



August 14, 2024 Council Agenda

5778

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

In accordance with Portland City Code and state law, City Council holds hybrid public meetings, which provide for both virtual and in-person participation. Members of council elect to attend remotely by video and teleconference, or in-person. The City makes several avenues available for the public to listen to and watch the broadcast of this meeting, including the [City's YouTube Channel](#), the [Open Signal website](#), and Xfinity Channel 30 and 330.

Questions may be directed to councilclerk@portlandoregon.gov

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:30 am

Session Status: Recessed

Council in Attendance: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez

Mayor Wheeler presided.

Commissioner Rubio left at 11:49 a.m.

Officers in attendance: Mike Porter, Deputy City Attorney; Rebecca Dobert, Acting Council Clerk

The Consent Agenda was adopted on a Y-4 roll call.

Council recessed at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened at 10:29 a.m.

Council recessed at 12:02 p.m.

Communications

715

[Request of Colt Seidman to address Council regarding adequately funding BIKETOWN for All](#) (Communication)

Document number: 715-2024

Council action: Placed on File

716

[Request of Addie Smith to address Council regarding taking over responsibility of the Community Justice Center and Mead Building](#) (Communication)

Document number: 716-2024

Council action: Placed on File

717

[Request of Alex D'Aurora to address Council regarding the use of artificial intelligence at the Moda Center](#)

(Communication)

Document number: 717-2024

Council action: Placed on File

718

[Request of Amy Randel to address Council regarding Government Transition Advisory Committee](#)

(Communication)

Document number: 718-2024

Council action: Placed on File

719

[Request of Juliet Hyams to address Council regarding Government Transition Advisory Committee](#)

(Communication)

Document number: 719-2024

Council action: Placed on File

Time Certain

720

[Proclaim August 24, 2024 to be Day of Excellence in Knife Manufacturing](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 720-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Time certain: 9:45 am

Time requested: 20 minutes

Council action: Placed on File

721

[Adopt the 2024 Gateway Action Plan](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37671

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Housing Bureau; Prosper Portland

Time certain: 10:05 am

Time requested: 30 minutes

Council action: Adopted

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

722

[Amend Regulation of Lobbying Entities Code to align with the amended City Charter approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-228 \(amend Code Chapter 2.12\)](#) (Ordinance)

Introduced by: Auditor Simone Rede

City department: Campaign Finance & Lobbying Regulations

Time certain: 10:35 am

Time requested: 25 minutes

Council action: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading August 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda

723

[*Pay settlement of Arrowwood Investments LLC and Arlen Smith claims for \\$15,300 for damages and the purchase of a parcel of property](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191859

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: City Attorney; Water

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

724

[*Authorize competitive solicitation and price agreement for residual hauling services not to exceed \\$10,500,000](#)

(Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191860

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Environmental Services

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

725

[Amend contract with Total Mechanical, Inc. for additional compensation of \\$1,165,664 due to changed conditions for Water Pollution Control Lab Air Handler Replacement Project \(amend Contract 30008163\)](#)

(Ordinance)

Document number: 191861

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Environmental Services

Second reading agenda item 704.

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

726

[*Authorize application to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Eviction Prevention Grant Program for \\$2,500,000 to support no cost legal assistance for low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191862

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Housing Bureau

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

727

[Create new non-represented classification of Community Health Paramedic and establish a compensation range for this classification](#) (Ordinance)

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Human Resources

Council action: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading August 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

728

[*Accept and appropriate grant for \\$16,500 from the State Historic Preservation Office for Certified Local Government Program activities](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191863

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Planning and Sustainability (BPS)

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

729

[*Authorize competitive solicitation and price agreements for the Public Trash Can Program not to exceed \\$10 million over five years](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191864

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Planning and Sustainability (BPS)

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

730

[Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement with Prosper Portland for FY 2024-25 economic development activities](#) (Ordinance)

Document number: 191865

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Prosper Portland

Second reading agenda item 710.

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

731

[*Pay settlement of Christina Self property damage claim for \\$26,355 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Police Bureau](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191866

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Risk Management

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

732

[*Pay settlement of Daimler Truck Financial Services USA LLC property damage claim for \\$5,300 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Water Bureau](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191867

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Risk Management

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

733

[*Pay settlement of David Osborne property damage claim for \\$9,642 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Bureau of Transportation](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191868

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Risk Management

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

734

[*Pay settlement of Jessica Anderson property damage claim for \\$6,680 resulting from a motor vehicle collision involving the Portland Bureau of Transportation](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191869

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Risk Management

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

735

[*Accept and appropriate grant for \\$50,000 from Metro and authorize Intergovernmental Agreement for the Wayfinding for Bike and Walk Buses project](#) (Emergency Ordinance)

Document number: 191870

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Transportation

Council action: Passed

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea
Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea
Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea
Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

736

[Amend Revenue and Finance Code to transfer certain functions to the Office of Arts & Culture \(amend Code Section 5.04.510 and Code Chapters 5.73 and 5.74, repeal Code Section 7.02.830\)](#) (Ordinance)

Introduced by: Commissioner Dan Ryan

Council action: Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading August 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Agenda

737

[Proclaim August 16-18, 2024 to be Leisure Hour Golf Club 80th Anniversary Scholarship Weekend](#) (Proclamation)

Document number: 737-2024

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler; Commissioner Dan Ryan

Time requested: 20 minutes

Council action: Placed on File

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: Adjourned

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

Mayor Wheeler presided.

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

Council adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Time Certain

738

[Direct the City to work with Portland State University and the Halprin Landscape Conservancy to explore the potential of a joint project to replace or renovate the Keller Auditorium](#) (Resolution)

Document number: 37672

Introduced by: Mayor Ted Wheeler

City department: Spectator Venues and Visitor Activities Program

Time certain: 2:00 pm

Time requested: 3 hours

Council action: Adopted

Votes: Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:00 pm

Session Status: No session scheduled

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Rebecca Dobert	Acting Council Clerk	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Mike Porter	Deputy City Attorney	
Colt Seidman	(Communications)	715
Addie Smith	(Communications)	716
Amy Randel	(Communications)	718
Juliet Hyams	(Communications)	719
Ron Khormaei	Founder/CEO STEELPORT Knife Co.	720
Keith Carrato	Vice President/General Manager, Gerber Gear	720
Mark Schreiber	President of CRKT	720
Kevin Gleason	Sr. Director of Global Brand & Marketing of Leatherman	720
Jon DeAsis	CEO, Benchmade	720
Donnie Oliveira	Deputy City Administrator, Community and Economic Development	721
Brian Moore	Development Manager, Prosper Portland	721
Joe Devalcourt	Project Manager, Prosper Portland	721
Kimberly Branam	Executive Director, Prosper Portland	721
Raul Preciado Mendez	Portland Housing Bureau	721
Frieda Christopher	Gateway Advisory Co-Chair	721
Giovanni Bautista	Gateway Advisory Co-Chair	721
Reed Brodersen	Chief Deputy Auditor	722
Deborah Scroggin	Elections Division Manager	722
Vincent Jonson	Portland Parks & Recreation Director of Golf	737
Jimmy Brown	Leisure Hour Golf Club Program	737
Paul Thomas	Leisure Hour Junior Golf Program Vice Chair	737
Angie Harris	Leisure Hour Junior Golf Program Volunteer Program Manager	737

Portland City Council Meeting Speaker List
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Name	Title	Agenda Item
Ted Wheeler	Mayor	
Rebecca Dobert	Acting Council Clerk	
Rene Gonzalez	Commissioner	
Carmen Rubio	Commissioner	
Dan Ryan	Commissioner	
Adrienne DelCotto	Senior Deputy City Attorney	
Donnie Oliveira	Deputy City Administrator, Community and Economic Development	738
Sonia Schmanski	Deputy City Administrator, Vibrant Communities	738
Karl Lisle	Spectator Venues Program Manager	738
Kristina Edmunson	InCommon Agency	738
Bob Naito	Co-Chair Halprin Landscape Conservancy	738
Karen Whitman	Executive Director Halprin Landscape Conservancy	738
Ann Cudd	President, Portland State University	738
Sarah Schwarz	President, Portland State University Foundation	738
Rose Etta Venetucci	(Testimony)	738
LaJune Thorson	(Testimony)	738
Joel Thorson	(Testimony)	738
Rob Fullmer	(Testimony)	738
James Bernard Lee	(Testimony)	738
Emily Ford	(Testimony)	738
Janet Van Wess	(Testimony)	738
Emily Horton	(Testimony)	738
Xavier Oberlander	(Testimony)	738
Diana Stuart	(Testimony)	738
Shane Jewell	(Testimony)	738
Tino Juarez	(Testimony)	738
Xavier Stickler	(Testimony)	738

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

August 14, 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: Good morning everybody. Welcome. This is the August 14th, 2024 morning session of the Portland City Council. Rebecca. Good morning. Please call the roll.

Speaker: Good morning. Gonzales. Here maps. Rubio. Here. Ryan. Here. Wheeler. Here

Speaker: Now we're going to hear from legal counsel on the rules of order and decorum. Good morning.

Speaker: Good morning, mayor.

Speaker: Sure. This is on it. There we go. Yep. It's on city. Welcome to this Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually. You must sign up in advance on the council agenda at ww.portland.gov/council/agenda.

Information on engaging with council can be found on the council clerk's web page. Individuals may testify for three minutes unless the presiding officer states otherwise. Your microphone will be muted when your time is over. Presiding officer preserves order 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, council may take a

short recess and reconvene virtually. Your testimony should address the matter being considered. When testifying, state your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. If you are a lobbyist, identify the organization you represent. Virtual testifiers should unmute themselves when the council clerk calls your name. Thank you.

Speaker: All right. Thank you. First up is public communications. First individual please rebecca.

Speaker: Item 715 request of colt seidman to address council regarding adequately funding biketown for all.

Speaker: Hi, my name is colt seidman. My pronouns are she her I live in old town. I get hit by a car a few years ago and that changed my life forever. I have developed medical issues that occurred as a result from the collision. This is one of the reasons I am passionate about transportation justice and ensuring their safer streets for all. Road users. I'm a proud woman with a disability that wants to invoke change. I commute to my medical and behavioral health appointments on a weekly basis, primarily by using biketown bikes. I've done this for over two years thanks to bike, thanks to bike towns, bike town for all program, the bike town for all program has been an invaluable resource for low income Portlanders investing in bike town's future will ensure this resource can remain accessible to many Portland residents. But the real but the rating cases for biketown for all have not remained financially accessible for low income Portlanders like myself, I believe bike town could change back to being more accessible in this way. City Council, will you please take this into consideration and invest in bike town's future? Thank you for your time.

Speaker: Thank you and we wish you well in your recovery and thank you very much for your advocacy. Thank you. Next individual please. Item number 716

request of addie smith to address council regarding taking over responsibility of the community justice center and mead building. Welcome, addie. Thank you for being here today.

Speaker: Why thank you. Sorry. I'm going to need a second. I don't know how to work my phone, so. I'm sorry. Give me another. Okay. Good morning. Good morning. So I first want to play a video for you guys that is going to give a little background to what my son has been dealing with. Well, let me start off with a couple of things. First, my son was falsely accused of domestic. Well, it's not domestic violence or harassment. It is not domestic violence. It is harassment. And the young lady lied to police because she said she wanted him to talk to her. And the reason he wouldn't talk to her is because she told him in a video that I'm going to play for you, that she had slept with men in his apartment, that he owns that is not in her name, that he allowed her access to when he wasn't, when, and she said that she slept with men in his home and all these other things when he wouldn't allow her access to him or his home anymore, she lied to police and said that he had hit her. And, instead of them, the police talking to him, they lied. And it subsequently has spiraled to other things, the mead center comes into play because, amber, amanda miller and james stevens are white probation officers. My son was arrested. He was given a bond that he could not afford and sat in jail. And they put him in the hole. And that is 24 hour lockdown with no communication. He didn't have an attorney because opec attorneys are claiming that they can't, that they aren't making enough money to represent these defendants. So he sat in the hole for, a month and took a plea deal. When he finally got an attorney. You're talking about a college educated college graduate, young man, young black man who has been, racially profiled and stereotyped and not gotten any help from, the

state and so I've gone on too long because I get so emotional. But I'm going to try to play, if you'll allow me a little bit of this video, go ahead, I don't mind.

Speaker: I've been sending every time I get here, I send it to her.

Speaker: I'm like, bro, just save this file. That's fine. I can't see it.

Speaker: That's fine.

Speaker: I don't need to see you. I ain't never heard you. I gave you a place to live and fed you. I don't care, I never loved you.

Speaker: I've used you. That's why I used your house. That's cool.

Speaker: What else did you do in my house?

Speaker: I did a lot of. Go ahead. Like what?

Speaker: So that was. That was the girl. And then this is her outside. I want to show you the police. First of all, I don't have time for it, but the point that I'm trying to make to you guys is part of the reason why I have said that I am sick of democrats is because I have voted for democrats for 35 plus years. 40 years, actually, I'm going to tell my age here and we get no support and I'm just sick of it, I have told you guys the names of these judges. I've told you guys, you you have to change the responsibility from the commission, the Multnomah County commission to your responsibility because even now, amanda miller has committed perjury. And james stephens and dorsey johnson and you guys and I guess the new people that take over in the new election cycle need to take over responsibility of the mead center, because the commission is doing a horrible job. Those three people in particular in the adult services building, have to be fired, because I'm going to come back when Portland and the state of Oregon has to pay my son millions of dollars. For what you've continued to allow these people to do.

Speaker: I'll be back. All right. Thank you. And just for the record, the services that you have mentioned are county services. They are both the courts. They are

community justice and they are parole. And probation and the jails and the City Council has no purview over any of those services, just so you're aware. But we appreciate your testimony. Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Next individual please. Item number 717.

Speaker: Request of alex aurora to address council regarding the use of artificial intelligence at the moda center.

Speaker: Welcome, alex. Is alex online? Hi.

Speaker: I'm not seeing alex. Alex. Aurora

Speaker: All right, we'll move on. Maybe you'll pop up item number 718. Next individual, please.

Speaker: Item 718 and 719 would like to come up together without objection. Request of amy randall to address council regarding government transition advisory committee and request of juliette himes to address council regarding government transition advisory committee. Welcome thank you.

Speaker: Good morning. Good morning,

Speaker: Mayor Wheeler and commissioners, my name is juliette himes. I'm one of the two co-chairs of the government transition advisory committee, also known as the gtac. And I'm here today with my co-chair, amy randall. And I'm going to talk a little bit about our work to date while amy is going to look ahead to leadership opportunities, the gtac is a group of Portlanders appointed in March of 2023 and will continue through March of 2025. We act as the primary community engagement and advisory body for Portland's government transition. The volunteers, comprising the gtac have a diverse and overlapping backgrounds, and we have been meeting, conducting research and engaging Portlanders for 16 months. And we have met 22 times so far, and we're not through yet. In may, we sent recommendations to city leadership about on four key areas, which included

staffing the new City Council, onboarding new leaders, planning district offices, and improving community engagement. We appreciate council responding in writing to our recommendations. Excuse me, some areas require your continued leadership, such as robust onboarding of our new elected leaders. Last week we voted on additional onboarding recommendations that we will forward to your offices soon. Last week, the interim city administrator, interim assistant city administrator, and the new council operations manager joined our monthly gtac meeting for a conversation. Gtac members continue discussing a range of topics, such as optimizing the new form of government, improving engagement in the new budget process, council onboarding, clarifying the role of civic life, and managing change. We are working. We are working on recommendations for future city leaders, Monday concluded a public comment period on those recommendations. We appreciate each of you who met with us. In fact, all of council met with us individually to provide feedback on the recommendations. Very helpful. And during our eight week engagement period, we had 15 internal city briefings held, two community listening sessions, five policy discussions with communities historically left out of city hall decision making, and received more than 400 community surveys. We will provide a report on the engagement later this month and final recommendations in September. Those recommendations concern key areas of our new government, which you probably know well. Constituent engagement setting up council and council committees and the city's new budget process. We've been very impressed by the community's level of engagement on those subjects. And i'll turn it over now to my counterpart, amy.

Speaker: Thank you. Good morning. Council, as juliette mentioned, my name is amy randall, and I'm her counterpart as co-chair of the gtac. As juliette mentioned in our last meeting, we heard from the interim city administrator, interim city

interim assistant city administrator, and the new council operations manager through staff's eyes, we saw the beginning of the transition from planning to practical real life change. It was genuinely exciting and we shared in the excitement at the glimmers of the much anticipated promises of charter reform coming to fruition. This is an extraordinary, historic, once in a hundred years moment for our city. Gtac has come to understand how important leadership is for a successful transition. We will continue meeting with our with staff to hear from them and about the unfolding changes, and continue to advise based on our position as the primary citizen's engagement body for the transition. Today, we'd like you to consider either to us in writing or evidenced by your actions. What are you doing between now and December 31st to change the outcome of this transition for the better? In what ways? Big and small, are you stepping up as leaders at this moment? There are opportunities to lead both inside and outside the city government. You already you can and already do serve as spokespeople to Portlanders about the city, how the city is evolving to meet the voter approved charter amendments, you can support the city employees, who are often on the front lines of change. City employees are uniquely situated to support and elevate the voices of their relationships. You can support the new leadership team. Their work will be aided by your commitment to cooperation. There are 140 days left before January 1st. Our request is that we collectively push each other to do everything we can to set up the new government for success, for gtac, our work ends in March 2025. In addition to providing ongoing support and guidance for the transition, we will prioritize more community education and engagement through the election and then shift to educating and advocating for our recommendations to city leaders. Our final report will be available in March 2025. We ask that you

consider what else would be the highest and best use of our time to ensure the success of charter reform.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, and don't don't leave just yet because I think some folks have some comments. Commissioner Ryan and commissioner gonzales, thank you, mayor, and thank you so much, juliet.

Speaker: And amy, for being here. I actually have just one basic question, and that is and that's probably for a city manager, jordan and for mayor Wheeler, why would this be on coms like, why would this not be a update either work session or a or an item that we would discuss, I think I'm just confused about why these hard working volunteers would have to sign up to give this information and comment. It just seems off a bit. So I just want to hear from a city administrator, jordan and mayor Wheeler on that. Yeah I'd be happy to.

Speaker: First of all, comms is completely voluntary, and these two fine leaders have chosen to come before the council. During coms, there will be plenty of opportunity, as there is currently to meet with our transition team as well as our city administration staff that we've not only set up, but they are here in the room listening to all of this and participating fully, your offices are going to be briefed, I believe, tomorrow, correct. On the customer service program. 311 and the zendesk. I'm sorry. Next Tuesday, the chiefs will be briefed fully on where we are with the customer service component. That's something commissioner Ryan, you raised with me during our last meeting, if principals would like to further follow up after the meeting with chiefs, we would be happy to do that. We've had public discussions that include gtac on a number of issues. For example, we've had discussions around staffing. We've had discussions around, offices in the districts, so I don't think there's any intention here on anybody's part not to be collaborative or communicative with gtac. In fact, frankly, i'll just speak for myself as the mayor. I

greatly appreciate your dedication. 22 meetings in a relatively short period of time tells me you are taking this extremely seriously. I appreciate the depth and the specificity of the recommendations that you have made, and I hope we have reciprocated with good information back to you, which collectively includes the information and the feedback from my colleagues on city staff. We're not always going to agree. I think we have an honest and fair disagreement about when and how we should engage offices in the districts. Personally, I believe that is something that the future council should decide for themselves based on how they want to organize. And as I've told many of them personally with regard to staffing, if once they've picked their organization model, if they decide they need additional staffing, they can do that with one vote. Should they choose. Does that answer your question, commissioner Ryan,

Speaker: I think it was an important conversation. I hope that what this conversation does is it starts to formalize gtac more into the public realm, and that they become a part of some regular updates that perhaps occur in our City Council meetings. So I hope this conversation allows us to not think that they ever have to sign up for comms, but that they're formally included in this dialog going forward. Because I, I personally find their information very helpful. But as you know, there's a lot of disconnects with council offices, we were you know, we were we're doing our transition work. We were we let go of all the bureaus under your under your direction and are acting as if. And so we're all trying to go with the flow here and having them be a part of the robust dialog right now is very important. I hear that your office has a lot of updates and maybe so is, michael jordan's office, but it just I wanted to raise this so that we could try to formalize this dialog from these hard working volunteers.

Speaker: So, I mean, if you would like to set up additional sessions with the council, I'm certainly open to that. We have regular ongoing communications between leadership and your chiefs of staff. But if that's not sufficient, obviously. Yeah, I'm happy to do much more. I'll do whatever you guys direct in that regard. I don't know if interim city administrator Jordan has more on that. I couldn't agree couldn't agree more with commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: And, I wasn't aware until I saw the agenda that we were going to be on communications, but I think we can accommodate a more formal interaction with gtac at any time. The council wishes, and certainly offered last week when I was there, that we have a little more interactive dialog about particularly, council onboarding and, have staff interact a little more frequently. I think with gtac as we move forward. So, yeah, I'd like to touch on that.

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan didn't specifically ask about onboarding, but I'll be very honest with you. I thought my onboarding was terrible when I came in as the mayor. We came in on January 1st, and, it was not a glorious transition. And so I'm reminiscing about the transition I had when I was elected county chair, where the outgoing county chair, Diane Linn, did everything she could from the moment I was elected till the moment she walked out the door to ensure that our teams were collaborating, that we had all the systems down. We understood what the priorities were and who the key players were. In fact, there was a sharing of staff and that transition went without a hitch in my estimation. So I am determined that the next mayor in the incoming City Council have a very thorough and effective transition, assuming they want it. I'm sorry. Assuming that they want that transition, we will be providing a formal set of sessions where incoming commissioners and the incoming mayor, should they choose, can actually meet all of the players, hear what the issues are, understand some of the basic procedures around budgeting, council

sessions and the basic laws. And we're already working on that, that agenda. Now, we'd love to have your input.

Speaker: My comment. Yeah, please. I think this might be a natural transition point to do what commissioner Ryan's talking about, because we're just now starting to see the rubber hit the road. Right? So all the planning and anticipating and kind of projecting, we've been doing over the last years beginning to be realized. So I think I don't think it's too late.

Speaker: I would love for us to add work sessions. Let's pick Tuesdays and or Thursdays if it's subject to your availability. You're not getting paid for the hard work. You're doing, but I would be more than happy to have regular work sessions on that front. I look forward to it.

