apart this cohesive tapestry without careful planning and vetting, jeopardizes the



communication network throughout Portland. Yes, it can be improved but it should not be replaced. It has taken the neighborhood associations years to become effective organizations and any major changes would undermine Portland's two-way communication networks - at a time when social unrest is so prevalent. Neighborhood associations can be tasked with not just support for brick and mortar projects, but their input can be beneficial for community policing, social justice issues and so much more. Respectfully, I request that Portland's neighborhood associations be retained, be better supported by the City, and be adequately funded. I respectfully request that the City Council reject Agenda Item 966.

Katherine Futornick

14800 NE Bluebird Hill Lane, Dayton, Oregon 97114

503-407-2231; kmfutornick@gmail.com

**From:** [Kathi](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for City Council Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:30:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Neighborhood Association Written Testimony Futornick, K.pdf](#)

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Please see attached written testimony.

Katherine Futornick  
[kmfutornick@gmail.com](mailto:kmfutornick@gmail.com)  
503-407-2231

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Bob Liebman](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Sustain SWNI It's an energizer for SW people  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:06:00 AM

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I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the rush to judgment to defund SWNI and move the services it provides to another coalition. I have served on the SWNI Schools Committee which has gotten grants to provide after-school computer classes at 2 local schools and to support anti-harassment training for students at Wilson High School. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and continue to fund SWNI.

Robert C Liebman  
Professor Emeritus  
PSU

**From:** [J.R. Merrick](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Fritz, Amanda](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:34:45 AM

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TO: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

C:

Subject: Council Calendar item 996

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I care very much for the preservation and advancement of Portland's system of neighborhood associations in our civic life. Please vote no on this irresponsible proposal to defund **Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI) sponsored by Com Eudaley on behalf of her Office of “Civic Life”- itself a center of unhappy employees and mismanagement.** The basis for the proposal is retaliatory and founded on a false premise based on a long past event that has been adjudicated.

Neighborhood Coalition offices are essential to support their geographically based neighborhood associations. Assigning SWNI to the underfunded, understaffed SEUL office will serve no one. The SEUL Board has not discussed the issue. The staff turnover in SEUL itself has been significant in the past year. Its own finances tenuous. SEUL has no knowledge of the needs of SWNI or familiarity with its constituent associations or board members.

The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were reportedly manipulated by disaffected ex-members of the SWNI Board working with “Civic Life”.

This proposal should be tabled or rejected as a last gasp attempt by an outgoing commissioner to undermine the Neighborhood Association structure. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Sincerely Concerned,

Rod Merrick, Board President of the Eastmoreland NA. Speaking on my own behalf.

Rod Merrick, AIA NCARB

**Merrick Architecture Planning**

Portland, OR 503.771.7762

**From:** [Jim Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:24:55 AM

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**TO: Agenda item 966**

**I am urging your support for SWNI. It is really an important organization within Portland and I really want to make sure you understand this. Please read my email below.**

I am very involved with SWNI. I have attended meetings with SWNI. I am the Public Safety Representative for Hayhurst Neighborhood Association and have attended the SWNI Public Safety meetings for the past 3 years. I attend their events, special projects and similar. Their support to the SW Neighborhoods is crucial.

**I have organized for Hayhurst and am involved with SWNI for help with promotion, support and supplies are:**

- Pedestrian Safety Vigil - 2018-2019, twice a year start of school in Fall and Winter. Addressed safety concerns in the Hayhurst Neighborhood with support of Portland Police.
- National Night Out - 2018-2019. Support of the event with supplies, promotion, etc.
- Hayhurst Movie in the Park, 2017-2019
- Support for SW Trails and Safe Routes to Schools trails in the Hayhurst Neighborhood.
- SW Clean Up Event, 2016-2019
- SWNI Candidates Forum, 2020

**Please restore SWNI's city funding. It is crucial at this time in our city to bring people together and support our neighbors and neighborhoods.** Most neighborhood associations heavily rely on the infrastructure of the neighborhood coalitions to get business done. Restoration of City of Portland funding is critical to SWNI's financial future. It is up to elected officials to preserve this community investment and further allow community members to be involved in local governance at the neighborhood level.

**Thank You,**  
**Jim Anderson**  
5410 SW 42nd AVE  
Portland OR 97221  
[pwnllc@gmail.com](mailto:pwnllc@gmail.com)  
503-975-8229

**From:** [kat West](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on SWNI funds  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:35:11 AM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

As a former Neighborhood Association board member who resigned in protest with all the other female board members because of bullying and inequity, I am asking you to consider reinvesting the SWNI budget in ways that actually create equity and fair civic engagement in our city.

**Sadly, City Code 3.96 is woefully outdated and perpetuates inequality and limits civic engagement.** SWNI and the other Coalition and Neighborhood Associations have many special privileges not afforded most other community-based groups and have perpetual members who run their organizations like fiefdoms.

The purpose of Civic Life's funding should be to connect people and communities with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive, at times iterative, accountable to community concerns, and that reflect an equitable distribution of public resources.

Now is the time to more equitably distribute those funds dedicated to civic engagement and to rewrite city code 3.96 so that it stops perpetuating racism, inequality and limited civic engagement.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kat West

Inner Southeast Action!

Leadership Board Member & Policy Chair

[Inner Southeast Action!](#)

*Embracing change to promote livability, inclusivity, sustainability and climate protection.*

**From:** [Heather Waisanen](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to Council item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:43:14 AM

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Hello,

I am emailing to let you know that strongly oppose Council Item 966. I ask you to reject this ordinance. This call to defund SWNI requires further analysis as well as public review, not just a few minutes discussion at a city council meeting.

I have been a resident of SW Portland since 2017. I lived in NE for nearly 20 years and I served on the Kerns Neighborhood Association board. For much of my time on that board, I served as communications and outreach. In that capacity, I worked to ensure that as many neighbors - be they renters, homeowners, landowners, businesses or non-profits - as possible were alerted to our meetings, events and issues and invited to join our e-newsletter. I know that other volunteer members of the board also worked hard at improving neighborhood community livability and dealing with significant issues. Neighborhood associations are important conduits of information and discourse about issues.

District coalitions such as SWNI and SE Uplift are important aids to the volunteers who serve on these neighborhood associations. They offer assistance and expertise to the volunteers who work on the board. There are so many things neighborhood associations would not be able to do without their district coalition's support. And these district coalitions can help other neighborhood groups. For instance, when I lived in NE, they assisted a group of neighbors who wanted to paint our street (NE 26th & Everett) as a speed deterrent. SE Uplift served as a fiscal agent and got us liability insurance, as well as traffic cones for the painting party and subsequent re-painting parties.

This ordinance will damage all city neighborhood groups but especially SW neighborhoods, who depend on SWNI for support services, supplies for our events, liability insurance, meeting space, counsel on thorny issues. They also have knowledge and information about our southwest Portland issues and needs developed over its 40-year period of service to us.

Many thanks for your time and service to our city.

Be safe and well.

Sincerely,  
Heather Waisanen  
Ashcreek Resident

**From:** [Anna Browne](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Do Not Remove Funding from SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:53:10 AM

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**Anna Browne, ABC | Senior Editor and Writer**  
The Standard  
1100 SW Sixth Avenue | Portland, OR 97204  
Phone [971.321.8049](tel:971.321.8049) | Cell [503.358.5101](tel:503.358.5101)  
[standard.com](http://standard.com)

---

**From:** Anna Browne  
**Sent:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:08 AM  
**To:** mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov; amanda@portlandoregon.gov;  
joann@portlandoregon.gov; Chloe@PortlandOregon.gov;  
CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov; AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov;  
Office@swni.org  
**Cc:** board@collinsview.org  
**Subject:** Do Not Remove Funding from SWNI

Greetings,

I'm writing to you as a long-time resident of SW Portland (about 35 years), and I have lived in the Collins View neighborhood for almost 20 years. For most of that time I have been involved in the Collins View Neighborhood Association and have seen first-hand the value and support that SWNI brings to our group.

In addition to local involvement activities such as the National Night Out and annual recycling events, which are well attended by people who otherwise don't interact with the NA, I had a personal interaction with Sylvia Bogert of the SWNI Board that was very appreciated. I was voted chair of CVNA for a short period a few years ago and it wasn't long before Sylvia reached out to me in a phone call to talk about ways SWNI could partner with me and help support the neighborhood association. Even though my tenure was brief, I was always impressed with the effort she showed. I didn't have occasion to work with her for very long, but that kind of attention is not something our NA will have if funding is cut from SWNI and moved to the east side.

Please restore the funding to SWNI and continue to support it in 2021 and beyond.

Respectfully,  
Anna Browne  
809 SW Maplecrest Ct.



**Anna Browne, ABC | Senior Editor and Writer**

**From:** [Mark H Linehan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** agenda item #966 - Wednesday 12/9 AM council meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:55:53 AM

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I'm writing to object to item #966, which will amend contract number 32002080 to move \$145,000 from SWNI to SEUL and reassess the district coalition model:

- There has been no public discussion of this change. This violates the principles of public engagement that are the basis for the neighborhood association and district coalition. It is an abandonment by the Office of Community and Civic Life of the principles of public engagement that are the basis for the neighborhood association and district coalition system. The City Council should not permit it.
- I have no comment on SWNI's financial management process. I object to reassigning SWNI responsibilities to SEUL because (a) the SEUL board has not agree to this move; and (b) SEUL's bylaws limit its activities to the neighborhoods within the SEUL borders. This creates the possibility of lawsuits against SEUL or the city.
- Any decision to reassess the district coalition model should be made by the new City Council members. It should not be imposed on the next Council by Commissioners in their last few weeks in office.

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Mark H Linehan

**From:** [Ernest Eichhorn](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:57:33 AM

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I live at 8710 SW 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland. This Ordinance, to defund our long-time neighborhood coalition (Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., aka SWNI) is UNACCEPTABLE. This ordinance needs more input from neighborhood associations and people like me.

I strongly oppose Council Item 966.

Ernest Eichhorn  
971.219.3550

**From:** [Karen Eichhorn](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** COUNCIL CALENDAR ITEM 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:11:06 AM

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I live at 8710 SW 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland. I've lived in SW Portland since 1990. This Ordinance, to defund our long-time neighborhood coalition (Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., aka SWNI) is UNACCEPTABLE. This ordinance needs more input from neighborhood associations and people like me.

This proposal will cause a significant negative impact on SW Portland. It was developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.

Cloe Eduly is leaving office in less than a month and this proposal should leave with her!

I strongly oppose Council Calendar Item 966.

Karen M. Eichhorn

**From:** [Janellie Mesa](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996 Defunding Southwest Neighbors Inc and dissolution of contract services  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:37:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello,

My name is Janellie Mesa and I am a resident and community services coordinator with Home Forward. I am providing services on one of our housing sites that serves low-income families and individuals in SW Portland called Stephen's Creek Crossing (SCC). I am writing to object to the defunding of the SW Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve 17 neighborhoods in SW Portland. SWNI has been a remarkable community partner and asset to SCC neighborhood by providing equitable access to resources and by funding initiatives that seek to serve children and adults of all ages, races and income. They have asked us to the table on multiple occasions and the voices of our residents have been heard and valued. When COVID happened, we were able to work together to help the community access food resources, obtain volunteers and maximize resources and made sure that low income residents were not overlooked in these efforts.

This proposal will cause significant negative impact to the communities of SW Portland, especially to the low-income residents of SCC who value the efforts that SWNI has made to reach the community and provide equitable access to resources.

This proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for your time.

**Janellie Mesa**

Resident & Community Services Coordinator  
Community Services  
Pronouns: She/Her ([learn more](#))



6715 SW 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97219  
*tel:* 503.280.3838  
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*tty:* 503.802.8554  
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*web:* [www.homeforward.org](http://www.homeforward.org)

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Please delete the copy you received and alert the sender to the transmission error. Thank you.

**City Council**

City of Portland

1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 140

Portland, OR 97204

**Council Clerk: Keelan McClymont** [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

**Subject: 966: Forensic Audit Findings and Funding**

Mayor and City Council Members,

I am an Indigenous man from the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations and I am writing because I have witnessed claims from numerous neighborhood associations and Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) that I am one of the 80,000 SW residents they claim to represent. I have lived in SW Portland for 17 years and **SWNI DOES NOT REPRESENT MY VALUES OR MY VOICE**; I am asking you to fight for my voice.

The system you have funded for 40 years has not served minorities or minority voices for civic engagement and instead has served a select few who have capitalized on the system to advance their narrow goals. I have attended neighborhood meetings and what is reflected back to me are **10 or so white faces and voices without concern for those who differ from them**. As many of you and your staff have attended these same meetings, I am certain you know that the math does not add up. If there are 17 neighborhoods under the SWNI umbrella and on average their meeting minutes and attendance reflect similar numbers; **SWNI represents hundreds of voices not thousands. Why is SWNI afforded \$300k annually to use their Land Use and Transportation committees to advance lobbying efforts that work against my interest and access to public transportation and housing?** I am not a homeowner and I fear I never will be; my access to land, to a safe and affordable commute have been prevented for decades by the lobbying efforts of SWNI documented in your own Bureaus report, *The Historical Document for Racist Planning*.

**I am asking City Council to fight for my voice today and the thousands of others who are not recognized by the system you have funded, who do not participate because we are not heard, who have been bullied out of the room by SWNI Officers and board members, who have a desire to be a part of what makes SW great but have no representation.**

I woke up when I heard that City Council had asked for a forensic audit of SWNI and was paying attention to concerns raised by SWNI board members and citizens. The audit seems warranted as the findings are damning and reflect an accurate experience for many.

What leads me to believe and gives me hope City Council may act on behalf of taxpayers is the audit assessment found troubling issues on many fronts; not just for SWNI's past but for the willful financial neglect, disregard to the City contractual requirements, documented abuse/bullying, performative JEDI machinations and combative posturing that they have taken with the City. **If not in these findings, if not now; how bad of an assessment will it take for action? What faith can you restore to those of us relying on you to act for fiscal accountability and for the voices lost, suppressed, ignored who want an inclusive future for our livable Portland?**

In reading the report, I found the following troubling:

- **\$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds** both past and present while also seeking and **accepting PPP monies without known COVID hardship** that disproportionately left minority organizations unfunded = **SWNI's white privilege**

- **Lack of minority representation on the SWNI board and a significant number of resignations from SWNI board members citing bullying including the Indigenous Equity Committee Chair stating she was resigning in June 2020 due to “threats and public denigration” by the current SWNI President**
- **5 SWNI board members have resigned from the SWNI board due to bullying or intimidation by SWNI Officers in just over a year - 2 of which were POC and from my assessment 1-2 POC remain of the 32 total SWNI board member positions**
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their funding annually;** these are MY taxpayer dollars that are unaccounted for and in any company I work for this would be waste, abuse and potentially fraud that would REQUIRE accountability
- Troubling these findings is that the known embezzlement of a decade ago should have ensured greater oversight and accountability of SWNI who should be doing internal audit reporting and be the model coalition **instead SWNI has shown a pattern of behavior that demands action by City Council to secure our taxpayer funds with an organization that has a proven track record of fiscal management;** anything else emboldens SWNI to continue their flagrant disregard of unchecked abuse of money and power
- As a minority, access and transparency are the tools provided us to check white supremacy and the audit report found significant lack of compliance so the **checks and balances at all levels – the public, the media, the political institutions, are all being thwarted if you allow this organization to be funded**
- Worth noting, the same **white, older people have been on the board and held various positions of power for decades** leaving little room for others to join and advance positions differing from the majority position they hold

Please listen to the voices other than SWNI’s who are screaming about injustice to the process, defaming the auditor, providing character assassinations to those with differing opinions who questioned the organization, who have driven out minorities and those who have supported minority positions. **When does equity become the priority especially when coupled with financial and governance abuse?**

**Please fight for the voices of thousands that SWNI claims to represent and give us a place to go and be a part of the change. Vote now and in the future to fund an organization other than SWNI for SW!**

Sincerely,

Shawn Strahan

Choctaw & Cherokee Nation Member & SW Resident of 17 Years



**From:** [Shawn Strahan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Grant, Nicole](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Crall, Tim](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#); [Office](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Holloway, Hannah](#); [Schmanski, Sonia](#); [Lawrence, Asena](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Item 966 - Southwest Neighborhoods Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:51:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [City Council Item 966.pdf](#)

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## City Council

City of Portland

1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 140

Portland, OR 97204

**Council Clerk: Keelan McClymont** [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

## Subject: 966: Forensic Audit Findings and Funding

Dear Mayor, City Council Members and Advisors,

I am an Indigenous man from the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations and I am writing because I have witnessed claims from numerous neighborhood associations and Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) that I am one of the 80,000 SW residents they claim to represent. I have lived in SW Portland for 17 years and **SWNI DOES NOT REPRESENT MY VALUES OR MY VOICE**; I am asking you to fight for my voice.

