

Portland City Council Agenda
 Written Testimony - Item 771

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
771	Michael Fuller		<p>Commissioners,</p> <p>The City Attorney's Office is asking you to help overturn the jury's verdict in the civil rights case of The Estate of Michael Townsend vs City of Portland (22CV05575) by voting to appeal the Court's judgment. I represent the Estate of Michael Townsend.</p> <p>Tomorrow you will hear testimony from Michael Townsend's sister, a local mental health expert, a PSU de-escalation professor, and an actual juror from the Townsend trial. We hope that after hearing this testimony, you will vote "NO" on the resolution, if for any reason, just to spare the Townsend family the extreme grief and pain associated with a prolonged appeal and potentially another trial.</p> <p>If, after hearing the witnesses' testimony, you are still considering whether to authorize the appeal, we ask that you please review the important documents below from the trial itself, so you can best understand why the judges in this case and the jury ruled the way they did in favor of the Townsend Estate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 9-minute video shown to the jury of the interaction between PPB and Mr. Townsend. 2. The deposition video shown to the jury of the deposition designations of Officer Brown. 3. The transcripts of expert testimony heard by the jury from Adam Bercovici, Tom Hastings, and Roger Clark. <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Take care,</p> <p>Michael Fuller Partner Underdog Law Office</p>	No	09/03/24 4:54 PM
771	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>771 Townsend Testimony</p> <p>Good morning/afternoon, council members.</p> <p>My name is Heather Van Wilde. I'm an ordained cleric, an independent legal journalist, a mandated reporter, a disabled person, and a victim of police violence in Portland, Oregon. I speak today from the last two positions.</p> <p>It's disheartening that I have little faith in our system, believing many of you have already made up your minds, and just waiting until I shut up. I hope you prove me wrong.</p> <p>In 2012, Portland Police were sued by the DoJ for a 'pattern or practice of unconstitutional use of force' against individuals with mental health issues. Nearly a decade later, in 2021, Mr. Townsend, another person with a mental health condition, was killed by a Portland Police officer. The tools were in place to provide appropriate services, yet the city, under Mayor Wheeler and Chief Lovell, failed Mr. Townsend, as they have many others in crisis.</p> <p>As a legal journalist, I reviewed court filings in this case, finding a token settlement offer (called a 'nuisance offer') and resistance to mediation that disturbed me. Now, city attorneys seek a second bite at the apple, arguing the jury wasn't properly instructed on police use of force. This would have been unnecessary if the city had done its job.</p> <p>Portland should not be an arbiter of life and death. When a city employee wrongly kills someone, their family deserves compensation. Mr. Townsend's loss can never be made whole, but the city can at least acknowledge its failure.</p> <p>Portland residents overwhelmingly voted for a citizen-led police accountability system, yet the current council seems intent on weakening it before it starts. Most of you have been on the record second guessing the voters.</p> <p>This is your chance to prove me wrong. This is a chance for you to say 'we care about ALL Portlanders, and this is how we start to show it'.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote against this request for an appeal.</p>	No	09/04/24 1:50 AM

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3 771	Anonymous	Oppose	I am disappointed that the City of Portland is appealing this decision. Legal decisions in the lower courts were made based on Oregon law, and the jury determined the facts. I am disappointed as a taxpayer to see the City fighting to avoid accountability for negligent policing. We can do better, and NOT allowing the appeal in this case is a good first step toward building citizen's trust in the city and its law enforcement. It is terrifying to think that the City is this committed to allowing officers to negligently kill people with mental health issues as opposed to using available resources to avoid unnecessary death.	No	09/04/24 10:11 AM

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	771	Michael Fuller
2	771	Denise Chapman
3	771	Tom Hastings
4	771	Rachel Steven
5	771	Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch
6	771	Kelly Jones
7	771	Brian Conley
8	771	Nate Haberman
9	771	Cleric Heather Van Wilde