Speaker: So do we. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you and thanks, commissioner Ryan commissioner Gonzalez,

Speaker: A couple of thoughts. I, you know, one on transition for newly electeds. I think in the time between when mayor Wheeler was elected and when I was elected, there was dramatic improvement in onboarding of electeds. I actually thought my onboarding was quite good, other than the occasional lobbying from bureaus for more \$ to a newly elected commissioner, it was effective. And I think they're using my onboarding as somewhat of a template for they were definitely using it as a dry run. Looking ahead to charter reform implementation. So I'm appreciative of the folks for the work they did there, you know, the timing of our check in was really interesting because, we've had some conversation in my office, including with the city attorney, as to how we might take steps on the legislative side to get the ball rolling on committee work. And, i, I have served as the public safety commissioner. I'm going to be on the steering committee for the joint office of homelessness, and there are a number of areas where I think facilitating a

deeper dive on some of the complex issues. There that may be done at the committee level in the new form of government would be appropriate. Now, and we're just trying to figure out how to do it under the existing code language, that applies, and so I would look forward to working with you all on how we might do that, there's a couple. I mean, there's, I say deep dive. Let me be even more specific. The question of how we share information from the executive branch to the legislative branch. So I think this is something that folks haven't really dug into, but that ongoing communication between, you know, the deputies, the true functional experts in the administration and those on council that are going to become many experts on service areas or certain topics, and that requires just deeper engagement. And that is more ongoing. And so can we start that now? Right. I mean, that's it's a, and then second, you know, I'm just going to use some really small examples. But on the steering committee for the joint office of homelessness, we have to come up with a shared policy on tents and tarps distribution between the city and county, harm reduction policy that the city and county, both at some level, agree on. That requires some level of public engagement. And I think that would be appropriate. And, you know, do we facilitate that now, at some level? And, so I guess I just I welcome your thoughts, you know, your report on your vision of committees. I'm not sure I would necessarily map exactly the way I see it going, but it doesn't really matter. There's a the area that I'm deep in, I would appreciate your help in thinking through what we can be doing right now. That is streamlines our existing legislative operations. But I will also want to emphasize with bureau pullbacks and kind of how we're operating right now, there's some inefficiencies that we're trying to work out. Just right now in how we operate. But also that's laying the foundation for how things will work come January. So we'll have someone in my office reach out and maybe just pick your brains a little bit. We can

kind of give you up to date on what advice we've been given as to what the options are. And, you know, maybe we can tailor a path forward that that makes sense in the interim.

Speaker: Sounds great.

Speaker: Thanks, yeah, just general point is, what we're just asking is that you all just. We all meet the moment, which is unusual leadership, which looks like foresight and doing the work. Now, that's going to set people up for success in the future. So appreciate that and appreciate you guys having us here today.

Speaker: Excellent. Thank you. Appreciate your testimony. Thank you. First, actually, on the consent agenda, rebecca, have any items been pulled? No. Please call the roll on the consent agenda.

Speaker: Gonzalez yea. Rubio i, Ryan, I Wheeler.

Speaker: All right. The consent agenda is adopted. First time certain items. 720 proclamation proclaim.

Speaker: August 24th, 2024 to be day of excellence in knife manufacturing.

Speaker: Our next item is a proclamation recognizing August 24th as a day of excellence in knife manufacturing. I'm happy to be here today to celebrate the recent establishment of the Portland knife center of excellence and what it represents for our city. With over 50% of knives sold in the united states being made right here in the Portland metro area, and with the highest concentration of knife and hand tool companies in the country, our city is uniquely positioned to become a global hub for knife enthusiasts and professionals alike. The Portland knife center of excellence, founded by five of our leading knife manufacturers benchmade, crkt, gerber gear, leatherman, and steelpoort knife company, is a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines Portland. First, I'd like to welcome representatives from the newly formed Portland knife center of excellence to come

up, including ron corker, my founder and ceo of steel port knife company, keith corado, vice president and general manager of gerber gear. Kevin glisan, senior the director of global brand and marketing of leatherman. And mark schreiber, president of crkt. And john aziz, ceo of benchmade. Thanks to all of your companies and their teams for doing all that you do, showing another strength of Portland innovation and collaboration and for representing American manufacturing in the global knife making industry. I'll also ask commissioner Rubio, who brought this forward today, to give her opening remarks. Commissioner Rubio, thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Mayor. Like you, I'm thrilled to celebrate this incredible Portland industry. I first learned about this center of excellence from representative earl or congressman earl blumenauer. And I have to admit, I was unaware about the level of growing global reputation for this craft that's happening right here in our own backyard. Portland's best kept secret is that our city and region not only is home to some of the best knife makers in the world, but also a place where those in the industry can innovate together, bring together specialists and enthusiasts, share their expertise and inspire the next generation. So today's proclamation will be the first Portland day of excellence in knife manufacturing, and this day is planned to coincide with national knife day, where the cluster will feature the inaugural Portland knife knife makers showcase, where attendees will have the opportunity to engage with our leading knife companies, witness live knife forging demonstrations, explore historical artifacts of the knife making industry for Portland, and also enjoy local food and drinks. And so this event is on the 24th of this month, from 10 to 2 p.m. At steel port knife company. So I encourage people to attend and I will definitely be there. And I would be remiss if I did not again acknowledge all all these industries that are here today, these companies that are here today, great industries are built from great leadership, initiative and

collaboration. So I'd like to say a special thank you to all the five founding companies of the Portland knife center of excellence. You have each helped shape the American knife making industry in your own right, and all from right here in the Portland metro area. So we'll hear from them each in a moment, I also just want to lift up that not only are these great businesses that are shaping the knife world globally, but they create local jobs that also help contribute to our local economy. So thank you for your contributions. We're incredibly proud that you call Portland home. So with that, I'll pass it on to Ron and invite folks to speak, about their their businesses. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Rubio and the rest of the commission and City Council, it's great to be here today, let me start with a little bit of a framing. So cities like Solingen in Germany, Second City in Japan, Thiers in France are examples of cities that are well known for the knife in the regions in the area that they have. And they attract thousands of visitors, and they're well known for the quality and craftsmanship that they do that in the US. Portland is definitely positioned to take that mantra for on behalf of the country and be such a destination and is such a destination, so by so we have pulled together this hub of manufacturing in local area and it all started with, with a bunch of conversations with different city leaders and other activities. But earlier this year, five of us came together, and pulled in local businesses, government officials, tourism boards and creative community and well beyond. We were really encouraged from early stages, and I want to highlight by government officials and we appreciate that a lot. It started from initial, Congressman Blumenauer's pushing all of us to share the this concept and information widely, and then it led all the way to the most recent, proclamation idea by Commissioner Carmen Rubio, as is so unique in Portland, all this started over a cup of coffee, so we just kind of chat over coffee, in this case,

during a morning conversation with congressman blumenauer, I brought up this statistics of 50% of knives sold in the us are made in Portland. And the concentration of knife manufacturers in the local area. And we have since learned that not many people know that. So let's get them to know some of the different aspects of our multifaceted community. I was already very familiar with the local steel history and network of expertise. Based on my last company, finex cast iron cookware, which is another local company, but it seems like as knife industry, we were so busy with national and international, challenges that we missed showcasing our common strengths, which is the area and the network that we have here. So that's this whole, energy poured into as this new idea is formed in this case, napkin sketch over breakfast, a flurry of follow up conversations, a bit of typical elbow grease and dedication, a pre-workshop to explore possibilities. All led into forming this exciting region. The journey has been a collaborative effort with competing companies. Five of us sitting right here uniting over the shared vision of uplifting the overall visibility of the Portland knife, making industry. At the same time, with all the details going, is truly most humbling. Part of the experience, at least for me, has been the rapid and the selfless involvement of each of the companies I reached out to you. It is also no surprise that all the leaders, in these organizations and companies that we are representing all have a strong local roots with actually funny, thing we found out majority of us actually graduated from Oregon high schools. And so we have a lot of roots here. And, built beyond just the business focus. We are now sitting here representing the five companies, as I mentioned, competing on national and international stages. But we share an even higher goal of building our community for the long run. The effort should highlight the multifaceted strength of Portland beyond what might be known about our community and, our region. Superficially, besides the common commitment of

quality that we all share, our companies have all a common history of starting with a founder's vision and the hard work of a small group of committed artisans to create something extraordinary and that chemistry of Portland and community support is something that has made this true. Not only this year, last year, but over last 85 years, typing with that, I'm proud of being sitting here among these five companies, and I turn it over to my colleague and friend, Keith Corrado. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Wheeler. And commissioners, thanks for having us, I'm Keith Corrado. I represent Gerber Gear, one of the long standing companies here started in 1939 right here in Portland. And still right down where I-5 and 217 meet. So thank you again for the opportunity, in Portland, a knife is not just a tool. And I think everyone on this, this, up here would agree with that, it's a symbol of craftsmanship, strength and tension and utility in our city actually boasts a very deep history of knife making with roots and steel manufacturing that maps all the way back to 1901. The first formal knife makers appeared in the 1930s and have been a mainstay ever since. It also is ever evolving. There's a constant undercurrent for our brands to innovate and elevate with our community, and customers expect. For us, Steelport is a perfect example of that, being a relatively young brand in this space, but has done phenomenal things, and obviously a lot of us have long standing history as well. Today, Portland is home to more knife and hand tool companies than any other U.S. city, to Ron's point, I think that surprises a lot of people when you talk about that in broader audiences. 50% of the knives sold in the country come from right here. That output to Commissioner Rubio's point also employs over 1200 people. It's American made product. It's artisanally made. These are attributes that also complements Portland's reputation as a city of culinary excellence, we have seen even more connection through our shared values of locally sourced ingredients and creative execution, oftentimes using similar

supplying bases and things like that. The history of the city's knife industry represents the American spirit, with a craft and idea and determination, you can grow into something bigger, much bigger than you ever imagined. I know when Joe Senior, Joe Gerber Senior, founded Gerber as a side project, I don't imagine he ever thought it would get to the size and scale that it is at this point, right? We still are in contact with the family, and they're very proud of the work that their family started and the legacy that they've left, the as Portland has established itself on the global culinary stage, we in the knife industry and the tool industry aim to do the same for our very own industry and excellence that we represent here today. And it does really start with us. I want to introduce Kevin from Leatherman to speak next.

Speaker: Actually, I think I think you're next. We change the order. Oh you did.

Speaker: Yeah. So. Oh, there we go. Next yeah.

Speaker: Thank you all for the opportunity to be here, Portland has always attracted inventors, engineers, makers, entrepreneurs all with an edge of adventure and dirt under our nails. You're looking at five of them. Four months ago, as Ron mentioned, on April 25th, we gathered this group and then some more than 20 knife industry stakeholders came together for an exploratory conversation. The topic of discussion how do we cement Portland's legacy as the knife making capital of the US? As Keith just said, it's us. We needed to come together for a greater purpose. As representatives of five leading knife and tool companies in the Portland metro area, Gerber Gear, Leatherman, Benchmade, Crkt and Steelport Knife Company. We are each other's competition, but with competition comes admiration and respect. We recognize the significance of our collective craftsmanship and the legacy of our brands. That is why we are excited to join together and create the official Portland Knife Center of Excellence. This initiative aims to bring global

awareness to Portland as a destination to connect and celebrate our passionate knife community. And now I will turn it over to Kevin.

Speaker: Thank you, Kevin. Glisan with Leatherman Tool. Don't forget tools. It's not just knives, we're the maker of the original American multi-tool. We still make every tool off airport way in 122nd, pleased to be here. Pleased to join this crew here. And so, with over half of domestic knife production already stemming from Portland, combined with our deep history and metal manufacturing and abundance of creative resources at the ready, and now a centralized community effort, Portland is poised to succeed in expanding its global authority in knife design and production. We now have an opportunity to collectively bolster an estimated \$1 billion economic engine together through the Knife Center of Excellence, we can elevate visibility for Portland brands, drive new revenue opportunities, improve Portland's reputation, attract and nurture talent, create a destination for tourism, fund competitive research and support infrastructure for innovation. The center of excellence will also attract the best knife makers in the world. It will also inspire the next generation of knife makers. Our collective vision is to create a greater knife community comprised of enthusiasts, specialists and simply those curious about the craft. With that, I'll hand it over to Joe.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you Mayor. Thank you, Council, for having us today, my name is John Diaz, I represent Benchmade, we're at Oregon City, many of our employees live here in Portland. And we frequent this wonderful place daily, when Ron brought this idea to us, we couldn't help but feel excited. We as a group spend so much time outside of the state having fun at trade shows, and now we have an excuse to have fun here in Oregon and celebrate knives and what that means for our community around the world, so yeah, frenemies, competing companies. How does this happen? Well, we're a collective now uniting to uplift the

industry and recognize all of the greatness that it again, provides and helps us thrive. It's an incredible moment, one that we intend and plan to celebrate for years to come. As its first public engagement as commissioner Rubio mentioned, the Portland knife center of excellence will come together on national knife day to host the inaugural Portland knife maker showcase. All are invited to visit the steel port knife company factory on Saturday, August 24th from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m. To engage with the founding brands who have spoken here today. Attendees will be able to experience a life knife forging demonstration, historical artifacts exhibit showcasing Portland's knife making history, and many more fun events. We're excited to continue to develop programing designed to bring the knife community together and offer a range of educational opportunities, workshops and events for both novice and experienced knife makers alike. Through these efforts, we aim to solidify Portland's reputation as a hub for knife making and American craftsmanship, and to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a passionate and dedicated community. Thank you all. Thank you.

Speaker: And with that, I will turn this over to my colleagues who I know have some comments. We'll start with commissioner Gonzalez.

Speaker: I just had a couple of quick questions, understanding your markets right now. You know, what percentage of your sales are domestic versus international? Just generally curious.

Speaker: I think it depends very much on each company. So any collective, response would be estimate. But I think I can start with, on behalf of the group saying that these brands represent international presence. So we just as an anecdote, we just have a sweepstakes that started on Monday with samples of five of our knives. But we opened it only to us, application. And I think that's one of the

biggest complaints we have gotten on our, social media is why not international open opens like that? So that's the anecdotal indication, on that area. Yeah.

Speaker: Go ahead. Say global reputations, but very, very domestically based. When we look at markets and what's really active for our industry, okay.

Speaker: And is of the international, piece of the pie, what region primarily are you selling in right now?

Speaker: A lot of things are dependent on knife laws and knife restrictions. So while we make tools, many countries look at them unfavorably and provide, you know, put restrictions in place. Europe is a great market for knives, very traditional as we look at other knife centers of excellence in Europe. Japan is also a great market. So there's a cultural link or a cultural heritage of knives. The market is there as well great, great.

Speaker: Fascinating. Well, I just want to thank commissioner Rubio and mayor Willard for bringing this proclamation to council, Portland is known. Spirit, our commitment to craftsmanship and our commitment to another facet of our city's character, our thriving knife manufacturing industry. I loved hearing about the craftsmanship and the commitment there to and the over 1200 Portlanders employed in the knife in hand tool industry, contributing significantly to our local economy, providing family wage jobs, Portland's knife manufacturing expertise is undeniable, with it sounds like over 50% of knives sold in the United States are made right here is that number. Did I get that number right, this is testament to the skill and dedication of our local workforce. We have a rich history of knife making, dating back to the 1930s. We honor the pioneers who laid that foundation for this thriving industry today, knife making aligns perfectly with Portland's outdoor and culinary culture. Our city's love for adventure and good food is reflected in the tools we create. Portland is a city of makers, and our knife manufacturing industry is a

shining example of our commitment to quality, innovation and craftsmanship. Very proud to celebrate this industry and its contributions to our city.

Speaker: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Commissioner. Commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor. And first I just want to say I'm so sorry I can't be there in person, this was one of the best, presentations I've seen for a while. Very uplifting, I was taking notes. How fascinating it is that you're all, I assume, competitors. And you're collectively coming here together. And then you started using words like feminist, like collective, collective. And I was texting with a staff like, gee, could you ever see, like, Nike and Adidas or Pepsi? And Coke come together to present? So it's actually really big of you to lean in and see what collectively you can all share, so thank you. I, I just want you to also acknowledge that, it was leatherman company and it was about five years ago as a head of a nonprofit that was focused on waking up the school districts to have pathways to careers in the trades and in craftsmanship and such. And we called it industry for a day. And we had actually teachers and counselors, come to see that they could guide their students not just to college, but also to these careers. And so we did tours, and leatherman was one of the key tours that we did. And I just remember looking at the valuations and how many people complimented and were and learned so much when they were on that tour. So that was when I first became aware that we were an industry force nationally. So but today it all came home. So thank you. I do have a question on when I was listening to you talk about, you know, tourism in Europe and such around knives. Is there a proposal, is there a vision or does this already exist? I just didn't catch it of a place that you'd like people to gather that they would have a chance to collectively see what, what this ecosystem is like here in the Portland metropolitan area. Is that what you were talking about? Yeah.

Speaker: So that's part of it. The we are again, very young and starting to create the fact that we have five here within, the first conversations we have had as a group is probably like 5 or 6 months old. So we are fast moving here. Being able to have that, event that John mentioned is pretty big undertaking. But we started this as was mentioned, by my colleagues here, we started with a bigger vision. And one of the aspects is history. Visitor centers. A lot of these, cities I mentioned in Germany and France, and it actually has a place for people that come into the city to be able to go and see it. That's part of the reason there's a whole bunch of other possibilities, connection with education and being able to have that pathway is one of the big drivers we have at every step of the way from, going, you know, from high school, from community colleges. We actually at the event there will be a tent from Oregon State University because they have a forging club. So there's actually opportunities at every step of the way. So those are parts of the vision. One of the tasks that we have taken on ourselves is we don't expect, we don't foresee in a few years to be still five. We expect this to grow, to be really, truly, broader representations. We probably have well over 20 companies that could be interested, are interested, would get involved. And as that grows, it's nice to have a central group. You're starting a non formal nonprofit organization like that to be able to umbrella under that. But the specific plans we are not quite yet there. And that's one of the connections that we're looking for, government officials in Portland and other areas to help us. This is definitely we are very good at making products and knives and marketing and advertisement, committee, we look for learning. We are very. We have gotten here. All of us gotten here because we're humble and we know when to learn and when to get asked for help.

Speaker: You are humble, and you're you've checked your egos at the door for the greater good, and it's great that you included the other 15 who who aren't at the

table today. So anyway, it's great that you brought this to our attention. I'm pretty excited to help you see it through. As an elected official. And we have some big projects, obviously, that we're going to be moving on in the central area, and it seems like you're giving us all a good hint on something that could be activated that has so many multiple, reasons to be behind this. I'm so glad that we keep talking about the pathway for jobs and careers for our students. So thank you all for being here today. And thank you, congressman earl blumenauer, for the big assist and for commissioner yea. Rubio for driving it home. And I'm really glad that we have this on the on the agenda today. Thank you so much, commissioner yea. Rubio.

Speaker: Thank you. I've already said a lot, but I just wanted to share my big appreciation to all of you for coming in. I wish so badly I could be there, but covid keeps me at home today, but I just want to say, that we appreciate so much that you're choosing to do this in Portland. It's important for our city that you're here, and it's important for our workers as well. So thank you so much, for all that. And also thank you, congressman blumenauer, for bringing this to us to our attention, you have a big fan in congressman blumenauer, and hopefully we'll we'll see him part of the work to make, make this reality, this dream a reality as well.

Speaker: And I'd like to add my thanks. First of all, commissioner Rubio, I want to thank you for your leadership on this. It was really your impetus that brought this to the City Council agenda today. I'm a partner. I'm a helper, but really, commissioner Rubio is the one who brought this to my attention and said that we should bring this forward. And I'm really glad we did. I knew the knife industry was important here in Portland in the greater metropolitan area, and I understand that it's, a bulwark of manufacturing for us. So these are high wage, high skilled jobs with high quality products that are going out the door. And we obviously should do

everything we can to support your efforts. But I will also confess, I did not know that your market share is so substantial in this industry. And so if for no other reason, I'm glad that you've come together, that you're joining together with this knife center of excellence here in our community that you're helping get out the word and we'll do our part, too. Also, with regard to congressman blumenauer, I am hard on him because we need federal resources for a whole slew of issues facing our community. But heck, he's hard on me, too, but this is an area where I really appreciate his leadership and bringing this to the attention of all of us and highlighting the importance of this industry in our community. And I share my colleagues thanks and appreciation to you for seeing a bigger picture. I assume that behind the scenes you are ferocious competitors as well. You should be. But I also believe that competition makes the knives sharper. And I believe that by working together, you can help us understand what sort of ecosphere, what sort of ecosystem we need to create here so that you can all be successful. And I think that's the value of collaboration. Without further ado, I will read the proclamation on behalf of this City Council. Whereas Portland's knife manufacturing strength is evidenced by over 50% of knives sold in the united states being made in the Portland metropolitan area. And whereas Portland metro has the highest concentration of knife and hand tool companies in the country. And whereas Portland metro employs over 1200 people in the knife and hand tool industry. And whereas there's a deep history of knife making in the Portland metropolitan area, with the first formal knife makers establishing here in the 1930s. And whereas knife making interest, talent and craftsmanship is a natural complement to Portland's reputation as an outdoor and culinary hub. And whereas the ceos of five of the leading knife manufacturing companies in the Portland metropolitan area, gerber, benchmade, crkt, leatherman and steel port knife company have joined together.

Although competitors to found an official Portland knife center of excellence in 2024. And whereas one of the Portland knife center of excellence objectives is to bring global awareness to Portland as a destination to both connect and celebrate the passionate knife manufacturing community while building pride in American craft education and innovation. And whereas, August 24th is considered national knife day and Portland knife center of excellence will be hosting a showcase event of Portland's knife makers and the history of local knife manufacturing. On Saturday, August 24th, 2024 at the steel port knife company factory. Again, that is August 24th at the steel port knife company factory. Now therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, the mayor of the city of Portland, Oregon, the city of roses, do hereby proclaim August 24th, 2024 to be day of excellence in knife manufacturing in Portland and encourage all residents to celebrate their contributions. Thanks to all of you. We appreciate it.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you for being here.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you. If we could get a break.

Speaker: Brooke, did you want a photo with them or us two or all of us? Okay hey, it's your reputation. We're in recess.

Speaker: So we'll stand over here. Thank you. Kimberly and everybody. For

Speaker: Yeah, yeah. All right. I hope you guys like that. My great great great great jonna papaefthimiou. Right. In here a little bit. I have to be more friendly here. Come on. Up. Guys. Thank you. Yeah. Thanks a lot. For what? Hey, donnie.