The system you have funded for 40 years has not served minorities or minority voices for civic engagement and instead has served a select few who have capitalized on the system to advance their narrow goals. I have attended neighborhood meetings and what is reflected back to me are **10 or so white faces and voices without concern for those who differ from them**. As many of you and your staff have attended these same meetings, I am certain you know that the math does not add up. If there are 17 neighborhoods under the SWNI umbrella and on average their meeting minutes and attendance reflect similar numbers; **SWNI represents hundreds of voices not thousands. Why is SWNI afforded \$300k annually to use their Land Use and Transportation committees to advance lobbying efforts that work against my interest and access to public transportation and housing?** I am not a homeowner and I fear I never will be; my access to land, to a safe and affordable commute have been prevented for decades by the lobbying efforts of SWNI documented in your own Bureaus report, *The Historical Document for Racist Planning*.

**I am asking City Council to fight for my voice today and the thousands of others who are not recognized by the system you have funded, who do not participate because we are not heard, who have been bullied out of the room by SWNI Officers and board members, who have a desire**

**to be a part of what makes SW great but have no representation.**

I woke up when I heard that City Council had asked for a forensic audit of SWNI and was paying attention to concerns raised by SWNI board members and citizens. The audit seems warranted as the findings are damning and reflect an accurate experience for many.

What leads me to believe and gives me hope City Council may act on behalf of taxpayers is the audit assessment found troubling issues on many fronts; not just for SWNI's past but for the willful financial neglect, disregard to the City contractual requirements, documented abuse/bullying, performative JEDI machinations and combative posturing that they have taken with the City. **If not in these findings, if not now; how bad of an assessment will it take for action? What faith can you restore to those of us relying on you to act for fiscal accountability and for the voices lost, suppressed, ignored who want an inclusive future for our livable Portland?**

In reading the report, I found the following troubling:

- **\$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds** both past and present while also seeking and **accepting PPP monies without known COVID hardship** that disproportionately left minority organizations unfunded = **SWNI's white privilege**
- **Lack of minority representation on the SWNI board and a significant number of resignations from SWNI board members citing bullying including the Indigenous Equity Committee Chair stating she was resigning in June 2020 due to "threats and public denigration" by the current SWNI President**
- **5 SWNI board members have resigned from the SWNI board due to bullying or intimidation by SWNI Officers in just over a year - 2 of which were POC and from my assessment 1-2 POC remain of the 32 total SWNI board member positions**
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their funding annually;** these are MY taxpayer dollars that are unaccounted for and in any company I work for this would be waste, abuse and potentially fraud that would REQUIRE accountability

- Troubling these findings is that the known embezzlement of a decade ago should have ensured greater oversight and accountability of SWNI who should be doing internal audit reporting and be the model coalition **instead SWNI has shown a pattern of behavior that demands action by City Council to secure our taxpayer funds with an organization that has a proven track record of fiscal management**; anything else emboldens SWNI to continue their flagrant disregard of unchecked abuse of money and power
- As a minority, access and transparency are the tools provided us to check white supremacy and the audit report found significant lack of compliance so the **checks and balances at all levels – the public, the media, the political institutions, are all being thwarted if you allow this organization to be funded**
- Worth noting, the same **white, older people have been on the board and held various positions of power for decades** leaving little room for others to join and advance positions differing from the majority position they hold

Please listen to the voices other than SWNI's who are screaming about injustice to the process, defaming the auditor, providing character assassinations to those with differing opinions who questioned the organization, who have driven out minorities and those who have supported minority positions. **When does equity become the priority especially when coupled with financial and governance abuse?**

**Please fight for the voices of thousands that SWNI claims to represent and give us a place to go and be a part of the change. Vote now and in the future to fund an organization other than SWNI for SW!**

Sincerely,

Shawn Strahan

Choctaw & Cherokee Nation Member & SW Resident of 17 Years

**From:** [Taylor von Ahlefeld](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT – Please REJECT Council item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:54:00 AM

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URGENT – Please REJECT Council item 966. I adamantly oppose Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI). Eudaly's proposition is without public input and severely cripples our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live in one of the most challenging years many of us have ever faced. Instead, any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.

As a long-time board member of Ashcreek Neighborhood Association, current ANA Chair, and 43-year resident of Ashcreek Neighborhood, I've seen firsthand the critical role SWNI plays in Portland. SWNI provides our members with authentic resources, support services, leadership, and council in an expeditious and unprejudiced manner. Any disruption to the network of unity that supports countless volunteers and their organizations, should include far more consideration and public review.

PLEASE REJECT COUNCIL ITEM 966 on Wednesday 12/9/2020.

Taylor von Ahlefeld  
Ashcreek Neighborhood Association  
5451 SW Orchid St.  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Robin Harman](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar # 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:04:03 AM

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Dear Council,

As a long time resident of SW Portland, i implore you to not defund the excellent SWNI organization that has served this unique part of our city for over 40 years !

Should such a profound reorganization be made abruptly by an out going commissioner without any real opportunity for public input ? Is this what Portland is about ? It seems an ill conceived knee jerk reaction, which has proven to be characteristic of this commissioner.

SW Portland has unique features quite unlike the rest of city. Our very hilly terrain, lack of infrastructure and large tracts of natural forest canopy create challenges and opportunities alike. SWNI has been well suited to serving our neighborhoods in this region. I ask that you support funding this valuable organization and oppose moves to defund SWNI.

SW neighborhoods will not be well served by being folded into SE. In Portland we have loved and cherished our varied neighborhoods. One size does not fit all. This important matter deserves more community input. Please reject # 966

Respectfully,

Robin Harman and Bob Myall

**From:** [Sandy Koester](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Item 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:19:55 AM

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To: City Council

My name is Bruce Koester. I have lived in the Ash Creek Neighborhood for over 50 years and I am a member of the Ash Creek Neighborhood Association. I want to add my voice, along with many, in opposition to the proposed Item #996. For our neighborhood association to be effective we need the services that SWNI supplies, along with the knowledge and expertise gained from their 40 years of service.

Furthermore, I feel the ordinance is being rushed through without an opportunity for SWNI or the affected Neighborhood Associations to offer adequate testimony .

--

Bruce Koester  
6139 SW Garden Home Rd,  
Portland, OR 97219

Gene Lynard  
107 S Brugger Street  
Portland, OR 97219

December 8, 2020

**RE: Agenda item 966 to amend Contract No. 32002080 w/ SE Uplift**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council members:

I am a 30+ year resident and member of the Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA), one of the 17 neighborhoods within Southwest Neighborhoods Incorporated (SWNI). I serve on the CVNA Board as the Public Safety Chair and have done so since the mid-1990's.

As one of their many contributions to the safety and livability of the Southwest (SW) Portland neighborhoods, SWNI sponsors a Public Safety Committee which is comprised of members from each of the neighborhoods within the coalition. Throughout this period, I have attended these monthly public safety meetings, where along with public safety committee chairs from the other SWNI neighborhoods, SWNI's Executive Director, and when available, a district patrol officer and one of the deputy district attorneys, meet to engage in collaborative problem solving to address a myriad of issues facing the SWNI neighborhoods and the City of Portland as a whole. These meetings provide a forum where numerous guest speakers have come to share their expertise, from pedestrian and bicycle safety to earthquake preparedness, all of which serve to improve safety throughout our community.

SWNI's Public Safety Committee provides an effective networking opportunity to share current issues and valuable information from all over the City benefiting not only Southwest Portland residents, but local law enforcement as well. Information gleaned from the monthly Public Safety meetings is then passed down as a regular agenda item to residents attending monthly neighborhood association meetings as well as in written format in SWNI's monthly newsletter which is distributed electronically to its many subscribers.

Additionally, SWNI has for many years continued to sponsor annual safety-related events such as National Night Out, a get-to-know-your-neighbor event in each neighborhood which is well attended by the many residents of SW Portland, Emergency Preparedness Fairs, and a Bicycle Rodeo, among others. SWNI also organizes and funds a semi-annual spring and fall clean-up event which attracts many participants from all over SW Portland. Finally, for the last 18 years, SWNI has sponsored an annual appreciation dinner for the police officers who work in Southwest Portland and their families. It is a well-attended event which recognizes the valuable contributions of local law enforcement and demonstrates the appreciation of SW Portland residents. SWNI's annual event is the only association of neighborhoods within the City to hold such a recognition event.

Gene Lynard  
107 S Brugger Street  
Portland, OR 97219

The proposed ordinance, which would serve to transfer all SWNI's funding and a coalition of all SW neighborhood associations to SE Uplift, another district coalition across town, should not be adopted. SWNI is an invaluable facilitator and dedicated contributor to the livability of SW Portland and the well-being of its residents. The motivations behind the complaints and the ensuing forensic audit appear to be political at best. I also wish to note for the record that the audit was not conducted by a Forensic Certified Public Accountant. **I strongly urge the Mayor and City Council to defeat the ordinance today and fully restore SWNI's funding effective immediately.**

In closing, I want to express my admiration and appreciation for the dedication and fine work that Sylvia Bogert, SWNI's Executive Director, and the SWNI staff undertake every day for the benefit of SW Portland neighborhoods and their residents.

Thank you,  
Gene Lynard  
107 S Brugger Street  
Portland, OR 97219



**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PDX City Council Mtg 12/09/2020; Agenda item 966 (SWNI Funding)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:39:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [12-08-2020 Agenda Item 966 Pdx City Council G. Lynard.pdf](#)

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On 12/8/20, 9:32 AM, "Gene Lynard/Leslie Dimitman" <[glynard@comcast.net](mailto:glynard@comcast.net)> wrote:

Please accept my letter in support of Southwest Neighborhood Incorporated.

Thank you,  
Gene Lynard  
107 S Brugger Street  
Portland, OR 97219  
503-250-0843  
[glynard@comcast.net](mailto:glynard@comcast.net)

**From:** [Emily McCadden](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Grant, Nicole](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Crail, Tim](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#); [Office](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Holloway, Hannah](#); [Schmanski, Sonia](#); [Lawrence, Asena](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:51:16 AM

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Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020.

As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

- “In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI’s financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in **\$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.**”
- “There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. **SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.**”
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the **lack of accountability** for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, **a lack of transparency**, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a **97% error rate** for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers.
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.**

- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing “COVID impact to budget & services. **Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI’s staff’s job security and paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan.** In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.
- **Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial oversight requirements of board members.**
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.

These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, “Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated,” and found that **“In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model.”**

## **THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW.**

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer funded financial mismanagement and to end funding to SWNI.

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to instead fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Sincerely,

Emily McCadden

**From:** [Kristine STANIK](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 966 - SWNI - please consider slowing down  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:00:59 AM

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Dear Portland City Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you for all that you do for the love of our city and all of its residents. I am sure I cannot begin to understand all of the work you put in, and especially at this time.

I am a parent and a community college student who lives in SW Portland. I do not pretend to have any real grasp of the history, politics, equity ramifications, or potential various long-term consequences of the decision you are slated to make tomorrow regarding dissolving SWNI. I try to keep up with things, but I am not even at the margins of the conversations and at the beginning of my learning about so many things. My involvement in SWNI and my neighborhood association has been limited to attending the annual National Night Out — which has felt very important to me as a way to begin to meet and form relationships with my neighbors — and reading the SW Neighborhood News, which I didn't even know about how to find in its new online-only format until today. So I am not especially well-informed. Although I would like to be.

And I guess that is ultimately my point and plea here — I only just learned about this today, as a person who would like to understand and who would like to see these sorts of decision-making processes continue to transform into more transparent and accessible ones. To me, part of that transformation might mean slowing the pace of even important-feeling, forward-feeling changes, if that is in fact the case.

I am very grateful that you are all deeply committing to this work in your service. This feels rushed to me, and in my life generally, that tends to feel like a red flag. If that might be true, and if any of you reads this and thinks it might be, please consider slowing down, taking a breath, and regrouping at a later date. I realize that means there will be different leadership in place, and maybe that's okay, too. If I am wrong about the “feeling rushed” bit, then I apologize — my vantage point on this is admittedly murky.

I would love to be invited into an opportunity to learn and understand more, as a resident of Portland and SW Portland, specifically.

Thank you for the consideration, and for all that you do. I wish all of you the best and express my sincere gratitude for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Stanik

**From:** [Michael Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SWNI support letter-again  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:01:09 AM

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Please include in public record for Wednesday, December 9 hearing on SWNI Forensic Audit.

Best,

Michael Kaplan, SPNA president

December 4, 2020

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

The South Portland Neighborhood Association strongly urges City Council to restore city funding to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI).

Our support for SWNI is based on decades of successful collaboration. SWNI's deep knowledge of southwest neighborhoods – our environment, history, concerns, issues, obstacles and goals – enables them to be an effective advocate and support.

SWNI provides services and advice that individual neighborhood and business associations cannot, such as legal and land use information, coordination with disparate interests to achieve community goals, and educational forums such as earthquake preparedness and candidate fairs. It provides training for how neighborhood associations work and important arbitration when disputes arise. These are vital services and support for volunteer organizations.

We were dismayed with the auditor's report and feel it is an incomplete narrative. We do agree that there is room for improvement; there always is. Instead of withholding funding, Council direction to focus efforts to correct and improve any perceived issues would be money well spent.

Our neighborhood coalition is our local representative. It should **not** be subsumed into another organization. Nor would

disbanding be a reasonable solution. Our neighborhood associations are stronger together than separate. We need SWNI and the South Portland Neighborhood Association fully supports it. We ask that you do the same.

Respectfully

Michael Kaplan, SPNA president

Jim Gardner

Thomas Gornick

Jeffrey Lang

Jeanne Galick

Caryanne Conner

Anna Friedhoff

Abdul Amin

Marc Mucatel

Christine Treadwell

Pete Collins

**From:** [Finn Tyvoll](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Grant, Nicole](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Crail, Tim](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#); [Office](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Holloway, Hannah](#); [Schmanski, Sonia](#); [Lawrence, Asena](#)  
**Subject:** Yes on 966 - Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:19:27 AM

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Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020.

As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

- “In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI’s financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in \$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.
- “There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.”
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the lack of accountability for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, a lack of transparency, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a 97% error rate for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers.
- SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.
- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing “COVID impact to budget & services. Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI’s staff’s job security and paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan. In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.
- Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial

oversight requirements of board members.

- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010. These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, "Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated," and found that "In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model."

THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW.

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer-funded financial mismanagement and vote yes on Ordinance 966. I call upon the Mayor and City Council to fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Sincerely,

Finn Tyvoll  
SW Portland



**From:** [JIM PIERCE](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony; Wheeler, Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** OCCL Audit of SWNI and Rrequest for an Amendment to SEUL contract.  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:21:31 AM

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Mayor Wheeler and Portland Commissioners,

This Wednesday—December 9—the Portland City Council will take under consideration:

1. An audit of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc.(SWNI)—conducted under the authority of OCCL and current-Commissioner Eudaly;
2. A request from Commissioner Eudaly to execute a grant amendment to Grant Agreement (Contract) #32002080—effectively transferring responsibilities for management of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and its grantmaking authority to Southeast Uplift (SEUL).

I urge the Council—in the strongest terms possible—to reject or table consideration of both the ten-year Audit of SWNI and the proposed Amendment to the SEUL contract.

My reasons are as follows:

1. The *Forensic* Audit initiated by Commissioner Eudaly amounts to extreme overreach. Clearly, SWNI has management issues that need to be dealt with. SWNI needs help to put its house back in order, not broad-brush, devisive accusations of malfeasance.
2. SEUL does not have the resources to take on responsibilities for management of another—equally large but very different—Coalition of Neighborhood Associations. Adding \$145,000 to the SEUL budget would not begin to address the demands of taking on SWNI management responsibilities. As far as I know, neither SEUL nor SWNI was consulted by OCCL in the drafting of Commissioner Eudaly’s proposal.

Please, set these issues aside until the new year, for more thoughtful consideration by the newly constituted Portland City Council.

Yours truly,

Jim Pierce

Southeast Portland

**From:** [marcia leslie](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:44:38 AM

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December 7, 2020

To: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Joann Hardesty

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

From: Marcia Leslie, 5445 SW Palatine St., Portland, OR 97219

Re: Support for SWNI

We have lived in the Far Southwest Neighborhood of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. for 43 years, and have attended Neighborhood Association (NA) meetings, coalition candidates forums, workshops designed to inform and gather input from residents on plans for designated Town Centers and other Land Use projects, areas of traffic congestion, and changes in City Codes such as the Tree Code, and the botched attempt to change the City Code dealing with Neighborhood Associations in 2019, as well as other topics.

Over the past 20+ years I've served as Secretary of the FSWNA, Chair on two occasions totaling 7+ years, representative to the SWNI Board for 10+ years and Public Safety committee representative for most of the 20 years. Have also proofed the SW News for about 5 years, represented FSWNA unofficially at SWCP meetings for about 8 years (both Steering Committee, CAC and other meetings), and helped at SWNI Spring and Fall cleanups, Multnomah Days parades and other coalition events over the years. Along with other FSWNA officers, we took part in "Neighborhood Association Leadership Training" seminars put on by SWNI for incoming Board officers.

SWNI was of great help when FSWNA put on NNO events, worked to inform neighbors of SWCP decisions that would seriously affect FSWNA (tunnel on SW 53<sup>rd</sup>, tram over 53<sup>rd</sup>) and provided guidance in opposing LIDs and Land Use proposals that weren't in the best interest of FSWNA as determined by the affected residents.

