

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 491

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
491	Anita Davidson	Support with changes	This annual report omits information and potentially overstates the cleaning and security accomplishments of Downtown Clean & Safe. In addition to Downtown Clean & Safe, Portland Mall Management, Inc. (PMMI) also contracts with Portland Metro Chamber for management of enhanced cleaning and security services in downtown Portland. Both use the same vendors which Clean & Safe reports about in its annual report. Yet this report omits any mention of its relationship with PMMI, of the additional \$2 million PMMI funds in Transit Mall enhanced services, and fails to distinguish what services are funded by ESD ratepayers and how those interface with services funded by PMMI via taxpayers. See my attached report.	Yes	06/06/24 11:50 AM

June 6, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor Wheeler and Distinguished City Commissioners

Re: City Council Agenda Item 491: Accept 2022-2023 Annual Report of Downtown Clean & Safe (DPCS) Enhanced Service District (ESD)

I am a downtown condominium owner who recognizes the importance of Downtown Portland Clean & Safe (DPCS) to this Council, city staff, and to citizens. I applaud the personal dedication of Mark Wells, Steve Wytcherley, and Sydney Mead.

So while we agree on the value of enhanced services in theory, I trust Council will also agree there are improvements expected, but as yet unaddressed with Downtown Clean & Safe. Its annual report dismisses the City Auditor's 2020 report as "flawed"—a conclusion I have not found published elsewhere by any City staff, official, or the BDS consultant. And progress towards improving ESD fundamentals—especially in governance, and revamping the fee schedule—which were identified by both the City Auditor, and by the BDS consultant in Feb. this year—are not mentioned in this report, and apparently not yet addressed by Clean & Safe. How long is long enough?

But today I am here with new information and a question.

I ask Council to recognize the potential that this annual report is incomplete and perhaps overstates the Clean & Safe ESD accomplishments by underreporting the amount of enhanced cleaning and security resources in use downtown.

So I ask Council to accept this report today with reservation, or for follow-up by OMF and PBOT. Those bureaus need to dig deep to determine what enhanced cleaning and security services are actually rendered using Clean & Safe funding, and how those are separate, distinct, or overlap with, the cleaning and security services funded by taxpayers through Portland Mall Management, Inc. (PMMI). I have asked the following for months now, and it remains unanswered:

What does Clean & Safe do differently than PMMI for cleaning and security on the blocks that make up the Transit Mall (SW 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th Avenues; and SW Yamhill and Morrison)?

I call the Clean & Safe report *incomplete* because Clean & Safe does not mention its relationship with PMMI. In fact, the report has an entire section for stakeholders and outside engagement, but mentions not a word about PMMI. That is quite unusual, given that PMMI, like Clean & Safe, is an entity which funds enhanced cleaning and security services along the Downtown Transit Mall, and almost entirely within the Clean & Safe boundaries. At the City, PBOT participates in the PMMI program.

Like Clean & Safe, PMMI uses Portland Metro Chamber to manage its contracts and services. Further, it's reasonable to believe Metro Chamber uses its same employees to manage both programs—Mark Wells, for example, who is a Metro Chamber employee, and also Executive Director of Downtown Clean & Safe, and also a board member of PMMI.

Granted, Clean & Safe may not mention its relationship with PMMI because it is so complicated. TriMet uses a sole-source contract with PMMI to provide enhanced cleaning and security services along the Transit Mall using a combined total of roughly \$2 million in public funds gathered from TriMet, PBOT, and Portland State University. PMMI, citing efficiency, uses a sole-source contract with Portland Metro Chamber, who uses the same vendors as does the Clean & Safe ESD, to provide PMMI enhanced cleaning and security services. See the attached diagram produced by PMMI; and maps showing the PMMI Transit Mall responsibilities, which fall almost entirely within the Downtown Clean & Safe District boundaries.

How this looks to an ESD ratepayer and a taxpayer like me is this: From my condo window, I can watch a janitorial worker we're told is from Clean & Safe clean in front of my building along the Transit Mall which is within, but at the edge of, the ESD. The worker then crosses the ESD boundary, cleaning SW 5th, reversing at I-405, then cleaning SW 6th Avenue around PSU. Eventually the cleaner crosses back into the ESD boundary. Similarly, I've happened upon Clean & Safe security coordinators having coffee at a shop near PSU, outside the ESD boundary. After coffee, they continued their foot patrol across the Transit Mall blocks and back into the ESD district. So I asked: Why are ESD ratepayers paying for cleaning and security services outside the ESD boundary?