Speaker: I'm talking too much today, so I'm just going to turn this right over to you for the next one. Okay

Speaker: All right. Oh, you want to go?

Speaker: All right. All right, we're back in session, next up, please, is item 721 and 721 is a resolution.

Speaker: Adopt the 2024 gateway action plan.

Speaker: I'll now hand it over to donnie olivera, dca for community and economic development, to start the presentation on this resolution. Welcome, donnie.

Speaker: Thank you. Mayor. Good morning commissioners. Donnie olivera for the record, council, this is a resolution offering a five year spending plan for the gateway regional center tax increment finance district. That informs prosper Portland and Portland housing bureau budgets. As I said, my name is donnie olivera, and I'm the deputy city administrator for the community. And economic development service area. Today prosper Portland and Portland housing bureau staff will present the details of the two 2024 gateway action plan, but I wanted to first acknowledge the thorough stakeholder engagement. Staff have conducted to get us to this point. And while the city is the steward of this plan, it truly is a product of collaboration between city staff and community representatives. I understand members of the 2024 gateway action plan are here to provide invited testimony, and I want to thank them for their time today and, of course, for their contributions throughout the process. The 2024 gateway action plan is an investment pivot for the gateway tif district, moving from a geographic subdistrict framework to a community priorities based investment framework with a focus on creating housing opportunities across the income spectrum, stabilizing small businesses, and celebrating the multiculturalism of east Portland. I'll now turn it over to prosper Portland development manager brian moore.

Speaker: Good morning, mayor Wheeler and commissioners. I'm brian moore, and I'm a development manager with prosper Portland. And I think first off, it's great to follow such an inspiring presentation from leaders in our athletic and outdoor

industry cluster. I know we at prosper, feel lucky to have such visionaries in partners in the private sector, I'm joined by my colleague joel here at the dais, as well as colleagues from prosper and fb who are available to answer questions. And we're pleased to bring you the 2024 gateway action plan for consideration, next slide. Right, we're seeking your approval for the gateway action plan update, a five year community centered plan for investing tax increment finance resources in the gateway regional tif district. Next slide. The gateway action plan is a geographically specific investment plan that furthers objectives of the city of Portland's economic development plan. Advance Portland, as well as the housing production strategy in alignment with the advance Portland strategy for inclusive growth. The updated gateway action plan helps deliver on numerous outcomes, including objectives 3.5, which is to support growth and health of businesses within commercial districts. 3.6 activate vacant properties and storefronts with community serving businesses and attracting new commercial commercial development. 3.7 improve public streets and sidewalks in select districts to support the vitality of business districts. 3.8 address housing production across a continuum of affordability and 4.2 build public, public, private partnerships to improve access to employment opportunities. There's also alignment with the housing production strategy. Prosper Portland recently created new lending products that support middle income housing development, including innovative approaches that, that target, prop projects that struggle to find financing in the open market like modular building and office to residential conversion. Next slide, here to provide details of the process and outcome in the gateway tif district is the district manager, joel valcourt.

Speaker: Red is go. All right. Good morning, mayor. Commissioners. It's a pleasure to present the 2024 gateway action plan to you and to commissioners as well, virtually, I'm going to start with some background on the district. Just to provide a

little context for the investment strategy moving forward. Next slide please.

Gateway is 658 acres. It's bounded on the west by i-205 and a fairly narrow area from Keizer at the north end to Adventist Hospital on the south. The district was established in 2001 with a maximum indebtedness of \$164 million in resources for the entire life of the district. To date, nearly \$60 million of that have been invested alongside public and private partners to create housing support, commercial development, small businesses and build out infrastructure to support the growing community and this pie chart on the right here kind of provides a little bit of that breakdown of the investments that we've done to date over the last 20 years. 25% of our investments have been towards property redevelopment, which includes projects like the Oregon Clinic, which opened in 2006, Children's Receiving Center at 102nd and Burnside, as well as support for many local small businesses. One which is the Namaste Indian Bazaar that got a Prosperity Investment Program grant in and grow a wonderful market and bazaar at Halsey and 103rd. We've had 16 repair and restore grants in the last few years, as well as support for ten nonprofits like ERCO, Reap Inc. And many others. 32% has been invested into affordable housing and 40% has been into infrastructure, which has been transit street upgrades. And Gateway Discovery Park, which is a well-loved local park right by the Nick Fish. Next slide please. This timeline covers most of the larger TIF funded infrastructure and housing production. Since the district was created in 2001, having been designated in Metro 2040 as a regional center in 1995, it was the first outside of downtown Portland to have, and still is, the only one outside of downtown Portland to have that designation, roughly the first decade of the Gateway TIF district was focused on major MAX extensions and transit stations like the Gateway Transit Center, providing residents and employees vital connectivity to the region, as well as laying the groundwork for transit oriented development in east Portland. In the past decade,

prosper fb and nonprofit affordable housing partners delivered significant funding to create 419 new affordable homes, as well as amenities like the gateway discovery park and transportation improvements along commercial streets like 102nd improvements and halsey street improvements. These inclusive development and investments stabilized and supported both families and local businesses, many of whom had been priced out of other Portland neighborhoods. And in 2022, the gateway tif district sunset was removed, allowing the district to continue until we reach the funding cap. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to reach that \$164 million. Next slide please. While there are numerous successful investments in the gateway district, we're also aware of the challenges that require long term, coordinated and multi-pronged strategies. Among the lessons learned, the following influence the updated action plan and have shaped our thinking as we engage in the tif exploration process across east Portland. The first being that the regional center zoning and street work outsized expectations for how the market could perform, both at the scale of development and ability to cover the cost of infrastructure, right sizing, the zoning and gateway was one of the major outcomes from the previous action plan and had, you know, kind of wrapped up 15 years of analysis of how to make that right. The second is that the small size of the tif district limited the amount of tif revenue available to reinvest, which also hampered the ability to meet the expectations. It's about a quarter of the size of the lents tif district, so it's very small and has been essentially been limited in its budget as a result of that, market conditions in gateway continue to require significant subsidy to make new development happen. This is the case in particular for multifamily housing development, and that's regardless of income level. It's both market rate, deed restricted, affordable and workforce housing, large institutional property owners are key partners in development through these partnerships moves the

pace of that development and these are locations that often require the most extensive infrastructure, infrastructure and street upgrades. Some of these blocks are ten acres and require multiple new streets that will cross them in order to create an urban street grid. And because we work in partnership with the community, the health of business organizations in the district impacts the ability to deliver small business support. Investments. Next slide please. Now I'd like to walk through the 20 2124 gateway action plan, which was adopted by the prosper board of commissioners on June 18th. Next slide please. The bedrock of the 2024 action plan was our community advisory committee, which consisted of 16 members. Our two co-chairs are here with us today to provide testimony of their experience. Our advisors created five focus groups to dig deeper on a range of important issues and investment potential. Out of this engagement, we also interviewed 32 additional stakeholders on a wide range of issues related to the potential for district success. Our engagement culminated in a vibrant, multilingual open house at the east Portland community center with six languages in addition to english, as well as foods from across the world representing many of those that live in the district. We also provided additional outreach to a range of groups and venues for east Portland residents to provide additional input on the plan. Next slide please. Compared to the city as a whole, gateway is more racially diverse, has seen less income growth over the last decade, and continues to have a higher poverty rate, which is 6% higher than citywide. While overall homeownership rates are lower than the city. We are happy to see that 300% increase in bipoc homeownership, a trend which we will continue to bolster in this action plan through partnership with fb to support homebuyer assistance and the commercial loan program mentioned by my colleague brian. Our advisory committee and focus groups contributed to a swot analysis of the district, providing a detailed range of considerations for how to

harness the district's greatest assets and manage the persistent challenges. Key findings included the strength of the multicultural community, the vibrant mix of businesses, access to transit and accessible single family home prices, while market trends, infrastructure deficiencies, safety concerns, and vacant property present key challenges. Next slide please. Our advisory committee drafted a community vision to guide our investment, which i'll read from right now. Hopefully make it through well, gateway is envisioned as a gateway to the world that thrives due to multicultural diversity and inclusive economic opportunities. Gateway will be rooted with housing opportunities that meet the needs of all individuals and families, supporting new innovations that create wealth and connect residents to the Portland region's bustling economy through partnerships and direct funding. Prosper Portland and the Portland housing bureau will invest tax increment financing funds to bring vibrancy and livability to one of the city's vital transit centers and employment hubs. Next slide, please. From the community vision, our advisory committee refined our tif investments into three buckets with the intent to stabilize, activate and diversify the district. Included in those is our grow inclusive economy and celebrate diversity as gateway's greatest asset. And in so doing, we want to celebrate and cultivate our diverse community in gateway, both in the business and residential community, and support intergenerational and multigenerational and multicultural synergies. There's a number of senior communities, a number of health institutions in the area, and there's a lot of ways to create a great multigenerational community, we want to support housing opportunity and income diversification, including mixed income projects, and encourage interim uses and activations of the many vacant properties throughout the district and throughout that, we want to focus on private, public and nonprofit partnerships to leverage additional resources. The intent of these interventions is

to lead to a livable and inclusive gateway district that provides opportunities for wealth creation for residents and businesses alike. Next slide, please. Getting to the meat of it. The total adopted and forecasted budget is \$65.6 million through fiscal year 2829. So for the next five years, the gateway district has had an affordable housing set aside at 33%. Since that set aside was created, and we are currently very close to achieving it at 32%. The gateway action plan allocates just over half of the resources towards new middle income and market rate housing production, 13% towards activation and livability investments, and 12% towards inclusive economic growth. With 24% towards affordable housing. During the five year period. Next slide please. I'm going to dig a little bit deeper on each of these buckets. And please look forward to your questions afterwards. But moving relatively quickly. Our first investment bucket is inclusive economic growth and celebrating the diverse business community. Action item one is to increase investments in small businesses, with the expected outcome to disperse 15 to 20 grants and loans to businesses to help stabilize or expand their operation. This is primarily through our prosperity investment or pip program grants, and we're providing an additional 25% above what we had used to and offering loans to cover the gap. Action item two is to expand the affordable commercial tenant program to the gateway district. The expected outcome of securing affordable rents for 10 to 12 businesses to retain local economic diversity. Action item three is to fully tenant the ground floor retail to help anchor the halsey business district. And action item four is to explore, explore new models for organizing small business, community and gateway and align those with efforts throughout east Portland. Next slide please. Our second investment bucket is to activate a livable gateway. Action item one is to increase our community livability investments with the expected outcome to support five community sponsored projects that support cultural inclusion and

livability. Action item two and three are focused on public art and security as well as property activations, with the expected outcome to provide ten art and security grants that honor the community vision and increase business security. As an example, we look to an amazing case study from within the gateway district. The outer rim bicycle shop, with a grant from venture Portland, secured their facade after dozens of break ins with a beautiful steel framed sculpture of mount hood, pictured here on the bottom, since the improvement, they've seen a dramatic decrease in property crime. Action for is to complete street upgrades and public realm improvements at 102nd and pacific, as well as advance central gateway infrastructure. Next slide please. And finally, our third investment bucket is housing production and opportunity action. Item one is to attract new neighborhood investment in mixed income housing production and commercial development. With the expected outcome of a single signature middle income project with upwards of 250 units and an additional prospective project, potentially within the same central, kind of gateway transit center area. Action item two is to facilitate development on privately held properties with commercial loans for middle income rental and homeownership. The expected outcome of 30 middle income units prioritizing homeownership. And finally, action item three is to work with fbe to encourage construction of additional affordable housing deed restricted below 60% ami. Next slide. With that, we're happy to answer any questions. Mayor and commissioners. And we move through a lot. Happy to dig into the details as needed. Any questions?

Speaker: I had some commissioner Gonzalez,

Speaker: Thank you for the report. And looking back at what we were intending to produce in terms of housing, transit, you know, what are we our term of art is what transit oriented development.

Speaker: Transit oriented? Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker: So we were shooting for north of 2000.

Speaker: It was actually 3900 units, 3900.

Speaker: And where are we at right now? On that?

Speaker: We are at 707. So we have some room to go. Yeah.

Speaker: You know, I maybe just reiterate what you think hasn't worked there, so we have some difficult market conditions. I understand that interest rates, inflation, but what are your other key takeaways on such a, on such a large delta there?

Speaker: Yeah, I think it's a connection of several things. One, again, the size of the blocks and the extensive infrastructure is kind of number one. It's an immense hurdle to spend 5 to \$10 million potentially on infrastructure upgrades to the public realm, kind of on the private sector. And so prosper Portland and many of our other partners, pbots, have provided a number of ways to find solutions to those, but it has impacted the sale of land. It has impacted other things. There's a lot of land banking looking for the opportunities to kind of finally click, in addition to that, lease rates are much lower than are in other places. The market rent in the gateway district, as in other parts of east Portland, is roughly in 80% ami. So it's market rate is essentially workforce housing. And so one of the key pieces here is that it's actually an ideal market for middle income housing. And the challenge that we found even for middle income housing is that finding the right balance of subsidies is challenging. And right now in this market, it's next to impossible with interest rates. And so the interest rates at the federal level are also a major impediment. But we believe that within the next couple of years, as with our signature project, that we have the resources and the private partners that we can deliver on that. If you have anything to add, brian, feel free. But I think I think that kind of it's the

connection of these pieces that I think, I love that kimberly's inspired. Here we go, kimberly.

Speaker: Hi. For the record, kimberly branam executive director at prosper Portland. Commissioner, it's such an important conversation. And one of the things that we wanted to hit on, in terms of looking back at lessons learned, is that because of the zoning? So the zoning, when it was established as a regional center is the exact same zoning as the central city. And that meant that there were minimum development requirements that 2001 to today have been had been extremely challenging to meet that threshold. And so when joel was talking about within the last, action plan, working with our partners at bureau of planning and sustainability and bureau of development services to adjust the zoning, it's actually will enable us to do the kind of gentle density, sort of more like what you see in slabtown kind of development versus a central city context. It's really been nearly impossible for the market to support the level of density that you see here. So I would say for the past 20 years or the first 15 years of the plan, that was critical, in addition to the fact that there were very modest resources that were generated that would have been required in order, you know, just it would have required massive subsidy to make something like that pencil. So, you know, I think it's fair for us to have the conversation across the service area about what those updated targets should be, it was established as a regional center as part of metro 2040. Metro is now in the process of updating its regional plan and so I think we are very optimistic about what this new plan that's community centered and more realistic means. But, you know, to your point, it's definitely not completely in line with what's put down on paper from a land use standpoint. And why is metro's regional 2040 plan important here?

Speaker: Why? What is the. Just walk me through the dependency there. Does it untap any \$ or does it?

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you, commissioner, for the questions. Really important. So what the state sets target goals for everything from job growth to housing and then metro, then essentially doles out those commitments to the jurisdictions within the 2040 plan. And it captures everything from from housing expectations to transportation projects. What we're prioritizing again, industry, how we use our industrial lands, etc. In this particular case, I would say that the gateway plan, what we plan for the market, did not meet us. You know, with that demand. And so we have to go back to kimberly's point, to recalibrate what the expectations are for this particular, development center, essentially.

Speaker: And do we envision that if we recalibrate expectations that were expecting to make up for elsewhere in the city, or are we pushing back to metro that the that we can't meet, you know, our allocation as a city?

Speaker: The answer to that is that we have we have enough land in the city of Portland to meet the housing need. The question is, do we have the production strategies to deliver it? So to answer your question, if we're offsetting the expectation of housing in this area, it will be, you know, it will be found elsewhere. And we have that capacity already. Where where would be your just high level?

Speaker: Where do we think that's going to be made up inside the city?

Speaker: Sincerely. Every zone has capacity to grow in the city of Portland, central city, our residential zones, our mixed use zones everywhere has capacity. There's no there's not a shortage of land for us. It's really activation and unlocking that land for development.

Speaker: No. And I guess I'm getting more fundamentally, do we have the existing strategies to, to get those going? I mean, I yeah, honestly, separately, we're seeing

reports on permitting and they're I don't know if the word is catastrophic, but, certainly they are disappointing. And, for multifamily all levels. And i, i, I so I guess I just leave it at that. Do we have the right strategies to, get this going?

Speaker: In two weeks? You will be hearing a presentation about our housing production strategy, which essentially outlines the range of different objectives and opportunities that we have in Portland. I will be really transparent today, maybe, you know, kind of spoiler, spoiler alert, this a little bit that there are fundamental gaps in our financing mechanisms. And these are these are systemic. These aren't the city of Portland's issues necessarily, that are going to have to be solved for us to meet every, every market sector gap that we have in housing for, you know, 0 to 60, even 80 to, you know, 60 to 120% ami. And of course, market rate, everything needs a little help for us to meet our goals. The strategies are there, how we implement them are still a lot of work to be done, both on the city side. Frankly, with our regional partners at the state. And if the feds are ever able to help us, that'd be great, too.

Speaker: I mean, is there any pipeline right now for market rate in in the city of Portland? I mean, I'm again, I'm just looking at the Oregonian report and the data I'm seeing is incredibly distressing on market rate, not just I mean the city and in the region. But again, I don't know the words catastrophic, but we are we are failing miserably on any, reasonable projections of where we're going to end up versus goals for the region and for the city.

Speaker: You are right. We are not. We do not see the institutional investments necessary to accelerate, you know, major housing production in Portland right now.

Speaker: I would say I mean, obviously we're paying close attention to what the fed does. We're paying close attention to commodity prices, commodity pricing and labor availability, I think that there is some optimism for the next year or two years,

but, I mean, I don't I don't disagree with your assessment that the pipeline is pretty anemic, right now, I think it's why you saw on this plan that we're anticipating \$28 million for one project, and that's really to fill in a major gap. So where we do have tax increment finance districts that have major resources, that's an asset that we can can deploy in those places outside of tif districts. Or when you have tif districts that don't have a lot of funding, unless it's affordable housing, it's challenging for the city to close that gap.

Speaker: Commissioner, we've we've become incredibly dependent on public financing to get any housing built on any but a substantial amount. We need to see an investment from the private sector to really, really accelerate development. And so there's a lot of reasons why that's lagging here, we maybe get into that in a couple of weeks, but that continues to be a fundamental challenge for some of these larger developments. The private sector just isn't investing.

Speaker: Yeah. I mean, I and I'm hoping you're seeing some indications of a change in appetite. I'm not seeing any indications of change in appetite for private dollars coming to Portland right now. But tell me there's some good news. You're seeing.

Speaker: Do you mind if I offer kimberly, just in the context of this district, I actually think there are signs of hope. Give me some hope.

Speaker: I'm looking. I'm trying to give you some hope, commissioner.

Speaker: One of the things that tiff is allowing us to do now that we have a kind of a fresh infusion of tiff related investments in gateway, is that while the private sector has often stepped forward and then stepped back, we can help the steps forward be maintained until the right moment is there. Whereas in the past, when someone may have put in a grand vision, it doesn't work. That thing gets lit on fire and never comes back again. But what we're seeing is that our direct involvement

in partnerships, particularly around middle income housing, is that we can be a patient partner and can hold those plans in place until the market is ready for the private sector to step up and complete the rest of the project, and so that's kind of where we've positioned this plan is to be that kind of patient public but not fully responsible. Subsidizing agency where we're still expecting the private partners to come and we have been maintaining those relationships for that to be successful.

Speaker: Can you just make that tangible?

Speaker: So what does that mean exactly? When we're.

Speaker: Yeah. So there's a number of things that we're doing in gateway.

Specifically, we're taking actions to actually fund, in partnership with pbot, the, the development of streets that will make what are currently undevelopable lots developable, and then that's unlocking properties that were in conversations on about development of new housing projects that are currently, you know, looking at a two year horizon, and then elsewhere in the city, on, on my team, we're negotiating, somewhere between 7 to 10 different types of housing development deals. Many of them are office to residential conversion, they're they're in early stages. So they're not going to all come through the pipeline. But we're feeling very confident that, at least 2 to 3 of them will, with a fairly high level of certainty, come through the pipeline within the next year or so.

Speaker: Just one last question to make sure I'm visualizing this though, when you so we've had some private parties look at deals in gateway, delays interest rates, inflation, changing market condition causes them to put pause or not fully, you know, push forward. So is are pbot actions keeping people at the table? I'm trying to understand just what we're you know, what are we actually doing to, to keep them in the game, so to speak.

Speaker: So we, we, we have long term relationships with development partners and property owners, and so what's happening is as they are seeing hurdles in terms of access to traditional capital or as the gaps increase, brian and joel and our teams are working with them, to be much more flexible than we historically would have been, both because we now have some additional resources that are available, but also because of the new tools that brian mentioned, and i'll just, you know, you're probably more familiar or everyone's hopefully familiar with the projects at 92nd, in lents, when you think about those projects we invested between prosper Portland and the housing bureau, almost 60% of the capital. It's a much, much greater percentage than we would for a central city investment, where we're potentially 7 to 10% of the capital stack traditionally. So we were at 60% of the resources in order to get those over, you know, into development, and I think we're looking at something similar here with property owners who are really interested in moving forward. And so it's a question of structuring and making sure that they can come forward with the other 40% or 30%, but, you know, having the, investment from the city or from a development authority can also be a vote of confidence to traditional lenders, and so that's something that we're seeing in other contexts that they're asking us for. So, you know, it is a very, it's a challenging environment, but public private partnerships seem to be the way and for us to continue to address infrastructure and other things that have to get done, you know, that's that's the approach that we're taking right now.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Thank you, mayor, and thanks, donnie and kimberly and your staff, justin and joel. It was a it was a really good presentation, you know, gateway has a lot of promise and hope and really deep, complex challenges. Some that we haven't even

talked about today, that are also making it really challenging to do investments there. But I also always look at who's on the advisory board. And I was thinking, wait, where's David Douglas? Then I saw that, Rita is the co-chair and she's kind of like the, the queen or whatever, something even higher than that of David Douglas. So I realized that David Douglas was at the table. So thank you, Frieda, once again for your long standing commitment to that area. And I also want to just notice that I didn't see the top job providers. And those are the some constituents that I've heard from a lot since I've been in office since 2020. September 2020, and that would be from Kaiser Providence, Seventh Day Adventist. I didn't see them on the advisory board. I don't recall, but were they active in all of your dialog as it was what you're presenting today?

