



March 6, 2024 Council Agenda

5755
1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 2500, Portland, OR 97201

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Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:30 am

Session Status: Recessed

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez
Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Meeting convened at 9:56 a.m.
Commissioner Mapps presided.

Officers in attendance: Beth Woodard, Deputy City Attorney; Keelan McClymont, Council Clerk

The Consent Agenda was adopted on a Y-5 roll call.

Council recessed at 11:20 a.m.

Communications

196

[Request of Albert Kaufman to address Council regarding gas-powered leaf blowers](#) (Communication)

Document number: 196-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

197

[Request of David Binnig to address Council regarding safer infrastructure on bike routes](#) (Communication)

Document number: 197-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

198

[Request of Sarah Hobbs to address Council regarding follow-up care with naloxone pilot program](#) (Communication)

Document number: 198-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

199

[Request of Erica Montgomery to address Council regarding ceasefire](#) (Communication)

Document number: 199-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

Emma Colburn and Jolene Lopez presented to Council for agenda item 199.

200

[Request of Mario Mastrangelo to address Council regarding responsibility for snow and ice removal](#)
(Communication)

Document number: 200-2024

Disposition: Placed on File

Time Certain

201

[Proclaim March 11, 2024 to be the 10th Anniversary of Steven Byess as Music Director of Portland Columbia Symphony](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 201-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 20 minutes

Disposition: Placed on File

Consent Agenda

202

[*Assign certain program functions to Commissioners-in-Charge in anticipation of the future service area realignment to support transition to the mayor-council form of government](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191645

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

203

[*Pay property damage claim of Rebecca Johnson for \\$27,715 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Bureau of Transportation \(Emergency Ordinance\)](#)

Document number: 191646

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services; Risk Management

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

204

[*Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between Portland State University, Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services, Child Welfare Partnership Training Unit and the Portland Children's Levy through June 30, 2027 \(Emergency Ordinance\)](#)

Document number: 191647

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Bureau: Children's Levy

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

205

[Amend participating agreement with Invoice Cloud, Inc., for paperless billing processing fees to extend term for two years and increase funds in the amount of \\$1,200,000 \(amend Contract 30005056\) \(Ordinance\)](#)

Document number: 191652

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Water

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading March 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Agenda

206

[Proclaim March 11, 2024 to be National 311 Day](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 206-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Time requested: 20 minutes

207

[Accept bid of Brown Contracting, Inc. for the SE 155th Ave and Main St/Millmain Dr Local Improvement District for \\$1,586,024 \(Procurement Report - Bid 00002246; C-10071\)](#) (Report)

Document number: 207-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services

Time requested: 10 minutes

Disposition: Accepted - Prepare Contract

Motion to accept the report: Moved by Gonzalez and seconded by Wheeler. (Y-5)

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

208

[*Pay settlement of Robert Gleason bodily injury lawsuit for \\$60,000 involving the Portland Bureau of Transportation](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191648

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Bureau: Management and Finance; Revenue and Financial Services; Risk Management

Time requested: 15 minutes

Disposition: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

209

[Amend Public Art Code to establish public monuments policy and review criteria \(amend Code Chapter 5.74\)](#)

(Ordinance)

Document number: 191649

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Second reading agenda item 195

Disposition: Passed As Amended

Votes: Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: Adjourned

Council in Attendance: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Commissioner Mapps presided.

Officers in attendance: Adrienne DelCotto, Deputy City Attorney; Rebecca Dobert, Acting Council Clerk

Council recessed at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened at 4:11 p.m.

Council adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Time Certain

210

[Add Leaf Blowers Code to phase out the use of gasoline leaf blowers to reduce public health impacts \(add Code Chapter 8.80\)](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191653

Introduced by: Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Bureau: Planning and Sustainability (BPS)

Time certain: 2:00 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes

Written record is closed. [View written testimony in Map App.](#)

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading March 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

211

[Authorize the rates and charges for water and water-related services beginning July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and fix an effective date](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191657

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Water

Time certain: 3:30 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (1 of 2)

Disposition: Passed to second reading as amended

Motion to amend Ordinance to include pages 2 through 16: Moved by Mapps and seconded by Rubio. (Y-4)

Passed to second reading as amended March 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

212

[Revise sewer and stormwater rates, charges and fees in accordance with the FY 2024-25 Budget](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191658

Introduced by: Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau: Environmental Services

Time certain: 3:30 pm

Time requested: 90 minutes (2 of 2)

Disposition: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading March 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List

March 6, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Mingus Mapps	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Chi-Chao Chen	President, Kaohsiung Sister City Association	Pre-gavel
Rachel Burlington	Rose Curator, International Rose Test Garden	Pre-gavel
Chido Dhlwayo	International Relations Director, Government Relations	Pre-gavel
Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Keelan McClymont	Council Clerk	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Beth Woodard	Deputy City Attorney	
David Binnig	Communication	197
Sarah Hobbs	Communication	198
Emma Colburn	Communication	199
Jolene Lopez	Communication	199
Kevin Irving	Executive Director Portland Columbia Symphony	201
Ann van Bever	PCSO Board President & Orchestra Member/English Horn	201
Michelle, Kunec-North	311 Program Manager	206
Kathleen Brenes-Morua	Interim Chief Procurement Officer	207
Anne Milligan	Senior Deputy Attorney	208
Sanga (Demetria) Mbaklene (Hester)	(Testimony)	208

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
 March 6, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Mingus Mapps	Commissioner	
Rebecca Dobert	Acting Council Clerk	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Adrienne DelCotto	Deputy City Attorney	
Vivian Satterfield	Chief Sustainability Officer	210
Sonrisa Cooper	Project Manager	210
John Wasiutynski	Multnomah County Sustainability Office Director	210
Mauricio Flores	Oregon Landscape Contractors Association	210
Michael Hall	Quiet Clean PDX	210
Michael Harrison	OHSU	210
Stanley Penkin	(Testimony)	210
Brian Stewart	(Testimony)	210
Wade Lange	(Testimony)	210
Tamara Olcott	(Testimony)	210
Matt Villers	(Testimony)	210
Sandy Polishuk	(Testimony)	210
Albert Kaufman	(Testimony)	210
Alicia Cohen	(Testimony)	210
Charles Wolsborn	(Testimony)	210
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Nolan Wenker	(Testimony)	210
Jim Myers	(Testimony)	210
Jessica Stolzberg	(Testimony)	210
Erika Magill	(Testimony)	210
Jill Bellenger	(Testimony)	210

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

March 6, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

This file was produced through the closed captioning process for the televised city Council broadcast and should not be considered a verbatim transcript. The official vote counts, motions, and names of speakers are included in the official minutes.

Speaker: I'll be serving as presiding officer. Basically, traffic cop this morning. But before we kick off our morning session, I believe we have a, pre gavel presentation. And why don't I hand the floor over to commissioner Ryan to introduce this important item?

Speaker: Thank you, president Mapps, I appreciate that. Good morning. And thank you for joining us for this very special pre gavel presentation, a couple of weeks ago last month, I led a delegation with our Portland couch sister city association. And just let me tell you that kaohsiung kaohsiung takes their international relationships very seriously. And it really showed. Our delegation was met with warmth, with kindness and utmost respect. From the moment we landed in taiwan until the moment we departed. Until the moment we actually arrived in Portland, it felt like it just was a was all the way through kaohsiung, taiwan. If you don't know, it's a very beautiful city. It's carefully planned for families and children to live and play. It's also the largest city in southern taiwan, its population. What's our population?

Speaker: Seven.

Speaker: It's about 7 million. Two point. Yeah, 2.7. 2.8 million. Around 3 million in the area.

Speaker: Yeah. It's a very large city and really has a global presence. We're taken by so many things and our guests will tell you more about it. But the grass line,

street car circuit provides heat relief and wastewater management. There are countless numbers of parks next to schools, and they offer so much fun and engagement and all of their urban design has been so mindful of families. So when they do an urban design, there's always a play element to it. So there wasn't a place we went where we didn't see multi generations being together, playing together, and that was something that I know we want for our city as well. And their streets were definitely crowded with outdoor events. Art is a priority of course. It was in the middle of the lantern festival towards the end of the lunar new year celebration, so we were also there at a very festive time. We saw very. The people were what was special and I want you to hear more about this trip. And so it's my honor to introduce chai chao chen. He's the honorable president of the Portland kaohsiung sister city association and the organizer and keeper of all the tickets. The itineraries, you really herded the cats very well. We just always did whatever she told us to do. And for the most part, we were on time. I might have gotten the tardy award. Shocking but it was really great that you just kept us on task. Well, and I also want to add, before you speak, that the group that went was very multicultural, multigenerational, and it felt really good. There was no one was leading by ego. We were really one team and we were there to be with and in relationship with our host in kaohsiung and then in taipei. She. Good morning. It's great to see you. Since you came back a week after me, you're probably feeling like I did last Wednesday, which was really foggy.

Speaker: And the jet lag.

Speaker: Yeah. So anyway, welcome. So good to have you here. And I know that we have some slides as well. And you'll introduce the guest.

Speaker: Yeah. My name is shihao chen. I'm the president of the Portland coalition, sister city association. And, it's, I'm gracious to be invited here to give you

a trip report of this incredible, goodwill delegation. Visit the coalition and taipei, for the duration from, from February 16th to 24th. Realities. So we spent about six days in taiwan and, pca is, sponsored the dragon boat race and also responsible for bringing the current eight beautiful dragon boats we brought all the way from, kaohsiung, taiwan. As a matter of fact, this table was actually the second generation. He already retired for the 25 years, 20, 25 years of service of the first generation boats, and including the one that you guys probably seeing permanent permanently displayed on the, the east wall of the convention center that was donated by culture and city governments to and, for nearly 30 years, Portland has enjoyed a sister city relationship with cultural and taiwan, since 1988. The sisterhood relationship treaty was signed by late mayor bart clark and mayor sun chen of the cultural cities, this year, for the first time since 2009 of, of, then mayor sam adams lead a delegation to visit cultural for almost 15 years waiting. We were thrilled to have, a elected official representative from the city of Portland. Commissioner Ryan, join us on this very special annual sister, sister city, goodwill visits to kaohsiung, yeah, we were there. The entire delegation was led by commissioner Ryan from member from, city hall official and, rose the team from rose festival, including the including the mayor, deja fitzwater, queen of the 2023 rose festival and, and several, member of from the Portland coalition, sister city association. Asian travel from Portland to cultural for their annual lunar festival year of celebrations. Okay, as a commissioner, Ryan said, we will. We've been received from the moment we arrive in the, the high speed rail station. They were greeting us from the city official was was there particularly and, and till the moment that we left, they're waving their hand, towards us, the, at the, at the station's platform. That was very, warm welcome all the way for the four days visit there. And then the, the speaker count of the, of the council and the and the deputy

mayor, lowell was actually spent a lot of time, I tell you, it makes a whole world of difference. When we when we packed with the, the city elected city official, in this case, the commissioner Ryan, is be with us. We certainly see the difference between the past visit and this year's visit. And, speaker collins especially put me on the side, say, hey, you guys are special friends to us, okay? We always been the largest contingent of the of the delegation among all the sister cities of visit council. And during that, one week and lantern festival celebration at and, by being the largest, we receive most of the, most of the media's attention. Most of the picture taken and of course, all this, you know, banquets and so forth, you know, food. They obviously they, they claim they offer the best chinese gourmet foods over there. But obviously we have a lot of things that we observe over there and, and would like to bring it back and report to the council in terms of the, the lessons learned and things that are like, like commissioner Ryan. Sorry, sorry, indicated an and, we visit, during during the, the four days trips in kaohsiung. We also visited the suzhou high school, where they hosted a special, you know, assembly showcasing the talents of their students. Some of them, some of those students will be here in Portland June to participate our annual rose festival, grand floral parade. And, and i'll tell you, the, after commissioner Ryan gave a very inspirational speech to the student after was both commissioner and the and queen. Asia has this I call it the, taylor swift moment. Okay. Was mobbed by a whole bunch of screaming students. You know, grabbing, taking selfies and group photos, and then, you know, you know, that was incredible. Yeah, that was really incredible. That tells them that. Tell us. Yeah. The student were very, like to see us pain in the visit, even though we do that every years. But I'm telling you, with the queen of the rose festival and community there certainly make a whole lot of difference. And we also have the opportunity to visit, some of some of the, you know, deep sea ocean fishery group,

for lonesome, conglomerate. They also have the Oregon connection. They open up the fully automated, fish processing plant in Astoria, Oregon. They obviously invite us to visit, pay them a visit during the Rose Festival. You know, period. And, I'd like to elaborate a little bit on the transformation, of course, in the past two, two decades. Yeah, the commission has transferred from, from a heavy, you know, chemical, petroleum, industrial city into a very green and I call it the, very infrastructure smart city, during this past two decades, you know, personally, I have that experience because I tell you, I was the, a ROTC officer. I have my three months, three month, so-called bootcamp training. Right? In one of the cities we visit is called Camp Camp Wei Wu Wei, Wu Ying, and then what I remember back to that was about 44 years ago, I was a new army recruit, after my three months training there, I was dying to have the wish. The drill sergeant gave me a few minutes break, so I can take a breath on the shadow of the cluster of the, the banyan tree. Now, 44 years later, I visited the same place, and then the, the banyan trees class is still there, but I see no so-called the individual combat training values there anymore. I don't see the, you know, the rifle target shooting ranges anymore, I see, is a beautiful state of the art spaceship like a white structure housing an opera house, housing a music hall housing a performance art theater. I'm telling those of the state of our desire. Water wall, acoustic material and those bright, bright, shining brass pipe organs. And you see the effort that you can feel, the effort that Coulson has made in the past ten in the duration of the past 10 or 20 years, like you mentioned, from the grass lined, street cart, to a rotating and stretching pedestrian bridge, cultural offers, countless events and family friendly infrastructures to improve the life of their citizens, they seem to, you know, we've been to the nine market, we've been to the, even the department store. They seem to offer a common theme of the traditional family value. And they are

promoting from the very beginning the parents and child's relationship. I can sense that certainly make us kind of a dig deep and thinking. And I would like to think about the contract between us and them and, so that's, that's kind of, the, the observation of I'd like to bring back to the, to the city in terms of what we observed overall, overall in culture. I, we spend our last two days, the visit the capital city of taipei, which is the, the which is more than the capital capital city of taiwan and also the political and the infrastructure center of the nation island. And I'm pleased to announce the history has been made during this google trips combination with the combination yea. Ryan. And delegation, we conducted our first visit official visit between the city of Portland and city of taipei and by visits there, taipei city governments and as far as the city hall and the was warmly welcomed by the deputy mayor, wang and, the council speaker, mr. Taishi ching, and the common message from them, other than to give us the, give us the extreme welcome, the common message or the questions they asked us. I know you guys come to yourself and, well, why? What took you so long to finally pay us a visit? I'm telling you, I certainly take the vantage, after 15 years waiting, finally, you take the vantage of commissioner Ryan's being with us, and this, this major milestone to kind of break the ice between between the city of Portland and city of taipei and, establishing this relationship is one of the most important pacific rim neighbors. Has the potential for the cultural and economic partnership. Our city has overlaps important industries such as flowers, taipei has been a proudly has been the award. They call it the war floral. The expo back in 2010 and 2011, the last about a year. So they have a whole bunch of flower flower garden. There are, city flower is eroded engines. And they certainly have done their homework on Portland when we visited, in between the deputy mayor and the speaker and speaker thai they mentioned about our, the fully aware of what our city of roses they are, we have

our, you know, election of the, queen of the rose area. They know about our nba team, trailblazers in the. They also know that trailblazer is not doing too hot this year to be. So. One of the things that I observed and, so establishing relationship is, with, with taipei is certainly was the message I want to bring back. As a matter of fact, after we concluded the visit of the, this delegation visit, a few of us stayed put in taipei for a few days. We got a special invitation by the deputy mayor. So long you took us to her office for a short 30 minutes visit during the visit, she kind of sincerely indicated that she liked to see this newly formed relationship to take into the next level. She said, she anticipated the, for the future dialog between our mayor and mayor Wheeler and their mayor, mr. Zhang, wang, yang, to have a father, conversation or exchange and, and she said, well, you you have a Portland has have, roses, we got rhododendrons and, that seems to be the common ground that we be able to initiate, initiate the visit between the two cities, maybe not this year. Certainly we anticipate the next year something happens. And so this is the thing that I would like to the message I would like to bring back to, to the City Council. Lastly, you know, before I conclude my, my trip report, I'd like to introduce, my two fellow delegation members, rachel burlington from the international rose test garden and chido dao of the city hall international relationships office, to give us a brief remarks about their observation and impressions of this, particular taiwanese visit. Thank you. Yeah

Speaker: I'll go ahead, i'll try to be brief. Although it's hard to be in such a rich trip, my name is rachel burlington, thank you, council, for hearing us. Thank you. Commissioner Ryan, for representing us at this delegation trip. My name is rachel burlington, curator of the international rose test garden. I got connected to the sister city association through our bed dedication program at the rose garden. Yaoshan is the sixth of our sister cities to have a bed dedicated along the

promenade. And this is how I know cheeto, because, we work together in that program. So it's been great to know her through that. And through this delegation, again, I'm honored to represent the council, excuse me. Represent the city of Portland, for this delegation trip, three quick impressions, the first one is everyone was so warm. Everyone was so friendly and willing to share their experience in local government. And I think what was wonderful is they were equally as, curious about Portland. So I feel like mutual curiosity towards each other is our foundation for strong relationships. So that was one thing that stuck out to me, my second observation, yea. Ryan, I want to echo what commissioner Ryan said. I work in vibrant communities, and I was really impressed on how they, planned for their climate resiliency. They were planting trees, mature trees that were climate adaptive and also withstand the monsoon season. And the highlight kind of nerdy, but the highlight was seeing all that green grass in between the rail lines. Zhoushan is a tropical climate and they have their concentration of rainfall 3 to 4 months of the of the year. So a lot of rainfall. So it's really cool to be reminded that we can be creative in how we, we, plan for our cities and our environmental conditions. And then lastly, we went to taipei with the city of rhododendron, just like she said. I had no idea they had such, a comprehensive, amazing rose garden. And they're blooming in March, so they're a little bit earlier than we are. And they also developed a comprehensive guide to showcase where you can view flowers throughout the city. So this is just a wonderful example of how to create excitement in your local community and also encourage tourism. So I just want to say thank you again for letting me represent the city of Portland. And I hope I did the city proud, you sure did.

Speaker: I want to pause here. I noticed that the mayor has his hand up. Mr. Mayor, do you have a announcement or statement you want to make, just just a

brief comment. Thank you for the presentation, commissioner Ryan. Thank you for representing us, I'm very, very glad that you went and did that, I just want to tell people I'm not blowing off our sister city partnerships, I will be honest with you. For the last several years, we've been under various states of emergency, and I have not found it necessary. Cully, the right time for me to reconnect with our sister cities overseas. There's a lot going on here, so I support the idea. First of all, of other commissioners going and representing our city at these events. I know that culturally, they are very, very important, particularly with our asian partners, but not exclusively, I am hopeful that towards the end of my time, i'll have more of an opportunity to reconnect the mayor's office with some of our sister cities. But I didn't want you to think I was not taking the charge seriously. I am, we've just had significant priorities here at home that have required my attention, thank you, mr. Mayor. And I believe we have one more speaker today. So why don't we hear from, our third speaker and then, we will resume our day. Welcome

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner, and good morning, mayor. Commissioners, my name is chido delhoyo, and I have the utmost privilege of managing the sister, the sister cities program. But beyond that, being the international relations, manager for the city of Portland, it truly was a pleasure, joining, she as part of this delegation, as well as having the commissioner, lead this delegation on, you know, I must admit, I have a soft spot for sister cities prior to working for the city of Portland, I volunteered for one, and so I have a great respect for Portlanders who, like myself, have a connection to not just Portland, but have deep roots to, other cities around the world as well. And so seeing that, emulated through our sister city, associations and particularly, the Portland zhoushan sister city association is, is truly wonderful, this was my second visit to zhoushan. I last went in 2018. And echoing what she and rachel and I'm sure commissioner Ryan has, mentioned

zhoushan and taiwan has truly, gone through, transfer station in the last decade. Just in the last five years alone, the city that I went back to looked very different. And in particular, their light rail system, which, early this year, had been expanded and reopened and we had the opportunity to take a tour, on that, and so i, I would like to obviously keep it short, but, you know, I do want to of course, highlight that, you know, kaohsiung is one of nine sister city associations that I manage. And you'll have the pleasure of perhaps seeing chie again in the next few months. At this June, as our sister cities will provide a report to council as part of their annual required reports on their programmatic activities. On you know what they have been up to this past year and plans for the future this year. We happen to have a few other milestones, that we are recognizing from our other associations, which includes sapporo, japan, as well as bologna, italy. And so I look forward to engaging with all your offices and, helping to welcome inbound delegations that we will be receiving, as well as possible, trip engagement opportunities coming up before the end of the year. So thank you very much. Great.

Speaker: Thank you very much, commissioner Ryan, i'll hand the floor back to you to round us out.

Speaker: Thank you. I just wanted to acknowledge, you, kai and rachel and chido. It was an honor to be with all of you, you covered everything so well. I wanted to end with one thing that I recall that both kaohsiung and in taipei, they had a video about what their government does. It was this really smart, elegant brief of overview of how to engage with city services. And as we go through our transformation, and we all know one of our biggest quests right now is to improve on customer service and improve on the delivery of services. I just thought it was a really smart, why haven't we thought of that? And so i'll just lift that one up. And again, thank you, chief, for keeping us all on time and making sure that we were

always appropriate and, in the gifting exchanges especially. And I look at you because you had to bring an extra suitcase, just for all of that. And yours got there a little bit late, like half of us had late arrivals, but we all survived and we ate the best food in my entire life. So you are right about the food. Chai all right. Thank you so much for being here.

Speaker: Great. So come to the commissioner and mayors. This year, towards the next year. Okay. For sure. I'll do the same thing.

Speaker: And finally, I want to acknowledge jill swayed from my team who played a big role as well. So let's give the kaohsiung sister city association a round of applause for.

Speaker: Thank you very much.

Speaker: My mushrooms.

Speaker: My next mission.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you very much, commissioner Ryan, for organizing this. And we do very much appreciate hearing from our sister city and with that, this is the March six, 2024 morning session of the Portland City Council, good morning.

Keelan, please call the roll. Good morning.

Speaker: Yea. Rubio here, Ryan. Here. Gonzales here. Mapps. Here. Wheeler. Okay.

Speaker: He signals with his hand.

Speaker: There. I am here. And now i'll turn it over to legal counsel for the rules of order and decorum.

Speaker: Good morning. Welcome to Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually. You must sign up in advance on the council agenda at [Portland.gov/council/agenda](https://portland.gov/council/agenda). Information on engaging with City Council can be found on the council clerk's web page. The presiding officer preserves order and decorum during City Council meetings. The presiding officer determines

determines the length of testimony. Individuals generally have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated. A timer will indicate when your time is done. Disruptive conduct such as shouting, refusing to conclude your testimony when your time is up or interrupting others testimony or council deliberations will not be allowed. If you cause a disruption, a warning will be given. Further disruption will result in ejection from the meeting. Anyone who fails to leave once ejected is subject to arrest for trespass. Additionally, counsel may take a short recess and reconvene virtually. Your testimony today should address the matter being considered when testifying, state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. Disclose if you are a lobbyist. If you are representing an organization, please identify it. For testifiers joining virtually, please unmute yourself. Once the council clerk calls your name. Thank you.

Speaker: Great. Thank you. First up is communications item 196.

Speaker: Please request of albert kaufman to address council regarding gas powered leaf blowers. They canceled their request.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you very much, item 197, please request of david bennett to address council regarding safer infrastructure on bike routes. Welcome, david.