I said earlier that the cleaning and security *accomplishments Clean & Safe reports today may be overstated*. That is because it appears they are

accomplished not with \$3.4 million in ESD ratepayer funds, but with an additional \$2 million in taxpayer-funded resources through PMMI.

In today's report, Clean & Safe says it employs "over 20" persons through Central City Concern to provide cleaning; however, adding the FTE positions named in the Clean & Safe statement of work with those named in the PMMI contract and the total exceeds 35 persons. This begs the question: how many cleaning work hours are actually rendered using ESD ratepayer funding, and how many work hours are rendered using PMMI taxpayer funds? Do any positions overlap? Is any work duplicated? What happens when shifts are scheduled but go unfilled?

As to why I'm here today, as I've said since 2021: Council should reconsider its decision to include condominium homeowners as ratepayers; condos should be exempt just like single-family homeowners are. It is unacceptable in a democracy for any government to mandate that a citizen must support the activities of a private, lobbying organization—Metro Chamber—which excludes us from its membership. See page 4 of today's report to find that \$1.6 million, or 21 percent of Clean & Safe ratepayer funds went to salaries and operational expenses shared with Metro Chamber.

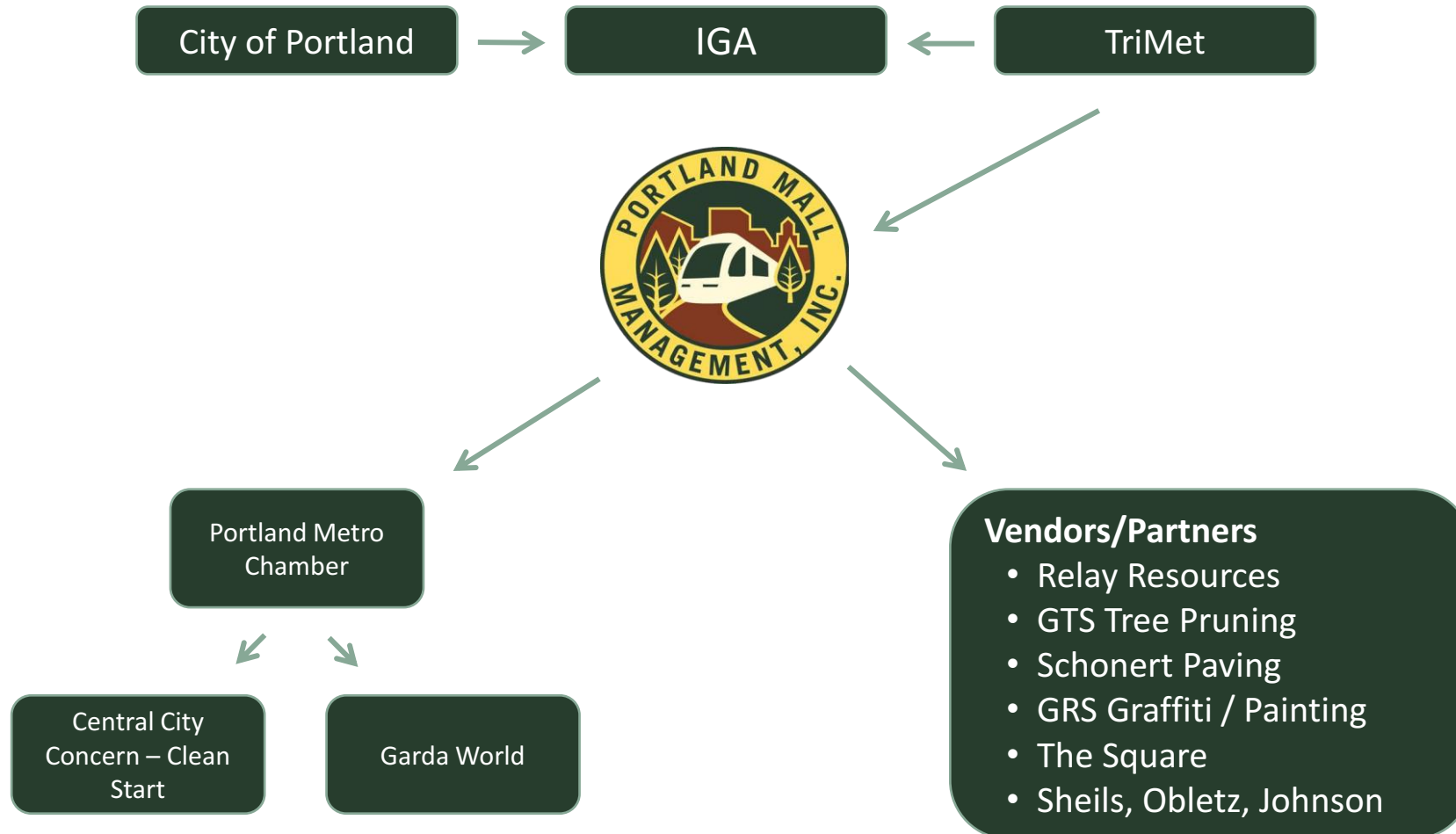
Last, since you do mandate us to pay, we ask that you insist City staff prioritize the improvements in governance, reporting, accountability, and transparency already identified by the City's Audit Report, and affirmed by the BDS consultant's report in Feb. this year. Specifically, all ratepayers deserve a speedier update of the financial model on which all ESD fees are assessed, and speedier implementation of the the per unit cap this Council agreed to, in theory, within the BDS report. Instead, it appears City staff has prioritized the expansion of Clean & Safe boundaries as far west as Providence Park—a task which began even before BDS reported. This is happening without any governance in City code spelling out how an ESD may go about expansion.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak, and for your commitment to public service.