Speaker: Yeah, that's a great question, Commissioner. Thank you. Many of them were either too busy based on their own multifaceted challenges to join, and others were really not comfortable joining a kind of extended 18 month long community advisory committee. And so they were very active in the focus group process as well as in our individual one on one stakeholder interviews. So their their input was absolutely fundamental, as well as some of the other challenges that were raised through PMO. I was a regular attendee at PMO and so seeing, you know, challenges with the Oregon Clinic and, and many of those, I think many commissioners and Mayor you have seen, so we have been working on a range of issues to deal with a lot of the highest, kind of employers, particularly around the healthcare industry, we've also been working with other, landowners and kind of asset managers within Gateway Shopping Center and some of these kind of the, you know, the kind of institutional malls that have been in that area for a long time, and so, yes, we have spread as, as much as possible, kind of grabbed our engagement from, from across the, the public private and nonprofit sector.

Speaker: Yeah. And I think, like we're establishing in this dialog, of course, that without the private sector engagement and investment, then we're not going to be able to really go as hard as we'd like. So, you know, the government can't do it alone here. So as long as we're keeping those stakeholders at the table, even if they're not at that formal table, I just wanted to make sure I heard that. Absolutely, and the other big infrastructure investments over the years out there has been with trimet and, and oddly enough, some of those infrastructure investments would trimet have been some of where some of the bigger, systemic challenges are occurring when it comes to crime, for example? The max trains in that area near the platforms is where we have some of the highest rate of crime and so is trimet actively engaged with you at these tables,

Speaker: We are actively, in communication with trimet about, not just issues at the transit center, but about the future development plans, we've been discussing, you know, their interest in seeing more, transit oriented development move forward in that area, and so, yes, we've been in communication with them and speaking to them about about the potential for new projects in the area and about how they can best show up to support a new development in the area in partnership with us.

Speaker: Well, I find I think that's of course, I'm not surprised to hear that they're at the table when we're talking about future investments. I do hope that there's some robust dialog with trimet. I find them to be very responsive when you want them to be at the table. When it comes to some of the bigger challenges facing, our city, which are many times on the max trains on the east side and around the platforms, and that's when you listen also to the big job providers. They they bring this up almost in as their first case in point. So if we don't get to the, challenges of these complex problems, then it will be difficult no matter what the systemic

national economic conditions are, for us to really see, the private investment go up in that area. I know you know this, but I as a City Council member, hearing this briefing, I just want to remind us how important that is to really engage in those tough conversations about how we include them and that they're part of the problem solvers with us as we look for pedestrians to feel safe to access that area, and I will just say that it's personal because my spouse takes the max out to that area to work in the david douglas school district there on their little short break. But so I get daily reports about these conditions, and I just want to make sure I aired that at this time. So thanks for listening to that. And I would like to hear in the next report, how that engagement is going with trimet to, to work with all of you, and our public safety division, so that we can get to the bottom of solutions in that regard. Does that make sense,

Speaker: We are in communication with trimet about a potential, pilot enhanced services district in that area to more directly address the issues that you've raised.

Speaker: Okay. It's good to hear that that was I if I missed that in the report I apologize. But if I just heard that now, which I did, for me at least, I want to thank you for that, and I look like I want to hear more about that eventually, one of the bright spots that I thought that I wanted to lift up was the homeownership by bipoc residents, up 300%. Was is that true? Did I see that slide?

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Okay. So that's a really wonderful you know, when you're looking at data, you always want to spotlight some practice that you can get excited about. And then when you spotlight that you want to do everything you can right to figure out how to support that. And so what is the action plan to build on that? What's the north northeast, equivalent plan, if you will, for home ownership of bipoc, of families to become homeowners because of course, we need that tax, we need the

tax base up there, just like we need it all over Portland. And one of our biggest challenges is our tax base is leaving right now. So do give me some more on that.

Speaker: That's a great question. And I'll take a first swing at it. And happy to have my colleagues join in as well as fb, raul is here representing fb and he can provide some some insights on on their strategies around home ownership.

Speaker: But yeah, this might be a tease, right.

Speaker: That's yeah, this might be a tease. I don't know, but one of the things that we're really excited about so prosper recently adopted a new commercial loan tool that's specifically designed to help provide gap financing for small 5 to 10 unit, rental or homeownership projects. And we are seeing that one of not just the bright spots for the for bi-poc residents coming into whether it's first time homebuyers or just another, you know, an opportunity to move into a house in the east. Portland is that, you know, that kind of that model actually works really well in gateway. And one of the things in, in that kind of environment of pivoting in this action plan away from just trying to get the 10 to 15 story buildings built, was to look at the edges of the district and find all the right properties where we can unlock the residential infill program incentives at the city and back it up with work from our finance department. And so we've actually budgeted that number. Now, it's not just a we hope to bring it there like we actually have money set in this budget to bring \$ to create those units, and then, you know, obviously, you know, we have to abide by fair housing. So it's very different from north northeast. We can't have such an aggressive, strategy as we do there. But what we can do is really meet the market where it's at and meet families where they're at, when they're looking for a home in the area.

Speaker: Okay. That was helpful, and also finally listening to constituents again when I've been engaging with them for some time, I just keep hearing this over and

over again. And that is the big concern about the food desert. They said it's just gotten really bad the last five years. So is that coming up in your conversations or are they just complaining to a commissioner, I'm sure that you have these conversations as well. And was was kroger ever invited to the table or any of I don't know, there's mergers going on, but kroger is one that comes to mind.

Speaker: Yeah, that's a great question. Interestingly enough, because our definition of the gateway tif district is different than a lot of perceptions about the kind of more extensive hazelwood gateway neighborhood, which is very large, the gateway tif district is not a food desert. It has obviously it has. Fred meyer, it has winco, and another, you know, several other smaller markets that even like the indian bazaar. And there are other kind of smaller specialty markets in the area, that was not as much of an issue. Obviously, there were public safety concerns from leadership within those organizations. But, but it wasn't the food desert specifically that was affecting a lot of people. People either are able to access those, obviously by car, but also through transit, because fred meyer is a transit oriented grocery store. So there's advantages, for that, and, and so the good thing is that there's a little, there's a bedrock, of, of food services in the gateway tif district. It's obviously it's about getting access for people that are outside of the tif district that I think is really important. And hopefully with the connections to the you know, as we do the east Portland tif exploration, if there's ways to be able to connect that, that's really important to know that people lost the safeway at 122nd and burnside. And so making sure that those assets are connected across tif districts, I think is really important in the future.

Speaker: And that was helpful. And I think you're absolutely spot on. It does bleed into hazelwood neighborhood association and such, where I hear that there are comments about that's not the same fred meyer it was a few years ago. That is

true. Yeah, i'll stop on that. Anyway, thank you so much for the update. I appreciate it.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio, thank you.

Speaker: I have just a couple quick questions. So some of mine got answered just earlier. But, first is I know that, concurrently right now we're also having the east Portland exploration. Can you talk a little bit about, how the feedback from the community and the gateway, this this project has are there parallels or differences there? Can you talk a little bit about those?

Speaker: Absolutely. So the gateway action plan is a part of the process that we go through once a tif district has been created. And so in the conversations about the tif district exploration, particularly in east Portland, the community is very interested in, sort of jumping ahead to talking about the kinds of projects and kinds of investments that will be made. And it's through the action planning process that we work with the community to actually identify those investments and to identify those those programs.

Speaker: Commissioner, if I if I can add to that, because i, you know, I just want to echo brian's comment that, seeing action plans in process is really helpful for the exploration, exploration process, and the there were a couple of other things that we shared that were lessons learned from the gateway tif district. As we have gone through the exploration process. So one of those is that the size of gateway was much too small, and so as we were having conversations with the east Portland tif exploration steering committee, we were clear about the lessons learned from gateway and established a minimum acreage for any new tif district so that we would not repeat the kind of anemic tax increment finance growth that we saw in gateway, I think there were other, you know, there are a lot of similar concerns that

we are hearing, and opportunities that we're hearing across the tif districts, as we are potential tif districts, as we're exploring them. So a real focus on stabilization and celebrating the racial, demographic. Diversity within each of, you know, across east Portland, and wanting to make sure that there are tools that help not only to build, you know, the seven story, multifamily project, but the five unit housing project to stabilize businesses along the corridors and so much like the creation of the new cully tax increment finance district was very helpful in terms of establishing the process for this new tif exploration process. I think what we are piloting in gateway could very well become in some of the tools that we're deploying, could very well become best practices that get used, as we establish potential new action plans in the new tif districts.

Speaker: Great.

Speaker: Thank you. My second question, is about and, one of the other commissioners touched on this about, homeownership, but can you I know that prosper recently created some new loan tools, particularly that will support middle income rental, if I'm correct. Can you talk a little bit about what those are and explain them a little bit more in relation to this area?

Speaker: Yeah. So the new loan products that were created really, modified our lending criteria to allow for investment in middle income housing in particular, so prior, we were, sort of divided where fb would handle all of the housing and prosper would, only incidentally invest in, in housing projects. And so now, our new guidelines allow us to make investments directly into middle income housing projects specifically. And in gateway, we're looking at not just large scale projects that are you know, hundreds of units, but also small scale investment opportunities for individual property owners to do either adu expansion or to convert their lots into, into maybe a duplex or triplex, a fourplex, something like that, that helps

support not just increasing housing, but also opportunities to build wealth for existing neighbor, existing residents.

Speaker: That's great. So this is something very new that you were not doing before then?

Speaker: That's correct.

Speaker: I believe it was adopted in June. So it was kind of perfect opportunity to kind of lean in and actually budget it within an action plan so that we can implement it. Immediately. One of the things I think that's really interesting is there's often gaps, and 1st may be an acquisition where it's difficult for someone to acquire a lot, but maybe they've lined up the financing to build it. And so our funding allows that flexibility where we can meet, whether it's the small developer or the landowner with financing that can that can kind of be multi-purpose, and we've actually found lenders already interested in this program so that we can potentially have greater reach, by having them already familiar with our, our loan program and be a that commercial lender that can actually step up and provide the remaining, suite of, of, of opportunities for the new homeowners or renters, I think that the opportunity in gateway is really a great opportunity for homeownership, but I think there's we're not leaning away from, from more rental as well. And I think this might be a good opportunity to pass it over to our colleague rahul from fb.

Speaker: Oh. Hello for the record, rahul mendez, Portland housing bureau, east Portland policy coordinator. Yeah, I mean, I think they, they, my colleagues from prosper really hit the nail on the head. We have to your earlier question, commissioner Rubio, about, what we've been hearing sort of in east Portland exploration, homeownership has been a priority in every, setting that we've had. So that I think is very reflected in the plan here, I know that it is. We have existing

homeownership programs like the down payment assistance programs and many that you're aware of that will continue to prioritize. And that is that is just something that we are, keeping at the top of the list. So.

Speaker: Okay. Well, I'm sure I'll hear about it in a few weeks when we hear about the housing production strategy more, I'm glad to see these things coming forward. I, I'm sure that you have more ideas. I'll hold my questions for when we hear a fuller briefing on the strategy. But thanks for thanks for your great work.

Speaker: Thank you. Commissioner. Great.

Speaker: Thank you, commissioner Rubio, any further questions before I ask for public testimony? Public testimony?

Speaker: We have one person signed up, Kevin Cox.

Speaker: We have invited testimony, too for two people. I'm not sure when that comes in.

Speaker: You do, do you have the list of invited testimony?

Speaker: I do, one moment.

Speaker: Maybe I've got it,

Speaker: I do, I have it. So Frida Christopher from the Gateway Community Advisory Committee co-chair, and Giovanni Battista Gateway Community Advisory Committee co-chair. Welcome. Thank you for your patience. I turn it off since I have to turn it off again. It's good to see you both. Thank you.

Speaker: Is it on? It's on. New equipment anyway, Mayor and Council, good morning. My name is Frida Christopher, and I've been a property owner in Central Gateway for over 30 years. Originally, I got involved in Gateway Aurora by being part of a group of community members with the then PDC to write the Gateway Action Plan. I was also a member of the Gateway IRC from the beginning. During its whole existence. In addition, as Commissioner Ryan said, I served 32 years on the David Douglas

school board and I'm currently co-chair of epap and their housing committee, giving me a great knowledge of the gateway ura and the broader gateway area. But today I speak as co-chair of the gateway advisory committee responsible for drafting this plan. I was pleased to serve on this group with other community members, representatives, business and nonprofit organizations who worked with joel over the last 18 months developing it. Unlike the recently expired five year plan, this plan was totally community driven, starting with a focus group of past active gateway irc members to share what went right and what went wrong in gateway over the last 20 years. Joel then held the multiple focus groups to obtain additional community and business input. This was followed by a well-attended public meeting. All this information was used to develop this five year plan. As someone who's been involved for 20 years, this plan reflects what the community, what was originally in the action, the original action plan. Unlike the five year plan prior, the prior five year plan, the tif funds have more flexibility to benefit all sections of the gateway ura and not just one portion. As well as being responsive to market driven forces. But I would like to add something, recent developments. The enhanced service district that is being funded by city, county and metro is a great addition and covers the majority of the gateway ura. I wish it covered all of central gateway and I am pushing for that as well as I recently heard a grant application epap supported by trimet federal grant was received to improve the connectivity between the transit center and 102nd, which has been a problem for the whole 20 years. These things were working collaboratively with prosper Portland, I think will be very beneficial and I'm really pleased to see that as well as the work you mentioned, pimo, which I'm part of, one of their groups, is doing, but I urge you to approve the draft five year plan so we can begin implementation immediately. Thank you.

Speaker: Rita, I just have to say how much I appreciate you and your years. I mean, literally years and years and years of volunteer contributions to the community. I was sort of smiling here because I was thinking back when was that first meeting of epap and tom potter was there as the mayor and then house speaker jeff merkley was there, and I was there as just the new kid on the block as a county chair. That was a long time ago. And I think about all of the service that you provided prior to that, you were already very experienced in the community and all of the service that you've contributed. Since you are truly one of the great assets of this community, and I don't want you to walk out here without me saying that, I really appreciate you. Thank you. I wish we could clone you many, many times over, thanks for your substantial leadership. You've made a difference here.

Speaker: I have enjoyed working in my community. I am a strong believer. You cannot complain if you won't take a step. And working towards solving the problems. I'm. I'm in the gateway problem solver group, and I really believe you should be solving not complaining. So

Speaker: And you have comments and all of us are really grateful. Thank you, thank you, good morning.

Speaker: Good morning mayor and commissioners. My name is giovanni battista. I grew up in east Portland and am very familiar with both the successes and challenges in the gateway to tif district that have been discussed today. In addition to this, as a college student, I spent the better part of a year doing research on and analysis on the tif district to better understand development trends as well as the regulatory framework that guides the district, today I am here as a co-chair of the gateway community advisory committee. I've had the honor of serving on this committee with other community members and stakeholders such as frieda, throughout the 18 month engagement process to create the action plan. We have

heard from the community a desire to improve livability, foster inclusive economic opportunities, and invest in a greater diversity of housing types across a range of income levels. As you've heard today, past investments in gateway have led to greater connectivity to the region by light rail supported small businesses and helped fund affordable housing that has stabilized hundreds of households in the area and much more. The action plan before you today responds to the community's aspirations for gateway by building on the district's strengths and capitalizing on opportunities. The priorities in the gateway action plan will enhance livability through property activations and investments in infrastructure. They will help foster an inclusive economy through support for neighborhood serving small businesses, and they will support new housing across a range of incomes, providing current and future residents greater choice in where to live. The action plan is the product of extensive community engagement with diverse stakeholders and will help further the community's vision for a more livable and prosperous gateway. Before I conclude, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their service and the staff at prosper Portland for their hard work in particular, I would like to thank joel valcourt, who's to my right here, for his dedication, creative problem solving, and efforts to help make gateway a thriving community. Thank you, mayor and commissioners, for your time. I hope you will adopt the 2024 gateway action plan.

Speaker: Thanks for your hard work. Appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Speaker: We have one person signed up, I believe. Is that correct?

Speaker: That's correct. Kevin cox. Kevin cox.

Speaker: He's joining us in person.

Speaker: Yes. And I don't see them.

Speaker: Looks looks like he had to go. All right with that. This is a resolution. Any further discussion please call the roll.

Speaker: Gonzalez I want to thank mayor Wheeler. The housing bureau and the prosper Portland team for this gateway action plan. Tif resources are valuable to revitalizing our communities. It's important that we maximize those resources. And I believe this action plan is a reasonable step. We need long term investment for places like gateway and the rest of east Portland. We need infrastructure investment. We need small business support. We need to enable local entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs, factors that this plan takes into account. I do want to call out, however, that the city's failure to attract private dollars are deeply concerning and undermine our ability to address both housing costs in the region, as well as the creation of family wage jobs. This is a broader, deeper conversation that we all need to engage in in the months left with this form of government, and certainly for the next form of government, with that, I vote aye. Rubio thank you to the prosper team, to the housing team.

Speaker: Director branam and joel davenport for all your work and coming to council with this five year community driven plan for investing in the gateway district, thanks to the co-chairs of the gateway advisory committee, and I especially also want to join the mayor in thanking frida christopher, not only for your work with the advisory committee, but for your tireless engagement and advocacy for the gateway district. We really, really appreciate your service, frida, I also want to highlight and share my enthusiasm for the investments and new tools included in this plan, particularly in childcare, and creating more options for affordable homeownership and for supporting middle income and mixed income housing. I'm happy to vote aye.

Speaker: Ryan,

Speaker: First of all, thank you so much, joel and justin kimberly branam and your team at prosper Portland. You can tell by the way you could do dialog with the questions that you're in, the dialog with the community, you didn't have to dig. It was top of mind for you. And it's always refreshing as an elected official to witness that, and most of my questions in the dialog, we had, were taken care of. So my remarks can be brief. Of course, I have to join the three to. Christopher. Salute today and it's not that we want you to you know, sometimes when this happens, you think it's your last meeting. And of course, that's not it. It's just, it's such a milestone, to constantly take a breath and just see how much you carry. And, you know, my experience with you goes back to the david douglas school board. And since I've been on the City Council, I've noticed just how much broader that is. And I knew a little bit about that. But it is truly impressive. And I also like how I always notice you mentoring, others when you work with them so you don't contain it within yourself. And that's one of my favorite attributes of yours. In my remarks I mentioned this, but I think the creative private sector investments we just have to keep spending more meeting time on that, we know that, those who are providing jobs are needed, and I worry that they're going to leave, some of the conversations with those job providers have been, a little concerning. And how long will they maintain those services in the area? And so I want to make sure that we continue to steward them at the table. And also, the, the providers of food of food such as grocery stores. We mentioned earlier, what we have to stop is people exiting Portland in general, and especially those types of services. I also want to acknowledge the importance that we continue to have with investments in homeownership. And I liked that exchange that we had. That's going to be very important as we go forward, finally, I just want to acknowledge the dialog we had about the collaboration with trimet and public safety, until pedestrians feel safe to

roam the area, it's going to be really tough for us to have investments come to gateway. And it's been a growing concern for years, even before covid. But it's really did accelerate. And I just hope that we continue to see the multi-sector, and break down the silos as we get to the bottom of what can really bring investment to, to gateway, because it's definitely way more than the market conditions nationally. It's what we can do locally on our side of the street. So when those loosen, we can start to see some progress and all that said, I'm really excited about where this is at. It was a good presentation and I'm supportive.

Speaker: I vote yea Wheeler, I want to thank dca danny olivero. This was really our first go at this with the new horizontal structure on the executive side of the organization, and I think it worked really well. It increased collaboration and communication. And this is a very strong plan that has come forward. So I want to thank you. I obviously want to thank the housing bureau. Kimberly prosper Portland, this is an opportunity to unlock \$65 million in tax increment financing in this area. Like my colleague said, this is an important element. This allows us, as kimberly said, to close some of the investment gaps. But we have to do all of the other things we do as a city to provide livability improvements, provide public safety, work very hard with with our new pmo organization and others to help address litter and graffiti so that we create a welcoming environment for that capital to flow. And I believe this council is 100% committing, committed to doing all of the above I vote yea and the resolution is adopted. Next item please. Item 722. It's a first reading of a nonemergency ordinance to amend regulation of lobbying entities code to align with the amended city charter approved by voters in Portland.

Speaker: Measure 26 228.

Speaker: I'd like to invite the auditor's office to present this item. I'll pass it over to reed brodersen, the chief deputy city auditor, to start the presentation on this first reading of a nonemergency ordinance. Welcome. Thanks for being here.

Speaker: Thanks so much, mr. Mayor. Thanks, commissioners, for your time today. Appreciate it. My name is reed brodersen.

Speaker: I use he him pronouns and I'm the chief deputy city auditor.

Speaker: I'm here today on behalf of auditor rede to reintroduce this agenda item, which is intended as a housekeeping measure to update the city's lobbying code in advance of the transition to the mayor council form of government.

Speaker: Before I hand it over to deborah scroggin, our elections division manager, I do want to take a moment to say thank you to each of you and your offices for your engagement on this code. I know it's not quite as exciting as knives or housing, but it is critical nonetheless, and I also want to thank robert taylor and the city attorney's office for their collaboration on this. Our offices look forward to continued conversations about this program as we all work together to build transparency and promote trust in the city's decision making. And with that, i'll hand it over to deborah.

Speaker: Commissioners.

Speaker: Deborah, I think your mic is off there. Okay

Speaker: Mayor and commissioners. Hello. Good morning. My name is deborah scroggin, elections division manager, and it has been since about mid-may since we were here. So i'll do a brief reminder about why we're here. And one additional change that we have from last time. Next slide please. Okay. So an overview of the lobbying program. As you might remember, it is overseen by the city elections office, which is housed within the auditor's office. It sets requirements for both lobbyists and city officials on both sides of that and requires registration and

reporting if certain thresholds are met. And I think I'm remembering last time, commissioner Ryan, you were asking what those thresholds are. So just as a reminder, eight hours or \$1,000 spent in a calendar quarter lobbying or preparing to lobby, that's the thresholds we're seeing there. And our office focuses on education, training and really just increasing the transparency to the public. Next slide. So our proposed amendments here are limited in scope. We want to maintain the status quo as much as possible, add some clarity and define terms throughout. These are really timely updates that align to the mayor council form of government that we'll go over in a moment, and we hope to lay the groundwork for future policy discussions with council on this code. So what we're doing here is expanding the city director's definition to align with the new form of government. That's a transition requirement that's included in these proposed amendments. We're also narrowing the post-employment restrictions section, which is also a transition related requirement. We're codifying our current practice with our ability to issue warnings and setting consistent language around deadlines. We're formalizing some processes here as well, including the city procedures for safety situations for city officials, and clarifying language using consistent and gender neutral terms throughout. So what have we added since we've last been here? We have one amendment here, and it clarifies requests for information. When the city is asking for that information. So the ability to respond to city requests is not lobbying. When that action is administrative in nature. The responses are confined to the information requested by the city, and no entities there have a direct financial benefit in that influential conversation. So with that, I wanted to just thank you from the suggestions from the last time we were here. We have taken those to increase compliance. Hopefully for lobbyists that come to council, there's a declaration requirement. There was a suggestion that we add that information both to our

testimony forms, which we have when folks sign up and to confirmations to lobbyists when they register with us, as well as to our training. So thank you very much for the partnership. And that suggestion, and we're happy to take any questions.