Speaker: Good morning, mayor and commissioners. I'm david binnig. I'm a board member of bike loud pdx, but I'm here only to represent myself today, as as, as as they said, I'm here to talk about how to make our streets safer while also making better use of bureau time and resources. I'll start with a place that I know, I bike to work for years across i-84. I biked over i-84 this morning to take my daughter to preschool, so I know that that area. Well, last fall, pbot installed concrete barriers on northeast 21st over i-84 to separate drivers from the bike lanes. It's a good change. Makes it safer, more comfortable. Pbot installed those barriers after a crash last summer. A driver crossed into the bike lane, hit a woman head on, threw

her into the air and bloodied her face on the sidewalk and kept driving. That crash was able to happen because the bike lanes were only separated from head on traffic by plastic posts. Some of those posts are already missing because they had been hit by previous drivers. I brought one of those posts with me today, but security very understandably asked that I leave it outside, in 2021, two years before the crash, I wrote to pbot staff because I could see that the plastic posts separating me from head on traffic on those bridges kept getting hit and replaced, sometimes three four times in the same spot. And I asked if we should reconsider the kind of protection being used given that people kept driving over them after the crash. Last year, I made a records request to find out how often posts had been replaced. Just on the northeast 21st and 28th bridges, it was multiple times a year, often ten posts at a time, at least 130 new posts within that five year period. Just on those two bridges, we knew that people kept driving over the posts into the bike lanes, and we kept just putting the posts back up. The same thing happens at other places in the city. On 122nd, on cully, on hawthorne viaduct. I only know the routes that I use. I don't know every other spot in the city that has the same problem, but pbot has maintenance records of at least some of the places where those posts have been replaced, where we know they aren't doing the job of keeping drivers out of the lane. So I would ask, instead of sending crews out over and over to replace the same posts, why not have a rule have a trigger that when we replace plastic posts two, three, some number of times in the same location, that's a sign that we need more permanent infrastructure before someone gets hit. One final note I think the city has sometimes been too quick to say that things are out of our hands, that what we really need is a change in culture, or a change at odot, or change from someone else. When I asked about those bridges in 2021, I was told that pbot had limited options because odot wouldn't allow anything anchored into the road

surface. After people got hit, pbot found a solution. A few weeks ago, mayor Wheeler asked, asked a good question. He asked, why aren't we using speed humps to slow down dangerous roads, and then then answered that odot jurisdiction would prevent that. But if you ask odot, which I have, they'll tell you it's a city of Portland rule that we just don't allow speed humps on most of our major roads, regardless of the jurisdiction. People keep dying in crashes on Portland streets. 15 so far this year. Infrastructure isn't the only reason for that, but it's the factor that's most fully the city's responsibility, most directly under the city's control. And we still aren't doing as much as we can. Thank you, thank you. David, before you leave, i, I want to say a couple of things. First, I'm the commissioner in charge of pbot. So ultimately, I'm the administrator who has responsible for policies and, how we implement them. I want to thank you for coming to testify about the importance of, bike safety and infrastructure culture, I appreciate your analysis around, relatively lightweight interventions to protect, bike riders, things like plastic post versus, heavier barriers, i'll actually take a look at that. I have jackson over here, who's on my team and facilitates, who facilitates a lot of our pbot work. So we'll do that, and if you leave your contact information, i'll make sure. Well, you and jackson can talk, or I hope that you and jackson can talk, before you leave the building today, we can make sure that we can close out this conversation. So. And, again, thanks for being here. And, we invite you back anytime you want to share some perspectives on how to make the city better. Thank you, thank you. And next, still on communications? I think we have 198 sarah hobbs. Welcome, sarah.

Speaker: Request of sarah hobbs to address council regarding follow up care with naloxone. Pilot program, for the. For the record, my name is sarah hobbs, and my concern is not with the use of narcan. It's a concern I have about the suboxone pilot project, where majority of the people who will need the care through the project,

the way it was explained to the public, is if they are willing, they're taking the central city concern, you know, they get the initial injection of suboxone to help with that initial narcan withdrawal. Then they're taking the central city concern to be given a prescription. They can take it home. Was there any consideration that home for a lot of those people is a doorway or a tent? The fact that they are extremely transient because because of the situation, they find themselves in, what was not made clear to me is who's going to do the follow up? How is that follow up going to be documented? How is the follow up going to be done with an unhoused person who could be swept out of the location where they were initially contact and now how do you find out where they've ended up to put people back into the desperate situation, let me back up a lot of unhealth people I know have dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. I agree, every life is important. Every life is worth saving. No argument on that point, but my concern is you can't keep putting people in desperate situations who many may be self-medicating with mental illness and the stress of their homelessness back into the situation that's dressing them and causing them to use in the first place. And that's my concern. Not not that I'm saying the program shouldn't be done, but I've heard it. Nothing about follow up. How's that going to happen? How's it going to happen if the person that's volunteered has fallen off the radar and I am out of time? Thank you sarah.

Speaker: Thank you for your testimony. And, sarah, before you go, I see that commissioner Gonzalez has his hand up. Commissioner Gonzalez. Sure, sir.

Speaker: Thanks for the testimony.

Speaker: Just to give you some stats, I get a daily update on our buprenorphine pilot, yesterday, we had 27 aftercare contacts so that means after initial administration of buprenorphine, or detox or narcan, either chat or Portland street response has a follow up contact with the recipients that's exclusively on the streets

of Portland. So there are extensive efforts to follow up. It is a transient population. It is extremely difficult, population to track. But, in some respects, we're the first city in the country, to do the follow up distribution of buprenorphine on the streets and not being entirely dependent on a clinical location. So there's been a lot of effort given to the follow up care. It is a tough population to do. It with, as a part of the 90 day emergency. We are evaluating it, accelerating transportation options for those, and just by way of background, when Portland street response or chat intervenes with someone on our streets, if we can connect them with shelter, they'll often be given a taxi voucher to shelter. That's still we're still running into barriers because it's a heavily service resistant population, and when narcan has been administered, the last thing they want is a ride to the emergency room or a shelter. Often they unfortunately want another blue pill. And so it's a tough one for us right now. How to figure out that connection to the next rung in the services, so we're looking at offering more direct transportation. There are some, liability issues associated with it, but we're playing that through right now. The at times the taxi voucher has been successful, but we'd like to see, higher rates of success in the next, next step in treatment and support. But there are extensive efforts going on here for the aftercare. There's an extensive thought given to it, and we're tracking metrics on it to see how it how it evolves.

Speaker: And I appreciate what you've said because I've been coming to City Council meetings since sam adams was the mayor. And communication on the part of City Council sometimes creates people like me come and going, what is going on? Because because I'm like, oh, okay, commissioner, with what you've just said, you've answered my concerns. Had this communication been put out to the public beforehand, I wouldn't be here today. Fair enough. All right.

Speaker: Thank you. Sarah thank you so much for coming in today, next still on communications, we have item 199, request of erica montgomery to address council regarding cease fire. Is erica in person or online?

Speaker: Erica is online.

Speaker: Hi. Good morning, I'm. Don't start my three minutes yet because I am yielding my time, to a, jolene lopez and emma coburn. Dan, you are tiny in that chair. That's hilarious.

Speaker: You. Do you want. Okay.

Speaker: Every day life in Portland is not separate from the horrible realities unfolding in palestine. Whether we look at trans global organizations with significant operations in both locations, such as intel data centers in hillsboro and haifa, or consider the flows of people and products there is no meaningful distinction between over here and over there. Their silence at this time is not neutrality but tacit endorsement of us support for israel's bombing and ground invasion of gaza and broader colonial agenda in palestine. Settler colonial strategies are not new to us. We stand together against genocide of indigenous peoples now or then, here or there. Take a stand by signing a resolution for permanent ceasefire in gaza and making diplomatic efforts towards lasting palestinian liberation. We are also here today to read excerpts of an open letter signed by over 100 community members and sent to your five offices yesterday to dissent, settler agendas in our own backyard, including the policy amendment, which we heard last Wednesday, is the first step to replacing the toppled five monuments.

Speaker: All right. So we write to reiterate the concerns expressed to City Council during the public comment portion of Wednesday, 228 2020 4:02 p.m. Session regarding policy 5.74.085 public monuments review criteria and the potential reinstallation of controversial monuments one. Do not put the toppled five back up

without having a transparent community engagement process. Two do not vote through this or any public policy on public monuments without engaging a transparent mechanism for hearing from diverse publics. As residents deeply invested in the well-being and equitable representation of all members of our community, we urge you to consider the implications that resurrecting figurative statuary to settler culture will have on the indigenous communities who live in and pass through our city, replacing the toppled five risk perpetuating a narrative that disregards the lived experiences and perspectives of indigenous peoples. As a city that prides itself on its commitment to culture and equity, we cannot overlook the harm and ignorance that reinstating these statues may end. Immortalize to the detriment of all people who reside in or pass through Portland. Please instead, convene 1 to 4 transparent listening sessions with diverse, community based groups centering bipoc communities and allies with follow up so that participants can track how their participation impacts policy. The transparent means we want to see who you are talking to and when by actively engaging with marginalized communities and centering their voices in decision making processes, we can work towards a more just, inclusive and pertinent society for all such transparency, such transparency will help to humanize the diversity of perspectives Portlanders hold about monuments. Naming the individuals and organizations engaged in as an important part of what mayor willard mentioned. In closing last Monday's afternoon session, the mayor spoke evocatively about the need to ensure that Portland's monuments and what to do with them do not further divide the city. The council's role is to create a container where all the voices that make up Portland can come to the table and be heard. We must trust in the process of the philosophy of democracy, which states that the best ideas get polished through dissent. City Council must not shy away from the differences in perspectives. Rather, the

council must create an equitable structure where all voices are heard at the same table. Thank you for considering this this perspective. As you define yours and preparation to vote on this policy amendment today in the council session, we look forward to seeing our city continue to prioritize, prioritize the well-being and representation of all its residents.

Speaker: Thank you for that testimony. Before you step away, commissioner Ryan has his hand up. Sure, thank you for being here. We will address the concerns that you mentioned at the item when it comes up later in the meeting. Today's vote is about policy that we didn't have. It's not about decisions on putting back any monuments. That restorative process has an engagement process. And you can read about it and hear about it. It's in the policy that we stated, but also the actions taking place. And my lead staff are on the steering. Jones is in the in the room and they're spending many, many hours making sure that it's an inclusive process. So we did hear about it last week. Let me finish. That's something we do here is let people one at a time, we have a process that's going on. There is a fake website out there and a lot of misinformation. So it's just what we deal with when you do leadership in 2024. So thanks for being here. And we will address the item later this in the meeting.

Speaker: So I also just wanted to say that this is an art, exhibit that jeffrey gibson did at the art museum where they invited anyone from the community. It was a beautiful exhibit to stand on the where the to replace the monument. This is our canoe family. Seven waters canoe family. Just wanted to show the beautiful exhibit and just how that brought the whole community together. And we would just like to have that same, with the process of thank you.

Speaker: And I didn't mean to talk over you. I just wanted the chance to respond because we were in the room last Wednesday when we were had the first read of

the policy amendment document, and we heard from your office via your colleague darian jones, that those monuments were already slated, at least three of them to be replaced. And so that's why we're here today, because there has not been a transparent policy or policy review process to talk to community about the replacement. And we understand that there are people, our fellow Portlanders, on the other side of this issue, who want them replaced, and that is their right to have that opinion. The point that we're making is that it is your job as City Council to create a container as the mayor spoke eloquently about last week, where all of our voices are heard at the same table so that the full spectrum of people who want them replaced and people who removed them through a community healing process in 2020 for reason and purpose can come together and sit at the same table and have an engagement strategy where all voices are heard. Thank you. We, we do need to move on.

Speaker: Yeah, but yes, we will have that restorative process. The keyword is restorative, not replacement. Yeah.

Speaker: Thank folks. I, I appreciate this conversation. We have some other folks who, hope to talk. Can we hear I think our last communications item is item 200. Can we, call that one request of mario monster angelo to address council regarding responsibility for snow and ice removal. Mario, is mario in person or online?

Speaker: They were scheduled to be in person.

Speaker: Yeah, mario. Is mario in the room? I think I'm going. I think mario is not here today.

Speaker: I invite mario to, reach out to us. I'll also say, commissioner in charge of pbot. So if your ice mario, if your ice and snow concerns deal with, roads or sidewalks, you might just want to reach out directly to me with at my office. Mingus Mapps. And we'll try to, spark this conversation. Well, colleagues, I think that

completes communications for the day. When did we go to our first time? Certain. Why is there a land acknowledgment, item number 201 Keelan. Could we please read that one? Proclaim March 11th, 2024 to be the 10th anniversary of stephen bias as music director of Portland columbia symphony. Great. Thank you very much, commissioner Ryan, I believe this one is co-sponsored by you. And, the marriage. We have a guest. Oh. Great. Excellent. Welcome. Come on up.

Speaker: Yeah, well, thank you, council president Mapps, it's my pleasure to introduce kevin irving, the executive director of the Portland columbia symphony. Kevin is here to give testimony supporting this proclamation honoring the ten year anniversary of music director stephen bias. Kevin, welcome. And also an welcome to the dais. The floor is yours.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, mayor Wheeler. Commissioner Rubio, Mapps gonzales, and commissioner Ryan, thank you for giving us this opportunity to address you this morning. As commissioner Ryan said, I am the executive director of the Portland columbia symphony. As someone who previously held the position of artistic leader of a different arts nonprofit here in the rose city, I believe I can speak to the very specific challenges that stephen bias has brilliantly met. As music director of pcso for ten seasons. This is the reason we are here today and why we are grateful for your attention. Unfortunately, mr. Bias himself is not able to join us live due to his conducting schedule, but he is watching virtually great. So the position of music director requires an enormous investment on the part of the person in that role. He or she must be responsive to the audience, mindful of the board's wishes and objectives bound by some not insignificant budgetary parameters, be the leading edge and the driver of the organization's mission. Writ large, and must also be able to nurture the talent under his or her care. In other words, a music director has to answer to very many constituents a situation you all

might be familiar with, to do all that and to still have an artistic point of view, a motivating rationale for all decisions is the mark of a great leader. And Portland, columbia symphony has been so fortunate to have stephen bias as its artistic leader for the past ten years, maestro bias has spoken passionately about his personal experience. At the age of six of being introduced to a professional orchestra while on a class trip, which he described as an electric jolt into his young self. He has said that this moment in his early childhood planted a seed that took many years to flower. This experience, I think, is the template for how he has shaped the platform he has here at pcso. His abiding mission is to illuminate the glorious and rich rewards of the live music experience for the outsider or the uninitiated, what I think is particularly noteworthy is the smoothie smoothly charming way that stephen has in connecting ideas, insights and facts regarding repertory selection to folks in the concert hall. I know from direct observation how this has impacted audiences from gresham and troutdale in east Multnomah County to the folks in beaverton. Just think how many seeds of music appreciation stephen bias has planted over the past ten years. Now, pcso is not a large organization, but our impact on the greater arts ecosystem should not be overlooked. What our community gains from the long tenure of someone with maestro bias talents reverberates beyond any one concert, or even a series or a season of concerts. In some, the state and status of our fine orchestra is an excellent testament to mr. Bias formidable skills and leadership. I am happy that I can stand in front of you all today to assert that we, as a community, can be grateful to count stephen bias as one of our community's most treasured assets. Thank you. And I turn the floor to our board president, anne van bever.

Speaker: Good morning. I'm anne van beaver, and I'm currently serving as president of the board of Portland columbia symphony orchestra. My husband,

peter, and I have been active supporters of many arts organizations in Portland, serving on boards and giving money to at least nine performing arts groups, mostly in the areas of music and dance. We believe in the power of music to transform people, and we strongly support arts education as a way of nurturing, well-rounded and open minded youth. I'm also a musician myself, and I know from personal experience the value of the gift of music in my life. One of the groups that I care most passionately about is Portland columbia symphony, an organization I have been actively engaged with for more than 25 years. Although the cso has been around for more than 40 years, it is not as well known as it deserves to be. One of the aims of my time on the board has been to get the message out to the larger community that we have a warm and welcoming experience to share with everyone. I'm here today on behalf of the board of directors, musicians, staff and audience of the Portland columbia symphony to bring the city's attention to our outstanding music director, stephen bias, who is celebrating his 10th season with cso. Stephen has served the musical community of this area in many ways during his tenure. I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of his contributions. First and foremost, he has elevated the professionalism and musical quality of the cso to a very high level. We are proud of the performances we are able to offer to audiences in Portland, gresham and beaverton. Also, stephen has a way with words. His remarks from the podium are designed to inform and welcome our audience, and to enrich the music that the orchestra performs. Audiences invariably tell us how his insights help them get more out of each concert. Stephen has also reached out to young people and to audience audiences who may not. Excuse me, have been given the opportunity to hear classical orchestral music he creates ways for all ages and backgrounds to access the music and feel a part of the cultural tradition of the symphony orchestra. The mission of the Portland columbia symphony is to

cultivate and champion a diverse community of musicians and audiences. One way that Stephen has helped bring that to life is by highlighting music, by living and local composers, by showcasing women and underrepresented communities and by inviting all kinds of listeners to discover and appreciate a broader range of orchestral music. Excuse me, Stephen Bias inspires us at every rehearsal, every concert, and every board meeting to do our very best to create one of the most important cultural institutions in the area, the Portland Columbia Symphony. We are grateful to him for his dedication and hard work and we thank the council and the mayor for helping us celebrate him on March 11th. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share Stephen with the entire community by giving him this well-deserved honor, colleagues, before is at the end of the presentation. That is. Well, actually, before you go, I just have a couple of words I want to say, first, I want to thank you so much for joining us today, and I also want to turn to my colleagues and say this, you know, I'm delighted to join you in celebrating Maestro Stephen Baez's 10th anniversary as music director for Portland Columbia Symphony, Maestro Tobias has been described as, quote, a dynamic and passionate conductor, masterful and brilliant and a passionate advocate for the arts. Bias is known for his distinguished musicianship and innovative programming, and today, in addition to thinking, Mr. Bias for his service to our community, I also want to take a moment to recognize and thank the Portland Columbia Symphony, the Portland Columbia Symphony. We heard about a little bit today, but for those of you who are not familiar with this, bedrock organization was founded back in 1982 and has emerged as a staple of Multnomah County's art scene. Now, every year, the symphony brings together 62 musicians. Who perform classical music and conduct educational events for the Portland metro area, I am told that Portland, Columbia Symphony concerts are affordable, comfortable, and welcoming, this symphony has two

concert series, I believe, coming up this spring. If I have that right here, we do. Oh, well, here, actually, instead of me. Can you tell us about them? I think we have one coming up on March 16th and 17th. What's that one about March 16th and 17th.

Speaker: The concert is called in the realm of nature, inspired by the natural world around us and this is one of a best examples of maestro biases approach to how he curates as an artist music related to themes that resonate with our community, specifically here in the pacific northwest, to also connect the work of beethoven. One of his most beloved works is the pastorale, the symphony number six, but with a new work written by American composer sarah grafe based on or inspired by the yocona preserve out near newport. So you know the connection of tradition with innovation and taking the idea of what a symphony is, and trying to make it more responsive to the community is brilliantly realized in this program. We're at the reasor in beaverton on the 16th and at gresham high school on March 17th, and then i'll just keep going. Yeah

Speaker: Keep going.

Speaker: May 5th through may 4th and fifth. We are celebrating the latino community, with a program called adelante, adelante voices of the future, and that will help us unite with the bravo program. I don't know if you're familiar with bravo, bravo. Youth orchestras is based on el sistema, which is a way of connect ing, under under-resourced youth with music. And we connect with them on a regular basis and send our artists to work with them. And some of their musicians will be joining the professional orchestra on stage on on the fourth. We're at first united methodist church here in goose hollow, and on the fifth, we're back at gresham high school again. It's a program of all, latin and latina focused composers, including local composer freddy vilchez, who has written a latin American suite utilizing a plethora of percussion instruments from all over south America.

Speaker: Oh my gosh. Well, I want to encourage all Portlanders to attend those concerts, and I want to encourage all Portlanders to join this council in thanking maestro stephen byas for his decade of service to the Portland arts community. And I see my colleagues, have some thoughts they want to share, too. So why don't we go to commissioner Rubio?

Speaker: Thank you, I would love to recognize maestro baez for his music and especially for his passion for music education, he instills in all those who come into contact with him. And from what I've learned about, in his work, a devotion to promoting lifelong love and enthusiasm for music and arts, and it's been said that if you don't see the change to be the change right. And in that way, the maestro has become, a huge advocate for classical works composed by women and members of the bipoc and lgbtq communities. And whether he's waving his baton in front of a captivated audience at carnegie hall, or 88 million fans at the super bowl like he did in 2000, or the 60 plus members of the Portland columbia symphony. Maestro bias is an arts champion of the highest order, so we're so incredibly lucky to have him as a part of our community and for all he's done and for our city and for the arts, we say, bravo, maestro.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner Rubio. Commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: I just want to thank commissioner Ryan for allowing us to recognize stephen for his contributions to our city. The Portland columbia symphony orchestra is just one piece of our city's extensive, impressive arts and music scene, an essential part to revitalize and reigniting our city. I am continuously impressed by the amount of people committed to keeping music and the arts, as a central piece of our city's story, our city's identity, and just to keep it plain, stephen, stewardship of this program has inspired so many, introducing countless people to the magic of the arts and truly enriching the lives of the symphony and orchestra

performers and attendees. Thank you, stephen, for your work these ten years. We are grateful for all you do to enrich our community. We are a better city for your contributions and here's to another ten years of contribution. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner gonzales. And I see the mayor has his hand up, although he's muted.

Speaker: There we go.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you colleagues, today we're honoring a truly remarkable milestone in Portland's cultural landscape. Congratulations to maestro stephen bias on his 10th anniversary. He's the leader of the Portland columbia symphony orchestra. As, you have all noted, stephen's dedication extends well beyond the concert hall. His work has made classical music more approachable and inclusive, reaching out to youth in diverse communities, enriching our city's cultural tapestry. His commitment to featuring works by underrepresented artists is also key to the work that he does, and it's highly commendable and I know at some point commissioner Ryan will read most of the proclamation, so i'll turn it over to him. Okay.

Speaker: Thank you so much, mayor. Thank you. Kevin you sure know how to plug and play when you get the podium to talk about upcoming performances. That was really persuasive. And, anne, thank you so much for your volunteer leadership. And now to the honoree, stephen bias. I hope you are enjoying this playback. And thank you for sharing your gift of classical music with this community. We're really fortunate that you've been in Portland for ten years, and your youth, and definitely connecting with youth across country. I knew about you when I was doing it. Research about the connection between arts and education for math and science. There's so much good research on that, but you've really done an excellent job of pairing the connection between music education and then excelling in math and

fostering, and basically an inclusive space. When you come to your, concerts. I always said serious music leaders can't take themselves too seriously, or the door will not open to new generations. So thank you for walking that talk. The city is very grateful for your creative spirit, your dedication to service, and for just being you. So here's the proclamation. Whereas Stephen Bias is celebrating 10th season of music direction in Portland, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, whereas over these ten seasons he has elevated the performance of this orchestra, enhancing the quality and making it into a great orchestra it is today. And whereas Stephen has tirelessly worked with the orchestra to bring classical music of the highest caliber to audiences in Portland, Beaverton, Gresham and whereas Stephen, through his remarks from the stage, has sought to welcome audiences, offer them an entree into the pieces performed enrich their understanding and enjoyment of classical music and whereas Stephen has, through his community outreach to youth and other organizations in the greater Portland area, introduced classical music to a broader audience, demographic and made it more accessible to all through targeted performing, programming, and ticket donations. And whereas Stephen has made it his personal mission to enrich the community through performances of classical music, both composed by and featuring underrepresented female BIPOC, LGBTQIA, two plus and musicians. And whereas Stephen Bias has been an inspirational leader to the Portland, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, administrators and board, as well as the organization as a whole, now, now, now I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the City of Roses do hereby proclaim March 11th, 2024 to be the 10th anniversary of Stephen Bias as music director of the Portland Columbia Symphony in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.

Speaker: Okay, great.

Speaker: Thank you so much. Thank you, mr. Mayor. Commissioner Ryan, for bringing this item forward. And I want to thank our guests for being here today, next, can we go to the consent agenda? Keelan have any items been pulled? No all right, let's vote on the consent agenda and first. But before we do vote, I want to extend my apologies to staff who have been waiting for this vote. I probably should have read this a little bit earlier in the day, we appreciate you, but let's, vote on this so you can get on with the rest of your workday. Yea. Rubio I Ryan, I Gonzalez i, I mueller.

Speaker: Hi.

Speaker: And the consent agenda passes, great. Thank you so much colleagues. Next we will go to item 2.06, which is also a proclamation yea. Ryan. Proclaim.

