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20-2023

Communication

Request of Nick Christensen to address Council regarding the deficit in public services provided to residents of Portland

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication: The deficit in public services provided to residents of Portland

Agenda Items

20 Communications in [January 11, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

Requested Agenda Type

Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

January 11, 2023

From: [Nick Christensen](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Subject: Re: City Council Meeting - Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:30 a.m. Confirmation
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:53:50 AM
Attachments: [nc_citycouncil_text_011123.pdf](#)
[nc_citycouncil_011123.pdf](#)

Thank you so much for your help. Looks like the CityGuest sign in pop-up window got hidden on the laptop.

Attached is the presentation and text.

Thank you again,

Nick Christensen

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:06 PM Clerk General <councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Nick,

Please email your presentation in PDF format so we may add it to the record for your Communication. All presentation materials are shared via Zoom, but you are welcome to join the meeting in-person or remotely. If you would like to attend in-person, you may bring a laptop to Council Chambers, connect to the Zoom meeting using the link below, and share your screen when it is your turn to provide your Communication. Our team is also available to help share the presentation and advance slides on cue. Let us know if any other questions come up.

Thank you,

Council Clerk's Office

Office of the City Auditor

City of Portland | 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 130 | Portland, OR 97204

[Council Clerk's Office](#) | [Auditor's Office](#) | [View the current Council meeting agenda](#)

Traducción e Interpretación | Biên Dịch và Thông Dịch | अनुवादन तथा व्याख्या

□ 笔译服务 | Устный и письменный перевод | Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad

Письмовий і усний переклад | Traducere și interpretariat | Chiaku me Awewen Kapas

Translation and Interpretation: 503-823-3561

From: Nick Christensen <mojavenc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Clerk General <councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Re: City Council Meeting - Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:30 a.m. Confirmation

Thank you.

Regarding PowerPoint - Should I send it to you in advance or bring a laptop with me, if I come in person?

Or should I just plan on presenting it via Zoom?

Thanks

Nick Christensen

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:54 AM Council Clerk <no-reply@zoom.us> wrote:

Hi 20. Nick Christensen,

Thank you for registering for "City Council Meeting - Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:30 a.m."

Please see below for important information about participating in the meeting.

Please submit any questions to: councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov

Date Time: Jan 11, 2023 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

[Click Here to Join](#)

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Passcode: uA+RX3=8u

[Add to Calendar](#) [Add to Google Calendar](#) [Add to Yahoo Calendar](#)

Description: City Hall is open for members of the public to view and participate in hybrid Council meetings. Visit <https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda> to view the agenda and testimony order.

You can join the meeting in the following ways:

- Virtually – use the Zoom link provided above. See below for more information.
- By telephone – dial-in using the phone number and Webinar ID provided below. Enter *6 in your phone to unmute when your name is called to provide testimony.
- In-Person – visit City Hall at 1221 SW 4th Ave. Arrive early (Council Chambers open 15 minutes before the start of the meeting) and review our guidance for visiting City Hall to attend a Council meeting: <https://www.portland.gov/council-clerk/city-hall>.
- Plans change! It is not necessary to notify the Clerk or if you no longer plan to attend or would like to switch how you're joining the meeting (i.e., changing from in-person to virtual).

Guidance for participating in the meeting virtually:

- You may join the meeting up to 30 minutes early to test your connection.
- When you connect to the meeting in the Zoom application, you will join with your video off and audio muted. When it is almost your turn to provide testimony, you will receive a message in Zoom to be promoted to a Panelist. Click the "Join as Panelist" option to reconnect to the meeting as a Panelist.
- The Council Clerk will call your name when it is your turn to testify. You will have the ability to unmute yourself and the option to turn on your own video to address Council.

Testimony is 3 minutes per individual unless otherwise stated during the meeting. A timer in the meeting will count down your remaining time with an audible alert at 30 seconds remaining and again when your time is finished.

Written testimony for agenda items may be submitted to cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov. Testimony must be received before Council votes on the item to be included in the public record, unless otherwise stated during the meeting.

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: 8887880099,,87279520997# (Toll Free)

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 872 7952 0997

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kbVd1WzLsj>

Thank you,
Council Clerk's Office
Office of the City Auditor

City of Portland | 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 130 | Portland, OR 97204

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Translation and Interpretation: 503-823-3561

You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Hello, commissioners, and thank you for being here and for listening today.

I'm here to offer a view from the hinterlands, as a 14-year Lents resident, as a parent, as someone who moved to Portland because it was a city of opportunity and a city of "Yes, we can," the storied "City that works." And I'm here in hopes that you, in your final years as city bureau directors, can guide your bureau staff to break through the barriers they've developed to get Portland working again.

I get that there are a lot of moving parts in any machine as complicated as Portland city government. I'm here to ask for your attention to a few areas that are opportunities for improvement.

The first is registration for Portland Parks and Recreation activities. As you may know, parks activities now offer priority registration to certain community groups in an effort to advance equity within the parks system. The downside of that is that almost all activities are full by the time registration for the public at large begins.

In 2019, my daughter started the "Penguin" level of swim lessons at Portland Parks & Recreation. She ... didn't advance through to the next level. Since then, we've managed to get her into another round of PP&R Penguin lessons, but again, she didn't advance.

But round after round of trying to get her into the swim lessons we're paying for through the levy, and they're already full – before registration even begins.

And it's not just swim lessons. Sports camps, cooking classes, you name it – your best hope, as a parent, is to get your kid on a waitlist because the city pre-registers kids for activities and they fill up before registration begins.