Speaker: Thank you. Colleagues. Questions.

Speaker: Commissioner Gonzales, I just want to thank you all for the engagement with my office. I do want to just clarify on the new language around time spent with the city and the economic interest component, I think the concern here from from our office, at least from day one, is if someone is responding to an inquiry from the city government, they respond in good faith. That's important input as we're, you know, approaching how we'll tackle a problem both on the executive side and potentially on the legislative side. The that necessitates sometimes engaging with vendors. I mean, that's just a they are an important input into, crafting administrative approaches and to a certain extent, legislative. And I'm just trying to understand the language in 11 c, you know, it says if that person stands to obtain any direct financial benefit as a result of such action, I you know, I think we want the new form of government to engage with potential vendors. And so I'm just trying to understand, would they get tripped up by this language inadvertently in that engagement? You know, the notwithstanding that the city is the one doing the outreach. They're responding to it to answer what's practical in the space, and but they're theoretically at that point, a potential future beneficiary of the city's decision. They're a potential vendor down the road. That's why the city is engaging with them. So I just trying to understand how you see this playing out in that scenario.

Speaker: So I do think it would be very fact specific. So it's hard to go into hypotheticals. But there certainly was no prohibition on that engagement at all. If

that person or entity got close to the eight hours or \$1,000 lobbying a city official, they would just need to register and report that activity. It certainly would be not not prohibited.

Speaker: And how are they going to know about those requirements, though? Right? I mean, I think some of the scenarios we dealt with when you're talking about an out-of-state vendor, they just have no idea even out of city, right? We have lobbying rules that apply at the state level, I think, or 171, even if you're an out of city of Portland vendor, I just don't know. And I'm generally trying to think out, would you even think that you would be considered a lobbyist or a lobbying organization in responding to a governmental entity? I mean, and I just want to tee this up, like when you look at our us 171, it clearly contemplates an active, proactive, entity reaching out to influence legislation to influence an executive branch. Right? I mean, it's a there's not really much passivity in, in, in that statute, but here we're dealing with a really different scenario. The city is reaching out to someone for their engagement. I i just don't want us to be creating rules that, like, aren't intuitive to someone who hasn't engaged with the city a lot in the past. It just it can cause reputational damage. I mean it to trip it up. So I don't know. Let me know your thoughts on that.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you. Commissioner, I appreciate the question. I'll give you two, two answers. One would be, you know, most states and cities, pretty much every city of our size has similar regulations. So even if they are out of state, but they're a vendor of any size or note they should be familiar with this concept. Second, though, I think and importantly, you know, we need to train our city staff on the on the executive side in particular, so they can let vendors know that, you know, this conversation, given these criteria, might might lead to this, and you

should reference the lobbying code and program. And our staff will be available to provide support and training as needed.

Speaker: So the I mean, I think that's a fair call out. We can put it on. I mean, mike, this is going to be your team that's going to have to educate you know, the folks we engage with in this proactive stage and maybe the proactive stage isn't really the term, but it's sort of pre-bid stage. So, you know, it's, where this potentially becomes a problem, I mean, I don't know if that's an unfair ask of you guys. I just know that there's visibility. Do you have thoughts?

Speaker: Well, just one commissioner. This is not a situation that we are unfamiliar with, we often, would like the private sector in some way to assist us in information giving when we're trying to develop, perhaps a scope for a future project or a future program, there are ways for us to formally do that without having them inhibit their ability to bid on a future program or project. So we'll we'll sometimes issue an rfp for instance, or a request for information in, in foreshadowing a future procurement. And that rfi them giving us information. I don't think prohibits them. First of all, the rule doesn't prohibit them from interacting with us at all, but it certainly also would not infringe on their ability to bid in the future, on some future project. So we're pretty familiar with this situation, but I certainly agree with the auditor's office that we can do more training to make sure our staff is well aware of that.

Speaker: Well, and I think the issue here is, you know, you we're imposing on that vendor an obligation to file as a lobbyist if they exceed the number of hours. And I can just coming from a vendor who had to occasionally bid on government contracts, like you just didn't, you wouldn't think that you're a lobbyist in that capacity in that, in that pre-stage where you're responding and, and I just don't see the state statute operating in this area haven't exhausted. It's definitely trying to

prescribe and address the proactive outreach to government and the need to register in that event. But the reactive I'm still just struggling with sure.

Speaker: I don't I don't disagree with you regarding the expectation that a vendor would understand that I think that's incumbent on us to understand our own rules. And if we're making a request or an interaction of some kind, and we need to let them know there are these thresholds, let's make sure we're staying where we want to be, that of course, is up in some ways up to the vendor. And as long as they realize that if they enter into this situation, there's a rule that says they have to register, so, you know, that's incumbent on us to make sure we've been transparent about those things with people.

Speaker: Okay. One last question here. So it or us 171 defines in great detail what lobbying is and isn't what what problem are we trying to solve for that's not addressed in irs 171. Why take a different approach to how we define lobbying in the city of Portland, from the way the state defines the term,

Speaker: Well, so to be clear, thank you for your question, commissioner. So to be clear, you know, state lobbying law does not address lobbying at the city level. So we need distinct regulatory frameworks. We need to have our own. And that's why we do. The state does have some differences, and we'd be happy to talk to your office about those differences. And that does include the state law does not apply to administrative actions. So there's a there's a difference there, but I think the intent really is to make sure that important city decisions, which includes both policy and the use of resources, that those are being made transparently and that is really the outcome. This is trying to serve.

Speaker: Yeah. There's no we did an analysis, briefly. And there is very, very little overlap between state law and city law regarding lobbying codes.

Speaker: And but in terms of the behaviors you're attempting to prescribe and to impose additional registration requirements. You know, if I if someone is engaging with the state agency, and trying to convince them to change rules, that's deemed in its rulemaking, that is an administrative function and wouldn't are you interpreting or us 171 not to that doesn't constitute lobbying.

Speaker: So lobbying at the city level is different than lobbying at the state level. And lobbying at the city level is not covered under state law. Having not looked at the laws that you're referencing right now, I can tell you that.

Speaker: Okay. I guess I was just following off a read. I actually, on a quick read, read it differently. I think ors 171 would address, accessing state agencies in a way that you're trying to influence rulemaking. I think that, you know, at first blush, I do think that is, lobbying under state law. I understand the distinction that you're drawing between, you know, that applies at the state level. But i, I guess I'm just not seeing the difference there, in terms of what part of government is being accessed by a lobbying, you know, entity, and then it just begs the question, so then what? Why? And again, this carries over in a whole bunch of stuff. You guys deal with campaign finance, you know, elections. When we choose to go a different way in the city of Portland is certainly our right to do that. But it does create potential challenges for folks who are trying in good faith to comply. If you know you have a definition of lobbying at the state that is different than the definition of lobbying at the city, it the biggest city in the state, just it's a concern. I and it's not unique to this space. I think it's a lot of the space you guys swim in. Just that potential for gotchas that don't seem, you know, in the abstract, fair. Leave it at that.

Speaker: Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Commissioner. Commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Sorry about that, I actually just wanted to say thank you. What I heard earlier from you, debra, for, your responsiveness. And you really kept it crisp and clear, and the definition and the thresholds. So I just want to thank you for. It's always helpful when you're in this role to have people come back a few months later and you're reminded you were listened to and this was, this is the information. So I really appreciate it. Thanks you're welcome.

Speaker: All right. Very good. Do we have public testimony on this item?

Speaker: We do not.

Speaker: All right. Thank you everybody. This is a first reading of a non emergency ordinance. It moves to second reading. Thank you, thank you.

Speaker: Thanks.

Speaker: One more item this morning. But an important one. Item number 737 please a proclamation proclaim August 16th through 18th, 2024 to be leisure hour golf club 80th anniversary scholarship weekend. Colleagues, our next item is a proclamation recognizing August 16th through 18th to be the leisure hour golf club. 80th anniversary scholarship weekend. I'd like to welcome commissioner Ryan, who brought this forward, to say a few words. Commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Yes, thank you, mayor. And I can't see. There they are. I can see their backs now on the screen. I want to start off by saying good morning to who I assume is there, keith edwards. Jimmy brown, angie harris and paul thomas, and of course, the staff leader from parks and rec, vincent johnson. I remember meeting with all of you those months ago, and I really didn't know what this leisure hour was, but I know some of you personally, and I thought, well, I'd like to hang out with all of you leisurely for an hour. I knew it had something to do with golf, so I was pretty clueless, and I asked very sophomoric, curious questions. And I left with just a lot of enthusiasm about not only what it is, but the fact that all of you have held it

together. And these are such great Portland stories. When you see generations of people coming together and making sure that this is pursued. So I want to start off by that. I'm so sorry I couldn't be with you this morning. I am looking forward to knock on wood and be with you this weekend, so I can be there in person to experience the joy I was just inspired by everything that I heard. And here in Portland, the leisure hour golf club has been breaking down barriers in golf for 80 years. Let me say that again, 80 years. And it's because of those in council chambers today that this is important and why it exists. Vernon Gaskin, Stephen Wright, Walter and Gladys Ricks, and Shelby Golden celebrated their love of golf by starting the Leisure Hour Golf Club in 1944 as a way to offer inclusive golfing, the Leisure Hour Golf Club became the oldest African-American golf club in the West upon its formation. They were pioneers, bringing Black African Americans into the sport and taking up Black golfers' rightful space at public golf courses. The Leisure Hour Golf Club has exemplified equity in sports for over eight decades, and they use their organization to ensure that young Black golfers have more tools to succeed. The Leisure Hour Golf Club scholarship tournament blends sporting with education. Philanthropy. These scholarships and the Junior Golf Club change lives. Today's proclamation is a beautiful reminder that sports draws us to one another. Public recreation spaces knit our community tighter, and I'm so proud to be part of a city that values the power of multicultural diversity in sports, especially, nothing comes to my mind higher than golf when I think of this. Golf clubs are notorious for not doing that. But in Portland, Oregon, because of the people that are with us today, we can be inspired. I now, with great honor, turn this over to the speakers who are with us today. Take it away.

Speaker: All right. Am I on here? Yeah thank you. Good. Good afternoon, Mayor and Commissioners. I'm Vincent Johnson, GM, Director of Golf for Portland Parks and

recreation. And as I sit here today with leisure hour golf club leadership, I do think about their founding and all their efforts. They came together to advance black people's presence in golf. And that has played such an indelible role. On making stories in today's game. Possible for decades, leisure has shown an amazing impact and what it can, what they can do when they create a welcoming community and they continue to pass along that tradition and others to the youth through their junior golf program. And it gives me great joy to see the success that they've realized. And I look forward to many, many more years of them inspiring the next generation of black golfers. And perhaps in those ranks sits the future director of golf. So now with the great honor, I'd like to introduce the leadership from our leisure, our golf club. We have jimmy brown leisure, our golf club vice president angie harris leisure, our junior golf program, volunteer program manager, and paul thomas leisure, our junior golf program vice chair. Mr. Brown, take it away.

Speaker: Thank you. Vincent, my name is jimmy brown. For the record, I am a resident of Tigard, Oregon, but I am a hack golfer throughout the Portland metropolitan area, I have a proclamation to read. But before I do that, I would like to pass this to paul and to angie, if possible, it's been some 20 years since I sat in front of City Council as the director of the office of neighborhood involvement, doing similar things like this. So I want to offer this opportunity first to paul and angie,

Speaker: Good morning. My name is paul thomas. For the record, I, as mentioned, I'm the vice chair of the leisure, our junior golf program board of directors, as well as the director of the leisure and junior golf program. Bridge, the success education program, I definitely want to take time to thank commissioner Ryan and the City Council for their support of both of our golf clubs, we also want to acknowledge the support of. We are better together and the support of our leisure, our junior golf

programs, scholarship program, which provides funding to Portland metro area high school seniors planning to attend college the following fall, just to give you a bit of a quick background on the clubs, about 80 years ago, as mentioned, the leisure hour golf club was founded by a group of people who just wanted to play golf in the city of Portland. The senior club was formed in 1944, and about 14 years later, the leisure our junior golf program was founded, the leisure junior golf program's mission is to provide a spawning ground for potential young champions and opportunity for a lifetime of recreational golf and an opportunity to develop meaningful relationships on and off the golf course, the leisure our junior golf club, established a junior golf program in 1978, and as part of the program, all junior golfers learn the nine core values honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment, they learn the game of golf and are able to complete nine holes of golf on a par three course at towards the end of the program, achieve better health and wellness, which we all can, benefit from, support community service. They participate in two community service events, during the program and also achieve higher education. Participants are required to attain higher education. One opportunity for achieving higher education includes the leisure. Our junior golf program. Bridge to success high school transition program, our program provides guidance to higher education and alternative post-high school options, including four year college community or junior college skilled apprenticeships. Entering the workforce directly, military service, as well as entrepreneurship. Our mission is to assist all students that we support in obtaining their dream life. No matter what that dream is, and in addition to that, the junior golfers also learn the leisure. Our junior golf program pledge, which sanjay is going to talk about.

Speaker: Hello. My name is angie harris for the record, and I too want to thank commissioner dan Ryan and to thank all of you guys for being here and for listening to our presentation today, I have been involved with your junior golf program for over 23 years. I have three kids that went into the program, their ages 34, 30, and 23 now. So that lets you know how long I've been a part and they love golf to this day and still play, we have a have a set of range of students who attend schools from all over come together to learn the sport they would not ever had on their radar because they, you know, a lot of kids are thinking about basketball and baseball and other sports, but golf. But is that so? I have a story to tell you about a young grandma who told me that she tried to introduce her granddaughter to play a sport every day, to play, to get into involved with a sport and every sport that she played. She quit literally quit. I turned around to her and I said, get her in a golf, bring her to me, bring her to us. And she did bring her to us. And now this is her third year in our golf program. So that's remarkable, I want to thank the mayor and the City Council for this, for your continuous support of our organization. And it's been 80 years. Can you guys believe that it's been 80 years that our program exists? With that being said, I want to end with the pledge, this pledge was written by mr. And mrs. Scurlock and sad news to say mr. Scurlock passed away a couple of days ago. Rest in peace, he, him and his wife have taught over 100 plus kids how to play golf, and they was our mentor. And they also kept the kids equipped with golf equipment, and which was a blessing to us. So the pledge goes like this. When I step onto the golf course, I enjoy the game of golf. I will obey the rules. I will respect myself and others. I will respect the dress code and be neat and have integrity, honesty, patience and be courteous. I will not say I can't, I will say I can, and when I leave the golf course I will take this with me through life for the rewards are great and all the kids would scream I am somebody. Thank you, thank you. Oh, okay.

Speaker: All right. Again, as with angie and paul, I want to thank commissioner Ryan and mayor Wheeler and the rest of City Council for your help in bringing our story out to the general public. 80 years is just an amazing amount of time. It's right up there with fred myers. It's up there with columbia. It's. It's just up there with with some of Portland area's, major organizations and entities, the proclamation that I would like to read, essentially follows the history of leisure hour. And so it may be a little lengthy, but it is worth listening to because it details the history of what someone and groups of people can do in order to better their time in this community. Whereas the city of Portland supports the use of public facilities by all community members regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or physical ability, and whereas leisure hour club was founded in 1944, in Portland, Oregon, with the purpose of increasing minority representation on public golf courses due to segregation, discrimination, and racism, and whereas at its formation, leisure hour became the oldest african American golf club west of the mississippi river, and whereas leisure hour golf club is indebted to the vision and contributions of its pioneer members, mr. Vernon gaskin, mr. Stephen wright, mr. Walter ricks, miss gladys ricks, mr. Sam wagner and mr. Shelby golden and whereas, as a result of their efforts and vision, leisure hour became a chartered member of western states golf association and the northwest golf association, and continues to adhere to the bylaws and constitution of each association. And whereas leisure hour golf club held its first tournament during the summer of 1944, that tournament, pacific northwest amateur golf tournament, was held at eastmoreland golf course, and whereas leisure hour has hosted has hosted tournaments at a number of local venues, including the tualatin country club. During the period 1951 through 1966, broadmoor. Heron. Lakes. Colwood. National. The resort at the mountain and meriwether national golf courses and whereas leisure hour golf club continues to

host tournaments in the Portland metropolitan area and southwest Washington, including heron lakes golf course, camas meadows golf course and try mountain golf course. And whereas leisure hour golf club is celebrating its 80th anniversary of operation and offering opportunities for golfers to enjoy public golf venues, whereas leisure hour golf club is vested in its commitment to providing opportunities for minority golfers to play golf throughout the region and is committed to ensuring all golfers, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, lifestyle and economic background have a place that is safe, transparent, welcoming and enjoyable on the links and beyond. And whereas leisure hour golf club is committed to civic engagement and promotes this through the 501 c3 nonprofit junior golf program, which provides skills and life experience utilizing golf as a model to support academic achievement for local area high school students. And whereas, leisure hour golf club supports this effort through providing scholarships toward higher education, engagement in trade schools and other academic programs that lead to lifelong learning. It is through these efforts that leisure hour golf club meets its civic and community engagement values and whereas the city recognizes that leisure hour golf club has been in existence for 80 years, providing opportunities for black golfers and other marginalized golfers of color to enjoy the values of camaraderie, connection, health and well-being while staying focused on the values of civic engagement and academic achievement. For young people. And whereas, the city affirms that all public golf courses are open and available to the community, members of all races, ethnic backgrounds, gender, age, and economic backgrounds, and supports the efforts of leisure hour golf club in bringing together diverse community members seeking to engage in civic activities and academic opportunities.

Speaker: Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the City of Roses, do hereby proclaim August 16th through 18th, 2024 to be Leisure Hour Golf Club 80th Anniversary Scholarship Weekend in Portland and encourage all residents to observe this weekend. Thank you all for being here. Thanks for your great leadership. We appreciate it.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker: I'd love to do a picture and we are adjourned.

Portland City Council Meeting Closed Caption File

August 14, 2024 – 2:00 p.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: Good afternoon. This is the Wednesday, August 14th afternoon session of the Portland City Council.

Speaker: Rebecca, please call the roll.

Speaker: Gonzales. Here. Maps Rubio. Here. Ryan here. Wheeler. Here.

Speaker: We'll now hear from legal counsel on the rules of order and.

Speaker: Okay. Good afternoon. Welcome to the Portland City Council to testify before council in person or virtually. You must sign up in advance on the council agenda at [Portland gov slash council slash agenda](https://portland.gov/council/agenda) information on engaging with council can be found on the council clerk's web page. Individuals must testify for three minutes unless the presiding officer states otherwise, your microphone will be muted when your time is over. The presiding officer preserves order. 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, council may take a short recess and reconvene virtually. Your testimony should address the matter being considered when testifying one. State your name for the record. Your address is not necessary. Two if

you are a lobbyist, identify the organization you represent. Three virtual testifiers should unmute themselves when the council clerk calls your name. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Item number seven. 38 a resolution to direct the city to work with Portland state university and the halprin landscape conservancy to explore the potential of a joint project to replace or renovate the keller auditorium. Colleagues this afternoon's item provides next steps on the keller auditorium project. As we all know, the keller auditorium is vital to Portland for the major events it holds in the economic activity and the jobs that it supports. However the building is seismically unsound and it's in need of a major renovation or replacement in the coming years. On may 29th, we heard three outstanding presentations about three different potential approaches to this problem a renovation and expansion of the existing building or new performing arts centers at either Portland state university or the lloyd center. Today, council is considering a resolution that calls for collaboration between the two proposals, located in the downtown area. I'm cautiously optimistic that the great minds involved on these teams will be able to put something together that the city can get behind and move forward on, with broad support. With that, I will turn this over to danny olivera, deputy city administrator for community and economic development, to guide us through today's presentation. But before I do that, I also want to say this. I along with many of you, read the editorial in the Oregonian this Sunday saying that it is incumbent upon this council not to indefinitely dither over the question of the future of the keller auditorium. I agree, I do think it is worthwhile to take this brief period to see if there is some means of a combined solution, potentially at both ends of the halperin secrets, potentially serving as a catalyst for upgrades and improvements to the sequence itself. But if it turns out that through all of our collective good work, that that is not the case, that no such compromise is available? I want to be very clear that I will be

bringing back a resolution to the council asking us to move forward on one specific proposal. So let's see where we are today. But I just want the public at large and for all of you in this room to know that time is short. I feel that urgency. Ultimately, we do have to make a deliberate decision and we will. But I really think this opportunity to collaborate should not be missed in this process. With that, I'll turn it over to danny.

Speaker: Thank you mayor. Thank you mayor and council. For the record, donna oliveras, I'm the deputy city administrator for the community and economic development service area. I'm joined by my colleague, sonya shymansky, who will introduce herself and his talking points shortly. So council, when I've had the pleasure of speaking before you about our city's future related to development or economic opportunities, we thoughtfully discussed trends and barriers. We all daylight our data gaps. We'll refine our strategies, but too frequently can we directly point to a specific moment that can systemically change our development engines future. I'm confident that you are all quite aware of the importance of the existing keller as a performing arts venue, a revenue generator for our broader arts ecosystem, and its role as an anchor in our downtown arts and cultural district. And you are all, all too aware that the ultimate decision of what we do next is yours. And we've been working towards a future keller decision for some time now. Carl will walk through the details momentarily, but I'd like to offer you an additional consideration for today. Your ultimate decision isn't about a project selection and while core to the conversation, your final decision isn't just about the future of performing arts in Portland. This decision has the potential to be a catalyst for our downtown in a way that creates genuine excitement for Portlanders visitors and economic revitalization. It can set a sense of place in our southern downtown area, and by leveraging existing features, we can truly do something transformational.

And with that, I'd like to invite my colleague Sonya Shymansky, to offer some more thoughts.