SWNI has worked not only with the 17 NA's that comprise the coalition, but with many minority communities within those NA's, working with them and their leaders to help with housing, transportation, translators and access to community services, inviting and encouraging them to participate in the larger community outside of their own, **in full compliance with City Code 3.96.040 (D) – functions of district coalition to promote, encourage and support participation of members of diverse communities.** Over the years those "diverse communities" have been awarded N'hood Small Grants by SWNI which they richly deserved and benefitted from. Does that sound discriminatory? Contrary to claims that SWNI and its Board resisted "equity and inclusion", it established just such

a committee years ago, encouraged Board members to attend a multi-day conference on E & I held in north Portland about that same time, and partnered with Wilson HS to hold a workshop on bullying last year.

Another false claim was that financial information was not fully disclosed to the SWNI Board. In all the years I sat on the Board on behalf of FSWNA I found the monthly reports to be complete and accurate, as were the annual reports. The Board often voted on financial matters that were presented for its consideration, following thorough and thoughtful discussion. I feel certain the dozens of other Board members during those years, many with extensive business, financial/accounting and/or auditing experience, would say the same.

I find it ironic that the audit would accuse SWNI of 'being blind to governance documents, standards and ethics' when Commissioner Eudaly and Director Suk Rhee are ignoring the "Standards and Practice for District Coalitions" which **specifically prohibits the action sought by Ordinance #966 transferring control of SWNI to SEUL**. Are there other governance documents, standards and ethics that THEY have ignored while trying to do away with SWNI, and Neighborhood Associations in general ?? There has been no thoughtful process (required in the Standards) that SWNI residents are aware of, let alone any attempt to determine if the 17 NA's in SWNI even WANT to be under the control of SEUL. And what does SEUL have to say about the proposed transfer ??

Others are documenting the errors in the audit findings. In all the years I have been involved with SWNI I have always found the staff to be helpful, courteous, respectful to all people (even those who gave them no respect), discriminating toward none, patient with difficult people, not saying a cruel or unkind word to or about anyone (even if they deserved one), and completely a-political. Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director, has mentored not only her staff, but the Boards of all 17 NA's as they rotated into their positions of responsibility. She was always available for questions and was extremely knowledgeable about Rules of Order and City Code guidelines for coalitions and neighborhoods, and did her best to inspire others to gain an appropriate level of knowledge as well. With the exception of one staff member 10 years ago, who paid the price for her actions, Sylvia and the other members of her staff (past and present) have acted with honor and integrity. The esteem in which SWNI is held was reflected by a recent anonymous donation, and matching donations by members of the SWNI community, to make up a small portion of the funding wrongfully withheld from SWNI since July.

The selfish actions of one or two people have wasted time and money, and sullied the reputations of good people who don't deserve it. Withholding funding is negatively impacting tens of thousands of residents in SWNI. The way this audit was conducted is an embarrassment to the City of Portland and Office of Civic Life.

We ask that you vote NO on Ordinance #966, and reinstate all funds withheld from SWNI.

Sincerely,

Marcia Leslie, Past Chair FSWNA

**From:** [Myrth Ogilvie](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:45:38 AM

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I am writing to express opposition to defending SWNI and transferring duties to Southeast uplift. This sort of action should require analysis and public input, and neither of these have occurred.

Thank You!

Jean Scott

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Joseph Jenkins](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Gabriel Silverstone](#); [Phillip Setran](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:47:45 AM

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I am a resident at 6400 SW Luradel St, Portland, OR 97219 and have several comments on Council Agenda Item 966:

- I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve 17 neighborhoods and 3 business associations in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- SWNI has demonstrated its commitment to equity through its Equity & Inclusion Committee and initiating a series of educational programs and conversations that it hoped to expand this year.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly without opportunity for dialogue about its impact on the City of Portland.
- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on the people of Southwest Portland and it has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Thank you,

Joseph Jenkins

[jenkins.ja@gmail.com](mailto:jenkins.ja@gmail.com)  
(360) 608-9293

**From:** [Levi Sikkema](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:51:00 AM

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Hi there,

I adamantly am not in favor of defunding SWNI.

- I to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve Ashcreek and 16 other neighborhoods in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by a Commissioner (Cloe Eudaly) who was defeated in her re-election bid in November and is leaving office in less than a month.
- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on southwest Portland. It was developed behind closed doors and has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Thanks,  
Levi Sikkema

**From:** [Steve Mullinax](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Mullinax](#); [Office@swni.org](mailto:Office@swni.org)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:53:33 AM

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Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is Steve Mullinax. I have served on the SWNI Board for the past four years,

currently as first vice president, earlier as Parks and Community Centers Committee chair.

In 2020, to-date, I have logged over 350 volunteer service hours for SWNI.

I ask that you fully fund SWNI for the current fiscal year. Please reject the current proposal to defund SWNI and transfer funding and administrative responsibilities to SEUL.

SWNI looks forward to working cooperatively with the Office of Community and Civic Life,

with appropriate controls to ensure adherence to wise financial stewardship in pursuit of the

contracted services to SW Portland neighborhoods.

SWNI manages its finances according to accepted accounting principles. The Finance Committee

and the Board meet monthly and review current financial reports. We spend according to budget,

and make any necessary budget adjustments, with Board approval, at the end of each fiscal year.

Significantly, there has been **no loss to the City of any funds managed by SWNI**. In fact, the audit report does not allege any loss to the City.

The Marsh-Minnick audit report alleges that SWNI is responsible for

“\$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement”

since 2011. This is stated in the report’s summary, but without any transparent source to back it up.



How do they define “financial mismanagement”? How did they arrive at that number?

There is no listing of amounts supposedly “mismanaged”. The report offers no clue.

The proposal to defund SWNI and transfer its administrative responsibilities to SEUL is

unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt. It is proposed without the opportunity for community dialogue,

required by ONI Standards, Section IV. E. “Process for change in organizational affiliations of

Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions.”

Please reject the proposal to defund SWNI and transfer administrative responsibilities.

Instead, I ask that you work with SWNI to fully restore funding, so that we can continue our services to the people of Southwest Portland.

Sincerely,

Steve Mullinax

Portland, OR 97221



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [James Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Hardesty Commissioner JoAnn](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#)  
**Cc:** [Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [Maria Thi Mai](#); [Sim Hyde](#); [Bogert, Sylvia](#); [Landuse Committee Swni](#); [Jim Redden](#)  
**Date:** Agenda Item 966- RESTORE SWNI FUNDING -3.96  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:54:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [Agenda Item 966.pdf](#)

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Agenda Item 966

## SWNI FUNDING NEEDS TO BE RESTORED IMMEDIATELY

In this difficulty time of a pandemic SWNI has been able to provide the required functions of a District Coalition outlined in Portland City Code 3.96.040. Unfortunately SWNI staff in December is only receiving 60% of their pay. The forensic audit found nothing wrong and only amplified details of a 10 yr old embezzlement.

It is Responsibility of the Office of Civic Life under 3.96.060 to promote open communication, assist District Coalitions in budget review and dispute resolution. Unfortunately this is not currently happening.

The Office of Civic Life has failed its Responsibilities under 3.96.050 to notify all Neighborhood Associations affected by their actions that are affecting the livability of the Neighborhoods. They should have given all Neighborhood Associations in SWNI and SEUL 30 days notice the passage of this ordinance.

Combining SWNI and SEUL as the Office of Civic Life is proposing for violates 3.96.020C since the Neighborhood Associations are in different geographically defined areas.

SWNI Leadership actions intensified a difficult conflict that should not have gotten to the point it is today having SWNI without funds to sustain operations. The Office of Civic Life has failed in its Responsibility under 3.96.060 to assist in a dispute resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter that affects all residences of Southwest Portland.  
PLEASE RESTORE SWNI FUNDING IMMEDIATELY

James Peterson  
2502 SW Multnomah Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97219

Please add this to the record

Sent from [Outlook](#)

**From:** [leslie.macpherson@yahoo.com](mailto:leslie.macpherson@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** please don't defund neighborhood associations  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:56:27 AM

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**To the Portland City Council,**

**I strongly oppose Council Item 966.**

**This proposition is without public input and severely cripples our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live. Instead, any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.**

**Please do not approve this proposition by an outgoing Counselor without the proper auditing results and analysis.**

**Yours sincerely,  
Leslie MacPherson  
Ashcreek neighborhood**

**From:** [Mark Bunton](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:57:46 AM

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City Council,

This concerns my sincere and strong opposition to a hastily assembled and ill-conceived Ordinance coming before the City Council this Wednesday (966). It is a rather dramatic suggestion that would immediately defund our long-time neighborhood coalition, SWNI, and transfer all of its responsibilities to SE Uplift on the east side of the Willamette. At this point in time the suggestion must be rejected. More analysis and public review is warranted to avoid damaging 17 neighborhood groups which have been developed during the last 40 years.

With great respect and admiration,

Mark Bunton

Mark Bunton  
8718 SW 50th Ave  
Portland, OR 97219-3312

House Phone: 503-244-4600  
Mobile Phone: 503-863-4415

Email address: [markbunton44@comcast.net](mailto:markbunton44@comcast.net)

I moved to Portland, Oregon in 1955. I was 11 years old. Graduated from Lincoln High School 1962 and then enlisted in the Marine Corps and served until October 31, 1995. I served in Portland from July 1979 to July 1982. I was the commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in the Federal Building downtown. I returned to Portland on July 1, 2003.

**From:** [Matt Drake](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of council ordinance #966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:00:35 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I oppose the council ordinance #966 that would defund SWNI. This ordinance seems to be based on fraud that took place in 2011, which has already been prosecuted and settled. Bringing this up almost 10 years later is irrelevant, since there is no pattern of fraud demonstrated.

Thank you,  
Matt Drake  
6140 SW Multnomah Blvd

**From:** [Phillip Setran](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Council Agenda Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:00:05 AM

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I am a resident at 6400 SW Luradel St, Portland, OR 97219 and have several comments on Council Agenda Item 966:

- I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve 17 neighborhoods and 3 business associations in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- SWNI has demonstrated its commitment to equity through its Equity & Inclusion Committee and initiating a series of educational programs and conversations that it hoped to expand this year.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly without opportunity for dialogue about its impact on the City of Portland.
- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on the people of Southwest Portland and it has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Thank you,

Phillip Setran, MD  
206.412.9147

On Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 10:47 AM Joseph Jenkins <[jenkins.ja@gmail.com](mailto:jenkins.ja@gmail.com)> wrote:

I am a resident at 6400 SW Luradel St, Portland, OR 97219 and have several comments on Council Agenda Item 966:

- I object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve 17 neighborhoods and 3 business associations in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing.
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- SWNI has demonstrated its commitment to equity through its Equity & Inclusion Committee and initiating a series of educational programs and conversations that it hoped to expand this year.

This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly without opportunity for dialogue about its impact on the City of Portland.

- This proposal will cause significant negative impact on the people of Southwest Portland and it has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Thank you,

Joseph Jenkins

[jenkins.ja@gmail.com](mailto:jenkins.ja@gmail.com)

(360) 608-9293



**From:** [Doug](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Reject Item #996 (SWNI)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:08:36 AM

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To me, this forensic study looks like another attempt by Comm. Eudaly to dismantle the system based on claims of bias originating in a false reading of the 2015 NA audit.

I object to the original audit of 2015 that drove the DEI accusations against the NA's and the attempt to change the code. Actually it is not the audit, but our response to it that's the problem. Evidence of disparity does not point to the NA's as the cause of the disparities. On the contrary, the NA's have been doing all they can to engage everyone since well before the audit . Unless upstream cause or choice can be ruled out, the NA's have no blame to accept. Indeed, accepting the blame and taking steps to address disparity will only result in failure, because there is nothing the NA's can do, because they are not the cause! NA's misguided acceptance of blame does not constitute proof of cause. It constitutes a willingness to do anything to engage the community, even to the extent of taking blame without scrutiny. Clearly this is the underlying motive of the NA's, and has been all along.

Doug Clauder  
0302 SW Nebraska St

**From:** [Mark Trullinger](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE Calendar item 966 proposal to defund SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:24:14 AM

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Dear Portland City Council:

I am writing to urge you to oppose Council Calendar item 966, a proposal to defund Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI). I have lived in the Ashcreek neighborhood for 42 years, and throughout that time I have seen SWNI be a valuable resource that supports our neighborhoods, works diligently to support the livability of our city, and encourages civic engagement. SWNI and other associations like it form the bedrock of citizen involvement in city government. For over 40 years SWNI has organized community events, sponsored candidate forums, promoted and participated in traffic safety discussions, preserved public parks in SW Portland and enhanced our neighborhoods with walking trails and park benches at playground areas. SWNI was instrumental in helping neighborhoods participate in the planning process for the Tualatin Water Tower on Garden Home Road, preserving the neighborhood in it's vicinity.

Please restore and preserve SWNI's city funding and help southwest Portland residents remain involved and invested in our neighborhoods and in our city.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mark Trullinger  
Ashcreek Neighborhood resident

**From:** [Nancy Trullinger](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:54:29 AM

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Portland City Council

I am writing to strongly oppose the defunding of SWNI.

Since I have lived in SW Portland for over 40 years I can see the great benefits of a neighborhood / community association. SWNI provides direction to the neighborhood association and connection to the Portland City Council. This relationship is helpful to all partners and it would be harmful to sever this relationship without a thorough examination of the city and community needs. We are still in a pandemic and it is not realistic to end something that has been established and helpful to so many Portlanders in such an abrupt manner.

Please vote against defunding SWNI,

Nancy Trullinger  
Secretary of Ashcreek Neighborhood Association  
Portland resident

**From:** [Daryle Peck](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:54:48 AM

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Council Members:

Please know that:

I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the service to another coalition.

This is a very important matter that deserves more community input analysis.

Please reject item #996 and fund SWNI now.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

E. Daryle Peck  
South Burlingame Neighborhood Association  
A founding member since 1975

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Patty McMahon](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 996 Support Restoring Grant funding to SWNI.FY 2020-2021;  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:56:46 AM

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## Restore Grant Funding to SWNI

In authorizing grant funding to the neighborhood district coalitions for FY2020-2021, Civic Life did not support funding SWNI because of alleged mismanagement of City funds, with the most damaging allegation being “concerns about continued suspicious activity after a known fraud incident.”

Because of these serious allegations, the City Council stipulated that “Funding for Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) (for FY 2020-2021) will return to Council for consideration upon the completion of a forensic audit.”

Civic Life contracted with Marsh-Minick to perform a forensic audit on grant awardee SWNI. MM completed their audit and issued their Forensic Audit Findings Report to the City of Portland on November 13, 2020. **The forensic audit did not indicate any issues of fraud or malfeasance since the 2010 fraud.** The Forensic audit disputes the most damaging allegation of “suspicious activity” which led to the freeze on SWNI’s grant award.

Additionally, the audit also found no **serious mismanagement of resources**. It did point out areas in SWNI’s fiscal procedures that need to be addressed, which will be.

The results of the Forensic audit support the grant award funding for SWNI for FY2020-2021. This leaves us with 6 months to provide desperately needed support and services to our SW neighborhoods

Cancel the Ordinance. The solution is not in the best interest of the SW Community. More chaos. We are talking about 6 months of program operation under this contract. There is no need to make this drastic of a change at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patty McMahon

SWNI Schools Committee Co-Chair & SWNI Board Member

503-453-7987

**From:** [Linda Nettekoven](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item 996 SWNI Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:58:45 AM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Eudaly, Fritz, Hardesty, and Ryan,

As someone deeply committed to helping make Portland work better for ALL of its communities, I am writing to ask that you DO NOT accept this proposal regarding the transfer of funding from SWNI to SE Uplift. I am very knowledgeable about both the strengths and weaknesses of our current system and this approach will only add to the problems our city is facing. This opinion is based on my 20+ years of effort to support and improve public engagement here in Portland. To that end I have served as a neighborhood association board member and officer and am a past co-Chair of the Southeast Uplift Board. Some of my other efforts include service on the committee developing Community Connect, the Comprehensive Plan Community Involvement Committee, the Public Involvement Advisory Council and most recently the Code Committee.

While the goal of creating a more efficient and effective coalition system is one that many of us have supported for a long time, such needed improvements cannot be accomplished by hastily moving a single set of funds from one nonprofit to another.

No matter how well meaning the intentions behind it, there is no way it should be implemented at year's end in the midst of a change in the make up of the City Council.

Such a move is counter to everything the City espouses in regard to consulting and listening to those being impacted by a government decision. There has been no opportunity for the SWNI Board to systematically address the questions, concerns and findings of the recent audit. Neighborhoods being served by SWNI have had no chance to weigh in on their needs and preferences along with suggestions for improvements to whatever system might serve them. The SE Uplift Board has not been consulted and has not had an opportunity to discuss or voice an opinion on this proposal. Nor have the neighborhoods & other organizations it serves. Finally, the greater community has not been made aware of this proposal in order to consider its impact on the City's larger system of public engagement.

Please do act to create processes that can arrive at recommendations to improve the coalition system after thoughtful dialogue, but do not implement this proposal.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Linda Nettekoven

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Leif Lidin-Lamon](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item #966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:03:53 PM

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I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

My family reads the SW News.