Speaker: March 11th, 2024 to be national 311 day.

Speaker: Thank you very much, mr. Mayor. Do you want to kick us off on this one?

Speaker: Yeah, I have a pretty minimal role on this one. This item is presentation is going to be done by michelle kunig north. The 311 program manager. Welcome, michelle, and thanks for all the great work you do. Thank you.

Speaker: Welcome, michelle.

Speaker: Thank you, I have a presentation I'd like to share as well, so i'll get that running. Okay. All right, good morning. My name is michelle kunik north. I'm the 311 program manager, and I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the incredible 311 team here with you today. I want to thank council for. And the mayor for recognizing 311 as a valuable asset to the community and for providing the vision and support that's gotten this program off the ground. March 11th serves as an annual opportunity to highlight the significance of 311 programs as a resource for communities across the country, who are trying to connect with their city, county, and local non-emergency services nationally, 311 systems exist in many

metropolitan areas boston, san francisco, denver, and now here in Portland. These programs all have varied services, but really kind of core to their operations is a simple, easy to remember number three, one, one, that you can call and use as a first point of contact for your local government. So we're excited to encourage community members here today to call 311 for quick and easy access to both your city and county government. And I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of our customer service representatives. They're really kind of that first point of contact, that that friendly voice you'll be talking to when you call our center. Our vision as a 311 program is that community members can easily and effectively access their local government, its information, and the services and programs it provides, regardless of language ability or resources. And we, we were created as a program by council in 2019, we really started with our first year fiscal year 2020, 2021, after a two year collaborative planning process that engaged both partners across the city and county and community members, the program formally launched to the community in 2022. And over the past three and a half years, we've been really focused on expanding our services and staff, thanks to council's support for a multi-year implementation plan, we, are now, kind of in a continuous state of operation, continuing to expand and continuing to outreach to the community to let them know we're here. So today, 311 provides community members with multiple ways to contact us. You can call us by phone using three, one, one, or our ten digit number 503 823 4000 711 through the Oregon relay service. You can also email us or visit us online at the city's website. We're here seven days a week from 7 a.m. To 8 p.m, and we do have staff who speak many languages and can bring on interpretation services if community members choose to speak a language. Other than english. We have a team of 26 friendly and knowledgeable customer service representatives who are here to provide, a wide

variety of community needs, they're really the backbone and the most valuable asset we have. And over, over these past few years, we've really expanded the services that we offer. So I just want to let you know, community members can call 311 for a wide variety of needs to report common concerns. Graffiti noise, abandoned vehicles, to report maintenance issues in parks or on roads, to understand parking rules downtown, on, or even for help if they've moved and need to identify their electrical, gas or trash providers. We're also now the centralized point of contact for ada accommodation requests and discrimination reports, and this critical work helps ensure fair and equitable access to our government and the services it provides. We also just want to point out that community members can often call 311 instead of the public safety non-emergency line. So that's 82333333 to report many common non-emergency issues abandoned vehicles, graffiti, campsites, noise, tree hazards, or even if they have questions on how to report a crime online and calling us helps ensure that the call takers over at boec, the bureau of emergency communications, can focus on 911 calls. We get over a thousand calls transferred from the non-emergency line every month, and thousands more of folks who call us directly. We're also working to position 311 to better support the community. Our public works bureaus, and first responders in emergencies. So just as an example, we took over, 300 calls in one day during the ice storm related to tree hazards alone. And so by us taking those calls, we're able to help other bureaus really focus on the critical work of getting out there and getting our city running again. In addition, 311 is leading city wide initiatives to modernize our digital customer service, working closely with partners across the city and with the bureau of technology services. To replace trakit, the city's current web form tool, with a comprehensive suite of customer service management tools. This work is making it easier for community members to report

issues, request services, and apply for programs online. And it's also giving bureaus the back end tools they need to efficiently route, prioritize, and respond to reports and requests. This is resulting in better, more comprehend, live and centralized information that can help our city work more efficiently. And you can see this work in the city's new report, a campsite report trash report, graffiti forms, as well as the forms that allow community members to request an ada accommodation or assistance from a city street outreach worker, or even to apply for the downtown business incentive. As a result of expanding our staff hours and services, 311 assisted the community over 168,000 times in 2023. That's more than double the amount of contacts the former information and referral program handled in the year before we started nearly all calls. So 85 to 90% are answered in 25 seconds or less by a real person, and 311 is now able to help community members when they first contact us more and more. So last year, two thirds of folks were assisted on that first contact. And these are just metrics that we're using to try to measure our impact. But what matters most is our team's ability to serve as a trusted resource for community members. So I just want to call out this comment here at the bottom. We received from a community member, lisa, one of our staff members was kind, respectful, and listened to what I had to say, which is so important. I really appreciate her very much. Over the next year, we're going to continue working to expand our services, helping the transition team to support community members as we go through the changes coming to Portland's government, working with new City Council offices to help them support community members, launching new forms to report maintenance issues in parks and on roads, apply for temporary street use permits and more. And supporting response to urgent right of way issues by integrating with our partners in maintenance operations, dispatch team. And finally, we've been working really hard to get word out to Portlanders and

residents of Multnomah County, to let them know that 311 is here and ready for them, that includes dozens of community events, from Sunday parkways to good in the hood to día de los muertos. Advertising via trimet univision, spotify and local newspapers and on social media. Public service announcements in partnership with 911 with kgw, k2 and fox. And then we often mail out materials. You can actually request them online. If you're a community member who's looking to share information with your networks, whether that's a community based organization, a school, a church group, or even your local hoa. So I want to thank council for declaring 311 national 311 day. Sorry March 11th national 311 day in Portland. And for your ongoing support of this program. And I want to take this opportunity to encourage all community members to call or email 311 if you have any questions or trying to access your city government. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: And before you go, I see some of my colleagues have their hands up. Commissioner Gonzalez. Please take the floor, thank you. And I want to thank the mayor for allowing us to recognize all the hard work. That's 311. Does connecting residents to resources every day in our city. As commissioner who oversees boec, the regional operator of 911 and non-emergency calls, my Monday morning ritual is to review call volume, wait times and dispatch times for our residents and emergency responders. Essential to managing 911 volume is a well functioning 311 system connecting residents with the help they need. When I was evaluating boec metrics, a key objective I have is what? Not only to bring down 911. Wait time, but also for non-emergency last summer, boec implemented an automated phone line to process non-emergency calls so that call takers could focus on 911. The true, life threatening emergencies is what we found was a large percentage of our residents were calling the non-emergency number 8233333 were actually trying to connect with core city services offered through 311, roughly a third of that non-emergency

volume. So thank you for all your team is doing to offer outstanding customer service to Portlanders, reporting infrastructure improvement needs, trash cleanups, graffiti reports, and potential hazards before they become emergency. I appreciate all the hard work of you and your team connecting Portlanders to answers and solutions to their problems and alleviating the emergency system, looking forward to continuing hearing about the great things 311 does and happy to recognize your team today. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: And we consider boec a critical partner. So appreciate your comments, commissioner Ryan, thank you.

Speaker: Council president Mapps michelle, it's so good to see you. Thanks for being here. Before I say, a couple prepared remarks because it's exciting to have you here for this proclamation. Your slides were amazing, there was the one that showed basically the volume of calls. And then you showed when it peaked during the storm, each week seemed to have a lower number. So I'm, I don't want to assume so. Is that is that a weekend? Is that a Sunday or, during the storm? Yeah, we do, we are open seven days a week, but we do see lower call volumes on the weekends. Okay. So most of the consistent drops were on a weekend, correct? Okay. And then what about time of day? I know that you go to is it 8:00 you said.

Speaker: Yep. 7 a.m. To 8 p.m. Is there, what what patterns are you noticing about volume during the day, we do tend to see, higher volume during kind of traditional business hours, particularly early morning and during lunch. We, we do get a lot of a traditional kind of lunch time, we get a lot of calls, but adding the evening hours, has that been helpful then? Yes, we certainly continue to see calls, through the evening, right up until 8 p.m.

Speaker: Yeah.

Speaker: When I was, when we were expanding it, I heard so many people, first of all, compliment 311. It's like when they found out 311 exists. It was a game changer for them. And they said when you when you added the hours, that was really helpful when we gave you resources to add the hours rather, okay. So when people send in emails to you after hours, are those processed then early in the morning, yes, we do have people monitoring our email until 8 p.m, and then it picks up again at 7 a.m. The next morning. Great, great.

Speaker: So I just want to say that this really does feel a great need in our city. It's called customer service. I know I've talked a lot lately about how we have to keep improving our customer service and the delivery of services, and really, I think 311 is, models the behavior that a lot of our bureaus want to keep improving upon. What you hear from a lot of Portlanders is they just are so frustrated that they aren't heard or seen because they can't get through to anyone. So 311 is really filling that void. So just thank you to all of your staff. All 26. Is that correct?

Speaker: We have 30, 26 who provide customer service.

Speaker: Okay. So all of them, all of them, beyond the 26 who were on the phones, I assume, for all of the work that they do, I would just say that you really are changing, how people are seeing Portland's customer service and so we really are dependent upon you. And it was so great to hear the dialog between you and commissioner, commissioner gonzales and I just want to say happy three on one day. How convenient that you have a holiday that's basically on the calendar. Oh, right. Yeah. Thank you so much, thank you, commissioner Ryan. And I see the mayor has his hand up. Mr. Mayor.

Speaker: Yeah. And, I just want to also underscore something. I want to again, thank 311. And I want to thank them for continue food innovation, there's something really cool that happened just a couple of weeks ago. They launched the

street outreach request form where people can call for, for, it's also available to unsheltered or homeless community members to self refer themselves. But what it basically does is immediately connects people with the city street outreach workers. And so it gives us an opportunity to connect people and offer navigation support with housing and other needs. And this this is something fairly new that that has just been undertaken by three one, one, but I most certainly wanted to acknowledge that before we got to the proclamation.

Speaker: Great. Thank you, mr. Mayor, commissioner Rubio, thank you.

Speaker: I want to thank mayor Wheeler and the dedicated team at 301 for lifting up this important program today, proclaiming this day is an important and easy way to remember about this service and invite citizens to be the eyes and ears and caring partner to the city. And these three but little vitally important digits. Three, one, one and can connect you to your local government and elected officials from reporting basic issues to reaching any of us in our offices. And that's that's important for the public to have that access, I also want to commend the 311 staff and system for their ability to help those who may not speak english and many of the call takers are bilingual and speak spanish, japanese, romanian and tagalog, and also, if there's, other needs for outside languages, that 312 helps connect to these populations. And that's again critically important. So, I just want to say again, thank you to the team. And thanks for all the hard but necessary work to build the strong scaffolding and foundation for the program and for your dedicated service, and continued expansion of this critical work. Thank well, thank you, commissioner Rubio, for those comments, I also, want to underscore and share all the praise that my colleagues have heaped upon, 311 for the vital services that they offer our city, about a year and three months ago, I used to have a be the commissioner in charge of emergency communications. I so I am keenly aware of the important role that

311 plays and helping get, helping Portlanders access the critical services that they need when they need it. You guys are doing a great job. I also have to say, I've been around, I working in government, here in Portland for long enough that I have seen the evolution from information and referral to the amazing program, that 301 is today. I'm so proud of what you folks have been able to accomplish. And today I have the great honor of reading this proclamation, so i'll read most of it. The mayor will, chime in at the end and I believe, read the last paragraph or so. So let me start with this. Whereas national 311 day occurring on March 11th, serves as an annual reminder highlighting the significance of 311 as a resource for communities nationwide to connect with their city, county and non-emergent services. And whereas Portland City Council recognized community members deserve easy and effective access to city and county information services regardless of language, ability or resources. And whereas the creation of pdx 311 and its launch in 2022, empowered community members to contact their government to get accurate answers quickly and easily, and feel confident that their needs and voices are being heard and considered and whereas pdx 311 has expanded the variety of customer service it provides, so community members only have to call one number to ask a question, report a problem or request a service. And whereas community members can call 311 to help assist with a variety of needs and concerns from reporting a tree hazard and connecting with elected officials to requesting assistance from a city outreach worker. And whereas the 311 system helps ease pressure on the 911 system by providing a single non-emergency number for community members in Multnomah County. And whereas pdx 311 serves as the central intake point for request related to the Americans with disabilities act, ensuring access and compliance with federal regulations concerning access and discrimination reports. And whereas pdx 311 has markedly enhanced the community's access to city

services and programs by offering assistance by phone or email and in person at the Portland building and extending operational hours to seven days a week from 7 a.m. To 7 p.m. And whereas as a result of improved access and expanded services, pd 311 assisted nearly 170,000 community members in 2023, a 24% increase over 2022. And whereas the ongoing efforts of pdx 311 have improved workflows for city staff by streamlining requested processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and collecting comprehensive data, enabling more efficient and effective services.

Speaker: Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, mayor of the city of Portland, Oregon, the city of roses, do hereby proclaim March 11th, 2024 to be national 311 day in Portland and encourage all residents to call 311 for help accessing local government services requests and reports. Thank you so much for your great work, Michel. You and all of your colleagues, again, thank you. Michelle. Thanks to 311, I'm very important services. I encourage everyone to write that up on your, on your refrigerator. So when you're wondering who to call when you need something from the city of Portland, you know, who to reach out to, thank you very much, why don't we move on to item two? Oh seven, please?

Speaker: Accept bid of brown contracting incorporated for the southeast, 155th avenue and main street mill main drive, local improvement district for \$1,586,024, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm going to kick this one over to you. Real?

Speaker: Yeah, this local improvement district or lid will better integrate the planned park lane park street frontage improvements with two of Portland's bureau of transportation's projects that are moving into construction. The lid will create a new cul de sac to improve routine and emergency access, remove and replace curbs to shorten crossing distances for pedestrians, and improve separation for bicyclists from the roadway, amongst other improvements, we have

interim chief procurement officer kathleen brennan here to present the item today, I believe.

Speaker: Yes, great.

Speaker: Kathleen, take it away.

Speaker: Thank you. Good morning, mayor and commissioners. For the record, I'm kathleen brennan, interim chief procurement officer, and I'm here to recommend authorization to enter into a contract with brown contracting incorporated for the southeast, 155th avenue and main street mill. Main drive. Local improvement district project. City Council approved ordinance number 190792 on April 27th of 2022. The engineer's estimate for this project was 1 million 1,842,822, and the confidence level was low. Procurement services issued the invitation to bid on December 13th, 2023, and eight bids were received on January 23rd of 2024. Brown contracting incorporated submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$1,586,024, which is approximately 14% under the estimate. The city's aspirational 20% subcontractor and supplier utilization goal applied. Brown contracting has committed to subcontract 20% to contractors certified by the state's certification office for business inclusion and diversity, as identified in the report. Before you brown contracting is self-perform. Approximately 66% of the work. Brown contractor incorporated is located in eugene, Oregon. They are in full compliance with all city contracting requirements, and I recommend that you accept this report and authorize the execution of the contract if you have any questions about the project. Mimi, mimi phillips, pbot project manager, is here and can address those questions. Great colleagues.

Speaker: Any questions or concerns about this one? Hearing none, this is for reports. So, Keelan, can we call the roll? Yeah. Or is there public testimony on this?

Speaker: There is not.

Speaker: Okay, no public testimony, my colleagues do not seem to have any questions, so why don't we call the roll?

Speaker: And then it is a report. So we'll want to ask somebody to make a motion.

Speaker: All move to accept, gonzales moves.

Speaker: The mayor seconds, and now, why don't we call the vote Rubio? I, Ryan I gonzales I Mapps, I'm going to vote I on this one. Actually I remember this project. It's a great one, I think I saw andrew, abby on the, line a second ago. Want to thank him, he does amazing work in this space at kathleen. It's great to see you back on the screen. We appreciate your, you stepping up today. I vote I this item passes. Keelan. Can you please read to oh eight?

Speaker: I haven't gotten my vote yet.

Speaker: Oh, I apologize, mr. Mayor. There won't be.

Speaker: There won't be too much suspense. I vote yea.

Speaker: All right.

Speaker: Good job. I still getting used to the gavel. Appreciate that, mr, Keelan, can we go to 208? Sure pay settlement of robert glisan bodily injury lawsuit for \$60,000 involving the Portland bureau of transportation, mr. Mayor, do you want to introduce this one?

Speaker: Yeah, i'll go ahead and kick it off, this ordinance resolves a lawsuit that was filed against the city in December of 2022. We have deputy city attorney and milligan, as well as senior claims analyst rose redlich here to walk us through the ordinance. Welcome.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor and commissioners. Good morning. My name is anne milligan. I'm a senior deputy city attorney with the city attorney's office. On christmas eve in 2020, plaintiff robert glisan was writing his e-bike downhill on southwest vicuna when, according to his complaint, which was filed December

2022, he hit a small dip in the road and lost control of his bike, going over his handlebars and landing on the asphalt, incurring over \$80,000 in medical damages. City had no notice or complaints about that depression in the road prior to plaintiff serving a tort claim notice on the city. The road was a designated city bikeway with a relatively high pavement condition index score, meaning that the road was in good condition. Plaintiff's lawsuit sought \$1.9 million in damages. The parties engaged in mediation, and both parties agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$60,000. Risk management and the city attorney's office recommend that the settlement be approved to avoid the uncertainty and costs of further litigation, and I'm happy to answer any other questions at this time.

Speaker: Colleagues, any question? Keelan. Do we have any public testimony on this?

Speaker: Yes, we have one person signed up. Tsonga. Mclaughlin is joining us online. Okay welcome. Are they actually here?

Speaker: Yes. Tsonga. You're muted. Go ahead. Can can you hear us? Tsonga. Looks like they might be having audio issues. Hello.

Speaker: Hi. We can hear you loud and clear.

Speaker: Hey sangha. Go ahead and unmute again.

Speaker: Can you hear me? There we go. Yes

Speaker: Sangha, are you there? We can't hear you right now. If you're speaking. Hello? Hello. We can hear you. Can you hear us?

Speaker: No, I cannot, I barely can hear.

Speaker: Can you hear me, we can hear you loud and clear, okay.

Speaker: My name is demetria hester sangha. And and I'm just here to say planning knowledgement one africa, one nation paid black people reparations. Cease fire in gaza. I just want to talk about the safety of transportation. Being a

victim of the 2017 attack of jeremy christian, killing two people and the african young ladies have never been paid. No one who was involved as living have ever had any kind of payment for the incidents that happened to black people. There's never a payment. Mr. Gonzalez, you had an incident with a black woman. Are you going to file a case against the city like jo ann hardesty did against the police? Y'all sit here and make it seem like you care when all it is scripts. Y'all are reading off a scripts. You're falling asleep. The mayor, you got up, you're eating on the phone. I mean, this is your community again, mr. Gonzalez. This is the second time you get up. This is always the thing with you and the people that's supposed to be running this city. We call you the league of evil colonizers. Because that's what you are. You sit and take our pat money, taxpaying money, and pat your pockets and then lie to the community about, once again, what you're going to spend the money on. Here we are. When we know the characteristics of all of you, Wheeler, you're a white supremacist predator. Ryan\$ demented documents white supremacist, all of you. Yea. Rubio.

Speaker: I'm going to intervene here.

Speaker: Colonizer, then I'm going to intervene here.

Speaker: I think some of the statements that are making here, number one, are far removed from the, settlement that's on the table. And number two, just represent, unfounded and, and ad hominem attacks, I really do invite you to come back and talk about the items at hand in a respectful manner, but a line was crossed right here. I don't like doing this. Never done it before, but that went too far, any other public testimony? Keelan okay, well, thank you very much, colleagues. Any questions or comments before we vote? Hearing none. Keelan. Please call the roll or. Mr. Mayor, are you saying something?

Speaker: Just one comment and, you know, look, I realize the difficult bind the city is in, the bind that we're in is if the city goes in front of a jury, there's no telling how much liability we a jury would stick on the city enterprise. You know, local government is very unpopular. And although we like to believe that people stick to the facts in our system of jurisprudence, I think we all know better. But I'm concerned that it seems like a lot of the settlements that we are engaged in are defensive settlements. Hey, it's not as much as we're going to end up paying if it goes in front of a jury that just wants to take it to the city. So, you know, i, I really don't know what the answer is here, except that there's a lot of smart attorneys out there who are keenly aware of the fact that the city more or less has to accept some degree of settlement and provide some degree of a pay day. And I want to be very clear, I have a great deal of sympathy, for mr. Glisan, that is a horrific injury. I actually had a friend who was similarly injured. It took her the better part of a couple of years to recover after significant reconstructive surgery to her face, so it's no laughing matter. This is a serious deal. But my suspicion is that he's not going to see most of this. My suspicion is that his lawyers are going to see most of it. I mean, somebody can tell me I'm wrong, but that's I'm just increasingly worried that we're walking toward boards, sort of a scenario where, people know the city is going to settle. And i, you know, I don't know what to do about it personally, but I just want to say it's concerning to me.

Speaker: Thank you for those comments, mr. Mayor, commissioner, on gonzales, I think just in response to commissioner, I mean, mayor Wheeler's point, I do wonder if, executive session or work session just on our approach to settlement on liability claims might make some sense that we can talk more broadly.

Speaker: Without this does sound like a bad case, and serious injuries. But I share the concern on, that maybe we need to test the courts a little bit more often than

we currently are. Just to recalibrate, what our true exposure is on all of these. And again, that speaks less to this particular case, but just the pattern, we're perceived as a pocket, we're a target. And that's unfortunate because we have a lot of real things to pay for, including safer streets, but, outside of this particular case, I think it might be an area where we, we make some space to have a deeper and broader conversation, and if I may chime in here, I don't want to speak to the case, in front of us today, but the underlying concern that the mayor and commissioner gonzales point out, I also share, i'll tell you, one of the things that I wish I had done more of during my time on council is spending time with our folks over at risk management to understand the value, the trade offs that they are making. I have a certain sense of that coming out of the lawyers offices, but maybe an executive session, maybe a work session. I think that it would probably behoove the city and future councils to have a richer conversation in that space, but back to the matter. At hand. In terms of the settlement before us today, colleagues, any other questions or concerns? Hearing none. Keelan, could you please call the roll? Rubio

Speaker: Hi, Ryan. Hi, gonzales. Hi. Maps

Speaker: I all right, this item passes, and now we go to, item 209.

Speaker: Keelan. Could you please call that one or read the read the title, amend public art code to establish public monuments policy and review criteria, colleagues, this is a second reading, any other conversation we want to have on this one, seeing none. Keelan. Please call the roll. Rubio I want to acknowledge the challenging work that commissioner Ryan is undertaking to create a new process where one doesn't exist. And I'm going to support this today, I'd also like to share a few concerns and some hopes, first, I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who's weighed in over the last several days since this was first presented in council. I believe we all agree that we need a process by which to determine the fate of an

existing monument. And the ordinance does this, what some people have expressed is concern about how we got here or learned about it. Too late to have the time to engage and to some extent, I do agree. I wish more people had time to engage, understand and respond to the actual proposals versus what might be misinformation or digest what this all means. I also want to appreciate that commissioner Ryan, for hearing my concerns. And we had a productive conversation about this, so while I would have wished there would be more time for these folks to help, who have just learned, I'm hopeful because in those conversations, I've learned that there are plans in the next phase to deepen and expand this engagement, and in our conversation, commissioner, we talked about among native American community organizations like nea and others who have requested more time, I know we're all eager for that dialog to review our process by which, someone or something becomes a monument in the first place, because it's this criteria and process that should be determining how we as a community discuss whether or not if and how existing monuments should remain. That grounding exercise with historians at the table is why I strongly believe that an academic institution, or institutions are critical to this work and can present factual and complete historical context. And while it's and why, it's why initially I recruited Lewis and Clark to this important work. I hope that going forward that important grounding, engagement in historical facts and what the most impacted communities, namely indigenous people as part of what happens next, whether we're talking about these five toppled monuments or the policy and process by which we name new ones. So with that, I vote. I Ryan.

