

## Written Testimony - Agenda Item 411/374

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	374	Stephen Horton, Lucky Lion, CEO	Oppose	The proposed 8% increase in licensing fees for cannabis fees will be crippling to an industry that is already over taxed, over burdened and under protected by the City of Portland. Our businesses are repeatedly robbed and vandalized with little support from the city. Additionally, there are several other municipalities in the state that do not require a local license in addition to the state license. The OLCC does a great job already, so any additional city oversight should be minimal.	No	05/10/24 9:44 AM
2	374	Anthony Johnson, Chief Petitioner of Measure 91	Oppose	Please do not increase the fees on Portland cannabis businesses. Contrary to popular belief, the cannabis industry is an extremely difficult business sector to turn a decent profit. Large overhead, including federal taxation, have already squeezed out too many small Oregon cannabis businesses. Increasing local licensing fees will only exacerbate the exodus of small Oregon mom and pops from the industry and will only benefit large corporations, many of whom are headquartered outside of the United States. If the city is looking for a new source of revenue, you should capture the savings of eliminating local licensing and oversight of cannabis businesses altogether. With the industry regulated by the OLCC, using local tax dollars to license and regulate local cannabis businesses is a redundant waste. The only funds the City of Portland needs to utilize to manage the cannabis sector is to collect the 3% tax and disburse those funds to the communities most devastated by the failed and harmful Drug War. I urge you to vote "NO" on this unnecessary fee increase that will only harm local businesses, disproportionately small Portland businesses owned by your constituents.	No	05/10/24 4:11 PM
3	374	Anonymous	Oppose	We already pay a high tax and high licensing fees. What has the city done for the cannabis business's?	No	05/11/24 10:11 AM
4	374	Kush Cart, LLC	Oppose	We oppose an increase to the annual licensee fees for cannabis business by 8%. Cannabis business are already stifled by 280E and it is expensive to operate in Portland. Business are being robbed and the city does little to nothing in helping resolve its issues. There is no transparency on what the city does with our tax money. Improvements are not being made to help business survive, so why should we get an increase when we already pay a ton in taxes? We strongly oppose this increase!	No	05/13/24 6:14 PM
5	374	Habitat for Humanity Portland Region, Proud Ground, PCRI, Housing Oregon	Support with changes	We are requesting that affordable housing developments be exempted from increased permitting fees. Ideally, our programs and our future tenants and homebuyers would benefit greatly from a full or partial waiver of permit fees.	Yes	05/14/24 7:58 PM



May 15, 2024

Agenda Item 374: Amend Permit Fee Schedule

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners,

My name is Sarah Radcliffe and I am the Director of Government Relations for Habitat for Humanity Portland Region. I'm here today to testify on behalf of Habitat Portland Region as well as Proud Ground, the Northwest Region's largest Community Land Trust, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), a Black-led affordable housing developer serving Portland communities for over 30 years, and Housing Oregon, a coalition of affordable housing developers and advocates.

Together, we are requesting that affordable housing developments be exempted from increased permitting fees. *Ideally, our programs and our future tenants and homebuyers would benefit greatly from a full or partial waiver of permit fees.*

Prior to November 2023, affordable housing developers could access waivers or partial exemptions from permitting fees. We need the City's partnership now more than ever.

Construction costs have increased substantially since the pandemic and consequently, it is more and more challenging to build the affordable housing that our communities so desperately need. We've seen the cost of land, materials, and labor rise 50-60% in just the past ten years. As affordable housing developers, it's not an option to simply pass these costs along to our tenants and homebuyers.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Radcliffe".

Sarah Radcliffe, Director of Government Relations  
Habitat for Humanity Portland Region

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411	Mark Ancharski (Pintail PDX)	Oppose	I have been a licensee since the first day of adult use cannabis in Oregon. This is an extremely difficult industry to operate in with added costs on rent, insurance, banking, workman's comp, security costs and licensing fees. I employ 12 people including two salaried positions and have enabled employees to become homeowners. The city cannabis regulatory framework is a disastrous exercise in duplicitous regulation and needless cost forced on small businesses. The program has been fraught with high turnover, waste and incompetency in handling money. They have lost payment, failed to record payment, miss emails, fail to return calls. You are charging small businesses thousands to fill out duplicated paperwork from the Olcc and submit to a 15 minute annual inspection. The cannabis office at the city even lacks the respect of state regulators with whom I have an open and mutually beneficial relationship with and consider allies. To add insult to injury the city government cannot even offer safety and protection to licensees who face frequent armed robbery. This entire program is a disgrace and should be turned over to the city auditor to be turned upside down and have its pockets emptied. Shame	No	05/17/24 12:36 PM

Portland City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	374/375	robert butler
2	374/375	Sarah Radcliffe
3	374/375	Darin Campbell