We are part of building up a Neighborhood Emergency Response network.

And we want to remain informed about important local issues. Do not dismantle our neighborhood coalition.

--

Leif Lidin-Lamon

**From:** [Jaymee Jacoby](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Do not defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:09:20 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in opposition of council item 966, Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI). Eudaly's proposition is without public input and severely cripples our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live. Any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.

I ask that you please do not adopt this resolution.

Sincerely,  
Jaymee Jacoby  
8450 SW 56th Ave, Portland, OR 97219



**From:** [Gary Runde](#)  
**To:** [To: mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#)  
**Subject:** [Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)  
**Date:** Agenda Item 966  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:11:33 PM

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1. It is now clear that there is no reason to withhold SWNI funding. The City Council should act immediately, without delay, to reimburse SWNI for funds withheld to date and restore funding going forward.
2. The proposed ordinance provisions suspending the City of Portland relationship with SWNI and shifting SWNI responsibilities to SE Uplift should be rejected because:
  - These are not emergency matters.
  - They have not been discussed with the affected communities or organizations.
  - The affected organizations have not had an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes with each other or their members.
  - The City has a well defined collaborative process for changing District Coalition relationships with Neighborhood associations that would be circumvented. These are contained in the Standards for Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement adopted by the City Council in its Resolution 36329.

Thank you for considering these comments.

They were developed by another citizen of Southwest Portland, and I share the exact same concerns that ONI and a subset of City Council is playing fast and loose with this issue from it's origin to this very latest proposal

Gary Runde  
4210 SW Comus Street

**From:** [Sylvia Bogert](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Leslie Hammond](#); [stevemullinax57@gmail.com](mailto:stevemullinax57@gmail.com); [JANET C HAWKINS](#); [Sam Pearson](#); [Teddy Okonokhua](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on City Council Agenda Item #966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:16:57 PM

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Good morning Mayor and City Commissioners

Thank you for giving members from the SWNI Board and the neighborhoods an opportunity to testify today on the role SWNI plays in the Southwest area. We are 17 neighborhoods and three business associations strong.

First of all, we embrace working more closely with the city and the Office of Community & Civic Life. We are a service organization which has been in service to the city for more than 40 years of fulfilling our contractual and performance obligations. SWNI has grown and improved based upon the advice it receives from the city and the quality of its membership. We work collaboratively to achieve the city's goals of civic engagement.

As a recognized District Coalition organization, where 80,000 people live, we provide views on city initiatives and goals, honestly and cooperatively, and have for many years which is the purpose of civic engagement. As our neighborhoods change, our points of view and suggestions for improving the livability of the neighborhoods has changed. The letters we send to you are the result of fresh or heavily researched perspectives of your community members.

Has SWNI made mistakes or taken missteps? Of course we have, but we also have a solid history of dedicated service to the residents of SW Portland. We are a volunteer organization whose membership changes from year to year. We rely upon staff to keep us informed about the city's Civic Life Standards and our own Bylaws. We are a participatory group who welcome all who wish to join the organization. We have recruited and elected people from under-represented groups to our Board, Executive committee and staff. The allegations in the audit do not reflect the actual stewardship of our program and financial responsibilities or what SWNI has accomplished in its grant agreement with the city of Portland.

We have spent more than 40 years strengthening and enhancing the Southwest neighborhood voices and projects. The **newspaper** is a vital link for neighborhoods to share what is happening positively in their particular part of the larger southwest. **We help neighbors find meeting space**, answer questions, provide landscaping equipment which improves our watershed, **provide a venue for transportation and land use issues**, have developed NET teams addressing public safety throughout the Southwest, **have an Equity committee, of five years duration, to help educate individuals and groups** among many other services we provide. **We have partnerships with 42 community groups where we help amplify their voices and concerns.**

Dissolving the SW Neighborhoods coalition without time and a full public engagement process is not consistent with how Portland serves its neighborhoods. Disbanding a coalition, without a thoughtful process, has consequences for the entire city apart from what the effect would be on SWNI. We

encourage you to work with us and restore our full funding. Laying off our capable staff, who have served the SWNI organization for many years, violates this traditional season of good will. SEUL is not equipped, even with additional financial resources, to serve the Southwest neighborhoods.

We embrace working with the city and Civic Life for the remaining six months to make improvements which might be a model for other groups and will further the code revision.

Respectfully submitted

The SWNI Executive Committee:

Leslie Hammond-SWNI President  
Steve Mullinax-First Vice President  
Sam Pearson-Second Vice President  
Janet Hawkins-Secretary  
Teddy Okonokhua -Treasurer

Below are concrete suggestions of work that could be done by SWNI to provide assurances that the money you entrust to us under a contract is being used wisely and for both city purposes and neighborhood/business association purposes.

The Southwest Neighborhood Coalition would be happy to discuss with the Civic Life and the Auditor's office additional reports and whatever controls are necessary to meet the required standards. SWNI would welcome the opportunity to schedule monthly, quarterly and annual check-ins with Civic Life and or Auditor's Office:

1. A monthly zoom meeting with our Finance committee;
2. A quarterly discussion of what money has been spent from our four budgets and what we see for the next quarter;
3. A quarterly discussion based upon our performance report about what has been achieved in the previous quarter to meet requirements under the Civic Life contract.

Below is a list of SWNI's current reports being shared with our Board of Directors, NAs, and the Office of Community and Civic Life:

### **Monthly**

- SWNI manages "Restricted" money for Neighborhood Associations. Monthly reports itemizing transactions (income and expenses) occurring in associations are sent to the individual NA treasurer and president/chair
- Monthly Financial Reports provided to SWNI Finance Committee include:
  - Access to review Reconciliations for: Restricted Bank Account, Operations Bank Account, Credit Card, and PayPal accounts (bank statements include photos of all checks with two required authorized signatures)
  - Fiscal Tracking forms authorizing payment of expenses (includes proper

- authorization of payment, invoices, and receipts)
  - Balance Sheet (includes all funds held by SWNI, including Restricted NA accounts)
  - Three (3) Profit and Loss Statements (Combined, Operations, and Restricted)
  - Monthly Operations Report Income and Expenses for all Operation funding compared to budgets: SWNI Board, Civic Life, BES Watershed Resource Center Grant, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Grant for Stormwater program, and Civic Life Small Grants
- Monthly “Year to Date” Operation Reporting Income and Expenses for all Operation funding compared to budgets: SWNI Board, Civic Life, BES Watershed Resource Center Grant, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Grant for Stormwater program, Civic Life Small Grants
- Note: The Audit report mentioned a month-end financial checklist for Finance Committee members. The checklist was signed by the SWNI Treasurer and ED, but not always by every Finance Committee member even though all the reports were discussed during the monthly meetings. Moving forward SWNI will ensure all Finance Committee members sign the checklist.
- After review and clarification of any questions the above reports are posted to the monthly Board of Directors meeting folder with a Treasurer’s Report

#### **Quarterly Reports:**

- SWNI Sends a Quarterly Financial Report and Reimbursement Request to Civic Life based on Fiscal Year Grant Agreements. The Financial Report is reviewed by Civic Life’s grant manager and supervisor, and then sent to Civic Life’s Financial Analyst for review and processing before it goes to the City Auditor.
- Prior to FY 18-19 SWNI submitted Quarterly Performance Indicator Reports and a Narrative Report based on grant goals. Starting FY 18-19 Civic Life reduced reporting to 6-Month Narrative Reports, which SWNI always submitted on time. SWNI has never received any concerns or questions on these reports
  - It is important to note that SWNI annually submits an “Operating Budget” to Civic Life. Civic Life grant funds do not cover all SWNI’s Operating costs, so the SWNI Board raises additional funds to cover expenses. The Operating Budget includes income it expects from Civic Life, others grants, direct fundraising efforts, advertising revenue, fiscal administration fees, etc. Once the Civic Life Grant Agreement is approved by city council we divide the Operating Budget to indicate what approved line items will be paid for by Civic Life and what expenses will be the responsibility of the SWNI Board through fundraising, grants and donations.

#### **Annual Reports:**

- SWNI sends in a full Financial Report to Civic Life of all expenses paid by the Civic

Life grant. Prior to this report and our final 4th Quarter Reimbursement Request, the SWNI Finance Committee looks at end of year cash flow projections regarding the Civic Life grant. As with any budget, we find some end of year adjustments. SWNI always requested permission from our Civic Life grant manager and financial analyst before making adjustments. Usually these involved moving unused funds into postage (to help pay for an all-household mailing of our newspaper, or NA event postcard mailings) or funds to pay for meeting room reservations at the Multnomah Arts Center.

- Annual Narrative Report to Civic Life on accomplishments during the Fiscal Year

Sylvia Bogert  
Executive Director  
Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

**From:** [Sue Brower](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:17:19 PM

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Dear Council members:

The proposal that amounts to immediately defunding Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI) shortly before a new council convenes with three new members seems to me inappropriate. The future of our neighborhood associations should be addressed when the newly elected council members are seated in January.

Sincerely yours,  
Sue Brower, member  
Ashcreek Neighborhood Association

**From:** [Terry Parker](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Ryan, Dan](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#); [carmen@carmenforportland.com](mailto:carmen@carmenforportland.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony to the Portland City Council on the proposed ordinance #966 to amend a grant with SE Uplift and reassess district coalition model for administrative simplification, December 9, 2020.  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:28:58 PM

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With the upcoming charter review, Portland voters will likely be presented with a proposal to elect city commissions by district. One of the reasons for this proposed charter change is so commissioners elected from within districts can better and more efficiently represent the people and issues within a specified district. The same is true for district neighborhood coalitions which provide a local avenue for public engagement. For a direct line of communication and efficiency of access, coalition directors and paid staff need to be in offices that are located within the geographical boundaries of the coalition. Board members should be elected representatives from the neighborhood associations and other groups also from within the geographical boundaries the coalition serves. Although not perfect, this world renown system of civic engagement in Portland has worked well for over 40 years.

The embezzlement of funds at SWNI took place nearly ten years ago. It is my understanding the person involved was arrested and jailed. It is also my understanding that the SWNI's books are now being maintained by a CPA.  
CASE CLOSED!

If there is administrative dysfunction and an inefficiency of fiscal management, it is the oversight coming directly from the commissioner in charge of the Office of Community & Civic Life, Chloe Eudaly, and it's director, Suk Rhee, both of whom have spent the last three years replacing employees experienced in public civic engagement and spending an up teen amount of taxpayer dollars in a behind the scenes policy making effort to scrap the renown district coalition/neighborhood association civic engagement system in addition to extracting funds for the SWNI audit. The large number of recent complaints to the city ombudsman from Civic Life employees only attest to all the turmoil within Civic Life City Hall office structure.

Ordinance #966 appears to be yet a another closed door and last minute effort by Commissioner Eudaly to dismantle a portion of a system that works well by inequitably severing a portion of the district coalition communication model which in turn will create roadblocks for some geographical neighborhoods on the avenues of civic engagement. Since Commissioner Eudaly has been replaced by voters and has less than a month in office, any proposed modifications to the Office of Community and Civic Life should be the responsibility of the next commissioner to oversee the bureau. This must include replacing the inadequacies of a toxic bureau administration, specifically director Suk Rhee. Transparency and respect for the employees and volunteers that make the district coalition/neighborhood association model work along with assistance from City Hall to make the existing system become more inclusive must be the new order of the day. I encourage you to cast a NO vote on ordinance #966.

Respectively submitted,

Terry Parker  
Northeast Portland

**From:** [Alon Kutchinsky](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** NW Neighborhood Association proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:40:20 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in opposition of council item 966, Commissioner Eudaly's proposed resolution to immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI). Eudaly's proposition is without public input and severely cripples our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live. Any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.

I ask that you please do not adopt this resolution and consider the many underrepresented communities within the SW side of Portland.

Sincerely,  
Alon Kutchinsky  
8450 SW 56th, 97219



**From:** [Leslie Hammond](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Council Calendar item 996  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:41:05 PM

---

Sent from my iPad  
Leslie Hammond  
503-504-1125  
Brevity is the soul of wit

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** J R Merrick <jrm@merrick-archplan.com>  
**Date:** December 8, 2020 at 12:34:39 AM PST  
**To:** cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov  
**Cc:** Ted Wheeler <mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, amanda.fritz@portlandoregon.gov, Dan Ryan <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Council Calendar item 996  
**Reply-To:** J R Merrick <jrm@merrick-archplan.com>

TO: [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

C:

Subject: Council Calendar item 996

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I care very much for the preservation and advancement of Portland's system of neighborhood associations in our civic life. Please vote no on this irresponsible proposal to defund **Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI) sponsored by Com Eudaley on behalf of her Office of “Civic Life”- itself a center of unhappy employees and mismanagement.** The basis for the proposal is retaliatory and founded on a false premise based on a long past event that has been adjudicated.

Neighborhood Coalition offices are essential to support their geographically based neighborhood associations. Assigning SWNI to the underfunded, understaffed SEUL office will serve no one. The SEUL Board has not discussed the issue. The staff turnover in SEUL itself has been significant in the past year. Its own finances tenuous. SEUL has no knowledge of the needs of SWNI or familiarity with its constituent associations or board members.

The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were reportedly manipulated

by disaffected ex-members of the SWNI Board working with “Civic Life”.

This proposal should be tabled or rejected as a last gasp attempt by an outgoing commissioner to undermine the Neighborhood Association structure. This is not the way our City government should do business.

Sincerely Concerned,

Rod Merrick, Board President of the Eastmoreland NA. Speaking on my own behalf.

Rod Merrick, AIA NCARB

**Merrick Architecture Planning**

Portland, OR 503.771.7762

**From:** [Leslie Hammond](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SWNI support letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:42:53 PM

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Sent from my iPad  
Leslie Hammond  
503-504-1125  
Brevity is the soul of wit

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michael Kaplan <mlkap@earthlink.net>  
**Date:** December 6, 2020 at 9:04:26 PM PST  
**To:** "Rhee, Suk" <Suk.Rhee@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Leslie Hammond <thinkleslieh@gmail.com>, Sylvia Bogert <sylvia@swni.org>  
**Subject:** SWNI support letter

Courtesy copy for you Ms. Rhee. Another copy was sent to Commissioner Eudaly.

Michael Kaplan, SPNA president

Begin forwarded message:

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obstacles and goals – enables them to be an effective advocate and supporter.

SWNI provides services and advice that individual neighborhood and businesses associations cannot, such as legal and land use information, coordination with disparate interests to achieve

community goals, and educational forums such as earthquake preparedness and candidate fairs. It provides training for how neighborhood associations work and important arbitration when disputes arise. These are vital services and support for volunteer organizations.

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**From:** [Janis Barker](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** COUNCIL ITEM 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:58:50 PM

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**re: COUNCIL ITEM 966**

I am a resident of the Ashcreek neighborhood and urge you to vote no on the above resolution. The timing of this makes no sense - let the people who will be members of the new council make this decision.

SWINI is a vital part of the southwest culture. To defund it as proposed is short-sighted at best. If there are problems, fix them. The southeast coalition should not be deciding issues for southwest neighborhoods.

Janis Barker  
Ashcreek Resident

**From:** [Marianne Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Crail, Tim](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Bogert, Sylvia](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Agenda Item 966 Grant Funding for SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:00:47 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Eudaly, Fritz, Hardesty and Ryan, and Auditor Hull Caballero:

Please accept these comments and the forwarded email below (11/20/2020) for inclusion in the City Council record for Agenda 966, "Amend Grant with Southeast Uplift...." (December 9, 2020 City Council meeting).

**I strongly disagree with the findings in the draft ordinance, forensic audit and impact statement in Agenda 966, and strongly oppose the Office of Community and Civic Life's proposal to transfer funding for the coalition support functions of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) to Southeast Uplift (SEUL).**

**I strongly support amending the ordinance and Exhibit C to grant Civic Life's full coalition funding to SWNI to serve the people of Southwest Portland for FY 2020-21 and beyond.**

Civic Life's proposal to redirect support of Southwest Portland's neighborhood associations to another coalition is in violation of the city's "Standards for Neighborhood Associations, Business Associations and District Coalitions and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement" adopted by Portland City Council on July 13, 2005 (ordinance 179418). Civic Life has not consulted with SWNI's neighborhood and business associations about this proposal and has not notified the groups that received the August 17, 2020 (Exhibit B) of this proposal to defund SWNI and provide coalition benefits through another coalition. Portlanders certainly deserve better dialogue on this draconian funding proposal and an opportunity to discuss and respond to the contents of Agenda 966 with more than five days notice.

The Office of Community and Civic Life shared its issues with SWNI in its July 9, 2020 City Council testimony rather than through dialogue with SWNI or making any collaborative effort to improve performance. Civic Life contracted with Marsh & Minick to perform a forensic audit of SWNI in August 2020. Civic Life expanded the scope of the audit to include more than a 10-year period, and the audit makes several unsubstantiated findings aimed at discrediting SWNI that obfuscated actions taken at the time SWNI discovered theft of funds in October 2010 with the actions taken after strong financial controls were immediately put in place. I served on the SWNI Board during this time (2008-2014) and noted examples in the email below where Marsh & Minick manipulated information to come to its findings.