Speaker: Yes, for nearly three months, my team and I have had discussions with each of your offices and the public integrating the feedback into this policy. And I want to thank Darian Jones for posting the draft of this policy as early as the 30th of

January. I want to be clear today about what this policy is and what it isn't. This policy is about creating a public process for Portlanders to be able to engage with the city when they have a complaint, and when they have a complaint about a monument or believe a monument should be removed. This policy does not decide which monument should be returned or not. At its core, this policy establishes a transparent and accessible platform for Portlanders to voice their concerns or opinions regarding city monuments. So again, this is not about predetermining the fate of any monument. The policy sets up a direct channel for the public to engage with one another. The city and the city arts program staff, specifically for lodging complaints related to monuments. The policy identifies the complaint criteria and the responsible parties for addressing these complaints. The policy also outlines the resolution methods for responding to a complaint. The most important thing to note about this policy is that it doesn't issue any verdicts on the future of any monument, nor does it advocate for the removal or reinstatement of any monuments. It creates a systemic approach for the public to express grievances about monuments, and ensures the city has a structured method to respond. The policy we are deliberating on reflects nearly four years of dedicated effort by the city to address a very loud and clear call from Portlanders across all walks of life for a formal and public process for these monuments. And I want to thank you, commissioner Rubio, for getting this started. As I receive this handoff at the beginning of last year. We cannot afford to remain idle for another four years. This policy represents a practical and necessary step in shaping public policy process and action. As City Council, we must unequivocally denounce vandalism and criminal acts. However, the stance should not hinder open and constructive public discourse. We are not here to condone wrongdoing, but to foster a culture of dialog and accountability. This policy is creating mechanisms for Portlanders to express

their concerns and ensuring that the city has a responsible and accountable system to address these issues. This policy is restorative justice and this entire process. Although very messy, is necessary for the work of the city. Through adoption of this policy, this united City Council is creating a space necessary for advancing restorative justice in Portland. I am proud to cast my vote in favor of this public policy.

Speaker: Gonzalez I appreciate commissioner Ryan's leadership on this. I vote I maps, I appreciate, commissioner Ryan's work on this item. I also share many of the concerns raised by commissioner Rubio. It's my understanding that, this is not the last time this council will address these issues. I believe an update of these items will come back to council, I think, in July, I hope between now and July, we can continue to have conversations amongst council and our colleagues in the public to make sure that we get this process right. But in the meantime, I vote aye. Wheeler

Speaker: Yeah, I put a number of concerns on the table during testimony. I won't reiterate them here, the proof is in the pudding on this one. It really depends how it's ultimately implemented. I'm going to give commissioner Ryan the benefit of the doubt. He and his team have worked really hard on this. I vote i.

Speaker: Thank you. The item passes. Colleagues, I believe that or let me ask keeling and I believe that wraps up our morning session.

Speaker: So anything else on the? Our morning session. So anything else on the, docket? All right, colleagues, we are adjourned for the day. We will resume. For our afternoon session at 2 o'clock.

Speaker: Thank you so much.

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

March 6, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.

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Speaker: Welcome to the afternoon session of Portland City Council, this is the March 6th, 2024, afternoon session of the Portland City Council, we're. Rebecca, could you please call the role Rubio here?

Speaker: Ryan here, Gonzalez here. Mapps here. Wheeler for those of you watching at home, the mayor, is unavailable to join us today, so I will be, presiding officer, we actually have something of a packed agenda for this afternoon, I want to give folks a little bit of run of show. We're hearing three items today. The first is sponsored by commissioner Rubio, which deals with leaf blowers. And then we have two items dealing with utility rates, looking around the room, we you can tell that we have quite a few people eager to talk about item 210, which deals with leaf blowers, colleagues, we have, I believe, 30 people signed up to testify on that item because so many people are signed up. We're going to ask you to limit your testimony to two minutes, when you come up, the clock will start. And then after we, hear testimony, hear a presentation of testimony of leaf blowers, we'll go to the utility rate. Hearing having, laid that groundwork, why don't we dive into our work for this afternoon? Let's start with item 210. Rebecca, could you read that one for us, please?

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: I'm sorry, are you hearing the echo? I think, is there an echo today?

Speaker: Yes, there is, and there you want it? Bts. Yeah, there's definitely an okay, here.

Speaker: We might.

Speaker: Proceed. Well, what's the advice from, technology services ? We're doing some adjustments.

Speaker: I think it got worse there. Here we can do a little bit of testing. There is still an echo this morning.

Speaker: It was the laptops, too.

Speaker: Yeah. Can everybody make sure their laptops are muted?

Speaker: Do you have a laptop staff. If you have a laptop going. I don't know how these things adjust themselves. We don't want this during the testimony.

Speaker: So that's why we're clearing it up now. There we go.

Speaker: Now it's still there.

Speaker: Okay. And yours is good.

Speaker: He checked yours.

Speaker: Okay. We're all set.

Speaker: All right, commissioner Ryan, how did. How does that sound to you?

Speaker: Well, I hope everyone is noticing it's better. Is it better?

Speaker: All right, great. Excellent sorry for the technical difficulty, folks, why don't we proceed? Rebecca, could you call, read item to ten, item 210, add leaf blowers code to phase out the use of gasoline leaf blowers to reduce public health impacts. Great thank you very much, commissioner Rubio, i'll turn the floor over to you.

Speaker: Thank you. Colleagues, I'm pleased to bring forward this policy to begin phasing out gas powered leaf blowers in our community today. This is the culmination of many years of hard work and advocacy to make Portland a healthier and cleaner place to live. I'm grateful for the leadership of commissioner nick fish,

who began this journey under his tenure, and I'm proud to carry the torch of this work forward that he led so passionately on in 2022. Chair Rebecca Peterson and I. Covid co-convened a workgroup that explored the feasibility of eliminating gas leaf blowers citywide. I'm grateful for her partnership on this work and this path forward is not possible without the collaboration between the city and the county. I have been engaged in this issue since it came, since I came into office, and this last fall we decided to move forward with this policy and I have made sure to provide updates to all my colleagues and stakeholders on this work. Also I'm sure you're all aware from the response from our community. This is a priority to many here in Portland and as we work through this process, my staff worked to keep our offices up to date and our bureaus engaged. We made sure to provide engagement help around and around incoming with communications from our constituents. And there was staff to staff engagement, as well as bureau to bureau engagement. As this policy came to life. With that said, I'm excited to present a proposal to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers in our community in a way that supports workers and small businesses who might be impacted by the transition. Many of us are familiar with the drone of gas leaf blowers outside of our window. You may have woken up early, been woken up early by the sound of a leaf blower, had a virtual meeting interrupted similar. Many people in our community have been on the other end of a gas leaf blower landscape. Contractors who use this equipment are used to coming home with the smell of gasoline on them, or their ears ringing from hours of extreme noise and gas leaf blowers emit toxic pollutants, particulate matter and noise that creates negative health impacts as well. For these workers, this is an especially serious risk for the landscape workers who rely on this equipment. Moving away from gas leaf blowers is not just an environmental policy, it's an environmental justice policy. By centering the needs and experiences of people

closest to the problem, we find solutions that benefit the entire community. This policy will improve physical and mental health for everyone in our city, whether they use gas leaf blowers for a living or simply experience them in their neighborhood. Over the last several months, staff from the bureau of planning and sustainability and Multnomah County office of sustainability have worked together to develop a policy that gets us closer to our shared vision of a healthy, clean and equitable Portland. I'm proud of this partnership between our two agencies, and we're thrilled to bring this forward today. I strongly believe this team has brought forward a strong policy that includes significant engagement from parties who represent many different perspectives around this issue. I'd also like to thank the pcef team for proposing 1.6 million for the replacement of gas powered leaf blowers, fleet and also charging infrastructure for with the vibrant communities service area commissioner Ryan and parks have included this as a budget option package and I fully support this package. Next, you'll be hearing from and Multnomah County staff about the work they've done to craft a proposal that benefits public health and our environment, while also being mindful of the specific challenges this may pose for people who rely on this equipment. Finally I want to thank the advocates, all the advocates, starting with clean and quiet pdx and others for their multi year advocacy and also thank our county partners, and also appreciate the exceptional leadership and work of my staff, megan bayer and sandra cooper and vivian satterfield, and of course our partner at the county, john w, as well, this was a really thorough policy work with multiple stakeholders. So thank you, team. Now i'll turn it over to the chief sustainability officer, vivian satterfield, to introduce the team and their important work.

Speaker: Great. Thank you. Commissioner good afternoon everybody. I am vivian satterfield. Use she her pronouns or my name. And I am your chief sustainability

officer at the bureau of planning and sustainability, first, I want to thank commissioner Rubio, of course, but also all of our elected leaders leadership on this, both present and past, especially Multnomah County chair jessica vega. Peterson. Also, the leadership of carmen Rubio, commissioner carmen Rubio, and the late commissioner nick fish for his leadership, and also the City Council commissioners from 2019, who all expressed an interest in one day working beyond their resolution to towards a more all encompassing phaseout of all gas powered leaf blowers, which we are presenting to this council here now, today, I want to again appreciate the project team at the bureau of planning, sustainability. These are the incredible folks I get to work with all day long. They're awesome. Like sonrisa cooper, the sustainable economy and just transition analyst, and my colleague vin mason, who's a senior policy adviser. And of course, our partner, john wojcinski, who's a director of the office of planning of sustainability. I'm sorry, just sustainability. We take care of the planning part, at Multnomah County, I'm proud of the dedication that they've all brought to a good process. And to have clarity in the outcomes, really exemplifying some core city values of equity, transparency, collaboration and communication. So we're very proud to be in front of you today, i'll also speak to, you know, again, the integrity in our process. Yes. And we did this through really regular engagement with key stakeholder in all aspects of the policy, whether we agreed on the eventual outcome and vision of this proposal or not. But you'll hear about it in our presentation, what our engagement was like. And also understanding the and I hope you'll pardon the pun, the sort of landscape available technology that we have for gas powered leaf blowers and electric leaf blowers here. And we also look to other communities to understand their approach and what their experiences are like, across, you know, all types of different environments, including similar environments as our climate here in the pacific

northwest, such as lake oswego, to really inform our policy parameters for this equitable, community wide phase out strategy for gas powered leaf blowers, there's one note that I want to make that the workgroup did make recommendations around both the use and sale of gas powered leaf blowers, and so we've chosen to focus on the use only here with our policy. A ban on the sale, we believe, would be very costly, difficult to implement, and wouldn't stop people from purchasing this equipment from outside of the city of Portland boundaries. So banning the use ensures that Portland residents and workers will be protected from the noise and pollution. And we look forward to further progress on this issue as it continues to gain more momentum, from here, I'm going to go ahead and pass it off to my colleague sonrisa to work through the presentation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thanks, vivian, good afternoon, commissioners. My name is sonrisa cooper. I use she her pronouns and I'm the sustainable economy and just transition analyst at the bureau of planning and sustainability. As commissioner Rubio and vivian said, I'm here to present on the equitable gas leaf blower phaseout today. And we've been working hard on this with our partners at Multnomah County and with stakeholders from community and industry and we're very excited to be bringing this to council today. Next slide please. So i'll begin by going over some of the background of the ordinance. Then i'll go over the key points of the policy. The role of the county, and discuss what we learned during the public comment period. I'll close out with some next steps and leave some time for questions and answers before we bring on our invited testimony. Next slide. So the overarching goal of this policy is to improve public health and quality of life in our community by eliminating the use of gas powered leaf blowers within Portland, gas leaf blowers are noisy and polluting, and they're associated with a long list of health risks, especially for people who operate this equipment for a living. This is meant to be an

equitable, environmental justice centered policy that minimizes impacts on landscape workers and small businesses in the landscaping industry. This policy has been in the works since 2018, when advocates began meeting with city and county elected officials. In 2019, commissioner fish directed all city bureaus to transition from gas to electric leaf blowers, and in 2021, Multnomah County did the same. In 2022, city and county staff teamed up to convene a workgroup to explore a citywide transition away from gas leaf blowers. That workgroup was made up of public sector staff, non nonprofit organizations and landscaping industry representatives. And as vivian said, the workgroup recommended banning the use and sale of gas leaf blowers within the city limits so the policy that we bring to you today is the culmination of many years of hard work in which we're recommending a phaseout on the use of gas leaf blowers that eases the transition for small businesses and reduces the harmful noise and pollution that workers and neighbors are exposed to on a daily basis. Next slide please. So all of the key pieces of the policy that I'm about to share are based on input that we heard from stakeholders, and we've done our best to strike a balance between all of our stakeholder perspectives that achieves the overarching goal of this policy, which is to eliminate gas leaf blowers while also being practically feasible for businesses and organizations that rely on this equipment. So we met with stakeholders from the nonprofit and environmental justice space, including quiet clean pdx, which has been a champion of this policy since the very beginning. And they and other organizations shared with us the importance of phasing out gas leaf blowers rapidly to reduce health risks from exhaust emissions and noise. When we met with representatives from the landscaping industry, the main takeaway that we came away with was that electric leaf blowers are not ready to replace gas leaf blowers yet, especially at the commercial scale. During the wet leaf season in the fall, a

seasonal carve out is necessary to handle the heavy leaf drop that we get here in the pacific northwest. However, we are optimistic that electric leaf blowers will improve in the next few years due to increased consumer demand and a recent law passed in california that bans the sale of gas powered lawn equipment statewide. We also met with a number of large property owners from both the public and private sector. These included campus institutions like hospitals and universities, Portland parks and recreation in Portland public schools, and a metro owned golf course for these large property owners, safety is their top priority, and they reiterated that allowing gas leaf blowers during the wet leaf season is critical to avoid slip and fall accidents. Some of these large property owners are also on two year budget cycles, which would impact the timing of the transition. And finally, we met with other public sector organizations to learn more about potential obstacles that might come up as this policy rolls out. This included the lake oswego parks department, which enacted its own ban and city operations in 2021, and the bts noise control office, which currently handles leaf blower noise complaints. Next slide please. So this policy is not an outright ban on gas leaf blowers. Right off the bat. It's a phaseout that will take place over a two year period, which gives people time to replace gas equipment. And it also gives electric leaf blower technology time to improve. And this policy only applies to backpack and handheld leaf blowers. The phaseout will begin in 2026, when gas leaf blowers will be prohibited for nine months out of the year. In 2026 and 2027, gas leaf blowers will be permitted from October through December, and those seasonal carve out dates are based on input that we received from large landowners in the public and private sectors. In 2028, gas leaf blowers will be prohibited year round, the ordinance includes exceptions for inclement weather events that can be determined citywide by the director for parks, facilities, by the parks director, and at

individual properties by the code enforcement officer. Next slide please. Violations under the ordinance will apply only to property owners using gas leaf blowers themselves or hiring people to use gas leaf blowers, and it will not apply to contractors or property managers. The reason for this is to ensure that small businesses and landscape workers, especially those from marginalized communities, don't bear the brunt of enforcement. The onus is on the property owner to ensure that gas leaf blowers aren't used on their property administratively. It's also easier to track down and notify a property owner of a violation than it is a hired contractor or property manager. We recognize that some owners, especially those with very large facilities and maintenance shops, might need to upgrade their electrical infrastructure as part of the transition, so those owners may apply for an extension if they need additional time to comply. As I mentioned earlier, we expect that electric leaf blower technology will improve over the next several years due to market signals. However, if it doesn't improve, staff have the option to recommend any code amendments before the wet leaf season begins. In October 2028. And finally, implementation of this policy will be managed by Multnomah County, acting as the city's health officer. Next slide please. We've worked closely with staff from Multnomah County office of office of sustainability and the health department to ensure that we're aligned in our vision of an equitable gas leaf blower phaseout. We've approached policy development and stakeholder engagement as a team, and we've already initiated the discussion of an intergovernmental agreement between our agencies. The county will take the lead on all aspects of implementation, on specifically enforcement incentives and outreach, and education. Enforcement will be handled through a complaint based system that begins with a warning and education, followed up by civil penalties, incentives will take the form of post-sale rebates. Eligible businesses will be able to

submit a receipt and receive a rebate for electric backpack and handheld leaf blowers. An outreach and education will begin this year. The county has experienced conducting multilingual public health campaigns, and they'll also partner with nonprofit organizations and the landscaping industry to reach people. You may have seen billboards and bus ads in the past talk about the health risks of woodsmoke. This will look similar to that campaign. Next slide please. We held a public comment period in January and received lots of written testimony on the gas leaf blower phaseout. During that time, we received nearly 800 comments with 86% in support of this, 81% opposed and 3% that were unclear. The next slide. Many of the supportive comments focused on four specific points. Move up the start date from 2026 to 2025. Move up the full phaseout from 2028 to 2026. Shorten the wet leaf season to two months or eliminate it entirely and include contractors and property managers in enforcement. As a response to this, we didn't change the dates, but we did opt to remove one year grace periods on enforcement that had been proposed in 2026 and 2028, and we also increased the fee schedule to have higher penalties. Next slide please. Many of the opposing comments came from landscaping companies and property owners with high landscaping needs, such as private golf courses. Of the comments that were opposed to the phaseout, the added cost of new equipment, especially the batteries, was the most frequent point that was mentioned. This was followed by the need for a longer timeline to make the transition, and comments about environmental hazards related to batteries and putting strain on the electrical grid. We also received a small number of one off comments that mentioned safety issues. Due to the added weight of the batteries and concerns that this could disproportionately harm small latinx owned contracting businesses. In response to this feedback, we added the clause that would reevaluate the technology and recommend any code changes by 2028. By

October 2028, I should say. We also added the commitment to begin outreach and education by July 2024, which is a year and a half earlier than the policy's effective date. Next slide please. So if this policy passes, we'll kick off implementation by the beginning of the fiscal year, starting with a proactive outreach campaign. And we've already begun speaking with partners who can assist with this. Our aim is to reach businesses, landowners and residents well in advance of the effective dates. We want to make this an equitable and easy transition for everyone, especially those who may experience a hardship. Switching to electric leaf blowers as a recap of what comes after that, the first phase will go into effect in 2026, prohibiting gas leaf blowers from January through September beginning January 2028, gas leaf blowers will be prohibited year round, and then we have until September 30th of that year to recommend any code amendments. If electric leaf blower technology has not improved sufficiently by then. Next slide. So thanks for your time, we really do believe that this will have a positive benefit across our entire community when it comes to public health and quality of life. Now, I'll turn it back over to Vivian.

Speaker: Yeah, that actually, thank you. Sonrisa. That concludes our presentation. But before we go to addressing any questions that you all may have, I want to give an opportunity for John Basinski to share his perspective from the county.

Speaker: Great. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is John Bochenski. I'm the director of sustainability for Multnomah County, I'm here today on behalf of Multnomah County chair Jessica Vega Pederson and the following are comments that I will deliver on her behalf. Commissioners, I would like to express my strong support for the measure before you. As you have heard, the two stroke, gas powered leaf blower creates harmful noise and air emissions that most directly affect the operators of the equipment. But the impacts are more widespread, affecting neighbors, deterring ambient air quality and contributing to greenhouse

gas emissions. The all electric lawn care equipment revolution is upon us, and the actions taken by council today ensure a speedy transition while taking into consideration the needs of businesses, operators and the community. When commissioner nick fish and I launched this effort, we knew that the community would back would back us. What we did not know at the time was that nick would pass so soon or that we would be hit with a global pandemic, but I know nick is smiling on us today. Commissioner Rubio took up the cause for the city of Portland, and together we launched a two year community stakeholder process that culminated in a final report in 2022 when I became chair, commissioner Rubio and I continued to work together. We committed to learn lean on each other's organizations strengths as we sought to convert community enthusiasm and stakeholder engagement into meaningful action. Today, with the adoption of this ordinance, we will mark an important milestone in the quest for a more sustainable community. The truth is that the technology for an all electric decarbonized future already exists, but it will take public policy and partnership like this one to accelerate the transition and ensure we hit the climate targets we have in time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The good news is that reaching our climate for climate goals will also mean cleaner air and healthier communities. The phaseout of gas powered leaf blowers will hopefully mark the beginning of a new chapter in our work on climate. I also wanted to note how I expect the partnership between the county and the city will play out. The county will be in charge of three important components for this policy implementation education, incentives and enforcement, education and outreach will be one of the most important components and will be the first to start. Over the coming months, the county will develop outreach and education materials and a social marketing campaign to accelerate to alert contractors and the general public about these new rules. Most

importantly, we will ensure this is a multilingual campaign since we know many people in the immigrant and refugee communities work in the landscaping industry. The county will also work to appropriate a budget to launch an incentive program, new battery electric blowers suitable for the landscape industry are not cheap, although operators can save money over time. Since there is less, there's no fuel and less maintenance expense, the upfront cost can be daunting. The incentive program will target small businesses in the lawn care industry. Final as the city finalizes rules, the county will enter into an agreement with the city to enforce the policy as needed. I want to emphasize the degree of collaboration between the city and the county and the community on this issue, commissioner fish knew that the way to get things done in this town was to work together. That's what we have been doing, working together and keeping his legacy in mind. That is what will keep doing to ensure this policy is implemented successfully, and that we continue on the path to a fully decarbonized future. So this ends my comments, and I'm happy to answer questions with the rest of the team.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you so much, john. I really want to appreciate your partnership. You've been with us every step of the way in every single meeting. So thank you so much, so this is an opportunity, commissioners, for you to address any questions that you may have.

Speaker: Colleagues, do we take testimony? Don't we, sure.

Speaker: I see some commissioner Rubio any feedback? Gonzales. All good. I do have a couple of questions, but frankly, there are so many folks in the audience, why don't we get to, public testimony and if there's anything unasked at the end of the day, I may weigh in.

Speaker: Yeah, and we'll still be here for that. We do have three invited testimony members that we'd like to invite. So at this time, I'd like to invite Michael Hall, Mauricio Flores, and Michael Harrison. Thank you .

Speaker: Any order? I guess, I'll let you two sort it out. Okay so, Mauricio Flores, with the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association, otherwise known as OCA. Okay, so that's who I'm here to represent today and talk. So first of all, I do want to show appreciation for, Commissioner Rubio's team, Vivian, Teresa and John, for engaging in conversation with us and collaborating and giving us an opportunity to voice our opinion, I think, you know, there's more of a personal perspective, but, you know, there's been some doubts on, you know, politics and how it all works, but it was encouraging to see and be part and have a seat at the table to see how it's put together. And, I know that I trust that they took multiple opinions and perspectives, to move forward, a policy that could, that could be effective. So I do want to show appreciation there, I think it's great, from the landscaping perspective, yeah. It's mentioned in the presentation, our concerns have been, you know, infrastructure, technology capabilities. So it was very important for us to consider a phased plan to get there, we even prior to this, I think the industry has seen this as part of the future, so we've made attempts to adapt and have used in trials of, blowers and other equipment. So I think that the industry has intentions to move in that direction, but because of that experience, we know that there's some limitations there still, and that comes from experience, so there's, there's that aspect, the other thing that I think I want to make sure to, to point out without getting too controversial, not really controversial, but, you know, it's no secret that this industry is dominated by the Latinx community, and so, you know, I think that's something that really needs to be considered, for the small contractors and in those in the industry, as you know, if this if this moves forward, because as is too often the case,

you know, it's hard to connect with that community with and engage and, and participation and also just providing resources and, education, for, for that community to understand that, you know, how this is going to affect them, you know, I as part of oca, you know, that's one of my initiatives is to continue to engage and connect with that community. And given the opportunity to, to be aware of things like this, so, you know, I come with that background and even in that case, it's, it's a challenge to, to rally and, and get together, to be able to broadcast a message and, and get collaboration so that, that I just hope that doesn't get, overlooked as we move forward. Because you know, they being that it's on the property owners responsibility, I think even then, you know, there could be some uncomfortable moments there for these small contractors and not understanding who is responsible or not, and also just the funding of it as well, to invest in this type of equipment. I know that there's, you know, money set aside to support and, and, and provide some relief, but then even with that, there's limitations to how they can access that. And if they're able to access that without going into detail, but you know, that that will also be a challenge, so, you know, and then, so I also hope that in that this is another opportunity to, create exposure for them and continue to consider that the community with all ranges of policies and decision making. So I hope that all that we're involved in, this matter continue to advocate as well and not move on from one just this topic. But, you know, just keep it in mind, as we move forward, so great, I'd say thank you very much.

Speaker: Hello. Hello. Am I on? I believe you are you. You sound loud and clear.

