

Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony  
Document Number 2025-012

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 Anonymous	Oppose	We need a new city attorney that will pushback on city council and city agency leadership when it engages in unconstitutional race based focus on city policy and delivery of services. Why does the city youth violence division primarily ship taxpayer dollars to Black churches to run religious programs? This is ridiculous funding of religious based programming.	No	02/02/25 3:35 PM
2 Diana Meisenhelter			Yes	02/05/25 9:03 AM

**From:** [Diane Meisenhelter](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk](#); [Councilor Zimmerman](#); [Councilor Kanal](#); [Councilor Avalos](#); [Councilor Avalos](#); [Councilor Novick](#); [Councilor Smith](#); [Councilor Green](#); [Councilor Morillo](#); [Councilor Pirtle-Guiney](#); [Councilor Ryan](#); [Councilor Clark](#); [Councilor Dunphy](#); [Councilor Koyamalane](#)  
**Subject:** Longer Written testimony for the record on confirmation of Jordan and Taylor:  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 7:27:42 AM

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At the 350pdx mayoral forum I asked the question about whether there would be a national search for the City administrator and would it involve public engagement? I felt reassured by Candidate Wilson's response. He began by quoting a favorite of mine "nothing about us without us". He talked about a national search looking for a record of success we could verify in cities similar in size to Portland and then testing their fit with our values and having public engagement in that process. Experiencing a great sense of dismay about the Zenith decision-making process over this past month I would urge you to consider carefully before deciding on these two confirmations. Multiple times community groups reached out and have not been able to meet with Jordan nor did we get thoughtful responses to numerous important communications. Instead, we witnessed a presentation by City staff and invited guest Zenith filled with omissions, misleading information, and evasion of important questions raised by Council members. Councilors are the policy makers and this is an important precedent setting decision that Jordan oversaw and your involvement should not have been circumvented. State findings and City code backed up by staff's own admissions clearly place both the '22 and '24 decision beyond administrative into the discretionary quasi-judicial realm. Plus Zenith's operations are incompatible with multiple sections of the Comprehensive Plan and other Portland Policies which LUBA determined the City had the right to pursue. City attorney Taylor, when pressed publicly conceded that there were options for Council involvement, but then did not help you pursue them, because staff had already decided what **they** wanted to do. Donnie conceded, when pressed, that the City did not need to meet the Feb. 4th deadline.

I asked my question at the mayoral debate, not because of Zenith but because as someone who had followed the City's so-called climate emergency plan (as well as emergency planning as a NET volunteer, housing policies, and public safety) carefully over the past four years, I knew that the same players, some of whom have now been promoted under Jordan, worked behind the scenes with industry and business interests to help shelf or delay progressive policies and sometimes pushed forward other policies that were not in the best interest for reducing emissions, public health, or for the public or environmental good. We know what happened with the Portland Clean Air Protection program; we supported Bob Sallinger as he unsuccessfully tried to keep developers from doing away with even minor, but hard fought concessions like glass to prevent bird crashes, green roofs, bike racks; we've followed the work around the clean up of superfund sites ; the discussions around the Economic Opportunities Plan; the delay on even the mildest options for the Phase I Build Shift plan much less actual decarbonization; the city's freeway expansion contributions; and the list goes on. And this is just in the environmental realm, while similar concerns could be listed for other crucial City staff policy recommendations. In the midst of a true climate emergency, we don't

have time for these antics. We cannot afford leaders without courage nor players who have let Portland slide backward from being a progressive beacon of what needs to be done in localities across the country. At this point, many cities have surpassed us in many realms and I believe we could learn from their skilled implementers. We've managed to transform City governance and have this promising City Council to build from, but you must fight for your power and show your strength together to ensure that YOU remain the policy makers. In these difficult times ahead, YOU need city staff implementers you can trust to deliver well on what you decide and what voters have called for. We need and want transparency, honesty, accountability, oversight and public engagement. We fear the old bureaucratic culture hasn't and may be incapable of allowing this new governance experiment to move forward in the best of ways and with the support it needs instead of being a barrier.

On Zenith, please support Councilor Green and Morillo's upcoming resolutions.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

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