Speaker: These are tough. Yeah, good afternoon. I'm Sonya Shimanski, deputy city administrator for the vibrant community service area. Delighted to be here. Arts and culture are central, as you know, to Portland's brand and competitive advantage as a city. We have unique and exciting things going on across our neighborhoods and business districts. And as Donny mentioned, and as you also know well, our downtown is an essential center of gravity for this sector. We have a roughly horseshoe shape beginning at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park Bowl, passing by the Keller and the Halpern sequence swinging around the south end of PSU, and the vision that's before you in this process. Coming back past the art museum and the park blocks, the activations and the galleries that stretch is known for and anchored at the north end by the Pacific Northwest College of Art. And while we know that the nonprofit arts organization business model is challenging, and that the twin crises of COVID and affordability have hit this sector harder than many, as you both have said, we have ample reason to be both optimistic and confident. Earnings. Revenue economic impact and job creation are all up in the last few years. These are key indicators. And while climbing out of the pandemic, our nonprofit arts and culture organizations have generated about half a billion dollars of economic impact. Nearly 7000 jobs in 2022, and maybe most importantly, we have an incredible group of committed, diverse and sophisticated thought leaders in our community, many of whom are here today. The regional cultural plan you adopted in May identifies arts and culture as a tool to revitalize downtown, calls for systemic solution to the sustainability of P5 facilities and users, and encourages strong partnership among philanthropic and funding partners. As we stand up, the office of arts and culture, which is in the vibrant community service area, these

items are all on our list. Looking ahead, our next chapter also includes maturing our vision for the city as a leader in our creative economy, cultivating partnerships between arts organizations and between them and the city, and supporting or exploring catalytic development. Visions like this. Like the tom mccall waterfront bowl site and like the new rothko pavilion taking shape at the art museum and lastly, I have observed many times that while we sneaked into this big conversation through the relatively small side door of seismic retrofits a number of years ago, you have very wisely placed it in a bigger context, and I really appreciate the action today, which also places it in a context of positive. Some collaboration between the key partners. So thank you for that and we are looking forward to this next phase.

Speaker: Thank you. Sonya. Sonya. Excuse me. So today, commissioners in the resolution before you, we are asking council to provide the direction on the following. First, we're asking you to accept the engagement report. Carlyle and christina edmondson will walk through the results, noting the highlights of both incumbents report, but also the thoughtful engagement many of us have had about the proposals and conversations throughout the last few months. Portlanders are truly passionate about our arts, and we would like you to accept that report and reflect a reflection of that. Second, we'd like you to direct staff to focus the next phase of this work on the west side of the willamette river. We are grateful for the lloyd center's project team and their inspirational proposal, but we heard loud and clear that the future keller needs to stay downtown, and we are asking for your direction to do so. And last but not least, we are requesting an additional 56 days to take a slightly different approach. During this time, our partners at the halprin landscape conservancy and Portland state university have graciously committed to leaning into a collaborative space together with the city, to explore a concept for placemaking around a future. Keller together, we plan on kicking off this initiative

next week, and it will be iterative. But to the mayor's point, we absolutely know we have to make a decision and that in the resolution is directed us to come back on October ninth. And having spoken to both teams, their passion for a revitalized Portland, a thriving downtown and especially a world class performing arts venue cannot be understated. I selfishly want to harness that energy collectively and see what we might come up with, but two very important points. This decision is much bigger than just the city staff and the project teams, so we will continue to honor the feedback from our community engagement in addition, this is also very important. I want to stress that our partners at Broadway, the opera and ballet are essential stakeholders, and we look forward to including them on this journey together as well. And despite this momentary process redirection, the project teams and city staff all share the mayor's and your commitment to urgency. So in alignment with that, we'll come back on October 9th either with a new vision for council to undertake or to take action on the existing proposals. That's our commitment October 9th. It's in the resolution, the project teams are here and will share their perspectives a little bit later after staff have walked through the report, and I look forward to sharing those thoughts with you as well afterwards. As we develop this next step. And with that, I will invite Carlyle up to walk through the staff report. Thank you. Welcome

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Just get a little bit organized here and see something. There we go. Okay

Speaker: Thank you, mayor and commissioners. Carlyle, spectator venues program manager in the community and economic development service area. So I'm going to try to share a few slides here.

Speaker: Just get this going. Here we go. And okay, it looks like it's working.

Speaker: Okay. Great. So I would like to first kind of briefly recap the killers important role in in Portland's performing arts ecosystem, and, and kind of review the process that, that brought us to this point. And i'll turn it over to christina edmundson from in common agency to talk about the key takeaways from the city's engagement efforts during the month of June and into early July. Okay the keller, as you know, plays a unique and important role in the region for a few key reasons. Keller is the only venue in the Portland region with the seating capacity and stage capabilities to needed to host large scale theatrical productions such as Broadway shows and large format operas and ballet. The economic impact of keller operations are significant, with annual attendance of approximately 400,000 and high Broadway renewal rates. The keller supports significant economic activity, including jobs, taxes, and spending in the local economy, with a particular focus on supporting downtown businesses. The keller also plays a unique role within the organization and business model of the Portland five centers for the arts, part of metro Portland, five operates the buildings on the city's behalf. Driven by Broadway and commercial shows, the keller generates some 50% of the Portland five's total revenue. These revenues are critical to supporting the other four theaters also owned by the city and operated by Portland five, as well as making it possible for Portland five to charge lower rental rates to resident companies and nonprofit groups. And we also know that the arts are a significant source of local pride in the community, and that the events at the keller are particularly visible. Arts activities. As important as the keller is, most buildings do not last forever without periodic renovation and reinvestment. The keller began its life as the Portland municipal auditorium in 1917. In its original format, it was essentially a large brick box with a nearly flat floor and a large wraparound balcony. When it was holistically remodeled in the late 1960s into the contemporary theater we have today,

significant portions of the 1917 structure were left in place. Many brick walls and the original roof remain in place. For example, the result is a building that does not meet current seismic standards and is not anticipated to perform well in a major earthquake. While very important, structural integrity is only one of the keller's current shortcomings. There has been little major investment in the 1960s since the 1960s. Renovation and the list of infrastructure needs and outdated amenities at the building is very long. Essentially, the building in its current form is nearing the end of its service life and will require either a full renovation or replacement in the coming years to continue serving the community in the capacity that it does. I wanted to touch briefly on how we arrived at this particular moment. This has been a multi-year process. As you as you recognize it, has essentially two origin points the placement of the keller on a city official list of unreinforced masonry buildings was one that triggered a series of seismic analysis led by the city and separately, but in the same time period, a privately led design competition was launched to explore a transformational renovation of the exterior building and the initial focus, which then later evolved into a more holistic renovation approach championed by the halprin landscape conservancy, which you're familiar with. The city's seismic study included a long list of other building needs, included, that the building should either be fully renovated or, given the scale of the project, and consideration of the likely negative impacts of an extended construction closure. Without a suitable alternative location for events, that it would also be worth considering a replacement scenario. So over the past couple of years, the city has worked with community partners to develop a refined concept for the renovation alternative, which you saw presented at the end of may, as well as the two concepts for what might be accomplished with new construction on alternative sites. Also presented in may. So those three concepts were also were all presented on may 29th. And

then in June, the city made the proposals and the various related background documents and studies available to the public and launched an engagement. A targeted short but intense engagement period to try to collect feedback on the three options. Since that proposal on May 20th or since May 29th, and that presentation, city engaged in the communications firm in common agency, which you'll hear about in a second to host a series of listening sessions with key stakeholder groups, and also launched a public survey on the future of performing arts in Portland, which received over 3000 responses. In addition, as you're well aware, there's been a lot of media coverage and independently from the city's sponsored engagement activities led by in common, there's been a large amount of individual community input, some generated by the efforts of the two proposing teams, that you'll hear about later, and some just from a lot of interested individuals in the community. This input has been wide ranging, with much of it urging renovation. Much of it focused on the fears about abandoning downtown should something else happen with the existing site. But a lot of it also about supporting jobs and being aware of the economic activity and associated impacts of a closure. So across the board, the key takeaway here for me is that the community is highly engaged in this discussion, following it very closely, and seems to care very deeply about the outcomes. It's honestly to a level I've kind of rarely seen in my time with the city, and it's a bit intense, but it's also, I think, a good reflection of just how important this decision is. And with that, I will ask, Kristina, from InCommon to present the takeaways from their engagement work.

Speaker: Wonderful. Good afternoon, and thank you, Mayor Wheeler and commissioners, for having me today. As Carl said, my name is Kristina Edmunson, and I'm with the Portland based marketing firm in common in common works at the nexus of public policy and communications. And we regularly work with

government agencies and not for profit organizations. For this keller project, I was also joined by principal leslie carlson, who oversaw the creation of the report. I'm here to talk to you today about in common was hired by the city spectator venues program to engage the community in a conversation about the future of the keller auditorium. We mainly approached this work twofold through targeted community listening sessions and a public feedback survey to better understand sentiments around the keller auditorium. I've been asked to tell you today a little more about what we learned from those listening sessions and the public survey. Go to the next slide. Through June 2024. In throughout June 2024, in common conducted nine stakeholder listening sessions with close to 70 people who represented a wide variety of organizations who care deeply about the success of Portland's arts and culture community. We've listed out those groups on this slide, but as you will see, it was a cross-section of people who work and volunteer in the arts and culture section who have a vested interest in arts and culture, or people who are involved in the economic and cultural success of Portland's central city. The specific questions we asked of each group are listed verbatim in our report, which I have a copy of right here, and we're designed to help us understand how people felt about the importance of arts and culture in Portland. Overall what the benefits of arts are to our larger community as well as understand the impact on our economy and our community. Of the three various proposals to either renovate or relocate the keller in these listening sessions, we did not ask participants to weigh the pros and cons of each site, but rather we tried to understand large, larger sentiments about building or renovating Portland's premier arts performance space. We also solicited ideas about design elements and amenities that people value, including how we can activate a new or updated performing arts center at any of the three sites from first thing in the morning until well after the curtain falls. Overall, these

conversations revealed a really strong recognition of the need for a modern, world class art venue in Portland and highlighted differing views on whether to renovate the existing keller or build a new facility. I don't want it to be lost on this body that while views varied, participants were really excited at the possibility that this once in a hundred year opportunity to do something so large and consequential for our community, provides. While perspectives were varied, we did glean a few takeaways from these conversations. First, many people told us they want city and arts and culture leaders to think big about our next performing arts center. This project should be a visionary, one that is inclusive of Portland's diverse residents and communities, and supports the entire arts ecosystem. As one participant said, I hope we make it stunning. Second, the opportunities we heard about this type of visionary facility include a multifunctional space that works for performances and organizations of different audience sizes, more community spaces, rehearsal spaces, space to hold events, and more restrooms and facilities that work for people with disabilities. The performing arts center needs to support the entire arts ecosystem in our city. We also heard a lot about activation throughout the day from early morning to late at night. People want a place that's not just open to the community during performances, but a place that brings our community together. Finally, many participants shared their thoughts about renovating the keller and the significant logistical and financial challenges. The renovation proposal proposes stakeholders expressed concerns about prolonged economic closures, even on a rolling or short term basis. Deferred maintenance issues at the keller and the building's limited footprint and loading dock issues. A closure of the keller during renovations could have far reaching economic implications. The arts sector, still recovering from the pandemic, fears losing performances, revenue and workforce stability. Conversely, if planned strategically, a new or renovated venue could

stimulate local businesses and enhance community vibrancy. While some participants were uncertain about the impacts of a closure, many others had unequivocal opinions that a prolonged closure. Keller closure. During construction could alter or diminish the city's arts, organizations and culture for years to come. During these listening sessions, we also heard a lot about balancing the urgency of a new performing arts center with a really thoughtful process. People told us that whatever we do, they want a place that can house world class performances, but also a place that will support arts in Portland for generations to come. If there is one thing that everyone we spoke with seemed to agree, it is that we they want to continue to be engaged in this process moving forward, and there is a lot of excitement about what the future holds. Nobody has the right answers about when and how to make a performing arts center work in the city, but they want to be involved as we move forward as the second part of our public engagement process. The city also distributed an online public feedback survey from June 9th through July 8th of this year. This survey was designed to better understand community and stakeholder experiences, values and input on large scale performing arts in Portland. The survey contained 12 questions and was widely distributed to community centers. The media, including spanish speaking media, performing arts spaces, neighborhood associations, newsletters, legislators, and more. In total, we received 3000 responses to this survey, which of course is a small sample of the city of Portland's population. From there, the firm econorthwest analyzed the responses, basing them on a sample of 400 respondents. While you can see a better analysis of responses in our full response or our full report, four major themes did emerge from the survey one. People value modern amenities, including accessible restrooms, seating, and concessions. State of the art technology, access to parking, and general neighborhood amenities. When they attend a performance.

Two. People support an investment in a performing arts venue. In fact, 77% of respondents said they would support a new performing arts facility if the city and partners were to develop a funding solution that included a mix of private and public investments. Three. People want decision makers to prioritize ease of access to the facility, including ada accessibility, transportation and parking affordability and feeling of safety. Another 27% of respondents want decision makers to prioritize the location of the facility. A majority of whom stressed prioritizing it in downtown Portland. Another theme that emerged from the survey was how a closure would impact the community. 43% of people surveyed said a renovation or closure renovation due to a closure of the keller would impact them. Should we renovate? In closing, the future of the keller is an important and perhaps historic decision for Portland in our state. We heard again and again from our public engagement process that people hope the next performing arts space in Portland metro area will continue to inspire, engage and represent the community as a whole today and for future generations. Again thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions about our public engagement process or our report or the public's feedback survey. Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker: Thanks, christina. So before we ask you to consider the resolution, we've got a panel of invited testimony from the opposing teams we're suggesting we work with. And just as a reminder, the resolution today, as donnie said, you know, is to accept the public engagement report you just heard about, offer a sincere thank you to lloyd center for their contributions and efforts in the process. So far, and then direct staff to further engage with Portland state university and halprin landscape conservancy on this collaborative approach before returning to council on the 9th of October.

Speaker: Great commissioner Ryan, first.

Speaker: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you. Christine, I want to make sure, mayor, that we had a chance to ask some questions after we heard that report. That's the first time I've heard that report, my first question is, I recall when the draft was going out about these questions, and there was a value section. We wanted to know what people's thoughts were about climate and knowing that one would be a renovation of an existing space. The other would be new construction, and I don't know if I was able to track that when I'm looking at this report, is it because a question wasn't asked or are you referring to the survey versus the questions we asked? We had a chance or council offices to give some feedback on the questions. I wasn't pulled back in in the loop as far as what went out. So I'm just checking in to see if the value section that we were looking at included people's concerns about climate and what what. And I can tell by listening to your results.

Speaker: Right. I don't believe they did, but I'm going to pass that over to Carl.

Speaker: Yeah, I don't I don't think so, commissioner. I think the issue is sort of that core question that was discussed in some detail by the proposing teams back on May 29th, which was, you know, is renovation a greener solution with less of a climate impact than, than a new build construction? Right. I think that's what you're getting at. And I think that's what I'm getting at. And so we heard from the teams that there are, you know, a number of different ways to approach that. It's a complicated issue. If you consider the lifespan of the building, it's a different answer versus the construction period of the building, different things like that. So the it's a I think, I mean, I guess where I would come down on it is it's a, it's a pretty technical issue, and it's not one that we asked about in the broad public survey.

Speaker: Okay. And this one's kind of technical too. I know when I worked at PSU, we always wanted people to know that PSU is downtown. Even the very south part of downtown, I know people have asked me if they thought of southwest Lincoln

was a part of downtown and it's central downtown. Was there any questions about these locations in terms of being in central downtown?

Speaker: So, I mean, we did ask some location location preference related without specifically saying we specifically did not want to ask people to pick their favorite, project. At this point, we were really trying to understand more what the considerations and values of the community were that should help the city. You know, proceed towards a, you know, the best decision, right? So that's what we were trying to do. So we didn't ask, you know, pick psu or pick lloyd or, you know, pick renovation. But we did ask locational preference questions. And, you know, I think that's where we really felt like it was quite clear that the west side, the greater downtown, downtown, south downtown, where the where the areas that had the most kind of support generally. That's not to say that there weren't also advocates responding for lloyd, and there were actually quite a few people who responded and wrote in, you know, things about how in many ways, lloyd is a is a wonderful location with incredible transit access. And, you know, most of the people in the city live on the east side. You know, lots of different ideas about that. But at the end of the of the analysis of those questions around locational preference, it became clear that west side downtown was was preferred. And then that we have that sort of list of amenities that went along with that, like things that are important to people, restaurants, proximity to parking, transit, various other things like that.

Speaker: Okay. So, I was tracking that. So we just didn't choose to ask the questions in the value section about climate and green. And then we also, we allowed the west side of all of the central area to be considered downtown based on what I'm listening to from you. We didn't try to do central downtown. We just didn't ask that question. And that's what I was trying to get at, because I think that was another draft. I put out was trying to define, central downtown to like, I wanted

to make sure since Lloyd Center is considered part of central Portland, and we have a very large district called central Portland. I just wanted to make sure that we were clear that we allowed that to be discussed in the survey. But you're telling me that wasn't a question and I could live with that. I just want to make sure that was clear.

Speaker: Well, so, commissioner, I apologize. We can follow up with you in some more detail on the detailed survey results. There were a lot of, open ended writing questions that were provided. So there are a lot of opportunities in the survey and a lot of feedback in there, which we're happy to share, where people really did get into the details of whether they preferred, you know, the existing site over a Portland state site or what their feelings were about those things. So there is some some content there. I think that we can we can provide, but, you know, I think it's also important to remember that the, the two sites that were going to be talking about today are, you know, they're six blocks apart. Oh yeah, I agree.

Speaker: I'm just trying to get objective information and trying to interpret what I was just listening to. Thank you, thank you, thank you, commissioner Ryan.

Speaker: Commissioner Rubio, yeah.

Speaker: That was, part of my question that that Dan had asked too. I remember very clearly asking about it would have been helpful for me to understand what the community where the communities value was around climate impacts. I think I've mentioned it multiple times in our meetings and also in our the last session that we had on this here, so I'm not looking at it more from a technical aspect. I'm looking at it from a community value. And if the cost is worth the trade off, if, if, if it did reduce carbon. So I feel like there were some places that we could have really got and gotten some rich information, that could have helped us make a better decision. So I'm a little disappointed in that, that we didn't get that question in there, I guess my, my second point or question would be then are there other places or is it is there

another place for us for that we can get a little bit more of a sense of the pulse of where community is on that, or will you or where that that will be in discussion on the climate question specifically? Yes.

Speaker: Yeah. I mean, we can what we can do is, is take another look at what we do have in terms of the more detailed responses and pull out. I think any, any specific thoughts that we might have heard about the climate issue, I think that, you know, and I apologize if this is not aligning with the council's desire, but, I mean, I think from from the staff's perspective, we heard pretty compelling arguments and discussion, pretty robust discussion in may that you know, it is a very complicated issue, and it isn't necessarily that renovation is always like a greener approach. Right so I think rather than trying to ask that and I and I said this before and I know this isn't isn't really what you want to hear, but rather than trying to ask sort of a public opinion about you know, how to interpret that technical argument about life cycle costs of the building in terms of climate or renovation versus new construction, even if new construction is extremely green, like we just we didn't think we were going to get at this high public kind of level. A lot of, helpful input from that question. So perhaps that was an error. And omission, I apologize.

Speaker: Okay. So, yeah, I understand, I guess, so in the future there will there be any opportunity to ask the public I and if it's. No, that's okay. I just want to know and, because I think it would be hard to gather or call information from the current survey if it wasn't asked at all. So. And if that, if it's a no, it's okay. I just I'm just curious, commissioner, is the is the interest in having that information to better inform a decision by council?

Speaker: Or is it so that we can ensure that that value is clearly communicated to the selected project?

Speaker: I think it's both. I'm looking for it somewhere, I guess, donnie, because I think it was such something that I felt like, was expressed, by my office pretty clearly and consistently, and I feel like to not hear it at all in the presentation. I'm just looking for it, that someone's thinking about it somewhere.

Speaker: Yeah. So, commissioner, also, maybe commissioner Ryan, to add this to your question, the opportunity we have here is, come October, once a project is selected, whether it's a new combined concept or one of the original two, once we sit down with the project team, we can start to outline what our expectations are for whether it's a green building standard, a living building standard,

Speaker: The opportunities for, you know, a lot of different, you know, either existing, you know, frameworks or some new concepts. So i'll just share that the project teams have historically in this, in this process, shown a commitment to green features. Et cetera. So, to your point about can we survey the community about their feelings about it? I don't know, that's going to fit into our timeline, but it's certainly something that we can commit to as a project team to ensure that the project, that are selected are aligned.

Speaker: Great. That that that works for me. Thanks, donnie.

Speaker: Hi, commissioner Ryan, go ahead.

Speaker: Yeah, I just think to end this, I just want to say what we're experiencing here is two offices asked for this, and it was clearly pulled out of the questioning. And so in real time right now we're learning about that. And so that's all thanks.

Speaker: All right. Any other questions, mayor council. So, we have some invited guests testimony to join us, mayor, I don't know if you would like to, to call them. I don't have it up on my sheet right now.

Speaker: I've got them. So we have karen whitman, executive director of the halpern landscape, scott andrews, the board chair of the halpern landscape and

then after them, we have doctor ann cudd, the president, of course, of Portland state university. Thank you for being here again. And sarah schwartz from the psu foundation. Not only is she from the foundation, she is the president of the psu foundation and mayor, just for a correction, it's actually bob nieto's joining us, not scott. It is indeed. Bob, I know who you are. Good to see you. Yeah. Thanks for being here. Pinchhitting is a good skill to have.

Speaker: So should I lead off?

Speaker: Yeah. Why don't you go ahead?

Speaker: Okay. Mr. Mayor, members of the City Council for the record, I'm bob nadeau on behalf of the halpern landscape conservancy. I'm the co-chair. And with me is karen whitman, who's the executive director. And so we'd like to express our support for the resolution before you, before I start, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the commissioners and the mayor for coming to our celebration of the halpern landscape at the halpern fountain last month. We called it the big splash, but we really didn't intend for commissioner Ryan to lead four of you into the water. And i. Troublemaker. He certainly is. And I hope commissioner Mapps is. Foot is better. I think before addressing the specific resolution, I think karen would like to take a moment to talk a little bit about our, our, our role in this process, because we don't own this building. You own it? Yeah.