Speaker: Can you hear me? Yeah. Okay, great. Thank you, my name is michael hall, and I am co-chair of clean pdx, and we've been working for seven years now to try to get a policy with the city that, it takes care of a wicked problem that we've been dealing with for a long time now. So so the introduction of a proposed alliance

ordinance today is a very special moment for us. And forgive me if I reiterate some of the things that have already been expressed by bts in my comments. And the county, we're deeply grateful for both, commissioner Rubio and for, county, chair vega peterson for their perseverance in this public health and environmental problem. We can all agree that gas leaf blowers are harmful to public health and to the environment at risk. Our workers neighborhoods and our very climate. Public comments on the draft ordinance as you saw earlier, showed that eliminating gas leaf blowers from Portland has overwhelming popular support. Of the nearly 800 comments, 86% favored this goal, and the sooner the better. Getting rid of gas leaf blowers is clearly the will of the people. To the lawn care professionals in the audience. We look forward to continuing working with you, and your and the Oregon landscape contractors association, in educating others about the importance of protecting worker health, neighborhood peace and quiet, and a cleaner atmosphere to help fight climate change. And speaking of climate change, this proposed ordinance will help achieve Portland's goal of slashing our planet warming carbon emissions 50% compared to 1990 levels by 2030, and achieving net zero by 2050. Transitioning to electric blowers makes good business sense to operations and maintenance. Costs of electric blowers are about one tenth that of gas blowers, so lower overhead and higher profits are among the benefits of transitioning from gas to electric. Quite clean pdx has been in conversation with olcc since 2018, and we've often found common ground in achieving our mutual goals. We look forward to continued collaboration around implementing implementing this ordinance that we hope you will pass. We truly appreciate the hard work that of city and county staff in getting us to this point. A special shout out to bts staff members vivian satterfield, sonrisa cooper, and vin mason for developing the details of the draft ordinance. They've been proactive and

responsive to our group and thorough in their stakeholder outreach to landscapers and large property owners. Our discussions have been mutually respectful and consistently productive, even when we were not in full agreement on all aspects of the draft ordinance. And we want to thank county sustainability director jon watts for working on the county's end of this historic intergovernmental agreement. The partnership of city and county in this joint action has been impressive. The county will take charge of three critical pieces as you as you have heard one. Enforcement of the ordinance since it falls under health and sanitation. Two an extensive public education effort well into 2028, and three an incentive program to help yard care businesses transition in an equitable manner. And there's one more important person to recognize who has already been recognized today. But we can't say enough about it. The late commissioner nick fish are original champion, and he helped us achieve a passage of unanimous passage of a 2019 city resolution to begin transitioning city bureaus from gas to electric. The passage of this ordinance will be a wonderful tribute to nick. We hope the City Council support for a quieter, cleaner and healthier Portland. We've been told that this issue is a little thing, that there are more important matters for policymakers to address, but this ordinance recognizes that sometimes the little things that affect us all can make a big difference. I'd like to give a shout out to the many blue themed supporters, a room full that you see here of the quiet clean pdx goal of eliminating gas leaf blowers in Portland. I and other members of quiet clean pdx team are here today and would be glad to answer any questions you may have. I thank you for the privilege of your time. C.c.p.t

Speaker: Thank you so much, I think is michael harrison, invited testimony to you? Yes.

Speaker: He's online. Yep

Speaker: Can you hear me? Do you want to go or commissioner Gonzalez just had a couple questions for mr. Flores.

Speaker: Could you speak to the difference in weight between gas, and electric or battery powered, leaf blowers?

Speaker: Yeah. It really depends on the brand, you know, there's different versions of the technology and ways to use it, you know, I don't I'm not going to say it's a drastic difference, but they can be a little weightier. A little heavier, but it really is a fluctuation because there's so many, companies working through this technology, that it's hard to really define, you know, if there's consistency there. You know, with the gas powered, you know, there is dominating, you know, suppliers that are pretty standard across, you know, the, the industry. So there's, there's consistency there. But with, with the electrical, stuff, there's, you know, it can vary a little bit and there's not one product there that we can really lean on right now or say that, you know, really critique.

Speaker: And so, that's helpful with gas powered, you know, as the tank goes down, then obviously the weight goes down as well. And I'm just trying to project because I think one of the questions is impact on workers health. And the, at least asking the question of, potentially carrying something heavier and what that does, for worker's comp and other type of injuries, I don't it's mostly I'm just curious your thoughts on that.

Speaker: Yeah. No yeah. There's, there's you know, I can't speak to the precise, you know, difference in the weight, but, you know, it can fluctuate. I guess the other thing is to consider, you know, just the shuttling of batteries, rotating through them as because they don't last as long, you know, that that that adds just more mobility and activity to, to, you know, using the equipment.

Speaker: Yeah. And look, I use a battery powered leaf blower in my home, and I'm used to it, but I'm not. It's not my job. So it's not like I'm doing that for hours. So I just want to make sure I understand the impact. Yeah, that's the key difference, you know, going doing hours on end, especially in the leaf season, and, very key piece of equipment, you know, in a residential setting, I think, you know, that is a very useful tool. I think many of us have that type of, equipment and encourage that, that be, the model, yeah, it does change a little bit in the commercial, as you're doing that for hours on end throughout the day.

Speaker: And just one last question on, you know, there was testimony on profit margin and cost. I mean, it as of today, though, contractors in this space are primarily choosing gas powered, presumably because they deem that the most profitable, to use or just walk me through the current. Yeah.

Speaker: I mean, yeah, I think when you when you compare the transition, it is it is a considerable investment, and then there's infrastructure, factors there as well from a facility and operating and organization. But as of now, because, it's newer technology, yeah, it is a pretty significant expense, especially for a larger contractor or small contractor, really, the differences there can be pretty significant, so the last question here. So when I use at home, got my battery charger in my garage right. And just change them out as you're using them, for commercial, user what do we envision that they'll have sort of be something in the truck that's essentially a charger? How would.

Speaker: Yeah, they do have power stations that they're developing as well to charge multiple packs at a time, but you know, when you're talking commercial, we're talking hundreds of blowers and that's, that's that could, you know, that's that can draw a lot from, you know, from the infrastructure, and as far as in the field, yeah. You know, they are outfitting, you know, those mobile charging stations to be

able to get through days and be productive, but yeah, there's a lot of factors that have to be considered to implement it. Okay.

Speaker: Thank you very much, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: I just wanted to make sure I asked a question why they were here, but I could hear the last, invited testimony, if you want. I just wanted to make sure I asked a question.

Speaker: Sure. Why don't we? Michael's been very patient, and we do have three members of, at least three. Is it just commissioner Rubio? Is it just three and three invited and then 30, folks coming in from the community? Yeah so why don't we hear from you, michael? And then we'll get to public testimony.

Speaker: Good afternoon. Can you hear me, yeah. Maybe we could turn you up in the room, though.

Speaker: Okay. I'll also talk louder. I often talk loud. Anyway, let me know if i. If I get quiet. Sound good? Thank you, thank you. Thanks so much for the opportunity to speak today. My name is michael harris, and I'm the director of local relations for ohsu, ohsu is committed to curtailing our climate emissions, specifically to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050, even though our buildings are the biggest driver of our emissions, other things like leaf blowers are, are a part of that calculation as well, in fact, we already own some electric leaf blowers that we use in some instances, but they don't have the power to ensure public safety during the wet leaf season. And after weather emergencies, for example, needing to quickly blow gravel, off pathways, for example, after, say, an ice storm or a snow event, for us, leaf mess isn't about esthetics. It's a safety issue for our patients, employees and students, walking and biking through our campus, while the equipment we need to comply with these new regulations doesn't exist yet, we do think this ordinance is an important signal to manufacturers that a

market will exist when they can produce lighter weight, more powerful electric leaf blowers. So we do thank the city and the county for efforts to push the market to innovate, as well as for the phase in period to help us get there, hopefully manufacturers will respond quickly as ohsu is eager to adopt these technologies as they come to market. Policy aside, I really wanted to thank, city staff, for their meetings and conversations that they had not only with ohsu, but collectively with other universities and health systems as well. We convened a large meeting so we could kind of learn from each other, during the discussions, I never doubted that sonrisa and vin cared about our education and health care missions, and that while they were seeking to curtail air and noise pollution from leaf blowers, they sought to do so in a manner in which we can continue to keep our campuses safe and accessible, so thank you again for the time today. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have, and I appreciate the work. Great.

Speaker: And I see commissioner Ryan has his hand up. Sure, hello, mr. Flores, it's actually for you, and before I go on, I want to thank my staff and the people at parks for working on this, many, many hours, many, many meetings since it was handed over by commissioner, by the mayor in the beginning of 2023, personally, I'm just I don't like using them, whether they're gas or electric. I find them to all be a little bit too loud. And I think they're rude because it's just like, takes whatever you have and blows it over to your neighbor, and they're also really terrible for plant life. So as a gardener my entire life, I don't like them for plant life. So I'm giving you a story about how does this get passed on to the consumer, with when I have enough money to hire someone, I told them I don't want that. And my bill really went up much higher when it was, told that I prefer rake on soil because it's so much better for plant life and for soil. And I was it was well over 100% increase in the monthly maintenance. And I realize I'm not talking about electric, but I think

that I won't be the only person that would want that. That would rather have rakes and such. And so I just want to hear from the industry when they've probably had stories like this as well. And do you see any of the costs then going out? I'm fully in favor of this, but I just want to hear the real cost to both the people doing the contracting work and the consumers that hire them.

Speaker: Yeah, I think one thing, too, to realize when it comes to the landscape contracting, work is we're not, we're not it's not a product, right? It's a service. And labor is what dominates, you know, a service industry. So that that can get pretty expensive. So when you're adding more labor, to, to a project or a site that, that, that will then result in, you know, those the difference in price, you get what you pay for.

Speaker: So when you cultivate the soil with actual. Yeah. As opposed to the heat and all.

Speaker: Yeah. I mean there's other effects of, you know, raking in more weed, weed exposure, you know, disturbing seed beds, etc, and when it comes to, you know, sustainable practices, I don't think blowers are the, the only thing there's a lot of other, you know, methods to, maintaining in a sustainable way. But it all it it's most likely always going to result in more hands on labor, to practice sustainable methods for the most part. And that's why, you know, that does come down to the consumer at the end, the price, you know, as a responsible business owner or manager.

Speaker: And for those that still want the blowing weather, it's shifting to electric. Will that also be passed on? Will that be an increase or is it just I mean, yeah, if you're analyzing your expenses and your costs of doing business, you know, if there is, you know, like there is now significant capital expense, you know, ultimately that's that's got to, in one way or another, be be considered when it comes to

pricing structure and charging, whether it's a direct this is for gas powered, you know electrical powered blower fee.

Speaker: Not necessarily I don't think that that would be the responsible way to do it, but it's got to be considered.

Speaker: Yeah, I'm really appreciate that. Commissioner Rubio's office and brought in people like you and your constituents, in addition to parks, that's the people on the ground that are actually going to be implementing this. So it's very important to have you at the table. Thank you. Thanks thank you, commissioner Rubio, is that the end of, invited testimony? Okay, great. Why don't we go? Thank you so much, we really appreciate you coming in today, why don't we go to public testimony, rebecca, could you maybe call up our first invited guest, who I recognize? Hey, stan.

Speaker: Hi. Hi, commissioner.

Speaker: Hi. Well, we should let, the clerk, start us off in an official fashion.

Speaker: First, we have stanley pankin, and he's on line.

Speaker: Good afternoon, everyone, sorry I can't be there today, but nice to see you all, my name is stan pankin. I'm president of the pro district neighborhood association, co-chair of homeshare Oregon, founding director of the northwest community conservancy, and former board member of the nonprofit friendly streets, where this all started some seven years ago today, I'm testifying as a member of the quiet queen pdx team, but I think I speak for people all across our city who are subjected to the incessant noise and toxicity of gas leaf blowers and like, would like to see them just go away. Some seven years ago, michael hall, as a fellow colleague on the nonprofit friendly streets, approached me with the question of what can we do to get rid of these monstrous machines? And i'll delete the expletives that I heard at the time we created an action plan. At the time, and never dreamed it would be such a long journey to get to get to this momentous day. Even

after successful unanimous resolutions at City Council in 2019 and at the county in 2021. As you've already heard and I think we all understand, gas leaf blowers are a danger to the environment and to the health and livability of all who live, work and play in Portland, and especially to those who operate them. Although we would like to see a faster timeline, the ordinance before you today represents the work of so many over so many years and with input from a diverse group of stakeholders. With the passage of this ordinance, Portland will be making a bold statement about its commitment to sustainability, to sustainability and the environment for which it has always been recognized, and that it cares about the well-being of everyone across the city. Passage of this ordinance also represents how a city and county can work together on an important issue in these challenging times, Portland needs wins and this is a win we can be proud of. I want to thank my dear friend and colleague michael hall, our visionary, who started this, and to my devoted colleagues at quiet queen pdx. I also want to give big thanks to commissioner carmen Rubio and to commissioner dan Ryan for his work at parks county chair jessica vega. Pederson and so many dead, dedicated staff members whose names have already been mentioned. Lastly I want to thank the late nick fish with a saddened heart who was passionate about this issue and was an early champion for the cause. I urge you all to please vote yes on this ordinance. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, mr. Pinkerton, rebecca, our next, can you call up our next, testifier?

Speaker: Next, we have brian stewart.

Speaker: Commissioners and staff. My name is brian stewart. I'm a member of quiet clean pdx. I'm also a resident of Portland, you've heard many excellent reasons to phase out gas leaf blowers. I wanted to focus my testimony on the powerful alternatives that are readily available today, because I think there's a lot of

misconceptions about those. But as we all know, electric, our battery powered leaf blowers that are quieter and they produce no dangerous, air pollution and no carbon pollution and no toxic solid waste. Like think about gas leaf blowers that produce this nonstop stream of gas filters. Air filters, oil cans that go to our municipal waste facilities. None of that comes from electric blowers. And the other thing I wanted to talk about is the blowing power of these devices, because I think there's a lot of misconceptions about that. You hear this refrain, typically that that electric blowers aren't powerful enough to do the job. The data just doesn't support that, and part of the reason why there's that misunderstanding, I think, is because the Portland noise ordinance is very specific about the, the kinds of equipment that can be used, the gas powered equipment. And so if you look at the equipment, complies with the noise ordinance, electric blowers are available today are much more powerful than those devices. So anyone who's using a legal gas blower today in Portland and that probably isn't everyone. But those people who are using illegal blowers would experience a power increase if they switched to electric. The other thing is about, this the economy of these devices. So all the major, major commercial landscape equipment suppliers now offer these commercial electric battery powered blowers. And, and I like to point out steel, which is the market leader in, gas powered equipment. They're website has a page which which promotes electric. And I quote how your business can save by switching to battery power. And they have an online calculator where you put in how many hours you use, etc. A typical that's about four hours per day. And if you're using your blower that much, you would save \$160 per month in terms of fuel and maintenance, and you would recoup your investments, costs in about 18 months. So I love this ordinance. I love all the work, and I would love to thank all the people involved. But, you've heard those names already. I'm out of time. But the time is right to do this,

so thank you for bringing this ordinance before, the, council, and we urge you to pass it. Thank you very much, thank you very much, rebecca, can we call up the next three presenters? I think we'll start to call up people three at a time, just to help with the flow.

Speaker: Next we have wade lang, eric bale and meredith daglish . Am I alone?

Speaker: That's all right, plow ahead. Okay.

Speaker: We're on. Right?

Speaker: Yep. You're coming through loud and clear.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Good afternoon. Commissioners, my name is wade lang, and I'm here today representing the building owners and managers association of Oregon, we provided written testimony in January, and I just wanted to bring out a couple points that were brought up in that testimony that are still concerns of ours overall. Boma is supportive of the phase out, we like the thought of that. However our members and many of those members are landscape contractors, have voiced concerns over the lack of performance of the electric leaf blowers compared to the gas powered ones. And we ask that when does their evaluation of the technology, if they find that the technology is not up to the duration and power of the gas powered, that may be they prolong that phase out period. If that's what what's, what's found, there's a very real concern about property owners around the liability of sidewalks and the slip and falls and to make sure that we can clear the leaves quickly and at a time when it's needed, is critical to the management of these these properties, the office properties, the other piece of it, we met with Multnomah County to find out more about the incentives that might be provided. And they didn't really articulate what that would be yet. And certainly our members are asking us what kind of incentives would they see? And for us to support this

ordinance, we'd like to have an understanding of what those incentives might be. Who who's going to qualify for those incentives, and how would they apply for those incentives. So those are those are our our points. Thank you very much for the time today. And, we'll talk again later. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you so much. And rebecca, can you remind us who's who's, testifying next? Next we have madeline derose, tamara olcott, and yuri ramirez. If your name was called, come on up. Name? No need to list your address, and if you can, try to keep your comments to two minutes. Thank you so much for being here to, thank you for bringing this ordinance up for reading.

Speaker: I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of the passage. My name is tamara olcott. I live in northeast Portland. I'm going to focus on the detrimental health effects just outlined. Some of those issues associated with the use of gas leaf blowers, or glb's, for short. Numerous studies have shown that emissions and noise produced by glb's can result in many adverse health effects. Emissions from glb's include high levels of fine particulate matter. The adverse effects of fine particulate matter are well known and include heart disease, stroke, and respiratory disease. Just a quick aside, one thing I think we need to think about is that we have things like asbestos and lead paint, and when we made those changes, I'm sure industry wasn't happy, but we did it for the health and safety of all of us globally. Emissions also contain harmful chemicals found in smog, which are known to cause dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart and lung disease and cancer. Glb's blast air at 140 to 270mph, creating clouds of dust and debris which include pollens, mold, animal feces, fertilizers, pesticides and more. Inhaling these substances can have serious health consequences. Operators of the equipment are most at risk, but the exhaust and dust are a danger to the general population, particularly children. The elderly, people with chronic asthma and other cardiopulmonary pulmonary

conditions. Also, the noise glb's emit a particularly high decibel, low frequency sound which easily penetrates windows and walls. The level of repetitive, sustained high decibel, low frequency sound emitted from glb's create stress, increasing the likelihood of adverse health effects. It also makes it difficult to concentrate for people working from home or attending school remotely, and the extremely loud noise can cause permanent hearing damage. Some argue that banning leaf blowers will harm landscapers, but those that operate jobs are at high risk of hearing and other health issues. Well over 100 cities have banned gas leaf blowers, including lake oswego. Thank you for adding Portland to this list of cities for taking this important step to protect all of our health and well-being.

Speaker: Thank you so much, rebecca, could you call up the next three testifiers?

Speaker: Next, we have matt villars online and anne casper and sandy polishchuk.

Speaker: Hi, matt. You're up.

Speaker: Hi. My name is matt villars, and I want to first off, take the time to thank you for considering this measure today, I up until recently lived in the lloyd district on in an apartment on top of a commercial building. And, during that time, we had four different bordering properties, including the property that we were above that would spend several hours a week leaf blowing. We're talking upwards of eight hours a week of just constant, constant blower noise. And in that context, again, I'm very thankful of the efforts that you're making to address this, but I do also want to raise a concern for kind of the burden on residents to kind of be the ones reporting this and to be the ones reporting it for individual property owners. We're talking about, you know, in my case, four different properties that, you know, I may have to talk about versus they all use the same contractor. So you know, I do want to maybe urge reconsidering the, the requirement of only, you know, enforcing with owners and not necessarily contractors, also, I hope that we will do something to

educate residents on, you know, their options for reporting and what information is out there. Because for me, when I first looked into this, I found that it was very difficult. It was hours of research just to understand what are the regulations, who can I talk to, getting phone numbers for these out of state llcs to try to talk to them about my concerns. It was very, very difficult. So, that's something that I hope will be taken into consideration, I also want to express a concern around the carve out. I know that that's something we brought up was a safety concern, as commissioner Ryan mentioned, there are alternatives that exist, right. And, you know, it's not like necessarily we have this crazy epidemic of slips and falls and whatnot before the invention of gas leaf blowers, you know, golf courses and commercial properties still operate it. So we are talking about here a difference of, you know, a difference of convenience, a difference of cost. And that's not nothing. You know, small businesses do matter of course, but I think it's important to frame that as we think about what we're weighing here and what measures we're taking. So in summary, I'm very glad that we're acting on this, and I hope that we will see this pass today, but I hope that we'll also continue to take the issue seriously and make any necessary changes in the future.

Speaker: Thank you. Great. Thank you. Matt, rebecca. Next, testifier. I believe we have, at the table we have at the table.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you. So much for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is sandy polishook. I live in northeast Portland. I'm here in support of the resolution. I'm not going to bother talking about the health effects. You've heard plenty of that, but speaking as probably the oldest person testifying today who grew up in an area that didn't have any blowers, I would like to say that many times I've seen blowers used in a simple rake or broom would have done the job easily. I think of walking by these apartment buildings with open walkways where there's a

few leaves and someone's blowing the whole thing just down below to the parking lot, where they could just take a broom, so I hope that, this this, when the education I know the county is going to be doing that, but I hope you will help urge them. And I know John's here so he can also do that, but to talk include older, more economical strategies for dealing with leaves. Then when you publicize this all, mainly I would like to talk about the loud noises, as they're distracting and annoying. But for someone like myself and my, people my age, when you have hearing loss, the noise is downright painful, while it may seem strange that losing your hearing can leave you more sensitive to louder sounds, it's actually incredibly common among people with hearing difficulties because I wear hearing aids, they amplify the blower noise, and I and my fellow hearing aid weight wearers suffer even more, so, thank you very much. And during covid, I began walking in my neighborhood as my exercise because my gym was closed. And that's when I really began hating blowers. Thank you so much.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you so much, can we call up the next three testifiers, please?

Speaker: Albert kaufman. Alicia cohen, and charles wolsborn albert is online.

Speaker: Hi, albert. How are you doing ?

Speaker: I'm good. Thanks. Is it my turn? Yeah

Speaker: Sure is. Two minutes, please. Okay. Name for the record, but no address.

Speaker: Albert kaufman and, I want to thank you all today for hearing us on this ordinance, it's not every day that, issue that I work on. Work on, gets to actually get a hearing before a City Council or anywhere else. So much appreciated. I've been part of the crew that's been working on this for seven years. And I'm sure you're all tired of receiving emails from me, I just want to say that, a couple of things that I've heard today I think are interesting, but the main, main thing that really comes to my mind after thinking this over for many months and years is, you know, the role of

our government, we all know that these gas powered leaf blowers and actually lawn mowers and anything gas powered really should be banned immediately, whether you consider the health, the people of using them or everyone else that's around, or insects or birds, everything that's alive is suffering because of these things. And if we really thought this was an emergency that we're in, and I do think that personally, we would react immediately, if you look at cities like oakland, we've talked to the, City Councilor in oakland, dan kalb, and he came back to us and said, you know, I'm a champion for this issue. And so we're going to ban these and give everyone six months to deal with it. Well they did exactly that, and they've had hardly any complaints at all. Okay. So today, someone wrote to me because she wanted to testify and I just want to read her testimony to you because I think it's valuable. Her name is nikki abbott, and she said I signed up to join today's, but I doubt i'll be able to make it because of work. But I really wanted to add today, is that as someone who works outside of my dog walking business, I can say without a doubt that there isn't a single hour of any day, any time of year, that there isn't a sound of gas powered leaf blowers. Today, as I'm out hearing them on every block, there's a seven days a week, 365 days a year on holidays. I can't wait another four years to have this end. We all have to make a living, but we don't have to force it on the entire community. We can change now, and I want to just say that her her point about we should be doing this now is exactly what I would say we should have done this years ago. The timelines on this are ridiculous. We should shorten them.

Thanks for hearing me today and thanks for hearing this issue.

Speaker: Rebecca, can we call up our next testifier, alicia cohen?

Speaker: Hi, alicia. Welcome. Two minutes, please.

Speaker: Thank you. And, thank you to the council for the opportunity to testify today in favor of this new ordinance. My name is alicia cohen, and I am the founder

of stop burning things pdx. We work on woodsmoke, and air pollution at the intersection of climate justice, and air quality. This is such an important issue. And I've been actually so moved by the testimony today. And with your opening, commissioner Rubio, thank you so much, the proposed ordinance is a wonderful step forward for landscape workers. Our beautiful city and our climate, air quality ecosystems, and the peace and quiet of our lived environment. I am very grateful to commissioner Rubio and chair vega peterson. I'm grateful to quiet clean pdx bts and the office of sustainability, as well as to everyone who has worked so hard to bring us to this day. Thank you so much.