Civic Life's grants have enabled SWNI to provide valuable resources and support to the people of SW Portland (see Exhibit C). In particular, SWNI's monthly newsletter *SW News* informs people in our community about local issues and events from both local partners (i.e. Neighborhood House) and government entities (i.e. the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Bureau of Transportation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, Metro, TriMet and Oregon Dept. of Transportation). Civic Life's services (Exhibit B) do not notify people of local issues and, as Vice President of Crestwood Neighborhood Association, I can only recall one bureau using Civic Life's list to notify neighborhoods as required.

Civic Life and Marsh & Minick's allegations that SWNI has misused \$179,332.34 of city grant funding lack transparency in how the audit came to that conclusion. I did a keyword search on this number and it only appears in Civic Life's findings #4, Marsh & Minick's Cover Letter and Executive Summary, and Civic Life's Impact Statement. There is no documentation to base this allegation in the forensic audit report. Marsh & Minick did not perform a review of SWNI's current fiscal management system and how SWNI funds are managed, and instead made "findings" using language intending to discredit SWNI. Civic Life's Impact Statement mis-characterized the impact of this proposal on the people of Portland.

There has been no loss of money to the city of Portland. This is extremely important to note because SWNI staff and volunteers have worked diligently over the scope of the audit to make sure SWNI grant obligations have been met each year, and Civic Life has raised no financial issues until this year. The audit findings lacked context and documentation to support its findings of financial mismanagement for the scope period, particularly since SWNI learned its lesson and implemented strong fiscal controls beginning in October 2010. Audit claims of financial mismanagement are largely based on incidents that occurred 10 years ago and did not focus on the financial management system and controls in place today.

Civic Life's claims of dysfunctionality among SWNI Board members overlooked efforts taken by the SWNI Board in 2019 to improve communications among its Board members. Marsh & Minick did not quote language from the SWNI Board minutes, particularly during the September-October 2019 time-frame; instead it quoted language by the two Board members who rebuffed SWNI's efforts and became intent on discrediting SWNI.

SWNI demonstrated its commitment to ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion over the past five years by forming an Equity and Inclusion (E&I) Committee and initiating a series of educational programs and conversations focused on issues of race, place and civic life. SWNI had planned to expand on these efforts in the scope of work in Exhibit C. In September-October 2019 Shannon Hiller-Webb bypassed SWNI Bylaws and the E&I committee and issued a Request for Proposals without a budget or prior consultation with SWNI's E&I, Finance or Executive committees. This proposal was sent back to the E&I committee but never taken back to the Board, as documented in the minutes of SWNI Board meetings but mis-characterized in the forensic audit report.

Civic Life's proposal deserves more public dialogue. Please amend the Ordinance and Exhibit C to fully fund SWNI for FY 2020-21 to support the valuable services SWNI provides, and allow SWNI and Civic Life to work on resolving issues of concern. And please involve all Portlanders in dialogue about the role of Neighborhood Associations and locally-focused District Coalitions during the budget discussions for FY 2021-2022.

Sincerely,  
Marianne Fitzgerald  
10537 SW 64th Drive  
Portland OR 97219  
[fitzgerald.marianne@gmail.com](mailto:fitzgerald.marianne@gmail.com)  
(503) 246-1847  
Vice President, Crestwood Neighborhood Association

On 11/20/2020 4:13 PM, Marianne Fitzgerald wrote:

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council:

I want to convey my perspective on what I believe is a very biased forensic audit report released this week by the Office of Community and Civic Life. I am Past President of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI, 2011-2014) and Vice President of the Crestwood Neighborhood Association (2017-present), and serve as Crestwood Neighborhoods' alternate to the SWNI Board as of last fall. SWNI provides much-needed services for the people in SW Portland, and I am asking you to fund SWNI before the deferral of city funding forces the SWNI Board to lay off its staff members. SWNI enables people to work together on local issues, coordinates communication about local issues through its monthly *SW News* and electronic communication services, and provides assistance with neighborhood projects that improve and maintain livability in SW Portland. Civic Life cannot perform those functions for our neighborhood associations. Our neighborhoods and SWNI need to move forward with SWNI's mission to support the people in SW Portland through these trying times.

Last fall I observed bullying behavior by Shannon Hiller-Webb and Marie Tyvoll during SWNI Board meetings. SWNI President Leslie Hammond and other Board members asked both of them to follow SWNI grievance procedures and they refused. Shannon and Marie created an atmosphere that was intimidating. They both demanded extensive records without explaining a reason for reviewing these records; many of the records they requested were not readily available and many are exempt from public disclosure. It appears they took their case to Civic Life Director Suk Rhee, who had already threatened city support for coalitions and neighborhood associations through the its Code Change project (which fortunately did not move forward) and it appears Shannon and Marie found a sympathetic ear within Civic Life.

At City Council's July 9, 2020 meeting Shannon Hiller-Webb orchestrated a 72-page power point presentation that contained numerous errors and materials taken out of context. I found those same errors and accusations in the Marsh Minick Forensic Audit which seemed to have biased their analysis. The MM audit report did not say who they intended to interview, but I was one of the people interviewed for the audit. I can state for a fact that I provided MM with information that seems to have been deliberately omitted in the final report. In addition, often the audit report discussion lacks context over its 10 year scope.

SWNI needs time to prepare a response to the audit. SWNI needs funding to continue to serve the people of SW Portland. Please provide both, as soon as

possible.

Marianne Fitzgerald's Perspective on March Minick's Forensic Audit: Findings Report for Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

The Marsh Minick (MM) audit is full of unsubstantiated allegations using inflammatory language that seems intent on damaging SWNI's reputation. Here are a few examples where I believe they manipulated information to justify a desired outcome.

1. The forensic audit statement that "The allegations of harassment, bullying and feeling unsafe appeared to be a problem over the last decade" (p. 103) is unsubstantiated." Page 102 contains two documents to support that claim. Regarding the August 25, 2011 complaint, I emailed MM the documentation that SWNI took swift action on September 28, 2011 to remedy the August 25, 2011 complaint, but MM omitted this information from the report. The other document on p. 102 was dated July 6, 2020. There is no evidence that this has been "a problem over the last decade."
2. Former SWNI Board member Jim McLaughlin testified to City Council on July 7, 2020 that it was "his opinion" that "the fiscal mismanagement of taxpayer dollars stems from lack of oversight...". Shannon Hiller-Webb's July 9, 2020 testimony/presentation with doctored up information claims that Jim McLaughlin sent an email making this allegation to the SWNI Board on Sept. 28, 2011. I have a copy of Mr. McLaughlin's September 28, 2011 email, and it was never sent to the SWNI Board, nor did anyone ever make that statement to the SWNI Board. I sent MM documentation that the SWNI Board discussed the SWNI credit card in Executive Session in November and December 2010 that was omitted from the report. For your information, the Executive Director explained that in 2005 it was not clear any credit card fraud or theft occurred; it appeared SWNI had simply accumulated and failed to pay the principal on a high credit card balance and she took personal responsibility for not being aware that the debt had not been paid off. When the Executive Director discovered financial irregularities in October 2010, the Executive Director and SWNI Board took immediate action to remedy the issues. The SWNI Board was satisfied with the Executive Director's explanation in 2010, and no one raised it to the SWNI Board again, including Mr. McLaughlin. I sent MM documentation of Executive Session Minutes and a memo describing what happened that were omitted from the MM report. Instead, MM made unsubstantiated accusations in their findings based on Mr. McLaughlin's allegations. I also sent MM documentation of the SWNI Board's action on September 28,

2011 to terminate its Board Officer without cause (see #1 above) which was coincidentally the same day Mr. McLaughlin's sent his email to another individual, not the SWNI Board.

3. Regarding the forensic audit's Executive Summary, MM does not differentiate between actions that were taken prior to October 2010, actions taken between October 2010 and October 2011 to formally remedy financial management through the adoption of policies and recovery of funds, and actions taken in the recent past. MM uses inflammatory terms such as "willfully blind to noncompliance", "errors, mismanagement, waste, abuse and fraud of financials" and "financial mismanagement for the scope period" (p. 5) that are not supported by facts nor recognition that SWNI took corrective and preventive measures to address financial management issues prior to October 2010.
4. During October 2011, SWNI properly deposited insurance loss claim checks and managed its accounts. SWNI signed a confidentiality agreement regarding the insurance settlement and MM has violated that confidentiality agreement in this report. SWNI was in close contact with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) at the time and ONI did not expect the money to be returned. SWNI documented thousands of volunteer hours to prepare and negotiate the insurance claim and manage SWNI affairs to address the theft and prevent it from happening again in the future, including rebuilding its accounting system. The document in the audit report page 23 is doctored up (see attached original, this letter is in the public record for the pre-sentencing report). MM asserts that the "methods of theft...directly affect expenses that SWNI would have passed along for reimbursement to ONI" (p. 24). I strongly disagree. SWNI staff and volunteers made sure that SWNI's grant obligations were met. As the attached letter notes, SWNI used salary savings to replenish the SWNI accounts that its former employee stole from and volunteer hours to provide its services to the residents and business in SW Portland and fulfill its city grant obligations.
5. The forensic examination of documents from 2010-2011 makes allegations about SWNI's financial management at a time the SWNI staff, Board and volunteers were doing their best to recover from being a victim of financial fraud, which is not relevant to SWNI operations today, yet it seems to be the basis of many of MM's inflammatory statements. During the past decade, SWNI has submitted regular financial and program reports to the ONI/Civic Life and none have raised any issues of financial mismanagement.

These are just a few specific examples of bias in Marsh Minick's forensic audit



about SWNI during the time I served on the SWNI Board. There are many others but it will take time to prepare a response. Please allocate funding to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. for FY 2020-2021 as soon as possible, and please allow SWNI an opportunity to respond to the audit.

Sincerely,

Marianne Fitzgerald  
10537 SW 64th Drive  
Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [Jennings, Gayla](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony on agenda item #966 on the Wednesday December 9th 2020 City Council meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:37:56 PM

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**From:** -Donald -MacGillivray <mcat6354@gmail.com>

**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 1:07 PM

**To:** Commissioner Eudaly <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>, "Wheeler, Mayor" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Ryan Office <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "City Auditor, Mary Hull Caballero" <AuditorHullCaballero@portlandoregon.gov>

**Subject:** Testimony on agenda item #966 on the Wednesday December 9th 2020 City Council meeting

Dec. 8, 2020

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

I am distressed by agenda item #966 on the Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. I would like to express my opinion that this proposal is wrong. While there are serious problems with the neighborhood system due to the changes made in the past few years by the Office of Community and Civic Affairs(OCCF) the situation with SWNI seems like a "Red Herring" and a further effort to degrade neighborhoods in Portland. Given the timing it is like a "Hail Mary" pass for a last chance to meddle with one of Portland's unique and valuable institutions.

Neighborhoods in Portland need to be rethought with the intent to make them better. They have always been left to themselves and when good people are involved they accomplish wonderful work in ways that would be impossible to be accomplished by all the city's money and employees. Neighbors want to improve their surrounding environment where they live.

It would be good to study neighborhood associations again in the next year or two without the biases of the current staff at the OCCF. I would suggest that the neighborhood association office should be separated from the current OCCF so that it gets the attention and assistance it wants and needs. It has been years since there has been a "Neighborhood Congress" for everyone to get together to share information, stories, and find common interests.

I have had forty+ years of experience with Portland's neighborhoods and it is a shame to see what has happened to so much wonderful work and effort. There will always be problems, but the success and good work will always may neighborhoods greater than the criticism. Such problems need to be worked out in a fair and open manner to strengthen the system.

I hope the coming year will be a good one for Portland's neighborhoods and the city as a whole. Many changes are taking place and things can only get better

Best wishes,

Don MacGillivray

Past officer from Buckman Community Association, SE Uplift Board of Directors, and recipient of the Spirit of Portland Award in 2010.



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Ronald Sharrin](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:14:25 PM

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Eudaly's proposition is without public input and severely cripples our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live. Instead, any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.

Please vote 966 down.

Yours

Ronald Sharrin

**From:** [Natalia Bronner](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:25:47 PM

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**City Council**

City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140

Portland, OR 97204

**Council Clerk:** Keelan McClymont [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to express my support for City Ordinance 190044 introduced by Commissioner Eudaly which would redirect funds and resources away from Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) to Southeast Uplift organization. By this letter I would also like to join those Portland residents who voiced their concerns regarding the results of the forensic audit of SWNI operations and demanded that community involvement funding be redirected to organizations with a track record for accountability, equity and transparency.

I currently live in SW Portland and am quite familiar with the SWNI organization as I have been a member of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association for the past three years and have met and worked with SWNI Director Sylvia Bogert and SWNI President Leslie Hammond on numerous occasions. Last year I briefly served as SWNI Board Secretary but resigned as soon as I realized that anyone who tried to challenge SWNI to become a more open, inclusive and to follow its bylaws and ONI standards, and expect the same from the neighborhood associations SWNI is currently servicing, is not going to be welcomed as a part of the SWNI team.

SWNI's commitment to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion is nothing more than a stack of empty shell policies which never go beyond conversations during meetings of its Equity and Inclusion Committee to which I was invited a few times as a member of the Russian-speaking community. I couldn't help but notice that while SWNI promoted ethical diversity at these meetings, a diversity of opinions was not tolerated.

Over the last three years I had multiple conversations with Mrs. Bogert and Ms. Hammond regarding disappointing experiences which I and many of my Hillsdale neighbors have had with our neighborhood association. I flagged numerous bylaw violations, an autocratic culture and a condescending attitude by the association's perpetual board directors which left many residents voiceless and frustrated during neighborhood meetings. Many of them admitted that they would never return to association meetings as the last time they attended the meeting they felt shut out from the decision-making process. I was also told that some residents left the meetings in tears. My concerns have never been addressed and not even taken seriously by SWNI leadership, and the most common refrain that I heard from its leaders was "let it go."

I highly encourage you to review pages 101-103 of the audit report which very accurately depicted SWNI's culture and organizational conduct. I was never interviewed by the auditors, but based on my personal experience, I can firmly state that this is a self-serving organization which does more harm than good to the neighbors in South West Portland and it should not be funded with taxpayers money.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natalia Bronner  
Hillsdale resident

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Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [rm barkin](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:35:16 PM

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**RE: Council Item 966**

Dear Council Members:

**I oppose defunding Southwest Neighborhood, Inc (SWNI)** and transferring its duties to Southeast Uplift.

A defunding will cripple our neighborhood network of volunteers working to better the places we live.

Any disruption to our network of neighborhood associations warrants much more analysis and public input in the coming year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
Rebecca Barkin, member  
Ashcreek Neighborhood Association

**From:** [stanleypenkin@gmail.com](mailto:stanleypenkin@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:38:45 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

The proposed ordinance to amend the SEUL contract is a blatant, last ditch attempt by outgoing Commissioner Eudaly and Civic Life Director Suk Rhee to undermine Portland's acclaimed neighborhood system after their inept and embarrassing failure last year to update Code 3.96.

The Commissioner is using SWNI as a scape goat through an unsubstantiated and misleading forensic audit that found no evidence of theft, embezzlement or fraud since the embezzlement that was fully adjudicated ten years ago. If anything, there were some indications of sloppy bookkeeping and lack of sufficient board oversight – easily correctable by SWNI if even true. Casting aspersions on SWNI through this questionable audit is being used as an excuse to transfer its contract to an organization that is ill prepared to take it on.

This transfer would cause the firing of some SWNI staff and have the expectation that SEUL would be able take on the obligation of supporting 17 additional neighborhood associations in addition to the 20 it already serves. SEUL would have to hire and train incoming staff from SWNI, take on oversight of its board and seven committees in addition to its own committees and board, and further to potentially implement financial management/internal controls referenced by the audit as weak or lacking in an organization with which SEUL is unfamiliar. SEUL itself in the last two years eliminated two full-time positions and is currently one person understaffed from two recent staff departures. It is not feasible for SEUL to take on additional obligations beyond what it already has.

Furthermore, SEUL's bylaws stipulate a limitation to serving only southeast. Taking on SWNI's contract would be a violation of its bylaws leading to potential grievances and lawsuits by people within either organization's boundaries for breach of their fiduciary duty of loyalty to its member organizations and the duty to comply with its bylaws and city standards.

In addition to violating SEUL's bylaws, this attempt to transfer the contract is a violation of the following ONI standards:

Standards Section IV.E.

"Change in organizational affiliations for Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions is a major issue which entails considerable time, communication and dollars. **Such action must not be undertaken lightly nor as a result of momentary problems or personality disputes...**"

Standards Section IV.E.3b

"Realigning a Neighborhood Association with a District Coalition with which it does not



currently share a boundary is not allowed."

Reassessing the coalition model in this proposed ordinance is unrelated to the SWNI/SEUL contract. A reassessment of the coalition model which failed in the toxic 3.96 process last year is worthy of consideration, but not until the new City Council is formed and a new Commissioner is in place who oversees Civic Life.

This proposed ordinance is a hasty and ill-conceived attempt to push through changes that require far more thought and deliberation with greater attention to unintended consequences. Please vote no!