Speaker: Well, I've already been introduced, but I am the executive director. Have been for the first and only have been for ten years. And I wanted to explain to you that while our mission at the halpern landscape conservancy is all about the Portland open space sequence, it wasn't we didn't consider it a mission creep when two years ago, we stepped forward to sponsor the keller auditorium restoration project. Obviously, because of our interest in the iconic keller fountain, right across the street. And we know a lot about our next door neighbor, the keller auditorium,

and we know a lot about the neighborhood. Having participated over that ten years and numerous enhancement projects for the sequence and for the overall neighborhood. Today, though, we bring the voice of generations of Portlanders who love the Keller Auditorium and they love the Keller Fountain, and you experienced that. And for the thousands of people who enjoy shows and concerts and just making memories in that wonderful space, along with most Portlanders, we want to see the Keller fully renovated into a world class venue, inside and out for the benefit of our city. Our region, and our state, and for our arts, arts and culture economy and for the revitalization of downtown. From the beginning, I think, you know that we have been engaged with the activation strategy for downtown, our 21st century. Keller expands and restores the auditorium. It develops a daytime and nighttime programmable plaza on Third Avenue. And importantly, for a new destination, it interconnects programming to expand and diversify audiences. I say that definition to you because it is the spirit with which we use this joining of the collaboration. Today, we are prepared to deliver you the plans for a world class performing arts center and a South Downtown neighborhood on the rise that we expect to connect with another neighborhood with an important destination. And that's Pioneer Courthouse Square, an old pal of mine.

Speaker: Thanks, Karen. I'd like to share a few thoughts on how to make the next 45 days and make this process successful, so please consider them in the constructive spirit in which they're intended. First, to put it directly for this process to succeed, we need strong city leadership. Mr. Mayor, back in May, when we were testifying on the three projects, you asked whether PSU and the Halprin Landscape Conservancy had met together to see if they could find a win-win solution for both of us. It's taken us a couple of months to get here, but we're here now. But it's

going to take city's leadership to have this 45 day period to find a collaborative solution that combines our respective visions into a cohesive and mutually supportive one for performing arts and for the cultural vitality of the city. To do this, we need steady, engaged leadership from city staff. We need it from the mayor, and we need it from the commission. We will need a process that is structured, inclusive, open minded and fair, and we need a table that includes all the relevant parties that are involved with the keller, not just us and psu, but the users of that facility, the arts organizations, the union. Everybody needs to be at the table for this to work and that's been the problem. I think that you identified back in may is we haven't we've been operating independently and not talking. We may not always agree, but only the city can hold this process together and drive us toward a decision. By October 9th. Second, we need to fully understand what's possible during a keller renovation closure and problem. Solve this question together. We don't need to argue about whether it's \$96 million of economic potential economic loss, or 140 million. That number is irrelevant. The goal is to reduce that number as close as we can get together and make it to zero. No one wants performers, workers and organizations in our local arts and culture economy irreparably harmed by a keller renovation, our team has been studying possible solutions to mitigate some of the closure impacts, and we look forward to sharing those during the next 45 days. But we aren't the only ones. In fact, we're probably the least competent ones. To figure this out. We need to bring the people that actually will be impacted to a table and plan what we can all do to reduce those impacts. Third, we must discuss the costs and the funding sources for the project or projects. The city ultimately chooses. What are the estimated costs to renovate versus build new facilities? What are the economic costs to demolish and or repurpose the existing keller auditorium? And what are realistic sources of public and private funding to

fund whatever project you proceed with on October 9th, without more detailed analysis of not just the cost, but also the funding sources, we may be raising expectations more than building an achievable plan. Again, we've done some initial research on both public and private funding sources, and we're happy to share that over the next 45 days. The fourth one, I don't even need to say because you've already said it, but I'll say we need a decision one way or the other by October 9th, I think we'll come up with a good decision, but that is a target that I think it's short enough that we're not going to dither around and we're going to make some headway. Finally, we need the right terminology and expectations for a 40 for this 45 day process. This shouldn't be about finding a win for Halperin or a win for Portland State University, or reaching some elusive compromise as if we're in a mediation or an arbitration. Rather, our goal should be to make the best decision for the city, for Portlanders, for arts and culture, economy, and for everyone across the region who comes downtown for shows, concerts, entertainment, memory, making special events, graduations. This is our commitment. We're pleased to support this resolution and eager to do our part to replace competition with collaboration. Thank you.

Speaker: Thanks, Bob. Thank you. Thanks, Karen.

Speaker: Madam President, welcome. Thanks for being here.

Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Wheeler. Commissioners, it's good to be back here with you. For the record, I'm the current president of Portland State University, as I stated back in May, I came to Portland because I know and I think we all know that Portland can do big things. And a thriving downtown Portland depends on thriving arts, culture and education scene to attract more people to central city, improving the overall vibrancy of the city and spurring new development. That's why PSU first proposed the development of the Portland Performing Arts and Culture Center, a

once in a century opportunity to serve the city and our future students. We're excited to work collaboratively to imagine a new downtown and south downtown, including an activation of both the psu and the keller site connected through the halprin open space sequence. We applaud Portland City Council and the interim city administrator's office for actively seeking a win win solution for downtown Portland and Oregon. Psu shares the vision for a re-energized arts, culture and entertainment district that activates the iconic halprin sequence of walkways, fountains, and parks in a new way by collaborating on a long term plan that activates both sites on each end of the halprin sequence, we believe we can deliver the win win that our city desperately needs. It's vital that this win win solution prevents the economic, social, and cultural impacts of a closure of the keller auditorium and accounts for the community assets connected to downtown Portland. We look forward to collaborating with the halprin landscape conservancy and the city over the next 45. Or is it 56 days on a solution grounded in these principles and ensure a path forward on our proposed performing arts and culture center and the future keller auditorium block? We're excited about this process because it expands the conversation beyond a decision about a single auditorium and sets a table for us to collaborate toward a vision for the future of our city. Portland state will always take a seat at the table for collaborative work that moves our region forward. I'm grateful to everyone at psu who's continued to work on this initiative with special appreciation to our project team, and I'd also like to thank our colleagues at the halprin landscape conservancy for coming to the table with us in the spirit of finding a win win for Portland. I look forward to continuing this work as a proven city partner to advance our vested interest in reclaiming downtown Portland as a world class. Destination. Thank you for your time today.

Speaker: Thank you. Appreciate it.

Speaker: Good afternoon, mayor Wheeler and commissioners, I'm Sarah Schwartz, president of the PSU Foundation. Thank you for inviting us back. Our team believes that your action today illustrates the critical importance of public, private and academic partnerships to the future of our region and to the people who call Portland home. Over the last year, we have heard so much inventive thinking as we've spoken to hundreds of people during the process, including leaders in other American cities who have also looked to arts, culture and education to bring extraordinary benefits and extraordinary investment opportunities to their communities. We remain committed to an approach that serves the broadest array of partners and Portlanders, the artists and organizations that use the space, the workers who keep the shows running, and diverse theatergoers, including those like me and my family who regularly attend shows and support the performing arts in Portland. There continues to be genuine excitement about what's possible when we look beyond our individual interests and seek to serve the common good together. PSU commits to bringing that collaborative spirit with us to the table you are setting. We are also committing to a philanthropic approach in which the sum can be far greater than its parts. We are committing to refining a shared fundraising plan and process that can benefit not just the two projects we're talking about, but the entire Portland arts and culture ecosystem. Cities like Orlando, Nashville and Tempe have created a playbook for this work. In their successes, we can clearly see a path forward for Portland. I would be remiss if I didn't say, however, that time is of the essence. We must have a defined project by the fall if we are to secure the philanthropic leverage, we will need to successfully advocate for bond funding in the upcoming state legislative session. In addition, PSU brings to our table to your table our real world experience as one of the city's most active and skilled developers. Over the last decade, Portland State has constructed or renovated

seven major downtown building projects, including two highly complex multi-partner buildings with a total value of 885 million, and psu run projects always place equity and access at their heart. We bring that passion to your table as well. In closing, I'd like to share a line I can't stop thinking about from the tony award winning hadestown, a production I saw at the keller with my family in 2022. Let the world we dream about be the one we live in now. Together we can make the Portland we dream about, the one we live in with performing arts at its heart. Thank you. Thanks, sarah.

Speaker: Colleagues, any questions of our invited testimony before we get to public testimony? All right. Great. Thank you. Appreciate you being here. How many folks do we have signed up? Rebecca?

Speaker: We have 15 people signed up. Great.

Speaker: Three minutes each. Name for the record, please.

Speaker: First up, nicole possart. Nicole was to be online and is not. I don't see her. Rosetta venitucci. Welcome.

Speaker: Thank you for being here. Anywhere. Anywhere you'd like.

Speaker: Good afternoon, mayor Wheeler. City commissioners, staff, colleagues and all of the guests in the room. My name is rosetta venitucci. I am the business representative of iatse local 28. We have been here in Portland since 1895. Before the keller auditorium opened, I have been a member with local 28 since 1990. I started my career at lincoln hall auditorium at psu. I have worked in the keller and I also worked the opening event. When we opened the last city theater complex, the new theater building, which is now the antoinette hatfield hall. Many of the workers that I represent work for multiple employers, and we earn our living as professionals. We earn a living wage with access to health care, retirement, and we are union represented. And that's how we get our living wage. Our retirement and

our health care. We are passionate about what we do, and we work as partners with our employers. PSU, Metro, P5, Portland Opera, Portland Theater Presents, Oregon Children's Theater, OBT, The Symphony, and more. I am thrilled to see the direction taken to review the needs of the Keller Auditorium. Having everyone work on one team together as our theme. Together we rise. We believe that all of us working together will also help Portland rise. Thank you for doing this. Thank you for listening to everyone. Thank you for taking the time to look into all the concerns and see which ones are valid and which ones aren't. I ask you again to please do not rush this project and do not shut down the Keller Auditorium. The Keller is part of the ecosystem of not just Portland, but the live entertainment ecosystem of the entire state of Oregon. Without our Portland companies, we won't bring the arts across all of Oregon. If our Portland companies no longer exist. Please look into a win for all. And as I have said to many people, it's not a surprise. I don't see why we can't put a really nice, world class, 1800 seat theater and the small side of the Keller and do the larger theater at PSU, where we cannot impact traffic with busses and trucks and have safe places for us to unload. Those kids coming from school to see the theater and safe for us to unload those trucks. I look forward to meeting you over there in the corner. I think you're the only person I haven't met yet to work on this project, and I would love to keep continuing to work with all of you in the same room.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate you being here with June Thorson.

Speaker: Welcome. Thank you.

Speaker: Glad you're here. Thank you.

Speaker: Commissioners.

Speaker: My name is June Thorson. I'm on the board of the downtown neighborhood association, and I'm speaking for their behalf today. The DNA knows

that the success of Portland state as a thriving educational institution is necessary for the city's long term viability. We also know that the 21st century keller is a necessary part of revitalizing the cultural district in downtown. We need a plan that has a predictable timeline, and we believe that is rejuvenating the keller. We must get this decision made to show that Portland is hopeful and committed to a bright, vibrant future. And as has been said, time is of the essence here. Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker: Joel thorson.

Speaker: Welcome back, sir.

Speaker: I'm joel thorson.

Speaker: I'm here testifying in my own behalf, I live midway between the keller and wsu's proposed rebuilding site. I am a former psu grad student and frequently attend shows and concerts at both the keller and lincoln hall. So my loyalties are painfully divided. While I support compromise, there's simply no way to split the difference between staying and going. It's a binary choice. Further, my examination of this quandary leads me to conclude that the psu rebuild elsewhere option is incapable of yielding a mutually beneficial outcome, as I will explain. A win win situation must be found another way. I have a suggestion. It borrows from psu condominium model of shared initial investment funding and future revenues and expenses and benefits. Not only the city and Portland state's mission, as well as the halprin conservancy's mission. That suggestion would be to fulfill, at long last, the promise of an all season indoor or outdoor james beard memorial market on the site, currently earmarked for the killer replacement. The city benefits from leveraging the outsized reputation of this iconic figure of Portland native and, by all accounts, the founding father of America's modern farm to table culinary movement. Situated on the max line with several good bus connections, the market

would draw everyday traffic from all over the city and food tourists from all over the world. No better activation magnet could possibly drive the reclamation of this underutilized district, including in the district. Would that benefits would include the psu complex, including the 1200 seat auditorium, the hotel and the psu educational facilities. The beard market, a city property, could occupy the entire first floor. Upper floors could be parceled out in condominium condominium fashion, serving both Portland's affordable housing needs and the thousands of psu underhoused or unhoused students, as well as anchoring the south end of the halprin sequence, now, why do I say that the rebuild from scratch option is incapable of yielding a win win? The decisive factor for me is an avoidable stream of future recurring expenses, which is that, which stems from which is omitted from psu cost comparison estimates for the keller rebuild and for understandable reasons, there are too many unknowns still, principal of which is the city's decision. So there's kind of a catch 22 there. Regarding those, regarding the those, recurring expenses, number one is the recurring regular payments for shared common area upkeep expenses analogous to condo hoa dues. Two is the perpetual rental expense of leasing parking space in the underground garage. Neither of those are needed by the current keller situation, so I guess that's it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, rob fulmer.

Speaker: Is rob here?

Speaker: Yeah, he's all the way in the back there. He is getting his exercise this afternoon. Welcome thanks for being here, mayor Wheeler.

Speaker: It's been a while, commissioners. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today, my name is rob fulmer. I'm the president of the chapter at Portland state of seiu 503, and I just wanted to say a few words. I don't have any prepared remarks. I just it seems to me that like this. This is a super exciting

opportunity to do something to revitalize the arts in Portland. And we're talking about a building or building complex or maybe more than one. But ultimately, this is about people, right? I mean, this is about the people that that are going to be served by this place, but it's also it's about the people who are going to work there who are going to spend their careers, like one of our previous speakers, serving at that place. And I wanted to just sort of lean into the importance of making sure that labor has a voice at the table. It's something that we heard today. I think it's going to be super important for the successful and not just, you know, when it's all said and done and something's been built, but also as construction takes place, I think it's going to be critical for, represented workers to be participating. You're going to be hearing from carpenters. I expect, and others, in order for this project, whatever it looks like, I'm not making any recommendations. I think. I think that's that's what the, you know, this, collaboration is going to look at is what's going to make sense, but whatever, whatever the result is that, that labor's voice is, is, is going to be heard loud and clear and that it's going to be a collaborative partnership with labor throughout this movement. So thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today.

Speaker: Thank you. Appreciate you being here.

Speaker: James bernard lee.

Speaker: Welcome, sir. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Mayor, members of council, I'm james bernard lee. I live in southeast Portland and I speak only for myself. Thank you for hearing me today, I want to clarify a few terms. We've heard world class performing arts center bandied around about here, but, that's really highly problematic thing, because the performing arts center, the primary one, which is lincoln center, is in new york city, opened in the 1960s, is widely regarded now to have been a failure. The metropolitan opera can't

fill its house. There have been four tries to build a decent concert hall for the new york philharmonic, but they want to get back to carnegie hall because of the acoustics in carnegie hall are so much better than anything that they can have today, the question that I have to repose the question is, can you build anything for symphony, which is better than boston symphony hall, which was opened in 1900, and that still stands as the standard by which everything is judged. The answer is nothing has been done like that. If you're talking about opera, can you build anything better than la scala in milan, which actually had been rebuilt in the year 1950 after it was terribly bombed during the war, and the answer again is no. Then the question is why would you build anything else? No. Performing arts center has ever really succeeded. Neither lincoln center in new york nor the kennedy center in Washington, dc, which are the two great prototypes every decent performing arts facility is a stand alone facility. You cannot build a performing arts center. There are a variety of reasons technical, esthetic, public relations. You can't do that. So what I have suggested and what I would like to do is offer my expertise in this field, which goes back 50 years with a number of, people. And I have been trying to get a decent aspect of theoretical physics to explain why we can't do this. And I am sort of the, I guess I'm the clearinghouse for all this kind of stuff because I have the strange ability to do theoretical physics. So I don't know. But I would like to offer all these these skills I have in the coming period to work with mr. Lyle. And to be sure that all this information is considered to be part of this very momentous decisions which we will now be making. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, sir. Appreciate your being here.

Speaker: Walter weiler. Walter was to join online and does not appear to be there, emily ford. Here comes emily.

Speaker: Good afternoon. Emily thanks for being here. Thank you.

Speaker: Good afternoon. Thanks for having me. My name is Emily Ford, and I am the president of the Portland State University chapter of the American Association of University Professors. We are the labor union representing over 100 full-time faculty workers at PSU. I'm here in support of this resolution. It is a vision that supports PSU. Motto: Let knowledge serve the city. I am also here to center concerns for our organized labor in our city. It is union workers who have the city who serve the city with their knowledge, efforts and dedication to PSU students and to the Portland community. I'd like to offer, I will also add that I have concerns that this resolution lacks any committee charge to keep work on focus, and does not mention the deep impacts of any final proposal will have on labor. A joint committee exploring PSU development proposal must take into consideration the effects that this project has on workers that make PSU run, as well as the workers who would build and staff the auditorium. Labor concerns need to be central to the committee's discussions and integrated into its report and proposed developments unveiled in October, the committee must plan to retain and support PSU. SEIU represented university place hotel workers. It must protect actors, musicians, theater technicians and others that make the current Keller facility run. It must take into account trade workers who will turn the vision into reality, and it must plan for each and every job in a new facility to be a union job with dignity and respect, from custodial work to performers and everyone in between. Over the past year, we, the 1100 union represented PSU faculty, have watched as the PSU administration and board of trustees have put their entire force of political advocacy, creative thinking and full-throated support behind the development of a PSU Performing Arts facility. At the same time, PSU administration has been and is pushing back against layoff protections at the bargaining table with PSU AAUP, while also stalling contract negotiations with its graduate employees union and refusing to recognize

grievances filed by the university's part time faculty union. This proposed committee must hold psu administration accountable to support workers with the same full throated veracity that has gotten it this far in the development process. It's the workers who make the city vibrant. There's a broad cross section of Portland labor here. We've heard from seiu, iatse and we'll hear from the trades help psu live up to its motto psu can only serve the City Council, and the psu administration must protect, uplift and respect the workers who make our city the vibrant place that it is. Thank you. Janet janet van was.

Speaker: Hi janet.

Speaker: Howdy.

Speaker: Good to see you. Thanks for being here.

Speaker: Thanks for having me. Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to address you. My name is janet van west. I'm a theater educator, director, producer, proud union member, and a resident of the neighborhood that strides the halperin sequence as my time is brief, I would like to address the creativity and facility necessary to keep our union in front of house staff employed while the keller is being renovated, Portland center stage and the Portland opera were used as art was being rebuilt. We have spaces available. We just need a coordinator to coordinate. There's a real opportunity to bring a different kind of show, musical and event to Portland. The opera already uses psu for some of their programs. Obt has several good choices for its programs. I know the nutcracker is the big moneymaker, but what if this year's nutcracker was promoted in a way so that when it returns, it's an even bigger celebration? Perhaps mr. Jewell can speak to this. The newmark theater holds 880 people. The largest house on broadway seats 1096. Portland five should be open to tours of shows with less demanding technical needs, such as current broadway hits, which will begin their tours next year. Oh

mary and stereophonic, as well as its current capacity for rentals, the expo center can accommodate the new national tour of come from away as army and air force bases are welcoming them in their giant all purpose rooms. Having studied theater management at the premiere theater management graduate program in the country and having spent many happy hours tooling around lincoln center in new york city, I can attest to the community and culture that surrounds the venue and that the 21st century keller is likely to mirror that this committee is seeking compromise between psu and the 21st century. Keller contingencies demonstrates that you believe both submissions have value to the city in terms of culture and employment. Compromise is often seen as an evasive term. And so I am curious and excited as to how two entirely separate locations with two entirely different purposes for creating a performing arts venue can be accomplished. The 21st century. Keller is viable economic endeavor sure to reflect the values the arts brings to a civilization. Thank you for your time.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: Emily horton. Welcome. Hello. Thank you.

Speaker: Hi. My name is emily horton. I am a backstage worker at the keller auditorium, and I am also here as the secretary treasurer of iatse local 28. The performing arts are by definition, a collaborative effort and we have before us an opportunity for mutual benefit to all involved parties. We know private entities such as aeg, live nation and maangchi have shown us recently that Portland is ready and able to support multiple modern, full size theaters and that there is no reason why we cannot move forward on multiple fronts. These plans can support and empower each other. With the keller remaining open during the construction of a new theater facility at psu and said facility then becoming home to full size operas, ballets, concerts, and touring Broadway productions to allow the renovation of the

keller at a safe and practical pace without the loss of jobs or detriment to local arts groups. Having attended meetings, reviewed proposals, and spoken with the interested parties, it has become clear that the consequences of a shutdown would be unfathomable culturally and economically. It has also become clear that said economic consequences would be of such magnitude that while direct compensation would not be impossible, it would be dramatically more logical to use said funds for the construction of a second venue. And while a temporary option could be viable, investment in a permanent option would pay exponential dividends. As Stephen Sondheim once said, art in itself is an attempt to bring order out of chaos. We are all in this together and we can have a new beacon of artistic production and education, a strengthened and preserved historical icon, and a revitalized downtown for us all. Portland can support more venues and the city its artists and workers should be the ones to profit from them, not the corporations. The arts are for everyone, and the good of the city and its residents must be put first. Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker: Xavier Oberlander. Welcome.

Speaker: Mr. Mayor, a pleasure to be here. Commissioners. Thank you for allowing this testimony, I echo many of the words my Aaup and I vote yea colleagues have spoken here, I have been a proud member of SEIU for as long as I've been here at PSU. I am a 30 plus year employee in the College of the Arts and the School of Art and Design, which will be groundbreaking for a new building. It will be the Schnitzer of the Harold Schnitzer School of Art and Design, and it's absolutely exciting that the city is proposing this new, new building, on the grounds of PSU. I'm excited about that. But I also, I have to say something about the Keller Auditorium. I've had the pleasure of, being, of seeing a lot of shows there, performances and absolute gem in the Portland area. I know your decision will ultimately benefit the city. I do truly

believe that. I like the idea of moving it closer to campus here. I think we have the space, but I also echo the same sentiments that my aaup and ayatsi colleagues have spoken here, and I think it's important that we bring in and work collaboratively with our unions. And I think that Portland can do this, and I appreciate the effort, and again, just very excited about the potential, unfortunately, I probably won't be here to see the eventual, finalization of the buildings, but, being part of the process has been really meaningful to me. And I do appreciate all of the work and the hard, hard work that everybody has done on this. So really, thank you very much and thank you for your time.

