

From: [Linda Nettekoven](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 313 & 314
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 2:21:47 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio and Ryan:

I want to express my strong support for the two items before you tomorrow afternoon: Renewal of the CEID Enhanced Services District (ESD) and Authorization of the agreement for Central Eastside Together to provide services to the ESD. I do not reside, work or own property in the Central Eastside (CES). However, as a 22-year resident living on the edge of the CES and an active participant in the Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District Association (HAND), I have worked regularly with the leadership of the CEIC and continue to participate in their monthly Land Use and Urban Development Committee. I have watched the CEIC experience years of growing frustration on the part of their members seeking better ways to address problems associated with crime and safety, unhoused residents in need of supportive services, trash, graffiti and other urban challenges.

During the ESD formation process the CEIC worked closely with Council offices, particularly Commissioner Hardesty, in setting the stage for the establishment of the Central Eastside ESD after concerns were raised by some neighbors, both housed and unhoused, that the ESD would pave the way for further gentrification and the harassment and removal of unhoused neighbors.

Instead the CEID and Central Eastside Together have clearly demonstrated their commitment to assuring fair, respectful and supportive service and problem solving for all. When it comes to critical resources to address bio hazard disposal (e.g. needles), graffiti, trauma informed care, de-escalation of crises, etc., there is a need for a trained collective response that individuals living or working in the area aren't able to provide on their own.

Central Eastside Together (CET) has been providing services crucial to maintaining a thriving urban, mixed use area like the CES. However, with the recent impacts of the pandemic, the resources and connectivity of the ESD are more critical than ever as the CEID, our downtown and the entire community work to recover as quickly as possible. As one of the city's 4 largest business districts, it is crucial that the CEID be able to lend its collective support to the recovery & be able to promote their district as a great place to live, work and visit.

CEIC/ESD leaders have also demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with other service providers and to share their learnings with other business districts considering ESD formation. The Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association is one such example.

Please vote yes on Items 313 and 314.

Thank you,

Linda Nettekoven
2018 SE Ladd Ave
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From: [Joel Gunderson](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: 314 testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12:15:07 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Council Members:

The review of this funding has come at a time when the crisis in the Central Eastside has reached a fever pitch. As a single location, we have gone from accessing services provided by this funding about twice a month to one to two times a week, and actually more in the last month.

I asked my team to compile their own testimonies from calls for services over the last month. This is from 3 different people in our business.

“Yes, once a week from me too.

Needle cleanup last Friday walking to deliver @ Ecliptic.

Between behavioral check-ups, graffiti or needles/waste I'd say between once per week or 3 times/month over the past year.”

“Called last month as a couple screaming at the top of their lungs taking turns chasing each other. They were loud enough people came outside to watch/ask if she was safe. They asked them to walk away from each other and allowed the situation to settle down.”

Another responded:

“Yes, I would agree with the frequency. In the past, it was about once or twice a month. primarily for graffiti, trash removal, and witness of mental health crises. One woman in the fall of '21 was actively asking me to call someone to help her. They were quick to respond.”

And yet another:

“They picked up a handful of needles scattered uncovered on the sidewalk within the hour.

-More responsive stand-in for situations police would typically be called, or they help dispatch the right people (city team, ect).

-Security for all team seems like one of few agencies that have a grasp on the houseless community members and have built trust with some of the population.

-They were called for a naked woman across the street in the rain/cold a few weeks ago. “

To vote no on renewing the Enhanced Services District Contract would be a clear signal that the city is abandoning the Central Eastside in its moment of greatest need. At this juncture, there are no other services we can access. We are lucky to get a pick up from police dispatch on any given day, even when we are reporting criminal activity that is happening right in front of us, much less responses to threats to our team and guests. This contract truly represents our last line of defense, our last line of hope for any semblance of sanitation or safety. To vote no would not only abandon the businesses or the Central Eastside but also show that the city has turned its back on both us and the houseless population in our neighborhood.

In Good Faith,

Joel Gunderson
Operating Partner Coopers Hall

Joel Gunderson | Partner and Wine Curator



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Wine Director/Consultant

Restaurant St. Jack
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City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 20, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
313/314.1	Mark	Wells
313/314.2	Mike	Larkin
313/314.3	Debbie	Kitchin
313/314.4	Amy	Rathfelder
313/314.5	Joel	Gunderson