Speaker: Thank you. Alicia, rebecca can we call up our next group?

Speaker: Charles wolsborn is next.

Speaker: Great. Hey, charles, name for the record, no need to give us your address to two minutes, please, thank you for an opportunity to speak. I'm chuck wolsborn, managing partner for gresham golf course in gresham, Oregon. I'm a past president of the Oregon golf course superintendents association. Most golf facilities in the united states, according to the small business administration, qualify as small businesses and as an industry comprised of mostly small business. It's sustainability is sensitive to the uncertainty of economic conditions and the impact of particularly unknown regulations. Many individual golf facilities operate on a small profit margin. Staff has mentioned considering for the small guys we are part of the small guys, early adoption of battery powered equipment may be practical for a homeowner on a quarter acre lot, but for an average golf course covering over 150 acres, the needs are quite different. The drawbacks and deficiencies, particularly in a commercial operation, include limited liability, battery life, runtime, insufficient power, limited charging infrastructure. The event of regional power grid reliability, recycling limitations, and the overall cost of new equipment. Bad trees

and charging stations. The cost of commercial grade battery equipment can be 2 to 4 times that of gas counterparts. The outdoor power equipment institute reports that as far back as 2021, battery and electric equipment accounted for more than 56% of the us market of power equipment, including to the general consumer market. Thus, policy makers should consider market forces ahead of leading, leading to adoption to the use of battery powered equipment. Such mandates have made the potential resource for early market shortfalls of product, high consumer needs and demands, especially during a time of supply chain volatility. Adoption of new equipment and technology should be marketed based and fully considered on the availability of equipment, affordability, reliability, feasibility, and the ends of the end user, especially operating on a commercial scale. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Chuck, rebecca, who's up next?

Speaker: Next we have nikki abbott, brian koffler, and alex ketchum. Nikki was online.

Speaker: Nikki, are you online? Nikki, can you hear us? If you're online, if you could unmute, if you're there, that would be great.

Speaker: And we have, maybe we can skip nikki and go to skip nikki. We'll go to, brian koffler.

Speaker: Did you want to get this gentleman? I think he was waiting.

Speaker: Yeah, i'll hit it. I'll be back.

Speaker: Hi, name for the record. Two minutes.

Speaker: Yeah, my name is doctor yuri ramirez, I welcome, we'd love to hear what you're thinking today.

Speaker: Okay, so I spent, seven, 17 years as an engineer at intel. Now, I'm a owner of clean air lawn care is a national chain or franchise. I own the Portland west side. I think that, education is very important on this issue in terms of the health, the

benefits are obvious in terms of the economics. It is also obvious once you run the numbers, it is cheaper actually to run a long time. So if someone is starting new it is cheaper. If someone is starting on replacing equipment, that is a concern, because any expense is worse than no expense. But if you're looking at the long term, it is much more beneficial to do electric. My particular concern is not so much with no pun intended with golf course and the big companies is more with, John Smith that owns, a truck with leaf blowers, and they may have a difficult time upgrading. So I'm all for helping the environment as a business owner. Part of me says I'd rather not have this part because I'll have more customers. But, as a Portlander that cares about the environment and, I have such a company, I think it's the right thing to do at the right time. I just want to make sure that, that the people that don't have the resources to upgrade are taken care of. I don't know the details, but, with credits or any way that they can, they're not priced out of the market.

Speaker: Thank you so much. And we'll go. Please. What's your name? Name for the record. No need to give us your address. Two minutes.

Speaker: Thank you, Brian Koffler, I'm a, southeast Portland resident, but today I'm speaking on behalf of the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association, which is a trade association representing over 330 golf industry professionals managing golf courses in Oregon and southwest Washington, which seven of our member courses are located within the Portland city limits, the members of the CSA are committed to the adoption and use of electric equipment as technology improves, but do not support this phaseout, which will result in an outright ban of critically needed equipment, by obviously 2028. While the proposed ordinance may be practical for homeowners, the needs of golf course superintendents maintaining an average of 150 acres of valuable community green space are very different, golf is more than just an enjoyable pastime in the state. According to a 2020 economic and

environmental impact study commissioned by the golf alliance of Oregon, golf contributes 1.6 billion to the state's overall overall economy and supports over 16,000 jobs while generating \$69 million annually in tax revenue for state and local governments. We ask that the city consider focusing on incentives to help this transition occur naturally and cost effectively for small businesses that will be impacted, such as golf courses. One cannot only consider the cost of a glb compared to an electric electric version using just one battery. Golf course operators will require multiple batteries to complete jobs throughout the day, and would need to install costly charging station infrastructure. While there is mention of program development to offset costs for small businesses that would experience disproportionate hardships, details have not been shared. No indication of where the funds will come from, how much the businesses will receive and who will be eligible. If this ordinance is to pass, we respectfully request that golf courses are included for funding to assist in the transition. In summary, ogsa remains committed to embracing innovation and new technologies. If a full exemption from the ordinance is not possible, we ask that the implementation deadline be extended and that financial incentives and rebate programs be included for Portland city golf courses. We thank city staff for their engagement on the issue and listening to our concerns, especially that of sonrisa cooper, and we appreciate your consideration of the issues.

Speaker: Thank you. Great. Thank you for your testimony, rebecca, can you call our next three?

Speaker: Next we have nolan winkler, jim myers, and jessica stolberg.

Speaker: Welcome. Thank you, name? For the record, two minutes, please, thank you very much, presiding officer Mapps, presenting commissioner Rubio, members of the City Council. My name is nolan winkler. I am here today, on behalf to speak

to you on behalf of the Oregon golf course superintendents association. As a member and past president of the Oregon golf course superintendents association, which represents over 330 golf industry professionals who manage golf course grounds at over 177 golf courses in Oregon, southwest Washington, seven of which of these courses are located within the city of Portland, five of which are owned and operated by the city of Portland themselves accounting for over 330 full time and part time jobs, commissioner gonzales really quick to answer your previous question regarding weight, our current backpack blower that we use commercially, weighs about 21 pounds of the best commercial option is about 38 pounds with the battery, cost wise as well. Start up cost wise, current backpack blower a gas backpack blower \$549. The commercial equivalent with a single battery, plus the charger is nearly \$3,000 as an initial investment. So as you can tell, there's a considerable amount of difference there. As a representative of the Oregon superintendent association, I am committed to the adoption and use of electrical equipment as technology improves, but I do not support this phaseout, which will result in an outright ban of critically needed equipment by January 1st of 2028. While this phaseout is well intended and primarily focused on homeowners and other small land parcels, maintaining finely manicured turfgrass on nearly 150 acres is simply not practical. From the city's own impact statement, the city recognizes that the electric leaf blowers are not yet powerful enough. Gas blowers are an important tool used throughout the entire year, not just during the wet season. Our current model of gas blowers are quieter than the city. Noise ordinance was 65db at 50ft and produce less emissions than the current epa and california air resources board standards, the strictest in the country. Golf course superintendents are committed to the efficient and safe usage of this important tool around their neighboring properties, clientele, as well as those who work on

the golf course we strictly adhere to and in many times exceed all worker protection standards with regards to any power, equipment, I am concerned that this amendment will have detrimental financial impact on small businesses. Which golf courses are small businesses? Thank you, presiding officer, maps presenting commissioner Rubio and the rest of the City Council for your engagement on the issue. I appreciate your consideration of the issues myself and my industry we have while making the final decision of this ordinance.

Speaker: Thank you so much, our next testifier, please, yeah, I'm jim myers. I'm a homeowner here in Portland, and I do agree with the technology with, moving to electric, backpack blowers. I feel technology isn't up to par right now. The electric blowers, need a lot of. Future, investment to be able to, handle, what you guys are asking for in 2028, i, I can see the use of electric blowers for a yard, but not for a golf course. And, in Portland, you know, for a golf course to maintain 180 acres, it's going to be pretty much impossible with, the electric blowers that are currently, have, in the industry right now or in the next, you know, two years in 2028, there's a lot more that's going to have to happen, I would ask the council to look at, golf course maintenance before moving forward with this, the 2010 and then also, it was stated that you guys would look into it a little bit more, you know, within the next, two years. But technology is going to have to change quite a bit, for golf courses to operate and be able to maintain 180 acres.

Speaker: So thank you. Thank you so much, rebecca, could you call our next three?

Speaker: Next we have jessica stolberg. She's online.

Speaker: Hi, jessica, first name, last name. Two minutes, please. Hi, there.

Speaker: I'm jessica stolberg. I grew up in Portland and graduated in 1990 from wilson, now ida b wells high school. I moved to new york city to attend college and have remained on the east coast, though returned to Portland with my own family

and to visit my mom and longtime friends. I'm a freelance writer and increasingly focus on the intersection of public health and climate resilience. I've been specifically focused on the hazards and harms of the gas leaf blower. For three years. I've written about the gas leaf blower in the new york times, and as a guest on a climate segment on npr, today I heard remarks from city officials that you acknowledge this machine is a health and environmental hazard that deserves effort dates back to 2018. A full ban will not go into effect until 2028. I'd like to express my grave concern and disappointment that you'll not begin to protect the public health of all who live and work in Portland for another two years. The gas leaf blower will not leave Portland ahead of a law. It will do so because of one. Based on my work over the last three years, calls for transition are simply not enough. The gas leaf blower will remain in wide use for the next two years. All of this very singular yard maintenance tool were viable alternatives exist. The most affected by this machine are those who wear them on their backs, largely an invisible workforce without health benefits. One of your speakers today suggests the opposite view that these workers or their bosses would be harmed by eliminating the machine. This is difficult to hear, knowing the immense health risks to every single worker. There is a growing number of cities and towns that have outlawed this machine. These locales are not only succeeding without the gas leaf blower, they are healthier and safer. I have interviewed countless residents, landscapers, and city officials. They are succeeding with today's technology and with a paradigm shift in land practices. The law, in effect, was what allowed for true change. Our Portland leaves more difficult than in other cities, and towns. What must you blow 12 months of the year, which requires the delay of even seasonal limits as starting as a starting point? How did the city of Portland manage leaves? During my entire childhood, during which I have no memory of gas leaf blower use?

Portland limits the idling of commercial vehicles to five minutes. If this law is on your books, you must consider why you will continue to legally allow a machine with emissions exponentially worse emissions that would fail an inspection at the dmV to blow for continuous hours across your neighborhoods. Parking lots, parks, and school grounds. The gas leaf blower is cars without seatbelts, ddt, asbestos, lead in paint, and indoor smoking. You already know all of the dangers of this machine. You acknowledge them today, and yet you are passing legislation that will keep their use unchecked for the next two years. This is the opposite of a commitment to public health. Join those ahead of you. Please do not continue to for Portland to lag behind for the next two years. Thank you. Thank you so much.

Speaker: We can go to our next speaker. I believe that's erica.

Speaker: Erica mcgill.

Speaker: Erica, hi.

Speaker: Hi, my name is erica mcgill, I am a mount tabor resident, and my data is just me. I'm just want to report my experiences of living in mount tabor. I moved there in 1990, so it's been a long time I moved there specifically because I'm a walker and I like to walk around the neighborhood. I loved going through mount tabor, and it's getting increasingly difficult with the noise and triggering my asthma. So when leaf blowing season is at its highest, I have to take an inhaler or I have to wear a mask and it's complete degradation of my experience of living in my neighborhood. So that's my data. Thank you.

Speaker: Oh, thank you very much, can we go to our next speaker, jill belanger? Is jill, I think jill, I think you're online. Can you hear us?

Speaker: Hi. Yes my name is jill belanger, I'm here to commend the members of quiet clean pdx. Hey, guys, and others, because as a long time advocate for and an expert on sustainable landscaping, I know how hard it is to stand up to an industry

full of lobbyists that put profits above all else. One of those lobbyists I likely provided word for word testimony here today. I've heard it before. The landscaping industry continues to push a false narrative that we cannot live without this one outdated and noxious device. In reality, we cannot live with it. When the late commissioner nick fish passed his, 2019 legislation, I thought that this was the start of something incredible, but here we are in 2024, considering a law that will only allow them to pollute, to continue to pollute for yet another four years, we have the research. We don't need more proof. In 2022, a member of the parks department in wilsonville, Oregon, just south of Portland, got inspired by a Seattle parks department presentation all about climate adaptation in public parks. He started a program of leaving leaves in unpaved areas, taking note to leave a wider area under trees drip lines to provide essential nutrients to the soil while limiting the use of blowers in the process. We can learn to blow less and blow less, focusing more on regenerative ecology, soil health and erosion control all of which saves time and money, I promise. I've been working with the Seattle parks to bring that same presentation to a wider audience, and they've agreed to offer it again this April. Woohoo, and record it on their youtube page. People need to know that there's a better way, and that legislation like this is essential, and it doesn't work if lobbyists continue to brand them as job killers, and somehow more dangerous than carting around truckloads of flammable gasoline. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Jill, rebecca, could you call our next speaker, jim bell? Jim, I think your virtual. Jim, can you hear us?

Speaker: I don't think he signed in. Okay can we get.

Speaker: I think our our speaker after jim is also virtual, can you call jordan?

Speaker: Jordan weiss?

Speaker: Jordan, are you out there?

Speaker: Patrick tangradi. Dan. Gilk.

Speaker: Welcome, dan, maybe first name, last name, and try to limit your comments to two minutes.

Speaker: I'm dan gilck, I just, I know I'm a concerned, southeast resident, and I want to just commend, quiet clean pdx on their work, I actually just recently learned about this movement and was very happy to hear jumped at the invitation to come here and just express my support for the ordinance. Really hope it makes it through. One concern I have is around, what seems like some weaker enforcement, aimed at contractors, I think that what we've heard today, I go a lot of what we have heard today about these carve outs and how they are basically allowing the fox to run the henhouse here, we need to be pushing for legislation that moves the city forward, businesses will probably kick and scream as they're taken along with us, but that's normal for this kind of legislation. Glisan. And we just need to be future minded about this. That's all.

Speaker: Great, thank you so much. Before you go, I see commissioner Gonzalez hand is up. Oh.

Speaker: I'm sorry. I'm good.

Speaker: I clicked something, okay. No, you're you're good. Let's go to our next testifier, who I suspect is robert butler. Robert, come on up. Robert, you've been with us all day long, I admire your perseverance, first name, last name?

Speaker: Bob butler.

Speaker: I'm a native, so, this looks like a noise ordinance issue. And the complainers, mainly the real ones, are the ones that are just miserable in their life because of this distraction to their life. But it's a noise issue. We're on the wrong foot. We're on the wrong horse. So, it is possibly. It's a land land use situation and residential zoning could prohibit this in their noise ordinance and leave industry

alone. And those that don't like it can move into their residential sanctuary. And we're good, it's not really a health issue. Come on. We've been talking about health all day. This is not a health issue. This is also the my point is, this is not a global warming issue. And I really object to this because you're taking this money from a fund that is responsive to climate change. This is nothing for climate change. Absolutely nothing. This this doesn't let's try to let this in terms of climate change does not move the needle at all. Nothing so I object to you taking the money from the climate change money. You go go find another way to get it. But leave that alone. And I'm also disappointed that the homework wasn't done. Commissioner Gonzalez had it right. What is the difference? And we missed it. It's twice as much weight practically, and four times more expensive. And this committee and this analysis missed all of that. And that's why I'm thinking it's more of a noise issue and it's more of a land use issue. And let the jobs go forward in the industrial areas. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Robert. Can we go to our next speaker, please?

Speaker: Regina wilson. Regina's online. Hi regina.

Speaker: Two minutes. Hi there. First name? Last two minutes.

Speaker: Regina wilson I live in southwest Portland. This is absolutely an environmental issue and a noise issue. There is no, there's so much support that when these leaves are blown, it impacts the environment. There's soil erosion, especially on the golf courses, so I work from home. I know the schedule of every single, maintenance company that comes around, and my work is impacted every single day, even on the you know, the days where I can just anticipate the noise coming in, I get very stressed out. So I just want you to also think about all the people in the city that work from home, so it's definitely about the people that use

these things, and it's about their jobs, but it's also the people that work at home and their jobs. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Regina and I think we might have two more people to, signed up to testify on this item. And they're both online, rebecca, could you call our next testifier?

Speaker: Next, we have sarah silky.

Speaker: Hi, sarah. First name, last name. Two minutes, please. Sarah.

Speaker: Silky. I live in southwest Portland, and I agree that this is very much an environmental issue. I am less worried about the noise myself. I want to start by thanking you all for your support of this ordinance, and for not letting the perfect being the enemy, the enemy of the good. This is a step in the right direction that said, implementation of this simple measure is being delayed in the name of equity, which is ironic because the very people most affected by the direct negative health impacts are the people doing the work carrying these things around and breathing this stuff all day. The workers themselves are not here complaining because they need their jobs. It's the government's job to protect these workers by banning the harmful tools that harm their health and harm the environment, especially because there are viable alternatives available. Leaf blowers are not necessary. They are definitely not critical equipment, even for a golf course. In the big scheme of things, leaf blower operators, will continue to have plenty of work. Consider that before 1947, nobody used leaf blowers because they didn't exist. Also note that in 1947, the atmospheric concentration of co2 was 310 parts per million, and nobody had even heard of global climate change. I don't believe that they're catastrophic numbers of people slipping and falling on wet leaves, and I think golf was a thing back then, too. Our cheap is cheap maintenance more important than stopping global warming? Is it more important than preventing wild forest fires and 115

degree days in Portland, we lost 72 people from heat in a single summer. Summer two stroke engines. I think should be banned altogether. And this is a small step in the right direction. So thank you so much for your time and for moving this forward.

Speaker: Thank you sarah. And I believe we have at least one more testifier on this, rebecca, could you call the next our next, our next member of the public to testify, arlene landry.

Speaker: Arlene is joining us online.

Speaker: Hi, arlene. Can you hear us? Can we? Is arlene appear to be online? I'm not seeing her, but arlene.

Speaker: Landry? Arlene, are you there ?

Speaker: Arlene, it looks like you might be on mute . Is it star nine? To unmute? In this system . All right. It looks like we have arlene. It looks like we're having some technical difficulties getting you online. I encourage you to, submit, some written testimony to the clerk, and we'll make sure that gets circulated to, everyone ones, offices. Rebecca, do we have any more public testimony on this one that completes testimony?

Speaker: Okay, great, colleagues, that completes public testimony on this item. Any questions or discussion? Commissioner Gonzalez. You look pensive.

Speaker: I'm pensive, but, also tired. Carried with me a moment here. I want to think about here. Here if I may, i'll jump in, I want to thank commissioner Rubio for bringing this item forward. I want to thank staff for the presentation, like many of you, I have been around this issue. I judging from the history for about as long as it's been out there for about seven years. Really glad to see this move forward, some of the concerns that got brought up today are also concerns, that I'm still thinking about and have questions on the equity piece, I'm not exactly sure, it looks

like we're handing over, developing a subsidy program to the county. It would be great at some point if we could learn more, about that, as I look at the at the framework for the program that, that's before us today, i'll tell you, it sure looks like parks, has had a good communications with, planning and sustainability around what this, looks like. And that's great. I always like good communication, a thing which, I'm also aware of. As the commissioner in charge of the water bureau and the bureau of environmental services is that we do a lot of land management to, you know, out at bull run for example, we essentially we were fighting a forest fire last summer and frankly, industrial scale, leaf blowers are part of our, of the arsenal of tools that we use, and we do it at an industrial scale, like right now, the technology that we need to do that work doesn't exist. We'd love to continue to engage with, commissioner yea. Rubio around, some of some of those issues, I have the great privilege of being on a member of council so I can if commissioner Rubio is open to having these staff level discussions about some of those concerns, I'd be happy to do that. So I don't have to keep folks here later on today. But those were some of the main things I'm thinking about right now. Yeah, we're open to that, I would, I would, probably bring staff into that those meetings because they're in the weeds, if that's okay.

Speaker: Yeah, absolutely. And i'll get I just kind of, unloaded a little bit. Staff wanted any initial thoughts on, you know, what do you do if you're a big city bureau and you're, right now the technology to manage your space, the, you know, the leaf blowers for me to manage some of the wild lands, we have for water. Bees don't exist. I know, like, parks has literally has some golf courses, too. When we heard a lot of concerns around the golf community, any thoughts on what the city should do in situations like that? Yes.

Speaker: Thank you for the question. We did engage in proactively reached out to both. Bts. Pbot Portland water bureau and of course, our parks department, because these are the bureaus that manage over 15% of lands within the city of Portland boundaries, including a number of our golf courses. And so a number of the infrastructure bureaus did indicate that they wished parks to be the lead on engagement in these conversations, because what would work for parks would also likely work for them as well. Every scenario is different, and I have heard of some of the concerns from the Portland Portland water bureau, and look forward to understanding how we can meet the considerations of those frontline workers during our ever changing climate. During the full calendar cycle of the year, while accounting for that wet leaf season carve out that we currently have, we also understand there's a number of exemptions that will be needed to make in order to have the charging infrastructure, much like how you're not going to send out a crew without the necessary cans of gasoline for fuel, for gas powered leaf blowers. We also need to ensure that workers are able to go out there with the necessary equipment for electric leaf blowers, and so that is exactly why the ordinance also currently has, if folks do need to apply for an exemption, including ourselves as a city, to upgrade electrical equipment, knowing how long sometimes procurement may happen in the city, it does allow for that as well, let me maybe get an explicit response to one of the other concerns I hear about this program, often, you know, I think for most Portlanders, this is, a no brainer. Very exciting. Especially for committed to, fighting climate change, as we all are. One place where I do hear pushback are from small landscapers who are literally tend to be people of color, often essentially low income folks. I think we heard some numbers today around how much a gas powered leaf blower cost versus an electric leaf blower. I might have gotten this wrong, but I thought I heard someone say something like \$358 for

a gas powered, maybe about 3000 or something for an electric. I don't know if that's real. I might have, gotten that wrong, but. And I'm also I see in here the county, is going to work to come up with some subsidy program, which is great, but yeah, I guess I'm council I think is probably on the verge of passing this, which is likely to create some new expenses for businesses. Glad to hear the county, is likely to come up with a subsidy program, but I don't control the county's budget, which is a lesson I learned over and over and over again. So what do I say to the small businesses out there, especially the small businesses of color who actually do this work, do I just say, well, the county is going to come in with dollars to save you? Can you give us a sense of what that's likely to look like? Sure thank you, commissioner, john bochenski again, I'm here on behalf of the chair. And the chair is committed to, putting general fund dollars in her budget, for a subsidy program, we've done thinking a lot of thinking about what that's going to look like, you know, limiting it to smaller businesses, you know, helping to absorb, you know, up to half the cost of, a new, a new blower, probably limiting the total amount to a single business. Just to make sure that we're able to touch as many as businesses as we can, through this, subsidy, making sure that we're doing the outreach as generously. Offer to help us with that outreach, especially those smaller, you know, two guys in a truck type of businesses that are out there, so, you know, i, I'm not really able at this time to talk about exact dollar amounts because the chair hasn't released her budget yet, but she has made the commitment, and sent me here today to communicate with the council that, she is going to make that a priority for the budget.

Speaker: Great. So, based on those comments, we should expect, a line item in the chairs, next budget for leaf blowers. Correct. Leaf blower subsidy.

Speaker: Yeah, we call it a we call it a, program offer, each. So there'll be a program offer specifically for the incentive program.

Speaker: Great, and one more question, and then I'll hand it over to commissioner Ryan, who's, digital hand is up, what about one of the groups that obviously got mobilized today were the golf, folk, would we expect the golf companies, to be eligible for the subsidy program, or is that they probably kind of a yeah.

Speaker: I mean, we should work. We should work to understand what their needs are, certainly, but the one thing just to keep in mind is that, this is for backpack and handheld blowers, and so on. There's, you know, lots of other there's other blower technology out there, believe it or not, you know, that attaches to a tractor, for example, you know, and gets pulled behind a tractor. And that's not being regulated here today, you know, there's blowers that roll on the ground, you know, so there's, there's a variety of technology out there for bigger spaces, besides the rake, as some people mentioned.