Sincerely,

Stan Penkin

**From:** [Bill Dant](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 966 testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:47:21 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler, and Commissioners Hardesty, Ryan, and Fritz,  
I am saddened and shocked that there is a move afoot to defund SWNI. No organization is perfect, but as a member of various SWNI groups for the past 20 years, and as the former President and longtime board member of the West Portland Park Neighborhood Association, I can personally attest to the positive impact SWNI has on our area.

That list of positives is long: N.E.T. support, Movies in the Park, Neighborhood cleanups, National Night Outs, School, Park, Safety, Land Use Committees, etc.

For anyone to say that SWNI as a whole is not "inclusive," is the exact opposite of what I have personally witnessed during my decades of involvement. Where any alleged harm has been done, those incidents should be investigated and addressed. As part of The West Portland Park Neighborhood for 28 years now, I know there are still a lot of people around the city unaware of the fact we have two Mosques, a sizable Somali and Middle Eastern immigrant community, and people at or below the poverty rate that benefit from SWNI's presence and actions. If the plan is to defund SWNI goes forth, and the funding goes to SE Uplift, how is The City of Portland planning on representing us?

If nothing else, I hope you all take the time to further investigate what SWNI actually does for our area as a whole. Also, if any of you want a tour of what life is like in my neighborhood for the less fortunate, I'm available.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bill Dant

3701 SW Comus St.

Portland, OR. 97219

**From:** [Peter Carew](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Peter Carew](#)  
**Subject:** Against Immediately Defunding of Southwest Neighborhood, Inc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:47:37 PM

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To Portland City Council,

I am strongly **against** immediate defunding of Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI). I think any such action at this time would be premature and rushed, given the many years that SWNI has supported SW Neighborhoods and especially in light of the controversial and disputed nature of the findings in the recent audit.

Thank you for your time.

Peter Carew  
8517 SW 58th Ave, Portland, OR 97219

**From:** [James Ward](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Grant, Nicole](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Crail, Tim](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#); [Office](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Holloway, Hannah](#); [Schmanski, Sonia](#); [Lawrence, Asena](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:47:52 PM

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Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020.

As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

- “In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI’s financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in **\$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.**”
- “There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. **SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.**”
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the **lack of accountability** for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, **a lack of transparency**, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a **97% error rate** for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers.
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.**

- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing “COVID impact to budget & services. **Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI’s staff’s job security and paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan.** In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.
- **Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial oversight requirements of board members.**
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.

These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, “Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated,” and found that **“In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model.”**

## **THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW.**

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer funded financial mismanagement and to end funding to SWNI.

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to instead fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Sincerely,

James Ward, resident of Hillsdale

(he/him/his)



**From:** [Joe Wonderlick](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Taylor von Ahlfeld](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Motion to Dissolve Funding to SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:51:08 PM

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My name is Joseph Wonderlick, and I live at 6421 SW Dolph Drive in Portland. It is my understanding is that City Council is considering a motion to defund Southwest Neighborhood, Inc., which has had a long-time commission to support community engagement in southwest Portland.

From the perspective of leaders within the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association where I live, SWNI has been a tremendous resource for decades. I understand that a recent audit revealed numerous deficiencies. Those reported deficiencies deserve investigation and resolution, but I believe it is premature to pull the plug on SWNI.

Please extend your timeline and grant more time for discussion and resolution. Particularly in this time of unrest and insecurity, it is not appropriate to sever positive relationships and disrupt efforts at community engagement.

Regards,

Joe Wonderlick  
Portland

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Jim Labbe](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [amanda Hudson](#); [Tyler Wilkins](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvest SWNI-earmarked funds to more equitable, accountable civic nonprofits  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:24:49 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

We need a new more transparent approach to funding civic engagement in the City of Portland, a process that is open to all community organizations and Portlanders, not just to a few neighborhood district organizations that have had, for decades, the benefit of no-bid contract funding from the City.

I am writing to encourage the City to reallocate funding traditionally budgeted to the troubled Southwest Neighborhoods Incorporated (SWNI) toward developing [participatory budgeting](#) (PB) processes that would be open to all organizations and bureaus and all Portlanders. Applying the reallocated SWNI funds to support PB in Portland would help ensure those City funds and future funds are expended with greater accountability, transparency, and equity. In the near term, reallocated funds could support evaluation and future expansion of the pending PB processes centered on Black communities and organizations or houseless Portlanders. But the benefits of PB in terms of building community and interracial empathy and understanding, in advancing genuine participatory equity, and bolstering trust and new leadership among and within underrepresented groups are too great to limit it to small pockets of money or specific sub-populations. While it is important that underserved and underrepresented communities be centered in the design and implementation of PB, the City of Portland should aim to engage all Portlanders and allocate a growing share of the General Fund with PB. The City should start planning for this expansion of PB now. PB puts the people and communities, instead of organizations, in charge of the purse strings of government. A robust, Citywide participatory budgeting process will help address the chronic issues of accountability and trust that plague many City Bureaus and City-funded organizations from SWNI to the Portland Police Bureau. And it will still allow these Bureaus and organizations to secure funding *if they can demonstrate their values and benefits to the community.*

The purpose of Civic Life's funding should be to connect people and communities with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive and accountable to community concerns, distribute public resources equitably, and give all Portlanders equitable voice and participation in decisions over public resources by centering those least represented. PB is a demonstrated model of achieving all those goals. It is time for City Council to stop rewarding bad behavior and instead invest in more equitable, fiscally responsible community-based mechanisms like participatory budgeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Labbe  
he/him/his



Operations Manager & Steering Committee Member

Participatory Budgeting Oregon

[jlabbe@pboregon.org](mailto:jlabbe@pboregon.org)

503-475-7052

[www.pboregon.org](http://www.pboregon.org)



**From:** [Brian Hill](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition Defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:31:04 PM

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I am writing this short note to the Portland City Council to express my strong opposition to the defunding for the SWNI and am especially incensed that this proposed action is even before the council based on a requested financial audit but what delivered can only be describe undocumented negative opinion piece with many error. The quality of the audit is so lacking that it should be disregarded entirely. I have written to each of the council members individually but want emphasis by sending this brief message.

I would point out when the funding for salaries for SWNI employees was to run out the citizen in Ashcreek provide money so the salaries could continue until the council acts. With this strong community support I trust the council to do the only correct thing and restore the funding to SWNI immediately.

**From:** [Allen F](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on Council Item #966 12/9/20 9:30 am  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:31:37 PM

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Dear Council Clerk: This is my testimony for tomorrow's hearing on item #966. I may shorten it tomorrow based on the time allotted to people:

**Allen Field Testimony on December 9, 2020 Agenda item #966**

**#966 Amend grant with SE Uplift in amount not to exceed \$145,000 and reassess district coalition model for administrative simplification, expanded and equitable services (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 32002080)**

Good Morning Mayor and Council:

My name is Allen Field and I am testifying in opposition to agenda item 966.

I'm on the Boards of the SE Uplift District Coalition and Richmond Neighborhood Association but I am not speaking on their behalf.

The proposed Ordinance is not well thought out since SEUL's Bylaws prevent it from taking over SWNI's contract.

With my experience on the SEUL Board and having worked with SEUL staff for over 15 years, I can say that SEUL in no way has the capacity to take over SWNI's contract for the remainder of the 2020-21 contract.

To hire, train, and manage 4 new SWNI staff as the Ordinance envisions, under Covid restrictions and limited Zoom interactions; to take on 17 more Neighborhood Associations, a 20-person board, oversee 7 SWNI committees and manage another building, in addition to overseeing its own 20 NAs, a 27-person board, and numerous board committees -- is simply not possible.

SEUL would have the added role of correcting the deficiencies in SWNI's bookkeeping and Board oversight described in the Audit in an organization it knows nothing about. In the last 1 ½ years SEUL eliminated 2 full-time positions and it is currently 1 person understaffed from 3 recent staff departures. In our SEUL Board meeting Monday, the Director explained that staff do not have the capacity to take on this extra work, 3 of whom are recent hires still being trained.

SEUL's Bylaws prevent it from taking over the SWNI contract since it limits SEUL to serving the SE area up to I-84. Taking over SWNI's contract exposes

the Board to grievances and lawsuits by people in either the SEUL or SWNI boundaries for breach of their fiduciary duty of loyalty to its members and duty of obedience to comply with its Bylaws. I will advocate strongly to my fellow board-members to reject taking over the SWNI contract.

This last-minute Ordinance rushed before Council before Commissioner Eudaly's departure doesn't give the 24 organizations on the SEUL Board enough time to consider and vote on this. SEUL has become more strict the past year that something like this needs to be discussed by their member organizations before SEUL can vote.

The next Commissioner and Director overseeing Civic Life should oversee the reexamination of the Coalition model along the lines of the 3-year process that was previously presented to Council by Commissioner Eudaly for revising Code 3.96 and the Coalition system.

Respectfully,  
Allen Field

**From:** [Isadora Roth](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:33:51 PM

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I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.

SWNI's support in advocating in areas of transportation including pedestrian and bicycle safety, parks, trails which are regularly used, especially in the time of covid, their communication of issues pertinent to the area via the newsletter are valuable to the community.

Thank you,  
Isadora Roth

**From:** [Brendan Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council Calendar Item 966 - December 9, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:32:38 PM

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Hello City Council,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Item #966 and to the idea of defunding SWNI and transferring its duties to Southeast Uplift.

Thank you,  
B.Hughes  
Askcreek resident

**From:** [Jim Labbe](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [amanda Hudson](#); [Tyler Wilkins](#)  
**Subject:** Reinvest SWNI-earmarked funds in Participatory Budgeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:52:15 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

We need a new more transparent approach to funding civic engagement in the City of Portland, a process that is open to all community organizations and Portlanders, not just to a few neighborhood district organizations that have had, for decades, the benefit of no-bid contract funding from the City.

I am writing to encourage the City to reallocate funding traditionally budgeted to the troubled Southwest Neighborhoods Incorporated (SWNI) toward developing [participatory budgeting](#) (PB) processes that would be open to all organizations and bureaus and all Portlanders. Applying the reallocated SWNI funds to support PB in Portland would help ensure those City funds and future funds are expended with greater accountability, transparency, and equity. In the near term, reallocated funds could support evaluation and future expansion of the pending PB processes centered on Black communities and organizations or houseless Portlanders. But the benefits of PB in terms of building community and interracial empathy and understanding, in advancing genuine participatory equity, and bolstering trust and new leadership among and within underrepresented groups are too great to limit it to small pockets of money or specific sub-populations. While it is important that underserved and underrepresented communities be centered in the design and implementation of PB, the City of Portland should aim to engage all Portlanders and allocate a growing share of the General Fund with PB. The City should start planning for this expansion of PB now. PB puts the people and communities, instead of organizations, in charge of the purse strings of government. A robust, Citywide participatory budgeting process will help address the chronic issues of accountability and trust that plague many City Bureaus and City-funded organizations from SWNI to the Portland Police Bureau. And it will still allow these Bureaus and organizations to secure funding *if they can demonstrate their value and benefits to the community.*

The purpose of Civic Life's funding should be to connect people and communities with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive and accountable to community concerns, distribute public resources equitably, and give all Portlanders equitable voice and participation in decisions over public resources by centering those least represented. PB is a demonstrated model of achieving all those goals. It is time for City Council to stop rewarding bad behavior and instead invest in more equitable, fiscally responsible community-based mechanisms like participatory budgeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Labbe  
he/him/his

Operations Manager & Steering Committee Member  
Participatory Budgeting Oregon  
[jlabbe@pboregon.org](mailto:jlabbe@pboregon.org)  
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Jim Labbe  
he/him/his  
Operations Manager & Steering Committee Member  
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**From:** [Jerry Rundorff](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose defunding SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:55:20 PM

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Dear Council,

I have lived my 50 years as a Portlander and oppose any funding change to SWNI. I have served for the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association in the past. I know first hand the good outreach and common neutral ground provided to where anyone can attend and let their voice be heard. To which, I beg the council table any decision on this without more input and listening.

Jerry Rundorff

**From:** [Mashari Tyson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Black Family IN SUPPORT of Council item 966 to shift responsibilities to SE Uplift  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:59:10 PM

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Good afternoon,

We are a black family born and raised in SW Portland, moved to Washington DC for my career, and now have returned 4 years ago to raise our two small children in lovely Portland. I am writing in support of Commissioner Eudaly's proposal item 966 to shift responsibility for being the umbrella coalition that supports our Ashcreek Neighborhood.

Why do I feel this is a necessary action to course correct equitably in SW Portland and allocate funds from SWNI to SE Uplift:

- There was been a historical trend of deflecting and staying silent on critical issues without urgency to reconcile
- I have strong concerns the existing leadership has the capacity to lead SW Portland by example, rigor, and accountability.
- While the financial audit has been completed, rather than conversation focused on the intentional actions and course corrections, all SWNI communications have been defensive.
- I am disappointed that the leadership never has taken the high road to convene a mediated process to listen, learn, change, and move forward together stronger and unified.
- Shifting funds to SE Uplift empowers a marginalized under represented leader who is Native Americans. Representation matters at decision making levels.

I hope you will help us re-set priorities and start afresh by empowering SE Uplift to take over the umbrella neighborhood association role to be able to hit the ground running with accelerated focus, transformation, and impact.

Thank you,  
Mashari

...

Mashari Tyson  
Global Shaper, World Economic Forum  
[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)

**City Council Agenda Item #966**  
**Hawkins Testimony in Support of SWNI**  
**December 9, 2020**

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Eudaly, Fritz, Hardesty and Ryan, and Auditor Hull Caballero:

My name is Janet Hawkins and I am the Board Secretary for Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI).

I disagree with the findings in the draft ordinance, forensic audit and impact statement in Agenda 966. I also oppose the Office of Community and Civic Life's proposal to transfer funding for the coalition support functions of SWNI to Southeast Uplift.

As SWNI Board Secretary, I am responsible for the production of meeting minutes for both our Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. I am also responsible, along with the Executive Director, for responding to records requests. I have served as the Board Secretary beginning in October 2019 to the present day.

My role is to provide accurate and complete meeting records that are informed by both SWNI's bylaws and in compliance with the city's 3.96 Code standards. I also work with the Executive Director to ensure that SWNI's recordkeeping is following its "Document Management Policy," which was created in March 2011. SWNI has maintained its records in accordance with that policy for nine years.

The Marsh Minick Audit report did not fully detail the amount of public information that SWNI has posted on its website nor did it clarify that the city of Portland also has a formal role in SWNI's document management system. Nearly thirty years of SWNI's paper records dating from the 1980's to 2010 are currently stored in city archives.

The audit also described findings related to a "lack of transparency" related to records. This statement can be challenged when you can view the full scope of the organizational content contained on SWNI's website. SWNI has done an excellent job of ensuring the public can access its Board of Directors and committee meeting documents. Board of Directors and committee records that are accessible on the SWNI website, include:

- Board of Directors meeting packet materials dating from 2000 to the present, including agendas, minutes, and other documents.
- SWNI's seven standing committees – Land Use, Equity & Inclusion, Public Safety, Schools, Transportation, Watershed, and Parks – all have their records and meeting packet materials posted. Some of the committees have materials posted that date back twelve years.

- The SWNI Board Handbook is posted and it includes thirteen important Board governance documents ranging from articles of incorporation to bylaws to personnel policies.
- SWNI also posts a link to the Civic Life website showing Grant Agreements with the city of Portland.
- SWNI Grant Reports submitted to the Office of Civic Life are on the SWNI website.

Are there new approaches that SWNI can implement to improve our existing record-keeping practices? I assure you we are interested in process improvement and would willing work closely with the Office of Civic Life in 2021. As SWNI Board Secretary, I would look forward to working on those efforts.

I strongly support amending the ordinance and Exhibit C to grant Civic Life's full coalition funding to SWNI to serve the people of Southwest Portland for FY 2020-21. Please restore funding to SWNI.

Thank you,

Janet Hawkins, Secretary  
Board of Directors

**From:** [Janet C Hawkins](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #966 - Hawkins Testimony in Support of SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:58:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [Agenda Item 966 - Hawkins Testimony in Support of SWNI.pdf](#)

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**City Council Agenda Item #966**  
**Hawkins Testimony in Support of SWNI**  
**December 9, 2020**

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My name is Janet Hawkins and I am the Board Secretary for Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI).

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Thank you,  
Janet Hawkins, Secretary  
Board of Directors

**Agenda Item #966**  
**Doug Rogers SWNI Testimony**  
**December 9, 2020**

Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners --

My name is Doug Rogers and I am the Board President for SW Trails PDX. I am also an active volunteer in the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association. I am here today to testify on behalf of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. – our “SWNI”.

SW Trails is a community-based, all volunteer, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the health and wellness of our neighbors by supporting walking and biking in the beautiful hills of our SW Portland. We build and maintain trails, we work with the City of Portland to develop new routes for walking and biking opportunities for our neighborhood residents, and we advocate for more resources for SAFE walking, hiking, and biking.

SWNI has been an important partner of SW Trails for more than two decades. As a committee of SWNI, they supported our beginning efforts as part of their services to our SW neighbors. They continued to assist our volunteers when we reached that level where we could become an independent nonprofit organization, which we achieved in December of 2011. SWNI continues to promote SW Trails through community cooperation, and publicity by sharing space in its newspaper. This has enabled SW Trails volunteers to reach a greater audience in SW Portland, and encourage the work needed to improve safe walking and biking in our neighborhoods where we lack sidewalks, crosswalks, and dedicated bike lanes.

