

From: [Miranda Wood](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 307 Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:50:43 AM

Testimony re: Agenda Item 307 Budget and Reimagine Oregon

I would urge the Council not to remove the funding designated to Reimagine Oregon early in the pandemic to address community trust and improve economic opportunities for Black Portlanders.

With the dysfunction from the pandemic and the aftermath of staffing loss and system hold-ups in delaying the provision of the promised funds--by removing them all together this would add another failure to the City of Portland's long list of promises to address racial injustice and build relationships with Black community groups. Following through is critical for moving away from broken trust towards building relationships.

Reimagine Oregon hasn't been able to implement its plans because of delays by the City and should not be further penalized. Give the organization the chance to push forward with the full funding originally allocated to implement their plans instead of reallocating money that has no designated plan yet. Community trust and building the Black business community is worth that and is an area of great need in Portland.

Thank you,
Miranda Wood

From: [Justice Rajee](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:32:51 PM

Commissioner Ryan,

Your decision to support Commissioner Mapps's 2nd amendment to the Spring Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) is a breach of trust and reversal of the city's commitment to work in partnership to invest in the Black Community. This action brings into question this city council's promise and commitment to view our community based organizations (CBOs) and groups that compose our city as viable partners to impact the issues they are closest to and most affected by. This decision shows the city's stated [equity goals & strategies](#) have no value to you, or are only important when it suits your designs.

The resources you have voted to reallocate were created **for the city to work in partnership with Reimagine Oregon to expand economic opportunity, wealth creation, and restorative justice through a community-led process.** The **process** being a critical, irreplaceable part of the effort to undo decades of anti-black decision-making, and use what we learned to inform future council budget processes. Your decision flies in opposition to all six of the city's stated [equity goals & strategies](#), tears asunder the agreement you and council made in January of this year, and has sown uncertainty about this city council's commitments to partner with the community in any arena.

I am calling on you to reconsider your decision and keep the commitment to move the unspent allocated resources to Prosper Portland. Keep your commitment to ongoing Cannabis Tax allocations to allow a true city and community partnership to deliver tangible outcomes and lessons for a better council budget process in the future. Despite the events and choices expressed on April 12, 2023, you have the opportunity to right this proposed wrong before harm is done to the community you purport to serve. Leaders who reflect upon their choices, notice when they have made an error, and remediate that mistake are the leaders that residents will support and follow. Leaders that do not honor obligations, and operate against the best interests of already disenfranchised constituents, are seldom enduring.

Act now and keep your word.

Sincerely,

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Justice Rajee Director - Reimagine Oregon Project Urban League of Portland phone: 503.752.0409 fax: 503.281.2612 10 N Russell St Portland, OR 97227 Book a meeting: https://doodle.com/bp/justicerajee/meet-with-justice-rajee-director-reimagine-oregon</p> |
|---|--|

Reimagine Oregon

[TopWorkPlaces2022](#)



From: [christine borden](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:15:28 PM

I am a Portland resident and I'm outraged that the city is threatening to rescind their commitment to Reimagine Oregon.

I have read the letter from Justice Rajee and I agree wholeheartedly.
I echo these demands of the city:

Keep and honor your commitment to move \$4.8m to Prosper Portland to continue the work with Reimagine Oregon.

Keep and honor your commitment to **partner** with Reimagine Oregon to expand economic opportunity, via the ongoing Cannabis Tax allocation following the envisioned process.

Be the inclusive city we claim to be.

C. Borden
Portland

From: [Dustin Kight](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP - Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:41:50 PM

Faith in local government is about as low as it can get right now, which is why it's even more important than usual for the council to keep its promises, including the one made years ago now to send cannabis tax dollars to Reimagine Oregon.

Had the city followed through on its commitment to do just that in a timely manner, certain council members wouldn't even have a chance to keep holding onto this money, breaking yet another promise made to Portland's Black community in particular. Just because the money is technically in city hands doesn't mean it's still the city's money. It was earmarked. It was promised.

The travesty to address is why it's taken so long for the city to disburse these funds to Reimagine Oregon in the first place.

I join others in the community requesting that council members:

* Keep and honor your commitment to move \$4.8m to Prosper Portland to continue the work with Reimagine Oregon.

* Keep and honor your commitment to partner with Reimagine Oregon to expand economic opportunity, via the ongoing Cannabis Tax allocation following the envisioned process.

Sincerely,

Dustin Kight
Burlingame, Portland

From: blake.goud
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Items #307 - Spring BMP - Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:11:21 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Mapps, Gonzalez, Ryan and Rubio:

I am distressed by the recent unfair and misleading statements justifying the vote by 3 commissioners to retract funding from Reimagine Oregon.

The situation seems clearly to be one where failures by the City of Portland to provide the money it had allocated held up the use of that funding for its intended purpose (OPB, "[Portland City Council plans to retract funding promised to spur Black economic resilience](#)", April 18, 2023).

When the funding was allocated, it was merely a down payment on making up for the current harms caused by Portland and Oregon's racist history. And taking that money back on such flimsy rationale is a bait-and-switch.

Lurge you to return to remove the proposed cut from the budget, to reiterate the City's commitment of funding to Reimagine Oregon.

The disingenuous arguments Council members employed to justify retracting it casts them and the city in a negative light when it was the city that dropped the ball in this case.

Sincerely,
Blake Goud
Portland resident

From: [Candace Avalos](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item 307
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:30:40 PM

I'll keep this short and simple: do NOT defund Reimagine Oregon. You know exactly why I'm demanding this.

