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322-2023

Communication

Request of Capt. Peter Wilcox to address Council regarding activating the waterways

Placed on File
A brief description of Communication: Activating the waterways

Agenda Items

322 Communications in [April 26, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

Requested Agenda Type
Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date
April 26, 2023

From: [R. Peter Wilcox](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:37:49 AM
Attachments: [FFCCTestimony4.26.23.pdf](#)

Thank you for putting my testimony into the record.

R. Peter Wilcox
173 NE Bridgeton Road Slip 5
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503.490.5407

GREETINGS MAYOR, COMMISSIONERS AND FELLOW PORTLAND CITIZENS.

MY NAME IS PETER WILCOX. I AM RETIRED FROM A NUMBER OF FORMER ROLES, INCLUDING 4 TERM PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER, AFFORDABLE HOUSING ARCHITECT/DEVELOPER, AND BOTH HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY. BUT I AM NOT RETIRED FROM CARING DEEPLY ABOUT OUR ONCE BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN AND OUR TWO EXTRAORDINARY RIVERS!

I AM HERE TO BRIEFLY TALK ABOUT ECONOMICALLY RE-REVITALIZING DOWNTOWN BY LEVERAGING ITS MOST BEAUTIFUL AND FORGOTTEN NATURAL ASSET.

OUR ONCE CELEBRATED DOWNTOWN AND FORWARD THINKING TRANSIT REPUTATION ARE BOTH IN SHREDS. AS IS MOST PORTLANDER'S ENTHUSIASM FOR COMING DOWNTOWN.

WHAT IS LIKELY YOUR AND OUR LAST CHANCE TO ACQUIRE PORTLAND'S 1ST EVER SHARE OF FEDERAL 10:1 WATER TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IS ARRIVING IN JUNE! YOU HAVE ON YOUR MENU A RIDICULOUSLY LOW COST - COMPARED TO ROAD AND RAIL CONSTRUCTION - HIGHLY POPULAR RIVER TRANSIT PILOT PROJECT THAT IS SHOVEL READY, WITH ALL REQUIRED STUDIES FULLY COMPLETED, AND FUNDING ESSENTIALLY GUARANTEED - THAT NEEDS ONLY A COUPLE OF RELATIVELY SMALL STEPS, AND YOUR PLEDGE OF JUST OVER 2 MILLION BUCKS AS EVIDENCE OF YOUR GENUINE SUPPORT. DO THESE THINGS, AND *THE FIRST COMMUTER FERRY WILL BE ON THE RIVER IN 2025!*

STARTING WITH A PILOT PROJECT FERRY FOR TRANSIT-STARVED ST. JOHNS TO & FROM LOWER DOWNTOWN, AN ELECTRIC PASSENGER FERRY SYSTEM FEEDING SOUTH FROM OREGON CITY AND NORTH FROM VANCOUVER WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ROAD CONGESTION AND EMISSIONS, PROVIDE NEEDED CONNECTIVITY IN THE EVENT OF A SUBDUCTION QUAKE, GET MORE PORTLANDER'S OUT OF THEIR CARS AND ONTO OUR RIVERS, HELP ONE OF PORTLAND'S MOST DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS OVERCOME ITS EXCEEDINGLY SLOW TRANSIT RIDES AND, *MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW: PROVIDE A VISIBLE AND RIDEABLE CATALYST TO HELP DOWNTOWN RECAPTURE ITS FORMER MAGNETISM.*

IT WOULD ALSO SHOW PORTLANDER'S THAT IT'S ELECTED LEADERS CAN ADDRESS BOTH SERIOUS CURRENT PROBLEMS AND AT THE SAME TIME ENVISION AND CREATE A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR OUR ONCE BELOVED AND ACCLAIMED DOWNTOWN.

THANK YOU,

CAPT. PETER WILCOX
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