As a volunteer with the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association, I’ve participated in numerous SWNI supported activities, including pedestrian safety vigils along busy streets and intersections in our neighborhood. SWNI staff have always been professional and helpful in promoting these events and providing the equipment needed to keep everyone safe.

As a retired social service program manager of nonprofit organizations in our Portland community I have recognized and appreciated the quality and professionalism of our SWNI staff and its long history of support of our many community volunteers. The City’s recent audit of SWNI, done for the City by an outside contractor, fails to recognize SWNI’s long track record of quality service to our community. This audit is so inadequate in its failure to give an accurate description of SWNI that you have to assume that they simply don’t understand how nonprofit organizations operate. *Please listen to your fellow neighbors in SW Portland who know and care about SWNI, because we have a long history of working together and valuing its services to our community.*

THANK YOU for your service to our City.

*Doug Rogers, President, SW Trails PDX*  
4675 SW Cullen Blvd., Portland, OR 97221  
503-244-7703





**From:** [Douglas Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #966 - Rogers Testimony Supporting SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:13:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Rogers Testimony on SWNI.pdf](#)

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Agenda Item #966

Doug Rogers SWNI Testimony

December 9, 2020

Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners --

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THANK YOU for your service to our City.

Doug Rogers, President, SW Trails PDX

4675 SW Cullen Blvd., Portland, OR 97221

503-244-7703

December 8, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Cloe Eudaly  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Dan Ryan

**SUBJ: City Council Item #966: Proposed Ordinance Defunding Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI), Transferring its Duties to SE Uplift and Reassessing the District Coalition Model**

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council,

As a Portland resident active in community issues for nearly 50 years, I ask that City Council reject the propositions contained in Council Calendar Item 966, which if adopted would (1) immediately defund and likely cause the dissolution of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., (2) transfer its duties to another district coalition, SE Uplift, and (3) direct the City to reassess the entire district coalition model.

Further, I urge the Council to immediately reinstate the funding previously approved for SWNI for fiscal year 2020-2021 so that it can continue to provide essential services and support for the 17 neighborhood associations, 3 business associations and 80,000 residents in southwest Portland – as it has done so admirably for the past four decades.

By any reasonable measure, I believe the proposal to strip SWNI of its funding and contractual responsibilities is abrupt, inappropriate and ill-advised. If adopted by Council, it will seriously undermine the work by hundreds of citizen volunteers who help make southwest Portland a better place to live.

There are three reasons why Council should reject the proposed Ordinance:

**1. Lack of due process and public involvement.**

Defunding SWNI and the directive contained in the proposed Ordinance for the City to “reassess the district coalition model” are both significant and impactful decisions that should not be made in an abrupt, hurried manner and without the appropriate public engagement with the affected parties and residents of Portland.

Council approval of this proposal would have substantial consequences on how the City engages with its citizens – now and in the future – and warrants considerably more public discussion than afforded in a 30-minute slot during a single City Council meeting for which there was only a scant 6 days of public notice.

This proposed set of sweeping and consequential actions has been developed behind closed doors without adequate public notice and opportunity for serious community consideration and input. For this reason alone, the proposed Ordinance should be rejected and SWNI should be allowed to continue to fulfill its contractual obligations.

**2. The audit report upon which the proposed Ordinance is based found no evidence of any fraud, wrongdoing or malfeasance on the part of SWNI's staff or Board of Directors.**

This is a particularly important finding in my view because it reveals no “willful” misconduct on SWNI's part in handling its finances. In my reading of the audit report, there are no findings that warrant the



censure and dissolution of SWNI. Virtually all substantive issues raised in the report about current practices seem to be ones that can be easily be addressed – and certainly should be.

Unfortunately, as I read through it, I found it to be overly harsh, critical and judgmental. It also appears to have been heavily influenced by matters resolved more than a decade old and that should not have been at issue in a forensic audit based on recent allegations. Large sections of the report dwell upon the fraud perpetrated by a rogue employee who embezzled funds from SWNI more than a decade ago. This individual was convicted and sent to prison. As far as I am aware, no other person inside or outside of SWNI was implicated in this crime. After that unfortunate incident, SWNI implemented a series of strict fiscal controls and management practices that have been in place since 2011 and have been reviewed by the City on multiple occasions during yearly reporting and contract reviews.

One other concern I have about the completeness and veracity of the audit is that I've learned that SWNI's staff and Directors were given no opportunity to review and correct information contained in the audit report that was inaccurate or misleading before the report was made public. That is courtesy typically afforded to organizations undergoing performance or financial audits so they have the opportunity to address factual errors, incorrect understandings of the organization's practices and policies, and to challenge any findings they may disagree with. I think that simple courtesy could have settled this entire matter without the level of rancor and reputational damage it has produced.

**3. This critical matter should be addressed by the new City Council that will be in place in less than a month – not in a rush-rush process with precious little public involvement just weeks before the Commissioner who is sponsoring this measure leaves office.**

The new Council, not an outgoing one, should be the decision-makers on a matter that would affect so many people and cause such organizational chaos. The prudent and appropriate manner of handling this is not to have the decision made by a lame-duck Council, but to let the new Council that arrives in a matter of weeks make these far-reaching decisions. There is no urgency or imperative that would warrant taking action now. There is nothing in the findings regarding SWNI's fiscal controls and management practices that cannot be addressed and resolved.

Since 1971, I have served almost continuously as a member and President of three different neighborhood associations under three district coalitions -- Neighborhoods West/Northwest as a member of the Goose Hollow Foothills League; the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods as a member of the Irvington Community Association; and with SWNI as a member of the Ashcreek Neighborhood Association.

Based on my extensive work at the neighborhood level, I can assert by no means is SWNI less deserving than any of the other coalitions for our wholehearted support and appreciation. In my 11 years of interaction, I have found SWNI's staff to be highly professional, dedicated to serving our neighborhoods and the entire community, and beyond reproach. Let's let them continue to do the wonderful job they do for all of us who live in southwest Portland.

Thank you,



Dean Smith  
5720 SW 52nd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97221

**From:** [DEAN S SMITH](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** CORRECTED testimony of Dean Smith re Council Item 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:38:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Dean Smith testimony,02\\_re Item 066.pdf](#)

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Dear Council Clerk,  
Please find attached and below a corrected copy of my written testimony as I accidentally sent out a "pre-proofed version" of what I wrote a few minutes ago.  
Thank you. Dean Smith  
December 8, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Cloe Eudaly  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Dan Ryan

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Thank you,

Dean Smith  
5720 SW 52nd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97221



**From:** [Stephenie Frederick](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Item #966 (Dismantle SWNI; assess coalition system)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:39:59 PM

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*Re: Item 966- Amend grant with Southeast Uplift . . . and reassess district coalition model . . . (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 32002080)*

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Council Members:

I write in opposition to Item #966. Assessing the district coalition model is a good idea -- but suddenly and peremptorily altering the role of two coalitions before such assessment does not make managerial sense.

Our very competent city auditor can suggest an interim remedy for SWNI until a thoughtful, well planned assessment of the neighborhood coalition system is carried out.

I write on my own behalf as a resident of Portland, but I should note that I chair the land-use committee of the Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association.

Best regards,  
Stephenie Frederick  
5618 SE Malden Street  
Portland, OR 97206  
(626) 399-5799

P.S. I have also registered to provide public testimony but am submitting this communication as well.

**From:** [Jennifer Daneluk](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** A letter of support for SWNI  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:00:52 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Fritz, Ryan, Hardesty, Eudaly and Commissioner-elect Mapps and Rubio,

As a South Portland resident and small business owner, I am writing to show my support for Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. I have partnered with SWNI and the South Portland Neighborhood on events for nearly 15 years. I have seen how hard Sylvia and her crew work for us. It is very sad that they are losing their jobs at Christmas in this horrible COVID pandemic.

I really don't understand why we are losing this valuable community resource. As I understand it an investigation did not find any fraud in the last ten years and yet they are nit picking on details that ONI approved of.

Small businesses are struggling. Please reconsider and don't take this resource away from us. We need all the help and support we can get. Community engagement and small business success go hand in hand.

Thank you very much in advance for considering South Portland needs and restoring SWNI.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Daneluk  
Owner  
Ross Island Grocery and Cafe



**From:** [James Gardner](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: SWNI - 12/9/20 Council Agenda 966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:17:26 PM

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**From:** James Gardner <jimdonnachamois@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Wheeler, Mayor <mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov>; Amanda Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>; joann@portlandoregon.gov <joann@portlandoregon.gov>; commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov <commissionerryanoffice@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Michael Kaplan <mlkap@earthlink.net>  
**Subject:** SWNI

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Hardesty, and Commissioner Ryan,

In recent months Portland has seen how much disruption and damage can be done by a few individuals intent on creating mayhem, hiding their true motives behind the language of social justice. Sympathetic to the very real need for justice and change, many normally responsible residents and government leaders allowed this to go on far too long. We now see that violence and thuggery cannot be allowed to continue.

An analogous situation is now unfolding in Southwest Portland. In this case, the district coalition of neighborhood associations, Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) has been subject to a campaign of allegations of malfeasance and bias by a handful of disgruntled individuals, fueled largely by their personal bruised egos rather than legitimate factual concerns. Unsupported accusations reminiscent of the tactics of Senator Joseph McCarthy have been made by these individuals. Commissioner Eudaly and Suk Rhee, her Office of Civic Life director, enabled these groundless accusations, perhaps secondary to their lingering resentment toward SWNI and many Southwest neighborhood associations stemming from their failed attempt to weaken the work of neighborhood associations in Portland.

The few disgruntled individuals making these misrepresentations have a documented history of impossible demands and disruptive behavior. Supported by Commissioner Eudaly and Ms. Rhee, their charges created enough confusion that City Council withheld SWNI's annual funding contract pending a forensic audit. Eudaly and Rhee handpicked the audit firm and defined their scope of inquiry. The audit turned out to be a hatchet job, cherry-picking any detail that remotely suggested possible errors while ignoring evidence that suggested alternative reasonable interpretations. The report characterized Innuendo as fact and reached conclusions based on mere allegations. Even a minimal internet search reveals the audit firm has a history of such questionable reports.

It is a well-known fact that more than ten years ago, SWNI was victimized by a long-term trusted employee who, over several years, managed to embezzle a significant amount of money. When discovered, this individual was publicly revealed and the crimes prosecuted; she was convicted and incarcerated. Nothing was kept from the light of day. More important, SWNI adopted new stringent financial policies and procedures following the recommendations from professional accountants. Subsequent audits by the IRS and annual city reviews have confirmed the effectiveness of these changes. It is telling that the recent audit, flawed as it is, did not find any evidence of financial discrepancies since that time.

Nevertheless, an unfavorable audit report, regardless of how biased or unsupported by factual evidence, still does serious harm to the reputation and efficient functioning of any organization. We urge you, as ultimate decision makers for the city, to recognize such clearly unfair and unsubstantiated allegations. No matter how civic minded those behind these accusations try to appear, their crusade of personal vendetta is readily apparent to the vast majority of neighborhood leaders in Southwest. We urge City Council to not be swayed by the biased audit report and to approve the previously withheld contract with SWNI. This vital organization should be allowed to continue providing their essential support for the benefit of all the residents, businesses, and neighborhood associations in Southwest Portland.

Michael Kaplan  
President  
South Portland Neighborhood Association  
Association  
mlkap@earthlink.net

Jim Gardner  
Land Use Chair  
South Portland Neighborhood  
  
jimdonnachamois@msn.com

**From:** [Susan KING](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:32:46 PM

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I have previously sent the following communication to each of you on the City Council. Please accept this as my formal testimony for Wednesday's consideration of SWNI continued funding.

As a lifelong resident of Portland and an active participant in the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association for many years, I am writing to express my support for continued funding of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

My experience whether as the NA chair in the 1990s or now as the Land Use Co-chair is quite different than what is being portrayed in opinions written by one person in particular.

SWNI has long supported efforts for NAs to reach out to our own local area and beyond to create a sense of community across the population of residents. In the summer of 2019 for example, Hayhurst, supported by SWNI had a very successful Movie in the Park. Families came from near and far to attend a great event in Pendleton Park. I was privileged to meet most of those who attended and hear a bit about them. And until this year, our National Night Out was heavily attended with the support of SWNI and our wonderful community partner Alpenrose Dairy.

SWNI and its member NAs have also been intimately involved in the community conversations about race that have occurred before the pandemic prevented such valuable in person events. While we have much more work to do to make our communities the model of what we want our future to be, SWNI and the NAs have certainly contributed to a strong culture change.

SWNI is critical in communicating about activities, events, issues and opportunities that residents could never track on their own. Often, the first notice of such is found in the newsletter that has now been converted to digital format.

I have attended SWNI Board meetings and have noted that the discussions are open to a variety of opinions and decisions are made in an appropriate way to reflect the majority or, in many cases, the overwhelming majority of views. I attend the SWNI Land Use Committee every month and have the same experience. Disparate points of view are expressed, the staff are objective and fair about issues that come before us and the issues of how land use decisions will affect ALL in the community are front and center.

I formerly led a statewide organization that had two large Political Action Committees and was both a professional and labor organization. As such, I was responsible for our yearly audit, the Department of Labor annual filing and the Secretary of State quarterly filings. I am well acquainted with how audits are conducted and how findings are handled. In every organization, improvements can always be made. And any organization should routinely examine its own practices. **Objective** audits against clear statutes, rules and accepted practices are very helpful in that examination.

Rather than withhold funding from an organization that has done so much good, I strongly recommend that such financial support be restored with any **fact-based** recommendations for procedural improvement that are necessary.

Susan King  
bnesta@msn.com  
503-781-8285 (cell)



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [James Gardner](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda 966 - Dec 9, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 5:09:54 PM

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The Honorable Mayor Wheeler, Honorable Commissioners:

You are being asked to withhold taxpayer funds from SWNI and to instead divert funds to Southeast Uplift. SEUL would then supposedly provide support services to residents of southwest Portland and their neighborhood associations. This would be an unworkable and discriminatory arrangement.

The rationale for defunding SWNI is the audit of SWNI recently done by Marsh & Minick. This audit is terminally flawed. A personal vendetta by two - a mere two - individuals in southwest was the initial excuse for the audit. The bruised feelings of these two was used by Commissioner Eudaly and Civic Life Director Suk Rhee to launch their attack on SWNI. Eudaly and Rhee have a strong animosity toward SWNI stemming from last year's attempts to weaken the role of Portland's neighborhood associations. SWNI, its NAs, and many residents in southwest vigorously opposed this action. Despite their clear anti-SWNI bias, Eudaly and Rhee were allowed to select this audit firm, define the scope of the audit, and provide feedback and instructions to the firm throughout the audit process. It's often said, "you get what you pay for" and so in this case the audit report exactly fit what Eudaly and Rhee wanted, paid for with the public's money.

For Over 40 years SWNI has provided vital services to Portlanders in southwest and critical support to their neighborhood associations. They have done this well, with a very dedicated and hard-working staff. The embezzlement of SWNI funds by a trusted employee more than ten years ago was thoroughly vetted, legally prosecuted and punished. This recent audit simply rehashed that situation and used implication and innuendo to accuse other SWNI staff of involvement. But the audit could find no factual evidence of financial crimes or misbehavior in the decade since. A few petty bookkeeping discrepancies, perhaps, of the type inevitable in a very small organization with much of its work done by volunteers. Nothing anywhere near serious enough to warrant the destruction of SWNI that's being proposed.

I urge you to see through this sham and to restore funding to SWNI this fiscal year under the current contract. If you feel there needs to be some level of additional financial scrutiny going forward, then provide such provisions when the contract is renewed for next year. And it definitely should be renewed, because SWNI and staff provide faithful and valuable service to city residents, and should be allowed to continue doing so.

Jim Gardner  
2930 SW 2nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97201  
503-227-2096

**From:** [SWNI Watershed Committee Chair](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 966: Restore SWNI status  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 5:25:48 PM

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To: City Council

I don't have direct financial dealings with SWNI / Sylvia Bogert, Ex. Dir. So I can't speak to the finances, but I have worked, as a citizen volunteer with Sylvia and others in the SWNI office and have always found Sylvia abundant with important institutional knowledge, supportive, informative, guiding and gentle nudging.

Recently I decided to volunteer to Chair the SW Watershed committee. Our topography is very different from the rest of the City (we have a lot of water, clay and hills in SouthWest!), so the Watershed committee is important. I don't have a history in watershed science, I am just a citizen who saw a need (to Chair on the committee) and stepped up. Sylvia helped me with logistics, meeting background, a bit of encouragement and I would not have stepped up without her support and cheer. I can't imagine SW Watershed being managed by someone not versed in SouthWest needs. Sylvia is a great standard bearer for SouthWest and SWNI. I can't imagine the same support by someone who is NOT from SouthWest.

I see this action by Civic Life as a first step to dissolve the coalition system and SWNI is target number one.

Perhaps some changes could be made. If there are issues with finance records perhaps better oversight, but not dissolve SWNI.