Speaker: And actually, I said it was going to hand it off, but it's something which would be helpful. And I've been I think I've been, at least on the periphery of this debate and sometimes in the center for about 5 or 6 years. And one of the confusing things is, is, is how the city and the county wind up collaborate working on this, is that baked into the nature of the problem, or is this a unique approach that Portland has chosen? I'm trying to think of programs that look like this, and I'm having a hard I can't think of a lot of other topics that that look like this one.

Speaker: I think when we look at the long stretch of, history, there's lots of examples of the county and the city working really well together, particularly in the climate, space and environmental space. But, you know, just one example of the, of the city's health code is bees and chickens. Right? So the city has certain regulations around bees and chickens, and you don't have a bees and chickens, inspector, our health officer serves that role, when there's a complaint about it. So, I imagine this working in this the same exact fashion where, you know, there's an

intergovernmental agreement between the city and the county. And, you know, if there's a, you know, we'll develop the complaint protocol and everything, as that becomes as this ordinance passes, the rules are written, etc, right?

Speaker: And actually, I'm glad you mentioned that. I think of the space of, vector control, which I over have some, often play a role in and I there is some collaboration there, great. I really appreciate the conversation. Commissioner Ryan has been very patient, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Well, thank you, commissioner Mapps, I'm going to start off by saying thank you. That was a really good overview that you did at the beginning, and the testimony was really helpful, I want to ask about implementation, what I've noticed as a voter for years and since I've been on council is government is so good at passing so many policies. And if you looked at how many were implemented in the timeline, they suggested it's a pretty bad record, and then when you have the audacity to actually put it out in public, then you're, you're terrorized. So I get I get it now more than ever, but I'm a proud to say that everything that I've really worked on has been implemented. And so I just need to understand the timeline a little bit more. There was a slide on it. Could that come up again? Is that a big ask? It was in the presentation earlier.

Speaker: Yeah, I can start talking about that. Well, we're bringing up the slide. So so, and particularly with, I know that you've been, we've been in many meetings with, with parks and obviously we have golf courses in the city.

Speaker: And we also know, based on what we've heard today, that, resources are an issue to help with the transition. I thought the gentleman representing the landscapers did a very good job of, elegantly answering that question. So it's it gets to the pcef, dialog we're having, and is that already earmarked for the implementation with parks? I just don't know.

Speaker: As, as far as I know, the pcef dollars are earmarked already.

Speaker: I believe that the committee, thank you for the question. I believe that the committee is still finalizing their final recommendation, but there is currently a proposal to help meet a very thorough memo that the parks bureau did prepare for us that clearly outlined what their needs would be in order to meet the proposal, as we had in its first iteration.

Speaker: That's my understanding. So parks and have had the dialog and have come to an agreement. Now it's in the committee's hands.

Speaker: That's correct.

Speaker: And I think those testifying know were in budget season. So it's really important to ask such questions, any other concerns that we have on implementation because even though it's delayed to many that are here, it still needs to be ambitious. And I think what we often find out is when we're three months before the goal, we realize that we have to move it again. So yeah. So what kind of checkpoints do we have to make sure that we're on course to, I can talk about how we ended up with that.

Speaker: The timeline, which is on the slide. So 2026 for partial year ban, 2028 for a full year ban. So that's four years away, and that's based on a few different things. One is the technology. So when we spoke with stakeholders in the landscaping industry, I mean, you've heard already the charging time, the runtime of electric leaf blowers is, not, equivalent. Yet during the really heavy season. And, but the expectation is that in 3 to 5 years, that technology will have parity with gas blowers. And so we split the difference. We went with four years, and that is really based on, you know, phase outs like this happening around the country and showing more demand for it, customer is asking for electric equipment and most importantly, the state of california implementing a ban on the sale of all gas powered lawn

equipment statewide that just went into effect at the beginning of the year. So that's not just leaf blowers, that's lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, everything is going to be electrified. And so, our thinking is that similar to, you know, the renaissance of hybrid and electric vehicles from California's air emission standards, the same thing is going to happen, with lawn equipment.

Speaker: That's really helpful.

Speaker: So that's part of it. The other reason that we went with 2026 for that partial year ban, it's based on, kind of the, the big property owners we're talking about, you know, schools, parks, universities, a lot of those bigger institutions are on two year budget cycles. So even if they wanted to do this tomorrow, they're they need to wait till the next biennium before they can actually implement it. So, that's part of it. There's also, you know, slow procurement need for electrical upgrades. And then that also gives us plenty of time to do outreach and education, the original version of the policy had grace periods in 2026 and 2028 on enforcement, and so we removed those because we knew that people wanted to move the dates up, but moving the dates up would not be workable for commercial, contractors or property owners, so that's kind of the middle ground that we found. It makes the, it basically just gives the, the policy teeth a year earlier, but it doesn't change the actual dates. Okay one second. Okay. So when you have these up here, how are we going to measure that? We're a partial year ban has gone into effect. What what kind of metrics are we measuring and how will we get that data, so the partial year ban refers to the wet leaf season, as we call it, the carve out from October through December. So for the first nine months of the year, so January through September, it's electric leaf blowers only. Okay. And then October through December, gas leaf blowers will be allowed for two years. And that's, really accommodating for the, the technology to improve.

Speaker: Okay. So this is the factor of the wet leaf season is what's in here. Yes. Okay. That wasn't clear to me. But now it is, might want to do a graphic to maybe enhance that, and then I think there are a few people testified about how we would enforce it, what are the early conversations like when it comes to enforcement?

Speaker: Yeah, we've, we've thanks for the question. We've had discussions with both our noise ordinance officer, who currently fields, all of the calls and complaints that are driven, and also looking forward to working with our partners at the county in order to figure out exactly what the volume is going to be and how we will be doing enforcement. We'll work that through our intergovernmental intergovernmental agreement. And again, I want to emphasize that the way we've crafted this policy is really to try not to be punitive. That's not where we want to be. We want to do as much education on the front end. And we hope that the schedule that we propose is really for the most egregious, violators.

Speaker: Now that that sounds good, but we all know if there's aren't, there aren't consequences of bad behavior. Assuredly, and then we had a311 celebration earlier today. So I assume they might be in that system.

Speaker: That could be a great resource for us to utilize.

Speaker: So that's a suggestion, a friendly suggestion. If you will. Thank you, let me look at the other ones. Implementation action, the this will bring you into the conversation, john, when you mentioned the county is gresham, fairview, troutdale. Corbett, are they all wood village? Are they all having this conversation as well, thanks, commissioner, for mentioning all the other cities in Multnomah County school, background.

Speaker: So I'm remembering the different districts.

Speaker: It's impressive. It's impressive. You got them all, the, you know, the city of gresham is actually adopting their first ever climate action plan. And just the next

few weeks, this isn't leaf blowers aren't called out explicitly, but thanks to the partnership with the city of Portland, we'll be ready for the exact same process to roll out and to assist those other cities. If they choose to go forward with similar types of policies. So we're or, right there for them. We collaborate with those other cities all the time, on these types of issues and, we're certainly making them aware of what the city of Portland is doing in case they want to imitate and copy. And as we've heard from some of the testifiers, that's what we, you know, we're doing. We're copying from other people who have implemented these types of policies. But you know, there's a lot to like here.

Speaker: But one thing to really like is if it had if it was at scale and so we wouldn't be alone. Once again, Portland against the rest of the municipalities, we actually did it together. So the fact that you're here representing the chair, that commissioner Rubio and chair vega peterson, but working together, that's something to really like about this. So I'm hoping to hear that that has more legs to it. Absolutely. And then I think that's enough, thank you so much.

Speaker: Any other, commissioner? Commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: I think this is mostly for sustainability. When we're looking at the movement to electrification, what are your current assumptions about the quality of Oregon's grid, in terms of the production of electricity and, and what assumptions are you making as to the sources of electricity in our region?

Speaker: Thank you for the question. We have a two main utility providers for electricity in our region, and they both released their, clean power plans, each of them have used a different marketing phrase for what it is, but they both have released their plans and there is still a transition to be made to be completely free of fossil fuels, for both pge and pacific power. And so we're taking that into consideration as we're seeing a larger adoption of electrification in all forms of

mobility and sort of equipment, and we're continuing to track that and working with all stakeholders, including very closely at the county, and with the utility boards, to both understand the mix that's currently within our electric sector, but also where we're going and also what the burdens are on that.

Speaker: Do you do you have high level those figures, in terms of current mix for pge and pacificorp? Because I mostly bring it up because i, I think it's important for citizens to be paying attention to the assumptions that underlie electrification. And I've been all in on electrification. Our own household had some starts and stops on. That is, because the other thing we need to talk about from a sustainable sustainability perspective is the impact of batteries, and particularly the battery disposal, which is a nasty, nasty business. Whether you're talking vehicles or you're talking leaf blowers. And so, and just one more observation, but then I will get back to the question is, we've seen our local utilities really doubled down on natural gas adoption to help fill, some of the gaps. We're still seeing very high coal utilization, and both pacificorp and pge and not a lot of optimism that that's going to improve in the short terme notwithstanding the long terme, articulated plan. So i, I was just curious if you had the numbers off the top of your head or high level, and if you don't, that's fine. People can find them online. But you have great confidence in my ability to remember numbers, which is higher than the reality.

Speaker: So no, unfortunately I do not have those numbers off the top of my head, my colleagues at the bureau of planning sustainability right now are probably wish they had placards to hold up for me, like a race car driver to let me know what those those are. The one thing I do want to note though, however, is that the this is a dynamic conversation. I mean, we have a great influx of federal investment that's coming for to incentivize rooftop solar. Of course, the city itself, through offered a number and bts offer a number of code amendment changes to help spur that and

to help receive the interest from residential rooftop solar. At least we have a long way to go to really achieve a just transition within our communities. It's going to take a lot of dedication and hard work, and working with our partners at the utilities and also with manufacturers to ensure that we can meet that on the front end, that we can also encourage people to understand the best usage and time of use. For example, to use new equipment responsibly, and then also how to dispose and recycle, in, in an ethical way on the back end. Fortunately, at we're able to work through a number of those issues through the entire, continuum, including for disposal. And so that's something we're going to be continuing to track, but it is dynamic. So it's difficult for me to answer the question specifically related to, to leaf blowers and other lawn equipment.

Speaker: Yeah. And it's just from a policy perspective, this is just something we're going to have to wrestle with what our assumptions and to, you know, I think the last time we visited this in a really deep way was around, ev chargers and what we were doing there. I was actually disappointed in where utilities were in terms of, as of right now, this moment, coal usage in the region, it's much higher than I had assumed, I think particularly for pacificorp. But it's true. It's and it's that disappointing to think that you're shifting from gas to electrical that's actually driving more use of coal, at least at times right now. And it's, it's, as well as natural gas. Yes commissioner.

Speaker: I mean, just at a very highest level, the, utilities have until 2040 to get to 100, clean electricity supply, for, for all customers in their service territories in the state of Oregon. And there's interim dates around getting fully off coal, and then, you know, obviously to getting to all clean, I'm saying clean deliberately because it's not all renewable. It's going to be all clean. So there might be a mix of hydro and nuclear or other other sources mixed in there as well, the other thing to keep in

mind about electric equipment is that it's inherently more efficient, so if you kind of put your hand after, you know, you've been driving your internal combustion engine car around all day, you'll feel heat on the hood, if you put your hand on the hood of your electric car, there's actually no engine in there, so you won't feel any heat. But it loses a lot less energy, going from stored energy to momentum. And that's true for the electric leaf blower as well. And you know, the other thing to keep in mind about, battery, there's certainly a lot of work to do around battery recycling and, making sure that those minerals stay in the supply chain, but gas and oil and all the other stuff that go into, our internal combustion engines today that's extracted as well, that's mined as well. And there's going to be a studies I've seen have suggested there's about an 80% decrease in mining overall when you consider the fact that, you know, with this transition, if you consider the fact that we're, not, you know, digging up, you know, sand for oil or, you know, drilling for oil or fracking for oil and gas, in the future, I'd be interested to see the assumptions on that, because precious metals involved in the development of batteries is also a nasty mining business.

Speaker: Yeah, it's not just on the disposal, it's actually on the generation of batteries that's problematic. And maybe the answer for all of us is greenest possible solution. You rake and rake bike and yeah, I mean that's use your body is the dan Ryan solution. It's. Yeah. And just one last point on the 20 on the long terme plans for the utilities. As of right now, natural gas is still qualify as a green energy source for that purpose. Correct I mean, they're certainly treating it currently when they report, as a qualifying clean energy, I don't know if that's part how it maps in their long terme plans, but currently that's my understanding.

Speaker: The utilities still have thermal. They still have thermal resources like gas gas plants. But those are not considered part of their clean mix, and won't be and won't be beyond part of their as part of their long.

Speaker: That'd be. I'd be curious to see how that maps out, because I is a point of confusion currently where natural gas sits in that equation. Yeah, last but not least, just on the incentives. I want to make sure I understand how this is flowing through. So the current proposal before pcef, who would benefit from the incentives is that, is it just contractors or is there. I just wanted to understand the bucket of what we're envisioning there.

Speaker: Sure, thanks for the question. So the pcef allocation that's currently being considered by the committee is actually just to meet the Portland parks and recreation requirement in order to make the transition, in the incentives that we're speaking about in the larger programmatic education and really getting that out to the you know, two people in a truck type situation is really going to be handled by our partners at the county, and they're making that budgetary request at this time.

Speaker: Okay, I got it. Let's say for questions. Thank you, thank you very much, commissioner Gonzalez, colleagues, I believe that, completes testimony and questions and dialog today. I want to thank everyone who came in in person to testify on this item, who showed up virtually to testify on this item, and submitted written testimony on this. I'll tell you, this discussion has been going on for at least seven years. I want to congratulate commissioner Rubio for, getting us to the point of where we are today. So this item passes on to a second reading, thank you so much for being here. And let's continue our discussion and refinement as we move forward. And, colleagues, i'll remind you that we have a rate hearing that we still have to get through today. We need to, give staff, let's say, a ten minute break. So

maybe we can reconvene at, 415. And if we are lucky, we will be able to wrap up today by 5:00. Although that will require some discipline. All right. Okay. I'll. Do

Speaker: One. More. Go. For one point. One. One. Nils. One.

Speaker: To, get through before we, wrap up, rj, rebecca, can you read items 211 and 212 for us, please?

Speaker: And you can read them together, mike's item 211.

Speaker: Authorize the rates and charges for water and water related services beginning July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025. And fix and effective date item 212, revised sewer and stormwater rates, charges and fees in accordance with the fy 202425 budget, thank you very much, colleagues, these two items come out of my bureau's. This is essentially our, a rate hearing. But before we get to the meat of the of the day, I need to introduce an amendment for this item. Basically, I have a literal scrivener's error that I need to clean up on. Item 211. That's the water rate ordinance, here's basically what happened here. We filed, 211, last week, several pages of the ordinance were left out, I think, because of literally a formatting error in the document and how that formatting, interacted with our online portal, staff noticed the omission almost immediately about an hour later or so, in the short time we addressed the problem by posting the full ordinance under the title, quote, proposed amended ordinance, that full ordinance was posted on Friday. The updated document and the amendments I'm about to introduce were reviewed by the city attorney and submitted to the clerk. So colleagues, I'm going to now introduce a motion and i'll need a second on this motion. I move to amend the ordinance to include pages two through 16 of the ordinance. May I have a second? Second? Thank you so much, and, rebecca, can we call a vote on the amendment, or is that the right thing to do now or do I wait to vote on the amendment? Okay, let's vote on the let's, call the roll on the amendment.

Speaker: Yea. Rubio I brian, I Gonzalez I Mapps i, thank you very much.

Speaker: And here, colleagues, I'm going to abbreviate my comments today. So we don't keep staff here too late, but let me say a few words of introduction, today, the water bureau and the bureau of environmental services will present their annual rate ordinances. The mayor provided budget directives to the utilities to stay within their forecasted rate increases. And the rates that we propose today do just that, biz proposes a rate increase of 5.15, and water proposes a rate increase of 7.9. This translates into a combined water, sewer and storm water rate increase of 6.24% for the fiscal year 24, 20, 24, 2025. Here to tell us more about this proposed, utility rates for the next fiscal year, we have dawn uchiyama, environmental service director for our, our director for environmental services and gabe solmer, director for the water bureau, welcome, gabe and dawn.

Speaker: Great. Thank you. Commissioner Mapps. Afternoon, commissioners, I'm here with gabe solmer and we have a short presentation. I'm going to take the first half. Gabe will take the second half. And as commissioner Mapps said, we're here today to address our need to increase our utility rates to support critical water, waste, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure investments, including our environmental stewardship goals and services that support Portland's economy and our our community. Next slide. So we'll start with reviewing each of our organization's mission and budget objectives. Bce's mission is to manage Portland's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to protect public health and the environment. Our budget objectives include ensuring regulatory, compliance and environmental leadership, promoting long terme financial stability, maintaining existing levels of service while finding efficiencies and new ways of working proactively managing risk with our ongoing asset management and reinvestment

strategies and acknowledging our need to significantly advance our bureau's equity plan priorities. Gabe, I'll let you cover water.

Speaker: Thanks, Don. Next slide Gabe Solmer for the Portland Water Bureau, our mission is to serve excellent water every minute of every day. And our objectives are very similar to the ones that Don laid out for us. And I'll just say that our budget is one of the biggest ways that we can live into those values. So we've always been a public health organization that thinks and acts at really a generational time horizon to build and maintain a water system that works for everyone.

Speaker: Great. So I'm going to review some materials. You can go to the next slide. I'm going to review some materials that we shared in the public works budget work session just a month ago, pretty much a month ago today, starting with our shared assumptions for fiscal year 2024-25, budget development. So as Commissioner Mapps mentioned, the utilities were directed in the Mayor's November budget guidance to stay within our forecasted rate increase 7.9 for water, 5.15 for sewer, which we did and this means we have a combined water, sewer and stormwater bill increase of 6.24. Also following the Bureau of Development Services plan to increase fees by 5, we capped our fees and other charges, including SDCS, to an increase of 5. In many cases, this is less than the full cost of services provided, and Gabe will review a few trends later in the presentation. We're also assuming that the proposed PCEF funding allocation to water and BTRs will be included in the Mayor's proposed budget. We also assume that they'll charter transition costs will remain limited, and that there will be minimal changes to our general fund, inter-agencies. So today we want to affirm the forecasted rate increases for water and biz. And that includes the first three assumptions listed on this slide. Next slide. So you saw a similar slide to this during our work session. But this version includes only the projected revenues for biz and

for water for fiscal year 2425. The point here is that our operating and capital budgets for both biz and water are entirely, almost entirely rate and fee based. We do not draw money from the general fund. In fact, nearly 90% of our revenue comes from water, sanitary sewer and stormwater rates and you can see the smaller portions of the pie here come from revenues come from sdcs and other development related fees. So we are we are substantially reliant on these rate increases. Next slide. And so whoops my slides are not advancing. My notes sorry. So this diagram illustrates the combined budgets or the requested expenditures of both utilities by major spending categories, which totals \$1.5 billion. You may recall from the February budget work session, the biz and water own a combined value of assets at \$47.5 billion, which is nearly 70% of the city's total portfolio of capital assets. So over half of our expenditures go towards our large capital programs that support an ongoing investment and reinvestment in these capital assets. The debt service slice reflects infrastructure investments that have already been made, and the capital improvement slice reflects. Current investments, which includes large projects like the water bureau's filtration project and for biz, we're working currently on the secondary treatment plant expansion. So when you combine past capital investments, which is now debt and current investments, it sums to two thirds of our total budget, which are the two darker shades of blue of the remaining one third, the two lighter shades of blue, about a quarter of that reflects non-discretionary expenditures like general fund overhead, utility license fees, pension bond payments and transfers to rate stabilization. The remaining blue quarter there is our operations and maintenance cost. So as noted in the previous slide, roughly 90% 90% of these expenditures are funded from rate revenue, you can go to the next slide. So this diagram shows the conditions of our bureaus respective portfolio of assets water and blue and biz and green. The majority of our assets,

we're pleased to report, are in very good, good and fair condition. However, the size of our respective with the size of our respective portfolios, we have \$3.9 billion worth of assets that are in poor or very poor condition. There's also an estimated \$4.9 billion worth of biz assets that we do not know. The condition of this is due to the challenges of accurately assessing their condition, such as pressurized pipes that are hard to get into and see, and our natural areas and waterways that are more complicated to assess. So accurately assessing the condition of all of our capital assets and the risk and the consequence of asset failures are its foundational data for both of our bureaus to calculate, carefully calculate our risk based capital planning and investment decisions. So the bottom line is that you can go to the next slide. The bottom line is that our shared infrastructure investment strategy focuses on the ongoing system maintenance, which includes addressing the poor and very poor asset conditions, regulatory compliance, seismic and climate resiliency, and equitable economic recovery. And we want to take this opportunity to emphasize that given the substantial size of our infrastructure investments, we are strongly tied to Portland's economic recovery, biz five year cip program, is close to \$1 billion. It's 9.8 6,009,986 million. And water's five year cip is 1.9, 1.9 billion. And that includes, the federally mandated treatment plants and pipelines that water is working on now. So that means over the next five years, our two bureaus combined, investments expect to, be near almost \$3 billion, \$2.9 billion, which is a real boost, a sizable, boost to our economy. And our overall city's economic recovery and it's also really important to note here that with these investments, we're significantly contributing to the city's equitable contracting, requirements and goals, as well as our equitable development efforts. So with that, i'll turn it over to gabe.