Yours truly,
Anita Davidson
Downtown Condominium Owner
Attachments: Diagram and Maps



Where Does PMMI Fit?





transit shelters & block faces cleaned by PMMI

Shelter Type

1B	Large Bus Shelter, 2 Columns (37' x 11')	13
2B	Medium Bus Shelter (23' x 9')	19
Hday	Light Rail Shelter (35' x 8') - Holladay	12
2L	Light Rail Shelter (23' x 9') - New Small	10
3B	Bus Shelter (14' x 5')	6
Bike	Bike Oasis (varies)	4

total 64

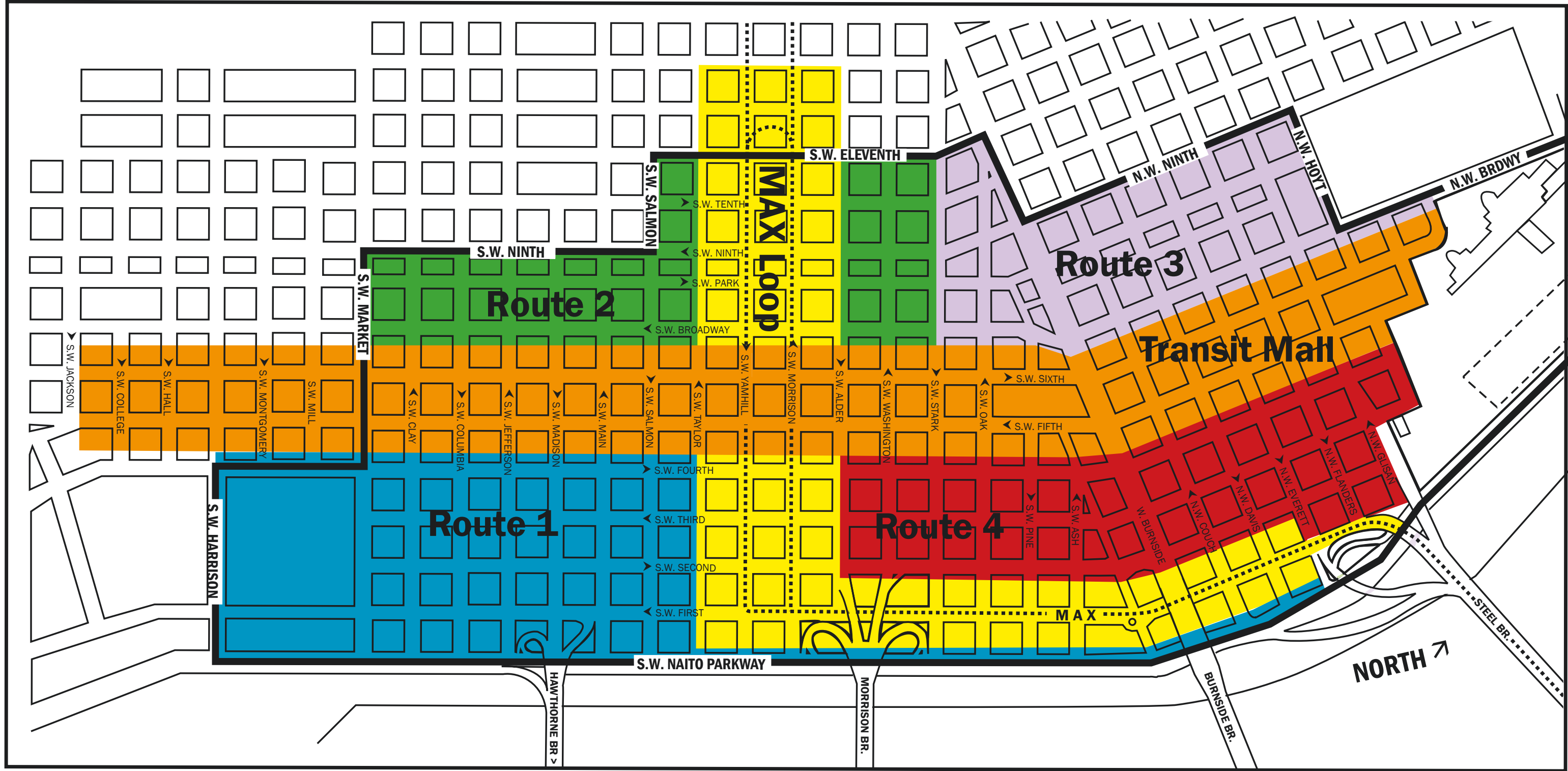


Block Type

Transit Mall Block Face	115
Loop Block Face	72
total	187
Transit Mall MAX Platform	14
Loop MAX Platform	12
total	26



Clean & Safe Service District



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491	Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch		<p>Mayor Wheeler and members of City Council</p> <p>We were planning to have someone testify to you today but there was a last minute cancellation, please accept these comments on item 491.</p> <p>Portland Copwatch appreciates that Clean and Safe is required to present an annual report.</p> <p>Last week's report on the Enhanced Service District on the Central Eastside was more transparent than this one. It listed the number of campsites that were dismantled through the ESD's work. There is no specific data on campsites in the downtown Clean and Safe report.</p> <p>We were surprised to learn that calls about unwanted persons increased by more than 50% between 2022 and 2023. We wonder how many of these calls were from people who were alarmed by folks wearing business attire waiting for a fancy lunch meeting as opposed to people who appear to be houseless.</p> <p>More importantly, Portland Copwatch has been concerned for many years that the Portland Business Alliance, now known as the Portland Metro Chamber, has so much influence on the Clean and Safe program. The ESD imposes fees on businesses and downtown condo owners to fund itself. Copwatch expressed that allowing Clean and Safe to pay the salaries of four Portland Police Officers amounts to turning them into privatized law enforcement doing the bidding of a small segment of the community. A segment which has money, homes, and considerable sway.