Candace

Sent from my Google Pixel 3

From: [Jonathan Greenwood](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:49:12 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my disgust with Portland's leadership. Rescinding \$4.89 promised to Reimagine Oregon that would help communities of color is a terrible, backwards decision. You are pitting precarious communities against each other by doing this, and you know it. It is an insult. Black Portlanders deserve this money to go where it was promised. If funded, the money given to Reimagine Oregon would expand economic opportunities, wealth creation, and restorative justice through a community-led process for black Portlanders. The cannabis funds were intended to go toward targeting economic prosperity in communities of color. Heed this call and give Reimagine Oregon the funding it deserves.

Thank you,
Jonathan Greenwood
7517 N Curtis Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

From: [Mike Farrell](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:55:14 PM

I am writing in opposition to the amendment to rescinding \$4.89M earmarked for Reimagine Oregon. This money was budgeted and committed to Reimagine Oregon to invest in the Black Community. To take this money back is a breach of trust. It is simply the city deciding that the Black Community is not worth the commitment. This move simply shows that the City Government cannot be trusted. It also shows that the City Council is not interested in the people of this city.

This move is being made without due process. In January Commission Ryan agreed that Reimagine Oregon should have this money. Now he and the council are changing their minds without a clear reason or explanation. It seems that this move is designed to make sure Reimagine Oregon fails. Their failure will be used as a future excuse why not to try other projects like this. Though the reason for failure is because the city decided to pull funding and make sure the project fails.

This shows a complete lack of commitment or curiosity in solving our City's problems in a unique way. It reeks of disdain for the Black Community of this city.

thank you
Mike Farrell

From: [Steve B](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon - Honor the city's commitment to Black community organizations
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:23:51 PM

Honor the city's commitment to Black community organizations, please fully fund Reimagine Oregon as the City of Portland promised to do.

It's the right thing to do. It's the responsible thing to do. It should be only the beginning of the city's funding of Black community organizations.

Sincerely,
Steve Bozzone
NE Portland

From: [Ashley Schofield](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Gonzalez Office](#)
Subject: Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:42:43 PM

Dear Portland City Council Members,

I am writing to express support for the Portland City Council to keep and honor their commitment to move \$4.8m to Prosper Portland to continue the work with Reimagine Oregon. Additionally, Portland leadership needs to keep and honor the commitment to partner with Reimagine Oregon to expand economic opportunity, via the ongoing Cannabis Tax allocation following the envisioned process.

The proposed budget amendment is a breach of trust and stepping away from the city's commitment to partner with Reimagine Oregon to invest in the Black community. The money was promised to the Black community to expand economic opportunities, wealth creation, and restorative justice through a community-led process. Please keep this promise as it is important for our city's healing and transformation process with the Black Portland community.

Thank you,
Ashley Schofield
mom, homeowner, community volunteer

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Ashley Schofield
Pronouns: she/them
413-374-5666
4821 SW Seymour Court, Portland Or 97221

"There is truth in action"

As a reminder, the Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.

From: [Kali Thorne Ladd](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Item #307 Bump
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:59:20 AM

From: Kali Thorne Ladd
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:05 AM
To: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov.
Subject: Item #307 Bump

Dear City Council,

Children in our community are in peril. This is manifesting in a myriad of ways.

Research shows that the stress of families has an adverse impact on child stability and thriving. Economic instability is a huge contributing factor to family stress. As we know, in the long dark history of Oregon and Portland, economic inequity still persists for communities of color. The disproportionate impact of policing on the Black community, in particular, has also contributed to this inequity. Both the racial wealth and income gap in Portland is well-researched and documented.

As such, it stands to reason that the City of Portland had this in mind when it reached out to Reimagine Oregon in 2020 to look at solutions to addressing this gap. My hope is that the intent was not only to help stabilize economic growth, but also families which has the net impact of laying a stronger foundation for Portland's future: Our children.

My work and purpose is around ensuring our children succeed. I would hope this is something all of Portland cares deeply about. It is clear that Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Rubio through their vote last week sees this to be true. The success of our children is tied up in all of our success.

However, generational poverty and persistent financial instability has a detrimental impact on their ability to thrive and succeed. Intentional investment in business and economic opportunity within the Black community has the potential to change this. It has the ability to fortify the future for children and families. This is clearly a step in the right direction.

I love and believe in Portland. Further more, I love and believe in children. I know that this type of intentionality around shared economic prosperity is exactly what is needed for Portland to build back better *and* support the success of our future generations. I hope you will appeal the decision made last week and do the right thing for all.

Respectfully yours,

Kali

Kali Thorne Ladd (She/Hers)

Chief Executive Officer

Children's Institute

503.219.9034, main | 971.346.2654 direct/text

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From: [Jesse Weeg](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Subject Line : Council Item #307 - Spring BMP -Reimagine Oregon
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:05:01 AM

Good morning!

I'm sending this email to speak on the City Budget Amendments and the decision to pull money away from Black community groups and stepping back from partner Reimagine Oregon. With just a few years out from the largest racial reckoning our country has seen in decades, I'm worried that we are falling back into the same failed solutions and going back on our commitments to the Black community and marginalized communities as a whole. We need to step boldly into a future where all of us are at the table, rather than slinking back to what we've always done.

We must invest in those who have historically been put on the sidelines in Portland. We need to keep our commitment to move \$4.8m to Prosper Portland to continue the work with Reimagine Oregon and continue this partnership that can bring us into a brighter future.

Thank you,
Jesse Weeg
Woodstock

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 12, 2023 2:00 p.m.

| Agenda No. | First Name | Last Name |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 292-01 | Marcus | Mundy |
| 292-02 | Justice | Rajee |
| 292-03 | Sandy | Chung |

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:30 a.m.

| Agenda No. | First Name | Last Name |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 307-01 | Justice | Rajee |
| 307-02 | Marcus | Mundy |