Speaker: Thanks, don. Halfway through pacing ourselves, we can move to the next slide. So just before we get into the mechanics of the rate ordinance, we wanted to review how your utility bill for people who are watching at home, how that works. So most of us receive a sewer, stormwater and water bill and that investment, when people pay their bill, supports a mix of infrastructure, maintenance and resiliency, environmental stewardship and key utility structure services that support our economy. As don was saying, we do regularly hear some confusion about what goes into to our sewer. Stormwater and water bills. Are your utility bills, so just to break that down, if you receive a utility bill, you'll see a water volume charge for the amount of water that your household uses and that pays for Portland's drinking water system. You'll also see a sewer volume charge, which pays for Portland's sewer system. And that charge is based on how much water you used during the billing period, or an average use based off of your winter bill from the past year. Whatever is lower. There's two charges for stormwater off site charges pay for managing water runoff on public property, including city streets and stormwater. On site charges, pay for managing stormwater from private property. And that is the charge that can be reduced if people can safely manage the stormwater on their property and qualify for a clean river. Rewards discount. You'll also see the Portland harbor superfund charge, which helps fund the city's participation in the superfund cleanup. And that charge is based off of your sewer volume plus a flat fee and then finally, there is a base charge, which pays for account services like meter reading, billing, collection, customer service. And that's a daily charge that all customers pay. So hopefully that is helpful just to understanding what these rates go into and how your utility bill is invested. And we can move to the next slide with that bill explainer, I do want to highlight that our rates are affordable to many customers, but not all. We know that some customers need assistance, and we do

have a robust financial assistance program that helps customers with lower incomes. Last month, we presented a smart discount program that uses machine learning algorithms to provide percentage based discounts to qualified customers and eliminates the application process. We're very excited to start that program. This fall. We still have our tiered bill discounts for qualified senior and customers with disabilities, and we've also started implementation of our ramp program. That's the regulatory, regulated, affordable multifamily assistance program. That's a collaboration with the housing bureau. We're also expanding on the leak repair program with pcef funding, and we hope to continue to support customers by offering payment plans, we also want. To note that in paying for these discounts, it's really important that we keep our rates low for all. So both bureaus are committed to managing costs to minimize rate increases and keep those rates affordable. Thank you. Move to the next slide. So, just getting into the, the rate ordinance for today, both bureaus forecast their rate increases over the long term in response to known and anticipated capital investment obligations and increases in regulatory and investment costs, obviously, with the goal of keeping annual rate increases for our customers modest, sustainable and predictable. That helps us smooth the rates over the years and avoid large cost spikes. So, consistent with the mayor's directive, waters requesting a 7.9% retail rate increase is 5.15. We're also. Proposing to increase sdc's and other fees and charges capped at 5. And. Just to be clear, those other fees are the ones you see on the screen. Things like inspection and testing plan, review fees, fire line services, hydrants, those sort of things. We can move to the next slide. So just to break down a typical monthly bill so that we can see how these rate increases would affect our customers, so you can see these are based off of a single family residential typical bill monthly bill. So if you if these rates are approved, you'd see an increase of \$8.88 across the whole utility bill, for

folks in our tier one, program, those are 60% of median household income that increase would be \$4.33. And for customers who are tier two, that's 30% of mfi. That increase is \$1.59. Move to the next slide. So this is a comparison. Of where this puts us. And in comparison to peer and neighboring utilities, we wanted to put both on the screen. So you can see that. You can see Portland is in the middle of the pack, many of our peers have completed filtration but haven't addressed combined sewer overflows, which is did with the big pipe project. So we do expect to stay in the middle as filtration is completed and then other cities address csos. We've also included utilities on this list who are near Portland, sort of in the metro area, those are listed as neighboring or n on the slide, whereas some who are more similar to us are listed as p for peer utilities. The most apples to apples comparison is between peer utilities, but we thought you might want to see where we rank just in the neighborhood. Next slide. So this is our combined rate projection. We've shown this presentation previously. If it looks familiar it shows both the historical and projected rates of increase for water, which is that blue line on the top bars, the bottom green line. And then the combined rate of increases, which is that black middle line, and both bureaus have substantial capital programs that rely on borrowing to spread costs over time. But just solely relying on debt to fund capital isn't sustainable. So we leverage the debt with cash expenditures for capital investments and then we forecast capital and operating expenditures over the long time horizon, and use those projections to balance the cash with the borrowing for water, about one third of the rate increase is necessarily necessary to fund the federally mandated, filtration. Plant and its associated pipelines. About one third for ongoing investment into our water system infrastructure, and about one third for general cost increases to labor and materials. And then for bts, the projected rates are not only for paying the current levels of service, but when those are

combined with reductions made now and support from pcef, it will put the bureau on better financial footing to manage through anticipated, large and somewhat unknown costs and it's still uncertain whether this is the rate profile that will be sufficient to completely support, what's on the horizon. But we do think that addressing this with stable and predictable rates of increase now will ultimately result in lower increases into the future. Next slide, so as promised, here's a little bit more of a detailed look at the system development charges. I would say the biggest takeaway here, if you only remember one thing, is that for bts and water sdc's are collected on a reimbursement basis rather than proactively so we collect sdc's to pay for infrastructure that we've already built in to accommodate the growth, and our sdc's increase as the value of our system increases. And that's due to continued investment in maintaining our systems and system replacement costs, which have considerably increased due to increases in construction and cost of materials and labor. And obviously the investment in building for water, the filtration plant and but also investing in their infrastructure. So you can see in 2023, 24, council held sdc rates, at their current level and the proposal would be to increase sdc's just by 5% for fiscal year 2025, you can see the light blue line for water and the yellow line for bts are the sdc rates being charged? The orange line for both bts and water? Are the sdc rates that we would be charging if we were getting full reimbursement to the system. And so you can see the, diversion on both of their from the those two lines, it does mean that we are falling further behind on where the sdc would be for full reimbursement, and so any sdc's that are not charged at the calculated rates, meaning means that ratepayers are paying those development costs. What developers would be paying if we charged the full cost for the sdc's. And that's really a policy choice for this council. We just wanted to be able to show you visually what

that looks like. We can move to the next slide. I think i'll turn it over to don to close us out. Yeah.

Speaker: So this is our last slide and we'd like to conclude with the fact that both bureaus face both current and long term financial pressure, some are understood and we can quantify. Some are yet to be determined. But I'd just like to highlight of course, we've we've spoke all through the fall and into this budget, through this budget period that we're experiencing inflation and, recessionary economic impacts, we have a backlog of, of both infrastructure investments and just general cip investments. We have large, risk profiles that we're managing, we're having to especially for boys. We are, have to plan for unplanned expenditures of asset failures. In other words, we when something fails, we haven't planned to upgrade. We'll have to pay for it when it happens. So we have to be ready for that, we also know that the operations and maintenance of an aging system is comes with many challenges and pressures on our budget. We anticipate, stronger and more restrictive permit and regulatory issues that face both bureaus. We've spoken in the past about the unknowns related to environmental remediation, then we, of course, have also city transition costs, general over fund, overhead fund. I'm sorry, general fund and overhead costs related to our inter agencies. And then, as gabe just noted, a ratepayer impact of sdc charges. So this is an overview of, some, some of the pressures that we do face. But we are confident that the current rate profile and the rate increase that we're asking for today will put us on stable ground and will allow us to navigate the pressures that we face. So with that, we'll end our presentation and open it up for discussion and questions, great. Thank you so much, director. It's great presentation, colleagues, we do have, I think one person here from the pub, who was represents invited testimony. And then we have 1 to 2 people signed up for public testimony, any questions now, or should we go to,

invited testimony? All right. Why don't we go to invited testimony? I believe the invited testimony that we have today, comes to us from the public utility board, this is a group of, volunteer citizens who, overlook, like, the utilities portfolio representing, the pub today, we have, bob salinger, who will share, some feedback from the pub, welcome, bob. Thank you so much for joining us today. We appreciate your persistence and patience, good afternoon, members of Portland City Council. My name is bob salinger, and I am here representing the Portland utility board, I've been on the utility board for about two years. I also served on a variety of, budget committees prior to the creation of the utility board, actually dating back to the potter administration, I think I was on ten, bts budget committees prior to the creation of the pub, I think I actually hold the record for most, budget committees. I'm being punished for something in a prior life, but they are important. And I think it's really important to reflect on why the pub was created in 2015, largely because of concern about the spending of the two bureaus, and that came from both the left and from the right. It resulted in a lawsuit. It also resulted in a ballot measure, to create a separate utility, district from the city, and the pub was created to give, a much deeper level of community oversight over the particularly the budget processes. And if you go back to the purpose statement, it really does focus on that financial aspect, to have people on there who would be on there year round, who would be there for multiple years, that could really take a deep dive. And I would say that those budget committees prior to the creation of the pub were also very good. We met for usually six months, multiple times, and really dug into those budgets. So this was supposed to take it to another level, ironically, I think we've gone the other direction, today the oversight is much, much more superficial than it was prior to the creation of the pub, in fact, it's night and day. It's just, orders of magnitude more superficial. And so I'm not here today to

criticize anyone. I'm certainly not here to call out staff. I think they've had a very challenging situation. I think there's a lot of different reasons why we are in the situation we're in, but the result is that we are simply not getting the kind of information we need to provide the oversight that we are charged with providing. And so we're not going to make a recommendation today on the rates. And that manifests itself in a lot of different ways. It can be lack of lead time. We had almost none this year. It can be lack of meetings devoted to the budget. We had one and it was yesterday, it can be confusing budgets that don't have enough information. Alan and I passed out a sheet. If you just take a quick look at it, this is one page from the budget. And what you'll see here is, is that most of the environmental programs don't have budgets for the this year or last year because they were all reorganized and those programs were shifted around their names were changed, they were put in different places. I've been tracking budgets for a long time. I have no way of reading this budget and knowing what the trends are for those programs. There is simply no way for me to penetrate that information and understand what is happening. Are those programs going up? Are they going down? Have they gone away? There was no way for me to tell. This budget doesn't have budget narratives in it, you just get line items, basically. And so there's no explanation. There's just a variety of different reasons why we simply are in a position where we don't have the information to really make a recommendation and understand the implications of this rate, what does it mean for the debt? What does it mean for long term rates? What does it mean for all the issues that were put up on the screen? What does it mean for the environment? What does it mean for compliance? What does it mean for equity? What does it mean for emergency situations? We don't have that information. We are definitely worried, we're worried that we're kicking the can down the road, that we're going to pay the price later and

perhaps sooner, that we're going to encumber future generations that we're going to wind up in a situation like parks that has no way right now of digging itself out of the hole that it got into. I was on their budget committees as well as we dug the hole. So we are very, very concerned. One thing I want to be clear on is we are not making any sort of recommendation to lower the rates, we believe that, we're already at risk, and lowering them would not be appropriate from what is recommended, we're concerned about things like dependency on pcef that is not a panacea for our budget problems. And as we start to shift programs to pcef, one that's very controversial, as you well know. And two, it may not be sustainable, and once you do that, what happens to those programs when the pcef funds go away? We're concerned that in this budget, we learned, really yesterday, very recently, that there's a decision package, that decision package gets, cuts the budgets for watersheds, natural systems restoration and biological sciences, stormwater management, blue green infrastructure, vegetation, trees on private property and so on. Those are your cornerstone natural resource programs, they're being transferred to pcef. If you get those pcef funds. And one of the things that was really surprising that we learned, was that these programs apparently are now a lower priority for bhs and that they're ancillary. That's a quote ancillary to the core mission. I've been tracking bhs since 1992. That's the first time I've heard this. The environmental programs are now ancillary and secondary. How was that decision made? Who was involved in making that decision? That's the kind of stuff that we're struggling with with basically 12, 15 hours notice. And that's not an acceptable situation, I'm going to finish up by just saying, I think there's three things that we really need to think about going forward. There's a lot of reasons we got to this position, but if we're serious about having community oversight at a time when government is at the lowest level of distrust, we've ever seen, I think it is important.

I think it play a key role in creating community confidence. I know I'm out there all the time talking about this stuff, and what I say influences how people perceive why we're making these decisions. And if we can't speak with confidence, that undermines us all. So three things one, the pub is not being provided with the kind of resources it needs to have, the oversight that it's supposed to have. Number two, this is not a temporary situation. We can't just blame it on the transition. That's too easy. For years it was blamed on covid. Next year it will be the new government. The year after that, it will be the new government. There is always an excuse and so the third point is, if we do want the pub to have a meaningful role and have a real impact, it has to really be built in it. Even in the current chaos. We need to decide that we want to have an oversight board of community members. That is, given the time, the resources, the advanced notice, the staffing and the staffing is very good for the pub. By the way, but, in terms of, bureau staff coming in and talking with us and really, informing us about what's going on, to do its job. Otherwise there's no reason to have it at all. It's simply a waste of time. We'll probably provide more substantive comments on the budget itself with a little more time to work those out, but for today, it's really no recommendation other than certainly please don't go down, thank you. Bob, I very much appreciate your feedback. I hear your frustration. I'm the commissioner in charge of this space, so I take responsibility. For, not having you be happier, being here today, and I got before the end of this year, certainly. One of the things I want to accomplish is to, get the pub back on track, i'll tell you from my experience, the pub, I think for many years the pub has been struggling to figure out who it is and what it is. Are they looking substantively at specific issues like water quality or is it budget? I'll tell you, as the commissioner in charge of infrastructure, the budgetary challenges that we face here are so significant. Moving forward. I really hope that we would hone in on that, problem. If

I am privileged enough to stick around for a couple more years. I think that's what I'm going to try to focus in on, I know that you're right in that there, probably this budget in particular is hard, might be hard to decipher. Partly because there's a lot of changes happening within the bureaus, partly the budget dynamics, and timelines are different, and, frankly, front loaded. And I'll. I've been dialoging with the mayor's office last year. We kind of got surprised because some changes were introduced to our rates at the very last minute this year, we tried to get in front of that by kind of front loading the discussion. One of the challenge with front loading the discussion is there probably wasn't enough outreach to, the pub, in addition to that, you know, frankly, our friends at the budget office are, faces a ton of challenges as they go about, literally reimagining how we budget budgeting and service sectors and whatnot. So I think that they're having to choose some efficiencies, those are, reasons, but those aren't excuses. We need to do better in this space. And I own that, substantively, I come I think you and I come to the same conclusion in terms of the bottom line with these bureaus, we have a couple of options here, we could lower rates, and i, as the commissioner in charge here, I tell you, that's going to cause real problems. We could keep the rates that we propose in this budget. And frankly, that's allows us to stay on track and, frankly, not do that much harm, to, our systems, or we could increase rates, which would allow us to do a bunch of important new things here, reading the room, I don't get the impression, there's a lot of appetite for raising our rates beyond what we had projected. So, I think even though the pub has no recommendation here, I think we kind of agree. Well, we probably would. I would, I would guess, in fact, I know bob. Well, I don't know bob, but bob, I suspect, might urge me to, raise rates to go out and do, more environmental protections. And, and that's in my heart, too, I tell you, one of the reasons why I've, have tried to have a conversation and a policy, discussion about

how we go about natural resource management is to kind of figure out, optimal strategies for protecting our, natural resources. I think that is a place that we need to go. And frankly, the pub is going to be a crucial player in getting this, right, what I'd like to do now is maybe interject. I'll ask my directors if they have anything they want to add here. And if you don't, that's fine too, yeah, I do, actually, two things. One is, we absolutely can and must do better in our communications with pub, and I'm prepared to do that. I think we need to get a clear schedule, and we need to get a clear roles and responsibilities. We had a very abbreviated budget process, even internally and, there were even some challenges internally around communication. So I can only imagine what it feels like to be on an advisory board. But I'm absolutely committed with commissioner Mapps his leadership and direction to work with pub to improve that. I, I feel frustration in that space too. So I would like to really make a genuine, a commitment to improving that, the other thing that I want to comment on is that although, we have been able to, the pcef funds have been a great benefit to the budget, I want to be really clear that it is never our intention to stop that work or to, have it be ancillary. We my intention is that we put it in a space that the city can invest and grow and make it get larger. So with the natural resources work plan that we're working collaboratively with parks and our community members, we want to take the investments in the history that bts has, has started and grow it. So there's absolutely no intention to scale that work back. It's to take bts investment and to grow it in a broader city space. And we know that the pcef dollars are not permanent. We are not banking on that. That is not a long terme solution. The way that the language I've used is that it's a bridge that allows us to buy some time so that we can we can do the work with community, to, to grow those programs, we do face bob as, as as, you know, our challenges with our treatment plants and our pump stations, you know, significant risk and failures with

that work. So, it's awful to have to put the green versus the gray and to have that that discussion. We know that the green is the long term solution, but we face some real challenges in the short term around our gray. So my, my, my, my direction to the bureau and with the support of our community is to stabilize the responsibilities we have with our treatment plants and pump stations and to create a space that we can grow the natural area in green infrastructure work. But I'll loop back to the idea and commitment to work better with the pub and have our budget process be more transparent and have meaningful engagement.

Speaker: Gabe, do you got anything? And it's okay if you don't. I mean, don did was incredibly eloquent and I know she speaks for all of us to say the same thing.

Speaker: Ditto, great. Well, I see commissioner Gonzalez's hands up. I also want to remind our colleagues that we do have, a little bit of public testimony, before I call on commissioner Gonzalez, I do want to say this, bob, if I'm going to make a request of you and I'm going to make a request of the pub, specifically, if the pub can send me a letter, developing recommendations on how we can improve our process around budgeting, that would be great, and I know your if you want to, if the pub wants to send me a letter, and if you have some differences between what the pub says and what you believe, I would accept two letters. It'd be great if you copied my directors here. I also have asked the budget director, tim, to be in the room today, I'm partly so that you and tim could begin to develop a relationship when you send those letters to, my directors and me, if you copy, tim, on it. I think that would be a wise practice to. And if you are open to writing a couple of letters, one of the other things that you could do today, or is to. I'd love to get a letter from the pub I moving forward. I want to get the pub focused specifically on the budget, also, I want to create a think tank around the natural resource discussion, which actually my two directors are at too. If the pub has thoughts on, what our short, medium and long

tum steps towards improved natural resource management, it'd be great if you could copy, my directors, me and frankly, the rest of council on that too. I think that would be a great discussion to have before we get to the end of the year, and I've chatted too much. And, commissioner Gonzalez you taken your hand down, but you want to jump in here?

Speaker: I guess my, I just want to build off your last point there. What would be very helpful is a timeline that makes sense, both from the budget perspective and for pub. That's it. And there have been a lot of shifts in the budget process this year. It's been confusing for a lot of us, both on the inside and outside. That's just putting together service areas, but I still would kind of like to see a layout of what we think's doable from our internal budgeting process, from the bureau's perspective, and from an, from bob's perspective, you know, I will also observe that I had some disappointing with pub feedback the last time we had meaningful conversations about rates. You know, I think they implied the mayor's proposal at the time was racist because I can't remember the rates were too high or too low. And it's, to have meaningful engagement with that board. And it's going to require folks not resorting to histrionics, resorting to the real issues, confronting these bureaus. And, so those are mostly two observations, and i'll leave it at that, thank you very much, colleagues. We have, I think one person, signed up to testify in both of these items. Any more questions for, staff before we go to public testimony?

Speaker: I like hearing testimony.

Speaker: Okay, great. Why don't we go to public testimony?

Speaker: Robert butler.

Speaker: What's water? Sir.

Speaker: Welcome, robert. I have a procedural question today. You're signed up for, you're signed up twice right now for both 211 and 212. Do you? I'm trying to

figure out how much time to give you six minutes. Two minutes. Three minutes. Are you going to testify on both items or. We could strike a deal here. And how about I give you a four minutes? Two minutes on each item?

Speaker: Yeah, it's three minutes on each item.

Speaker: All right. If you're going to testify on both items, i'll give you i'll give you six minutes, three minutes on each.

Speaker: Do you want me to combine them in one six minute session? Are we doing at the same time? I can't do that.

Speaker: Okay, well, let's do it sequentially. Why don't we do with the, the floor is your. Robert, I'm going to give you the floor for six minutes, I'm sorry that that will.

Speaker: That's much better. Okay, so, well, I think we're in deep trouble, and I left out the word that I glad I did, but we are in deep trouble now. That's just me. I'm sorry, but I came here prepared with that conclusion, and, you know, now what is really bothering me about it? Our decision making really bothering me. Besides stealing from the climate budget, this is worse. So when I look at this, i. Our projections of revenue lose. So flat is, very imaginative and imaginative. I don't see it at all, as far as, the fee structure, for example, sdc charges are killing our economy. It's just ruining us for the private side. It can't do this. I mean, it can. You can. We can be like san francisco and just put ourselves out of business. It's really hard to keep pushing that, but I want to get back to one more thing real quick. I really don't understand. In stormwater treatment why we put in these garden gutter gardens, whether really expensive before, in many cases before we just dump the water into the Multnomah slough, the columbia slough. I don't know why we're treating water from the street, for example, before it goes into the slough and the fact that these garden gutters do anything I'd like to see the science that they're really doing anything but my last point, it's kind of in this subject is that I think

history mix. I think there is some value there, so the big pipe was before your time really the big pipe about 12 years ago, billion dollars is boy, was that a lot of money. And you know what it's been killing us. That billion dollars is has really been killing, our the value of our water resource and making it so unaffordable and so uncompetitive to work in the world market that that project was \$1 billion, and it ended up a billion and a half overran a half a billion. We're going to now we're looking at \$2 billion. How much is that going to overrun? We're spending \$151 million a year is because we're in debt, \$1.4 billion on sewer, and we got 15 years to go. Believe me, things are really got to change about the way we think we can spend money. That's. I'm sorry.

Speaker: Well, is that the end of your testimony, robert?

Speaker: Well, then I have to go to the next one. Okay. Oh, you weren't ready for that?

Speaker: 2.5 minutes. We're already into the next one. 2.5 minutes left.

Speaker: Thank you. Well, on the clean water, on the water side, you know, my concern about the next billion, \$2 billion for sand filtration. Yeah. I don't see it in the budget here. I mean, we see how are we going to spend in the next starting in June for the next 12 months? How are we going to pay for that billion and a half, \$2 billion thing? I mean, is it in the budget somewhere? I don't see it in the revenue side, i'll tell you that. I don't see it on the debt side from just the some say 700 million. Now, now, which is still not for sure, but let's say it is still we're billion short. Where is it? It's just. Are we budgeting here? I don't understand it. So the last thing is just a small. Well in fact, I don't even want to get into that point. I'm just going to mention that the elephant in the room is, is the fact that our infrastructure is trash right now. It's not aging, it's done. And particularly the all of the we don't talk about you talk about pumps and whatever the distribution to the tap is trash junk. And so

because it's aged so it's not aging anymore. It's done. And so there, there again we need some reality. And then we have the reality that we're pricing ourselves out of the us economy because things are so expensive in Portland. And you say that not. And you show us charts of Seattle is more and whatever we're pricing ourselves out and we're losing the opportunity. For example, for private enterprise to use cheap water to make something because it's not cheap enough to make anything practically. And all our industrial laundry worked, for example, it goes to Washington. If we don't do industrial cleaning here in Portland because the water's too expensive. Have they moved out and we ship it. So, okay. I don't know. I do know there's got to be some more reality. There's got to be better budgeting. And, we need something bigger than pub to help us. And pub even they can't help us right now. So I'm sorry, but we're not going to give up. We can proceed. But we got to change, and I don't see it.

Speaker: Well, thank you, robert. I tell you, over the years, you and I have had lots of conversations about transportation issues. I think today is the first day that we have really moved into issues around water and sewer. I'd love to, connect you with some of my staff who work into this space. I'll be transparent. I think some of the claims that you made around water and sewer were frankly not accurate, but let's sit down and have these conversations and if you still are not convinced, I am convinced that you will show up at community communications and, and, attempt to set the record straight. So I do encourage you to reach out to me and we can keep this conversation going. I see that we are now past 5:00, so what I'd like to do is to see if I believe that is the end of our formal presentation. That's the end of our invited testimony, and that's the end of our public testimony. I'd like to see if my colleagues have anything they'd like to ask or add to the conversation that we've had today. Yeah, commissioner Ryan, thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner Mapps. I know that we're all kind of trying to get out here, so i'll just cut to the chase. When I was looking at the presentation, when I was trying to find, because we sit in these meetings and have procurement conversations about bull run, I was actually trying to figure out where that was in the slides in the budget as well. So sarah, can someone answer that question? Yeah, I mean that's the big that's the big lift. So we had the big pipe that was mentioned earlier. Now it's bull run.

Speaker: We have to argue that it's our greatest and most important asset as we continue to move forward with life in Portland.

Speaker: So here we have a staff know how we can track it in our budget. Yeah, welcome. Please introduce yourself also how ratepayers can see it because I thought it was really helpful during the big pipe that you could see it as a consumer and i, I don't anyway, thanks for being here.

Speaker: You're gonna answer the question.

Speaker: Yeah. I'm cecilia heun with the water bureau, so the bull run treatment project, for the first year, don mentioned in one of the slide that there is 750 million in our budget, almost 500 million of that is planned. It's planned for the, boring treatment project. For next fiscal year, 24, 25. And in the five year capital program, again, as don mentioned, 2.9 million in total between water and bs water portion of 1.9 billion includes the full project budgeted.

Speaker: So I'm trying to understand just when I'm trying to understand my utility bill, is it under the water system part? Is that where it is beautiful slide.

Speaker: Yes, it would be within the water volumetric rate. Okay

Speaker: Under capital projects.

Speaker: So in addition to usage it's all of these things when bull run is probably the biggest one.

Speaker: So the budget as I described it is what we have was. And yeah so the revenue that will be collecting, in the forecast that we have over the next five years, as gabe has shown, is to support paying for the debt related to sub funding the project. So we'll be issuing water revenue bonds to pay for the debt. We're also, having the wifia loan to help fund the project that will also be paid for starting in fiscal year 2032 33.

Speaker: Okay, I'm going to ask for a meeting between now and the next reading so I can understand this better.

Speaker: Sure. Guaranteed.

Speaker: We've been sitting in these chairs all day, but I'm not following that very well. Thanks. So I know you tried.

Speaker: Preciate it, commissioner Ryan, I appreciate the question. We'll be sure to get you a briefing before this item comes back. Commissioner Gonzalez. You got any feedback, reflections you want to get on the table before we break for the day?

Speaker: I think I'm good.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner Rubio, any thoughts? Reflections, no, just probably a meeting would be good just for the same reason.

Speaker: Okay. I'm going to ask staff to reach out to my colleagues and let's offer one to commissioner Gonzalez to in case he, wants to dive into a deeper discussion. I believe that ends the formal part of our presentation today, colleagues, I'm going to make sure I'm looking at the clerk to make sure I get this language right, let's pass, ordinances and items, to 11 and two. 12, together. For a second reading at some point in the future. Is that good enough? All right, we'll take that. Any other business? All right. Colleagues I want to thank my teams over in the infrastructure bureau. So you guys did great. I want to thank, I really appreciate the pub. Thank you for being here, robert, you stuck with us, all day long, I do, even

though, you raised some sharp points today. We're listening to you, and we appreciate you being here, today, we are adjourned