Please restore SWNI status as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

--

**Murphy Terrell (Ms.)**  
**SWNI Watershed Chair**



**From:** [Rebekka Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Rhee, Suk](#); [Dennis, Kristin](#); [Grant, Nicole](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Runkel, Marshall](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Edwards, Karly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Crail, Tim](#); [Commissioner Ryan](#); [Office](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Holloway, Hannah](#); [Schmanski, Sonia](#); [Lawrence, Asena](#)  
**Subject:** Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) Forensic Audit Findings and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 5:40:04 PM

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Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) and the findings in the forensic audit requested by City Council on July 9, 2020.

As you know, Marsh Minick P.C. recently released the results of the audit in November 2020 and they include the following:

- “In total, four primary bank accounts were forensically analyzed with the SWNI’s financial system records and supporting documentation, which resulted in **\$179,332.24 of financial mismanagement and an additional \$174,265.25 from the period of embezzlement culminating in a total loss \$353,597.49 in mismanaged taxpayer funds.**”
- “There was evidence SWNI had mismanaged financials. There were occurrences of misapplied and unallocated money. **SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with governance documents, standards and ethics.**”
- The root cause of the financial mismanagement was the **lack of accountability** for financial duties, outdated financial policies and procedures, non-adherence with governing documents, providing incomplete and inadequate records to all Board members, **a lack of transparency**, unperformed financial statement audits and reviews, and irreconcilable difference among Board members.
- Critical financial controls were not followed as there was a **97% error rate** for the month-end financial checklist used by Finance Committee Treasurer and Executive Officers.
- **SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year. The City expects 0% and 3-5% is the average percentage attributed to embezzlements.**

- In 2020 SWNI received \$66,300.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding citing “COVID impact to budget & services. **Forensic examination findings were that SWNI had marginal direct impact from COVID of \$3k, had \$80k in savings adequate to cover 3 months of payroll therefore SWNI’s staff’s job security and paycheck funding was not in jeopardy due to COVID that would necessitate applying for the PPP loan.** In addition, all grant funding was secured at the same FY 19/20 levels for FY 20/21.
- **Treasurer reports, financials and board materials provided to the Board were not sufficient enough to determine compliance with governing documents, laws, standards and fiducial oversight requirements of board members.**
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.

These results echo concerns expressed in 2016 by the Portland City Auditor in a report titled, “Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated,” and found that **“In this audit we found a lack of accountability for how community engagement funds are spent and an outdated City Code and funding model.”**

## **THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW.**

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to put an end to decades of taxpayer funded financial mismanagement and to end funding to SWNI.

I call upon the Mayor and City Council to instead fund a new or existing organization with a confirmed track record for transparency and accountability in all matters and that is guided by values that include diversity, equity and inclusion for supporting and engaging marginalized and underserved populations in SW Portland.

Sincerely,

Rebekka Martinez



**From:** [nancyseton@comcast.net](mailto:nancyseton@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** 966 OCCL proposal to amend grant with Southeast Uplift  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:07:48 PM

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An addendum from Nancy Seton, former SWHRL President & former SWHRL rep to SWNI Board:

I served as the SWHRL neighborhood rep to the SWNI Board for a number of years, during the time I was also President of SWHRL. I have always found Sylvia Bogert and SWNI staff to be of the highest integrity. The SWNI financial reports presented to the SWNI Board monthly were thorough and transparent. The Treasurer was always willing to answer Board questions. I totally trust them with our funds. Those who have been involved with SWNI for many years know that since the embezzlement was dealt with over 10 years ago, SWNI has put in very strong controls, and has helped our neighborhoods do the same.

I've always told people how fortunate SWHRL is to be part of such a positive, well-functioning neighborhood coalition. It makes me angry and sad to see persistent, unwarranted attacks on our dedicated SWNI staff and executives. I fervently hope that this will pass, and that SWNI will continue to thrive. We all benefit from its many services to the community. Management of the SWNI coalition should remain where it belongs – in the southwest, not in SE Portland. This proposal makes no sense.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Seton  
SWHRL Board member

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**From:** Melanie Billings-Yun <[melanie@beyond-dealmaking.com](mailto:melanie@beyond-dealmaking.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: 966 OCCL proposal to amend grant with Southeast Uplift

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

On behalf of the board of the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL), I am writing to urge you to defeat proposal 966 to transfer district coalition funds to Southeast Uplift and instead to continue funding Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI).

While we recognize that the recent forensic audit by Marsh & Minick identified a number of areas for improved oversight, management and equity education, it found **no evidence of fraud** or other criminal activity over the past ten years. We are concerned about the lack of due process in City Council's decision to withhold funds based solely on allegations of *potential* for financial mismanagement. We understand that SWNI has offered to undergo an

audit by an external CPA to provide a complete picture. To transfer SWNI's funding and responsibilities before that process is complete would be a rush to judgment without a fair hearing of all evidence. Further, the rush to transfer responsibilities without sufficient forethought or planning would create chaos at a time that is already taxing everyone's abilities to cope with the constant change. The damage will fall not just on SWNI, but equally onto the 17 neighborhood associations who rely on SWNI and its staff to provide essential services, from filing government reports to IT and communications support to providing educational forums on issues affecting our neighborhoods.

We therefore ask that you stay your decision to transfer funding of SWNI until you are able to hold a comprehensive hearing of all the evidence and render a determination on the issues the organization needs to address as well as the remedies that would most reasonably and effectively accomplish those goals.

Respectfully,  
Melanie Billings-Yun  
SWHRL President

**From:** [Richard Freimark](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Question pertaining to Item #966  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:33:33 PM

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Our departing City Commissioner has once again intentionally misled the people of Portland. One look at the City Council Agenda for this week, in particular, **agenda Number 966** which holds SWNI's future in the balance is a misdirection. You will see, the OCCL did not once mention SWNI in the agenda detail. **"966 Amend grant with Southeast Uplift in amount not to exceed \$145,000 and reassess district coalition model for administrative simplification, expanded and equitable services (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 32002080)"**

This is wrong, the outgoing Commissioner and its Director are not only employing misdirection, they have Council discussing Southeast Uplift that has nothing to do with SWNI and as far as I can tell has never voted on getting involved in the SWNI issue nor do they have the ability to take on more NAs. This action attempts to realign a NA with a district coalition with which it does not share a boundary, and is not allowed under current Standards

I am strongly asking that City Council immediately restore the frozen funds this week, get SWNI back doing the people's business, the work they have been doing for over forty years. Should there be any real issues at SWNI, let the new OCCL commissioner address specifics with an open mind next month.

My question is, will City Council apply common sense and reject the half-baked agenda item 966 and immediately restore SWNI's frozen funds so desperately needed to communicate with the constituents of SW Portland at this critical time in our City's history?

Richard Freimark  
Chair 2020-2022  
Bridlemile Neighborhood Association (BNA)

C- 503-539-0771

**From:** [Eli Spevak](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Civic Engagement, equity & accountability  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:20:56 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council,

Civic engagement is a powerful way to rebuild our government institutions and practices to be more fair, just, and in service of all Portlanders. That work belongs to us all, not just to a few independent organizations that have had the benefit of decades of no-bid contract funding from the city.

As a 25-year Portland resident and small business owner, I am writing to call on you to reinvest the funding traditionally budgeted to SWNI and to instead invest in one or more nonprofit organizations dedicated to civic participation with a better track record of accountability, transparency, and equity.

The [issues recently brought to light through an independent forensic audit](#) conducted by Marsh Minick, P.C. are endemic in quasi-governmental relationships, as [Jim White of Nonprofit Association of Oregon penned last year in his letter of support of code change](#):

“Nonprofits must be treated as independent businesses regularly reconfirming the support of their communities through constant interactions and evolution. We must compete for community support by offering the best opportunity for community-led solutions to be recognized and supported financially through community fundraising and, when contracted by government, competitive processes...Creating direct-line funding into specific organizations is unhealthy both for government and for the nonprofit’s long-term sustainability.”

This issue is an inevitable outcome of a calcified city code 3.96. The recent independent forensic audit findings regarding SWNI’s financial practices as requested by City Council on July 9, 2020 are endemic, and troubling. Here are just a few findings that we find concerning:

- SWNI currently mismanages 7.35% of their base grant funding from Civic Life every year.
- Financial statements have not been reviewed or audited by an independent accountant since the \$175k embezzlement in 2010.
- “SWNI’s leadership demonstrated being willfully blind to noncompliance with

governance documents, standards and ethics.”

SWNI has special privileges not afforded most other community-based groups—land use appeal waivers and an exception to registering as a lobbying group with the city, as just two examples—which further obscure the reality that SWNI is an independent nonprofit that has no greater accountability mechanisms to the public than the Evergreen Curling Club.

The purpose of Civic Life’s funding should be to connect people and communities with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive, at times iterative, accountable to community concerns, and that reflect an equitable distribution of public resources.

The findings of the forensic audit clearly demonstrate that SWNI has been neither accountable nor transparent in their governance. As an independent nonprofit, it is SWNI’s Board’s responsibility to review findings and take corrective action as they (and ultimately the IRS) see fit. As a grantmaker, it is the City’s responsibility to review findings and make fiscally responsible funding decisions.

Now is the time to more equitably distribute those funds dedicated to civic engagement. It is time for City Council to stop rewarding bad behavior and instead invest in more equitable, fiscally responsible community-based efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Eli Spevak  
Orange Splot LLC  
4751 NE Going St.  
Portland, OR 97218  
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(503) 422-2607

**From:** [JEFFREY M LANG](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Fritz, Amanda](#); [Ryan, Dan](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeanne Galick](#)  
**Subject:** SWNI Debacle  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:38:06 PM

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Dear Mayor Wheeler,  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Commissioner Fritz  
Commissioner Ryan  
Commissioner Rubio  
Commissioner Maps

I'm writing you, yet again, to share my views on the "Office of Civic & Community Life vs SWNI Debacle," that will be before Council this week. This is a tough, complicated set of governance issues and overblown mess that may endanger future funding of SWNI.

From the outset I remain supportive of the Goals of the Office of Civic & Community Life to stimulate a robustly egalitarian democracy and in so doing enhance the political legitimacy of PDX leadership in promoting the common good. The office should be applauded for their specific efforts to expand opportunities for civic engagement of disenfranchised and underrepresented groups. Portland's neighborhood associations and other Civic groups need to make every effort to become more inclusive and engage a more diverse citizenry.

I recommend you do not withhold or redirect funds from SWNI. Let's polish and improve SWNI's solid infrastructure including their loyal staff. As a businessman and a past CTLH neighborhood association President I can attest to SWNI's staff integrity and willingness to serve citizens. Here are a few standout programs SWNI provides that are uniquely tailored for SW Portland residents:

- \*As an Umbrella organization SWNI uses Mediation and Arbitration to solve disputes
- \*Provide citizens the tools to navigate the large and sometimes complicated bureaucracy
- \*Support Business's
- \*Catastrophe Preparedness Training
- \*Recycling Projects and cleanups
- \*Land Use case studies and city planning history
- \*Provide low-cost Liability Insurance required by the City to produce Fairs, Farmer Markets, concerts and other cultural events.

SWNI like all Institutions and Civic groups cherish constructive criticism. Let's take what we have learned from the audit and set benchmarks to make SWNI healthier, more effective and cured. Please don't Defund or redirect funds from SWNI.

Stay Well & Safe, jeffrey

Jeff Lang

JM Lang, LLC

(503) 703-3035

**From:** [Mh Kincaid](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner Fritz](#); [Moore-Love, Karla](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Hardesty, Jo Ann](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Weds Council meeting item#966  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 2:05:30 AM

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All,

I am up late (early?) because I could not go to bed without sending this email as testimony in regard to the transferring of SWNI's contract to SEUL. It is beyond being a very bad idea, it is poorly thought out, will forever damage the trust of neighborhoods in city leadership, and appears like a last gasp attempt of an outgoing Commissioner and Civic Life Director to weaken a coalition they do not like and the coalition system in general.

I was involved in the city neighborhood associations serving as chair of East Columbia NA for 9 years, met with other city NA chairs, participated in bureau BAC committees, was a member and chair of DRAC for 3 years, participated in many Parks, BPS, and BES committees, and was Comm. Fritz's choice for a Spirit of Portland award in 2017.

I lost all interest in being involved with the OC&CL because of Comm Eudaly's and Suk Rhee's complete dismantling and disrespect of the City's long history of success in NA. There has been no respect for institutional knowledge, historical perspectives or acknowledgment of contributions of long-time community activists. I am not alone in this feeling.

This latest action to slide something in a council item at the last minutes that will drastically change NA and affect thousands of citizens is not only offensive it is not even rational, and with no public notice. It's laughable (and sad) that the OC&CL is seeking applicants for "Community Conversations" funding and are having none themselves with the community of neighborhoods about this issue. Information about it is no even on their website.

I am sure you will hear many testimonies today objecting to this action, and I have faith that you will come to your senses and look at the damage approving this transfer of funds will cause. In a matter of weeks, a new commissioner will be in charge of OC&CL. Let he or she have the opportunity to resolve issues and create a better process. Don't let an outgoing Commissioner create more havoc in the system. There have been numerous HR complaints, the City Ombudsman has been involved, news reporters and civic activists, PSU advisers, have all criticized the various ways process has been ignored and handed in OC&CL. Learn from the wisdom of many, not the blind and unexperienced view of a few,.

Several of you know I usually have a quote that is relevant to what I say. In this instance I have two, both from John Wooden:

- You must be interested in finding the best way, not in having your own way.



- Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do

Do what is right and allow an open and informed process work on how best to shape our neighborhoods and improve community involvement. You cannot fix anything by letting this action be inserted at the last moment, but you can let the new Commissioner bring fresh ideas and an open mind to the process. Give us reason to celebrate and work to make our neighborhoods representative of the diversity we all share in an open and fair process.

I am sorry to not be able to attend the Weds meeting, but look forward to viewing it online.

I am so very thankful for your interest and dedication in caring for the citizens of Portland. May we all be safe and healthy in the days ahead.

Maryhelen Kincaid  
2030 NE Blue Heron Dr  
503-286-3354

**From:** [midewiwin@juno.com](mailto:midewiwin@juno.com)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [thinkleslieh@gmail.com](mailto:thinkleslieh@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Support for SWNI  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 2:40:30 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council Commissioners,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to Ordinance 966. All I can see is that the office of Civic Life is validating two disgruntled individuals who harassed me because as the chair of the SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee, I told them to follow the fiscal procedures of the organization. When they went to the SWN Board (who provided fiscal oversight to prevent fiscal risk), they were denied funds because, among other things, they refused to go before the SWNI Finance Committee. They then bullied me and others on the board in an attempt to intimidate us. They were not whistleblowers.

I am a Native American elder and as chair of the SWNI Equity and Inclusion (E & I) Committee with the support of my committee, the SWNI Board, and SWNI staff had worked hard to develop the SWNI Racial Equity Policy and the Equity and Diversity Best Practices for Neighborhood Associations. All of which supports the City's commitment to anti-racism, equity, communication, collaboration and fiscal responsibility. I have had a 43-year commitment to community development and equity in Portland commencing in 1979 with the publication of my book, The Portland Planning Commission an Historical Overview.

The Audit took SWNI to task for taking four years to develop these documents. Well, I say, at least we got it done, nobody else has. This is why I oppose being transferred to SE Uplift. Additionally, we spent these four years offering trainings and hosting speakers in order to educate and raise awareness about racism. It was necessary to do this because. 1) we were introducing a new program, 2) there were no existing models so we had to invent our own thru trial and error, 3) the E & I committee was unlike any other committee because we were building relationships with marginalized communities impacted by historical trauma. The other committees were project-driven and dealt with specific issues such as land use and transportation. It was necessary to explain the process in order to ensure its success. Similarly, if one were planting seeds, one would prepare the soil to give the seeds the best start.

For example, a similar thing is happening in the Natural Sciences. There is a growing awareness of the value of Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Western Science is beginning to acknowledge the value of working collaborately with Indigenous Communities. But it didn't happen overnight. Lots of work had to be done to facilitate this process before you could start to see some progress. For instance, this year the E & I Committee is to hosting an Eena Festival to introduce folks to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Finally, I need to address the Resignation Letter I sent. At the time I wrote it, we were in the middle of the pandemic. I did not fully comprehend what was happening. In hindsight, I should have filed a grievance against the two disgruntled board members who were harassing me and refusing to follow SWNI fiscal procedures. And were in fact, attempting to pressure the board to take on fiscal risk without proper scrutiny by the finance committee. So, it is ironic that the Audit allowed them to frame the narrative. I hope SWNI is given the opportunity to respond to the Audit so we can arrive at a balanced perspective in going forward.

I request that funding be restored to SWNI because S W neighborhoods are best served by our

present staff in regards to implementing the Racial Equity Policy and Equity and Diversity Best Practices for Neighborhood Associations. I have received support from the staff, in particular, Sylvia Bogert. Without her dedication and professional expertise, I doubt the E & I Committee would have come this far. Please deny ordinance 966 and allow me to continue with my equity work on behalf of the City of Portland.

Sincerely,

Laura Campos

midewiwin@juno.com