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February 19, 2025 Public Communications

Public Communication

Public Comment

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The following community members will address Council for public communications:

1. **Val Burns** – Dawson park
2. **Laura Curry** – Neighborhood impacts of PPOP (Portland People's Outreach Project)
3. **Joe Alfone*** – Thanks Mayor Wilson acknowledging my campaign! Happy Wood Snake 2025!
4. **Chuck Crockett** – Jurisdiction, governing body
5. **Thomas Karwaki** – Historic Kenton Firehouse and Neighborhoods Assistance to Houseless

*Portland Advocates for Lead Free Drinking Water cancelled their request regarding Portland Water Bureau is not entitled to their own facts. The cancelled spot has been filled by an individual from the public communications waitlist.

Document History

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Agenda	Council action
February 19, 2025 Public Communications City Council	Placed on File

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Requested Agenda Type

Public Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date February 19, 2025
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From: [Thomas Karwaki](#)
To: [Council Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comments of Tom Karwaki to Council
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 4:56:06 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Karwaki, University Park Neighborhood Association Chair, NECN Co-Chair, & Treasurer of St Johns Food Share

My written and oral comments are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect those of the groups I am an officer of (except St Johns Food Share)

Councilors: Did you have a good sandwich or meal tonight? My backyard neighbors in the SRV (Safe Rest Village) did, thanks to the hospitality of the City.

Did you have a breakfast today? Did you have a lunch? My backyard neighbors did not. How do you feel when you are hungry? Now imagine you are trying to recover (like 50% of my neighbors at the Peninsula Safe Rest Village). Being hungry doesn't help recovery. Why are they hungry? Because the City doesn't pay.

St Johns Food Share provides supplemental food to 5,000 folks in North Portland each month. It is the main source of food for most of the SRV and County run shelters and villages. And will be for the 50 City and 100 County new guests at Bybee Lake Hope Center.

When you are making budget decisions - don't forget to authorize and appropriate some funds - \$5-10,000 for each of the neighborhood food banks throughout the City that serve the SRVs and TASS "guests".

Now I'm addicted, as are you, to City Council meetings. Last week you kept a safe rest site for folks in RVs open – at a cost of \$2.5 million for 3 months or you do the math – about \$80,000 per RV or more. And they still wake up hungry each morning.

We need to do better at getting folks into recovery. That's why we in University Park are pleased that Urban Alchemy is helping 50% of guests avail themselves of services, while many City vendors are at 15%.

On neighborhoods – the City spends about \$1.6 million to the district coalitions. About \$100,000 gets to the neighborhood associations. About \$150,000 is spent on insurance to keep the Risk Management managers that you met with yesterday sleep at night. Neighborhoods and the district coalitions were intended to be private-public partnerships – but now over 90% of their funds come from the City. The City needs to EQUIP these groups to become self-sufficient – and not just keep them on life support.

I wore out a pair of shoes last summer – I bet you did too – listening to residents at their doors. There's a lot of folks rooting for you. Now let's get to work and make Portland be the best it can be.

Thomas Karwaki
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