A reasonable city, a city that works, might set aside *half* the slots for the general public to claw after as soon as the registration opens up, so we have a decent chance of using the programs our property tax levy is now paying for. Almost all activities are full by the time registration for the public at large begins.

Every time I try to sign my daughter up for the Penguin swim lessons that she started *before the pandemic*, the lessons are full before registration even opens.

And it's not just swim lessons. Sports camps, cooking classes, you name it – your best hope, as a parent, is to get your kid on a waitlist because the city pre-registers kids for activities and they fill up before registration begins.

A reasonable city, a city that works, might set aside *half* the slots for the general public to claw after as soon as the registration opens up, so we have a decent chance of using the programs our property tax levy is now paying for.

My second and third asks are for the Transportation Bureau (Mapps).

I walk my kid to school most mornings, a six block walk to Lent Elementary, including a treacherous walk across Harold Street. The intersection has a marked crosswalk, it's in a school zone, but drivers still blaze through at 30 mph or more, ignore the crosswalk and generally act like idiots. The other day, a driver passed me on the right, in the bike lane, in the school zone doing at least 50 mph – after he passed me I sped up to 40 to see how fast he was going, and he kept getting distance on me.

I contacted 823-SAFE and asked that they look into engineering solutions for this – I know in Portland, we don't like to think about traffic enforcement as a way to slow down cars, we just like to try to engineer every safety problem – and they said that there was literally nothing they could do to make the road safer for pedestrians.

It seemed fitting, of course. PBOT continues to try to “engineer” its way to Vision Zero, and city policy continues to shy away from using enforcement as a tool to get drivers to act more responsibly. Yet the result is more traffic, more congestion, more people driving like idiots, and, tragically, the most pedestrian deaths since 1948.

This is not emblematic of a city that works.

Parks registration isn't the only perpetual “Thank you for holding” moment one experiences here. It's been 11 months, now, since street sweepers came through

my neighborhood. I'm a little obsessive about this, perhaps because I just want the pine needles swept out of the gutters and curb cuts for my kid's walk to school, so I watch the calendar on PBOT's website to see when we're due for our sweeping. We were set in October, but then the "leaf day" schedule began, and that meant the neighborhoods that have tree canopies instead of heat islands got 2 extra street sweepings in the fall while we waited.

Our system here is comically inefficient. There's no notice to neighbors that sweeping is about to happen; no towing of abandoned cars; no temporary "no parking" signs set up on the sidewalks. If a bunch of cars are parked on the street on sweep day, two years of grime can build up on the asphalt and in the gutter before the next chance for cleaning – and then, who knows, maybe that car will still be there.

Contrast that with places like Washington D.C., with weekly street sweeping and no-parking signs, or even Las Vegas, where it doesn't rain and where they barely have trees, with twice-monthly street sweeping.

I could talk about how frustrating it is to hear about pickleball courts going into Laurelhurst when the tennis court at Lents Park resembles the cracked surface of a parched desert lake; I could talk about how the police bureau will not release any details about the shooting that took place across the street from my house a year ago. I could ask what happened to a city that took risks, looked to the future, fought hard for wins, and became a role model. A city of opportunity and hope.

All of this sums up to – you have two more years of running bureaus, leading staff – encourage your departments to do more. This is an opportunity for change. This is a pivotal moment.

Please set up our new form of city government for success – and leave each of your houses in working, even optimal order, for the health of the entire community. Make changes now that will last a generation – and help ensure that once again, we believe our mantra that we are the City that Works.

The “Whys” of the City that Works

Mysteries of 2020s Portland

Running a city is hard work

A moment for generational change



<p>EPCC - Penguin</p> <p>#149821 / Age: At least 6 but less than 18 / Openings: 0</p> <p>East Portland Indoor Pool</p> <p>January 15, 2023 to March 18, 2023 Sun 12:30 PM - 12:40 PM</p>	View fee details
<p>MDCC - Penguin</p> <p>#149822 / Age: At least 6 but less than 18 / Openings: 0</p> <p>Mt Dishman Indoor Pool</p> <p>January 14, 2023 to March 18, 2023 Sat 9:05 AM - 9:25 AM</p>	View fee details
<p>MDCC - Penguin</p> <p>#149823 / Age: At least 6 but less than 18 / Openings: 0</p> <p>Mt Dishman Indoor Pool</p> <p>January 13, 2023 to February 9, 2023 Tue,Thu 4:55 PM - 5:25 PM</p>	View fee details
<p>MSCC - Penguin</p> <p>#149824 / Age: At least 6 but less than 18 / Openings: 0</p> <p>Mt Scott Indoor Pool</p> <p>January 13, 2023 to March 18, 2023 Sat 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM</p>	View fee details
<p>MSCC - Penguin</p> <p>#149825 / Age: At least 6 but less than 18 / Openings: 0</p> <p>Mt Scott Indoor Pool</p> <p>January 13, 2023 to February 9, 2023 Tue,Thu 4:10 PM - 4:40 PM</p>	View fee details

Pending enrollment in MSCC - Penguin (# 1148992)
 Enrollment Effective Date: December 14, 2022
 Meeting Dates: From January 10, 2023 to February 9, 2023
 Each Tuesday from 4:10pm to 4:40pm
 Each Thursday from 4:10pm to 4:40pm

Location: MSCC Pool - Leisure at Mt Scott Indoor Pool
 5530 SE 72nd Ave
 Portland, OR 97206

You are 29th on the **Waiting List** for this activity.
 Custom Question(s): Q: If a community group or organization connect

Portland Parks & Recreation

Reserve slots at parks activities & lessons for the general public



We're out of engineering solutions

It's time to start writing tickets



Street sweeping

Or not



A generational moment