Speaker: Thanks. Appreciate it.

Speaker: Diana Stewart hi, Diana.

Speaker: Good afternoon.

Speaker: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor. And commissioners. My name is Diana Stewart. I live and work in the River Place neighborhood. I'm also a board member of the downtown neighborhood association. But I'm speaking on behalf of myself today. I've been openly supportive of the Keller Reimagination project because one, it is a stunning, iconic design which will more quickly and urgently symbolize Portland's recovery. Two it will provide a catalyst for downtown Portland and my neighborhood at River Place and support the existing businesses that surround the Keller Three. It is ecologically and fiscally sound and will not create traffic nightmares. And for attempting to find another use for the Keller will still require the cost of seismic readying and renovation greatly increasing the overall cost, especially given the significantly greater cost of the PSU project. I fully agree that arts organizations and related workers should be supported during renovation by staged closures of the Keller and moving productions to alternative locations. I also support this collaborative effort between PSU and the Keller project, which could be

a win for all if the right balance is achieved, it makes sense that psu burnish its reputation as a world class educational institution with a second auditorium and educational and arts conference facilities. This is more in line with state legislative funding priorities. The keller with the greater certainty of being able to fund and begin construction in a more timely and cost effective fashion should be selected as the mainstay auditorium. This is also the case given that supportive services, including restaurants, hotels and parking already exist around that facility. This is a the critical and necessary balance, especially given the uncertainty of timing and amounts of state funding to achieve psu vision, as well as all of the other reasons articulated here today. I urge psu to scale its project collaboratively so that the overwhelming number of Portland residents who support the keller renovation can become your advocates with your funding sources to enhance your educational mission in collaboration with the keller. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you. Appreciate it.

Speaker: Shane jewell. Hi, shane.

Speaker: Good afternoon, mr. Mayor. And commissioners, and thank you for this opportunity. My name is shane jewell. I'm the executive director of Oregon ballet theater, one of the resident companies of the keller auditorium. Coincidentally, we are a couple of weeks away from celebrating our 35th anniversary of performing in Portland. Over the past 35 years, we have welcomed over 2 million patrons through our doors. While it's important to celebrate where we have come, we are focused on where we are going. We are not focused on 35 years, but 70 years, 100 years. Oregon ballet theater is an institution to this city and will outlast any single person in this room. I say this to reiterate our commitment to the city, as well as to emphasize the need to be able to not only focus on the complexity of the issues in front of us, but also the understanding the decisions we make today will impact

Portland Portlanders who have yet to take their first breath. Adobe. We support this resolution, a desire for an immediate outcome should never trump a thoughtful and creative process to find the correct answer. The ballet is a civically minded organization committed to being solution focused and improving our city. We hope the outcome will be a compromise that works for everyone, including the artists, employees, organizations, unions and audiences most affected. I believe we can also be a resource from the city and all involved during this process, I have had the unique experience of having lived through both potential scenarios and other communities. I was in Oklahoma City working for a Broadway company during the remodel and temporary closure of the Civic Center Music Hall, and I was executive director of Orlando Ballet during the opening of Doctor Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. New Venue. Through both of these transformative moments, I saw challenges overcome with creative solutions and in neither case did an arts organization close. It's important for us that we are prepared for every eventuality. To that end, we have already begun talking internally about testing alternative venues as early as our 2026 season, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we could further work together to see what is feasible. In conclusion, what we seek is to be a thought partner and a resource. We respectfully ask to be included along with the other arts organizations and unions in this next phase of planning, in order to inform the process and to be a good team player. Finding the best solution for our city. Given the short timeline for recommendation, we hope our participation will be soon because we can surely agree any final proposal should include the expertise and endorsement of the primary end users. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Speaker: Thank you, Tina Juarez.

Speaker: Welcome.

Speaker: It's going all right. Good evening. Bam I push play. Oh, no. It should be on.

Speaker: Thanks.

Speaker: Good afternoon, we're. My name is tino, and I'm a local tradesman that works for the carpenters. And I think I'd like to speak on the behalf of the working class, we're here today to say that we are in support of this resolution and building. And not only does this have an opportunity to be a catalyst, as our sister said earlier, for downtown. But you know what? As we are talking about building and opportunities, let's just I ask the City Council to let's make sure that we pick responsible contractors that really represent our community. Portland by choosing a responsible contractor, not only do we thrive to build in Portland and to create growth, but we have this City Council has the ability to create a ripple effect that not just appeases the outside of Portland, but to affect the heart of Portland and that's the people that live and work there. Just to tell you my story, at 18 years old, I got hired as I had the opportunity to get hired with a responsible contractor. And I want to tell you, man, I came from a family of my mom, raised three boys on her own, living on assistance. And let me tell you, man, because I was able to get a job that provided a living wage, let's be real here, minimum wage and a living wage. But to work for a company that provided a livable wage with benefits. And I'm here to stand before you today to tell you that my kids are not on assistance. The curse has been broken and we have the opportunity, man, by choosing responsible contractors to choose people that not only are going to build here, but live and work here, I want to encourage the City Council to continue, as they're building in our town, to choose responsible contractors that reflect Portland directly. Thank you for your time.

Speaker: Thanks, dino. Thanks for instagram.

Speaker: Xavier. Xavier stickler.

Speaker: Welcome. Thanks for being here.

Speaker: Good afternoon, mr. Mayor and city commissioners, thank you so much for being here today. And for helping lead our city forward. My name is xavier de stickler, and I'm a student of architecture and urban planning at Portland state university, as well as a resident of downtown, a board member of the downtown neighborhood association, and my lovely grandmother's theater companion to her Broadway across America subscription. I think this effort to think collaboratively and together as a creative community is a very good start toward the type of city level place creation that Portland needs, and that we once trailblazed nationally through our forward thinking initiatives like our revival of urban rail, we can retake the mantle of urban leadership through thoughtful endeavors and partnerships, a commitment to equitable outcomes, and renewed investment in what makes this city great. Our quirky character and our open minded yet utilitarian perspective. The task before the Halprin landscape conservancy, PSU and the city staff is candidly, a herculean one. And on a time frame I think could fairly be described as compressed. There are several major challenges and geometric realities that must be deftly navigated. Furthermore, there are historic investments and cultural legacies that must be honored, if not further flourished and added to for example, Lincoln street, which serves as an extension of the transit mall, and the harbor way viaduct, is how the MAX orange line, the frequent express two bus frequent bus lines nine and 17, and bus 19 get to and from the Tilikum crossing. It sees eight trains and over 20 busses an hour, soon to be increased. Tilikum and the orange line were a \$1 billion investment. That must be supported, respected and well utilized by whatever new development is produced by this process. Not harmed or hampered. That's tough in a built up urban environment. On the other end of the

sequence, you have the four quart fountain or now known as the Keller fountain, an internationally acclaimed piece of landscape architecture that I know the five of you got to experience the magic of just a few weeks ago, intended to be the forecourt of Portland's performing arts epicenter, it is the cornerstone of the city and its history, and must not be relegated to a footnote or a backyard of a private lot. But rather championed is the icon that it is. At Portland State, you have a minority, majority, minority public school. That is our state's flagship urban research university that deserves a world class campus that is reflective of the diversity and creativity of its student body, that has also been hit hard by the housing crisis, enrollment decline from COVID, and the rising cost of education and college administration. It is a university where 1 in 5 of my classmates suffered from homelessness or housing insecurity. In the last year alone, PSU is an institution, but also a deeply underutilized asset of downtown that should be better connected to the web of activation and arts and music and commerce that exist in the central city. These are just three of the variables of the many, many that the team will have to reconcile and champion in the next 56 days. But as you said, Mr. Mayor, between the creative talent, vision and commitment to Portland, that everyone in this process, in this effort possesses, I know we can rise to the challenge. Portland can rise to its challenges. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you sir.

Speaker: That concludes testimony. All right.

Speaker: Well, thank you everybody. That was fantastic. Public testimony. And it gives us all a lot to think about. Colleagues. Does anybody have any other questions before we call the roll, Commissioner Gonzales. Yeah, you bet.

Speaker: This is just for staff. Briefly. I, just to understand the inputs that were being provided, to as counsel at this point. So we have a community engagement

survey, which was submitted as a part of the resolution. Do we have any formal staff analysis of the relative, feasibility of the financial stack, for example, the two proposals, I think, for me to go.

Speaker: Yeah, great question, commissioner daniel rivera, for the record, we're sort of at this moment taking a pause on the evaluation, both from the financial possibilities of the existing proposals to do this, have this conversation. Because to answer your question, might change after 45 days of conversations with the halpern and psu teams. But I will say is part of the urgency of this timeline that we're pressing is so that whichever project is selected can come to us with their financing model. So we can so we can support it and get to work on implementing it. It's a little bit unfair for us to put the teams, to pen to paper on their finance model before they've been selected.

Speaker: So, you know, I mean, just putting on the table where we are at this point in time is not exactly what I expected. When we last convened on this, I thought we would have some formal analysis of staff on the relative merits of the different options. And frankly, we're lacking that in any detailed way. As as a body, we have community engagement is very, very important component of this. But I bring up only financial feasibility. I mean, it's just one of the many considerations here, but I guess I'm a little bit at a loss that we don't have further analysis, that we can even hang our hat on, on the relative merits of the two two options, and as I'm fast forwarding to what happens if we go through this process, what's the sequence of events if we get to the end of this process and we don't have a shared vision? As contemplated by the resolution, then we would go back to making a decision between the halpern or psu proposals.

Speaker: And it's our current understanding that at that time, we would have more clarity on their their proposed financial, development process.

Speaker: And I want to be crystal clear, I brought up financial feasibility as only one input into a complex analysis, just given the multiplying effect this is going to have on the entire downtown from, financial performance to social effervescence. I mean, you know, there there are a multitude of considerations here. I just but our so to be clear then, are you going to be on parallel paths analyzing the relative merits of the two proposals so that we actually have some something other than community engagement to hang our hats on here?

Speaker: Correct. Commissioner, there are several still unknowns that we have to solve for. So, for example, you've heard very clearly today that that closure of keller during renovation would be very difficult to sustain, so what would be the economic impacts of that? So we still have to do that analysis. And we have that. But just truly understand the alternative would be if we if the psu project was selected, what would be the financial impacts to the city's next steps on keller as an asset. Right. So there's a lot of deeper analysis that has to happen. We're acknowledging that. But before we get to that point, we still want to have this conversation with the two groups together to see if there's some some potential for a shared vision. And and i, you know, I want to just for the record, clarify, it's not that we're trying to piecemeal a new idea from their two proposals. I think that's not realistic. The idea is these are they're talented groups have strong vision and passion for this work. But can they deliver together in partnership with the city and our and our arts and labor partners? Of course, that aside, to answer your question, yes, when council hears, on October 9th, if there's not an alternative vision, we will be able to provide some analysis to the best of our ability. Today on what each project is providing.

Speaker: Would that include a formal recommendation?

Speaker: We'll have to get back to you on that. Okay.

Speaker: So then the next question is, as we talk about the process that's going to be engaged through the next x number of days through October ninth, what is the city's role in facilitating that conversation? And who who's doing it.

Speaker: So our team will be the spectator venues team. Carl, myself and Lauren will be participating in that. From a perspective, Sonja Szymanski will be invited, of course, as well representing vibrant communities, first meeting is the Halpern team with the PSU team. We're just going to set some parameters for the work ahead. It's going to be a really tight timeline, and then very shortly after, invite all the different parties that that the group seem, deemed necessary, whether it be arts or arts partners, labor partners, the table can't get too big, of course, because we have a short timeline, but this is going to be a very tight, you know, I'd call it almost a sprint, to October ninth is their existing models for this level of planning in the city that we should be considering?

Speaker: I mean, master plans or. I mean, we're we're we're literally defining the urban landscape for the next hundred years on multiple properties, on multiple pieces of property. I mean, it's it is there's nothing small about this. And so I'm, I'm just if we're going down this path, we're asking these two folks to sit at the table along with other key stakeholders. Then is this an insufficient process for the magnitude of that path?

Speaker: It is not ideal, commissioner. We've we've run processes like this across the city at times. I led several of these sorts of endeavors. Not on this tight of a timeline.

Speaker: I mean, I okay, I think I'm good for now.

Speaker: Commissioner Ryan, did you have your hand up?

Speaker: I did, yeah. Thank you, mayor. My question is, I think Sonia Szymanski could also help answer this, but, I'm glad that you and Sonia are working together.

The two acres of our arts and culture, our vibrant communities. My question is, will charity montez, the arts office, will they be at the table for this process?

Speaker: Hi, commissioner. This is sonia. Yes

Speaker: You just said yes to that. Okay. That made me very happy. Thanks

Speaker: Great. Does that complete questions? Please call the role Gonzalez.

Speaker: Well, one, I just want to again our appreciation of Portland members for their engagement in this process and the beautiful visions that have been articulated, really, by all three, locations, you know, I obviously we're at a different place than we expected when we last convened, I thought we would have a more formal recommendation. Doesn't look like that's in the cards. I'm concerned, given the compressed timeline, that we may not have, real formalized recommendations by October. I recognize you're going to make your best efforts, but that is concerning, and, if we're truly going to go down this path, I think the city can't be a passive player and facilitate facilitating the dialog. I think we need to help drive it, that still may not be sufficient, frankly, given the complexity of the project, but I will support this resolution at this point in time, I do think we have to hold ourselves all accountable that, this does appear to be avoiding making a tough decision, avoid, even giving this council a recommendation. I understand, I think that it's not an easy one, to give a recommendation in this context, but I just want to put on the record. I'm concerned that we're we opened a whole different can of worms that may require an entirely different type of process than the one we have engaged in to date. I love the idea of compromise, but, we are defining the future of a substantial portion of our city, and, just to echo our prior conversation, we have processes for that that we're not necessarily engaging in here. And, if we're going to think big, we should think big, right, but with that, I will support this resolution, for

now, yea. Rubio, I want to thank donnie and carl and the team of spectator venues and the visitor activities program for bringing this forward,

Speaker: I want to also thank the lloyd district team, for coming to show us what their vision for lloyd center. It was really beautiful, and while we didn't go forward with it, it was nice to know what's possible there, going forward, I do want to emphasize my enthusiasm for the collaboration here. And as, bob mentioned earlier in his presentation, the end result should be a win for Portland. And I want to make sure that we take a moment to acknowledge the magnitude of what this could bring to Portland, and also to our venue workers, our neighbors, Portlanders and all visitors that, come here for entertainment, I do have to say I'm disappointed that we aren't able to hear from the community or that it wasn't even mentioned in the project about climate and environmental impacts. After extensive discussion about it, and especially in this next phase, it was one of my three concerns that I clearly outlined climate impacts, financial impacts, and worker impacts. And the only one asked that that I had to include in the survey. So for that, for me, that was a miss, and i'll be really looking for more information here in October, i'll also be looking forward to learning about the proposed funding sources and the financial feasibility for this joint venture. And specifically, what will we be asking of each jurisdictional public sector partner, what will we be asking from the private sector and then funding bodies like the visitor development fund board or any other, are there any other external partners that that we haven't? That have yet to be identified, and finally, i'll want to i'll be wanting to see how there's meaningful partnership and engagement with labor partners to mitigate work impacts on the workers and also to ensure good, equitable workforce opportunities. So I just want to be really clear, that that is what I will be using to assess and to inform my vote in November, but the bottom line for me is that it's a very, very exciting moment in

Portland. The culmination of this work, how we're reinvesting and revitalizing the next entertainment district that benefits all of us. And it will shape the cultural experience of all of us for the next generation, and to the two proposers, I just want to say a big, big thank you for your passion, and for the arts and for this project. And I really just want to lift up the leadership that you've undertaken to collaborate and partner on this, so that we have an even better outcome and, and a vision that's yet to be imagined. So I can't can't wait to see what this joint vision evolves to become. I'm very hopeful. And I look forward to October. I vote, i, Ryan.

Speaker: Yeah, first of all, thank you all for being here today. The engagement and testimony was compelling. It was also very stimulating. I want to start by saying to labor, you are front and center in this plan. No matter what. You were the first to go home in 2020 and the last to return. We must keep you busy with no interruptions. The show must go on to the arts. Residents, I hear you and you are top of mind as we move forward. Please see the hope over the fear as we move forward. And I must add, if I'm on this council, we will work with metro to improve the tipping point of doom. The current p5 contracts they have become untenable for all of our local arts groups. So for our residents, I see you. Your shows must go on and I thank you in advance for thinking out of the box to halprin landscape conservancy for your seven plus years of work you have dedicated to this project. Thank you for your devotion to Portland. During our most challenging chapter. Your patience is definitely one of your virtues to psu, my former employer. When I moved back home in 1996, being on the development team through 2005. Thank you for showing up and being ready to be a player. Thank you in advance for being collaborative and creative as you show up at the table with your halprin friends and friends, you all are. I know many of you and you've been with I've been people in both camps and you're united and mutual helpers for this city. Friends who have a

vast experience working with government to move our city forward. I apologize for all of us that this has been less than smooth, direct, and collaborative. As the mayor knows, I have wanted this action months ago, and so I'm glad we're here today. I also apologize that the city created an internal team that has been biased, and I'm grateful that the conversations Mr. Rubio and I have had with DC aides Oliveira and DC Szymanski has allowed us to work together to move along an objective results in data driven process that we can make the best decision for the stakeholders.

Previously mentioned and for the people of Portland. It is well past time that we regain objectivity and focus on the primary common goal that downtown Portland must have a state of the art performance hall. In addition, the people who live, work and visit downtown deserve an urban landscape that includes a restoration of the historic and world renowned Halprin fountain sequence and of course, our city deserves a high performing, higher education institution that is robust and full of activity. We all miss the Monday through Friday impact of PSU on south downtown. You're free dirt at the tip of downtown is an opportunity. The unforced error of blindly moving forward as two separate projects is over. We have wasted enough time. Today. We can move with a shared goal of building a state of the art performance hall with an upgraded Halprin fountain sequence in our downtown. Yes, we have tough decisions ahead of us, but now we have two groups that are focused on the same common goal advice to those at the table. Enjoy the tension in your conversations. That is a sign of a productive meeting. Let the collective room be smarter than any one idea or any one of you, and expect we can come together with civic pride and move forward. We must paddle in the same direction. We have a couple more facts in addition to protecting labor and lifting our arts residents, Keller is on our general ledger. The city of Portland's general ledger. We are responsible for it to be active in a prime location. And PSU is at the table with a

vision for dirt. So how can we capitalize on that? Portland. This is an opportunity, not a problem. We cannot kick this down the road any longer. I will track closely with the dcr and ensure that we vote in early October. We have right size, the internal bias. We have capable public servants leading this work and I will not support any further delays. Please look beyond the construction deadlines and of the next few years and thank this out for the next 50. I look forward to making a decision based on your best objective and strategic thinking in 56 days. That is what our that is our job as leaders. Let's go.

Speaker: Wheeler.

Speaker: Well, first of all, I want to thank everybody who is here today. Lots of different perspectives, lots of different ideas, but maybe more than anything I heard more than anything else experience. And there is somebody in this room who has direct personal, extensive experience resolving each and every one of the different challenges that was raised. And i, for one, am energized by this process. Nothing motivates me more than a deadline and a task where the community will ultimately have to compromise. You will not get everything you want. There is nobody in this room who is going to walk away from this project. Having gotten everything they wanted, myself included. My colleagues included our city employees, and everybody is here. The question before us really is can we find a compromise that works, that achieves the vast majority of the goals that we've set for ourselves? And I'm highly confident that we can, and I'm eager to prove it. I also want to thank tom killbane, krista bailey, and the entire lloyd center team for their proposal. I actually thought it was an amazing, innovative, creative proposal. And even as they said during their presentation, they did it on an extremely short timeline. And while we've consolidated our thinking to the downtown core, I also want to acknowledge that the work that's going on at lloyd is really important to the

future of the city, and I and my colleagues will continue to strongly support their efforts as they seek to bring more activity and more dollars and development to the Lloyd district. And I hope they're hearing this, and they're hearing that commitment from me, and maybe more importantly, from my colleagues who will be here a lot, a lot longer than I than I am. I agree with the challenge that was put on the table and I'm sorry, I don't remember which of my commissioners, but one of the commissioners mentioned that we cannot be passive in this process. This isn't a process that just unfolds if we want it badly enough, then we have to all be engaged in this process. I will commit to being personally engaged to the degree that you can stand. Being in the room with me, I would like to see this project through. I would like us to have a clear, decisive decision about where we are headed with this project. By the time I walk out the door at midnight on 1231, and I sense there's a lot of interest here in this room, but I will close with where I opened, which is this will necessarily be a process with compromise, even if we end up just choosing one project or the other. Because think about it for a moment. There are some significant obstacles to any of these projects being successful. Not the least of which is how do you pay for it? And we also know that each of the locations psu and the keller current keller location come with significant challenges, and we're going to have to really innovate the heck out of those challenges to figure out how to overcome them. But I would like us to do that. Last but not least, I want to end on a note of gratitude to my city employees who were directed by us to do this work. Thank you. I think we're starting to learn that the new executive branch is going to be under a lot of pressure, that the work may be thankless, but you will continue to provide excellent work for all of us. And I think our commitment to you is we will also be self-actualized. We will seek you out, and we will work with you on issues that we think are important to us, rather than waiting for a presentation and then

saying we're disappointed because it didn't include something that we never told you we wanted in the presentation. In the first place. This presentation, to be clear, was narrow, and it was focused on a narrow question which we raised, which is, can these two proposals be merged? That's the question before us today. And the council is unanimously saying we're interested in hearing that question answered. We only have, as commissioner Ryan said, a several dozen days to answer that question. But I remain confident we can answer it in the affirmative. But as I said at the beginning, if it turns out we cannot, we will move forward with one proposal or the other, because that's our job. And frankly, I don't know if you can make a recommendation to us. I think what you're going to do is provide us pros and cons from each of those proposals, and it's going to be up to us to make that tough decision about which ones do we think we can overcome, on what timeline with what resources, and how do we work with our partners in a collaborative way that the community feels that they are brought along, that they are heard, and that what we choose at the end of the day is something they can be proud of for generations to come. So with that, I will vote. I the resolution is adopted and we are adjourned.