

Parsons, Susan

From: Eric Fruits [eric.fruits@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Cc: Adams, Sam; Fritz, Amanda; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Saltzman; Leonard, Randy
Subject: Agenda item #767: Revise transportation fees, rates and charges for FY July 2010-2011

Mayor Adams and City Commissioners:

I respectfully request that the City Council delay voting on the above agenda item.

Of particular concern are the proposed new "leaf removal fees."

Leaf removal fees are a contentious issue in which many reasonable people disagree. It is a topic that demands extensive input from city stakeholders. Every time such fees have been proposed in the past, the public has had a vigorous and thoughtful discussion of the proposed fees and who would pay them.

As president of a neighborhood association, I am especially disturbed that the affected neighborhood associations have had no notice whatsoever of the proposed new fees. Everyone in Laurelhurst benefits from leaf removal and everyone would be affected by the additional costs. Even so, our neighborhood association had no knowledge of the proposed fees until after discussion was cut off.

The new charges were buried on page 16 of a 24 page document that was not made available to the public until only a few days before the first reading. This did not provide sufficient time for interested parties to learn of--let alone comment on--the proposed new fees. In fact, the first news of the new fees appeared in the newspaper of record after the only opportunity for public comment had passed.

Thank you for your consideration.

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