</p> <p>In March, 2022, a plan was set in motion to phase out the funding of those officers. In September 2022 it was stated the program would end in June 2024-- this month. There is no direct mention of this program of privatized officers in the report.</p> <p>There is a graphic on page four that shows the Portland Police bike patrol accounts for 7% of the Clean and Safe budget. Total expenses are listed elsewhere as being just over \$7.7 million. That means over \$540,000 is being given to the police on behalf of this business district. On page 19, the report indicates that Clean and Safe pays for the bike patrol's radios. Do the radios cost \$540,000? Or are PPB officers' salaries still being privately funded?</p> <p>Copwatch has always said that those with money should not be able to pay for more police response than those without. The idea is that everyone pays their fair share of taxes-- even if that is \$0 because a person has little to no income-- and everyone gets the same police services.</p> <p>In 2023, Copwatch asked about a system that had been promised to hold Clean and Safe security accountable if there are community complaints about their behavior. While Copwatch has great concerns about the tactics and behavior of the city's police officers, at least there are accountability mechanisms which report back on the outcomes of complaints. That feedback loop doesn't exist for private entities. The report makes no mention of complaints lodged against the security hired by Clean and Safe or the outcomes.</p> <p>We hope there's a discussion today about the progress of ending Clean and Safe's funding of the police.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	No	06/06/24 2:55 PM

Portland City Council Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	491	Laura Brown
2	491	Anita Davidson
3	491	Steven Lien
4	491	Mike Davis