

PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ TERRI SORENSEN	FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN, 44 NE MORRIS, PORTLAND, OR 97212	tsorensen@friendsofthechildren.org
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Moore-Love, Karla

3 6 9 7 9

From: Callahan, Shannon
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Testimony Council #1365
Attachments: Schrunk Childrens Levy.pdf

Karla – We received this letter from Mike Schrunk regarding Council Item # 1365. Thank you, Shannon

Shannon Callahan
Office of Commissioner Saltzman
City of Portland
1221 S.W. 4th Avenue, Room 230
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503.823.4151

12/3/2012



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MICHAEL D. SCHRUNK, District Attorney for Multnomah County
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December 5, 2012

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
City of Portland
1221 S. W. Fourth Avenue, Room 230
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Saltzman:

This letter is written in support of the Portland Children's Levy. The Portland Children's Levy, formerly the Children's Investment Fund was created by the Portland city voters in 2002 and renewed in the fall of 2008. The Portland Children's Levy has achieved a remarkable record of success, funding 57 different programs for children ages birth through high school including early childhood school mentoring, child abuse prevention, and foster care, just to name a few.

Being the District Attorney for nearly 32 years I can say with complete confidence that this is a program that benefits every citizen in the community and it is one of the reasons we can offer a bright future for Portland youth.

Again, I regret that I am unable to attend the session today.

Very truly yours,


MICHAEL D. SCHRUNK
District Attorney

MDS:plc

36979

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Beth Cohen [bcohen@oregonfoodbank.org]
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2012 12:13 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Testimony for Dec. 5th City Council meeting
Attachments: OFB testimony for Dec. 5th city council meeting.pdf

Ms. Moore-Love—

I would like to submit Oregon Food Bank's testimony for the Dec. 5th City Council meeting (see attached). Our testimony is on agenda item 1365—the referral of the renewal of Portland Children's Levy to City voters. Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks,

Beth
Beth Cohen
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12/3/2012



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Testimony of Jon Stubenvoll before Portland City Council
Portland Children's Levy Reauthorization Referral
December 5th, 2012

Good morning Mayor Adams and City Council. My name is Jon Stubenvoll and I am the Director of Advocacy for Oregon Food Bank (OFB).

I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify today in relation to the Portland Children's Levy referral. OFB supports targeting of levy funds to programs that address childhood and family hunger as an effective strategy to help stabilize families and allow children to thrive.

Children in Portland are disproportionately impacted by hunger. In Portland, children make up about 19 percent of the population, but about 34 percent of those eating emergency food from the OFB Network are children. This means that about 14,000 children in Portland eat emergency food from the Oregon Food Bank Network each month.

Even as the economy has slightly improved in the last year, Oregon Food Bank is continuing to see families and households in the Portland area struggle with food insecurity and lack of access to healthy food. Since the beginning of 2012, demand for emergency food in the Portland area has increased by about 11 percent. OFB recently completed its Hunger Factors Assessment, a survey of emergency food box clients. This year, the survey's 4500 respondents from across the state and 500 in Portland highlighted their struggles with food insecurity and other issues.

Chronic hunger experienced by many households in Portland forces families to make difficult choices. 36 percent of families with children who were surveyed reported having to cut the size of their children's meals or have their children skip meals in the last year because there was not enough money for food.

The stories we hear from partner agencies and the data we collect on who is receiving emergency food underline how hunger is usually not an isolated problem for most families. Households with children that are struggling to meet their basic food needs must also deal with unemployment, underemployment and rising costs for all essential goods and services. Nearly 40 percent of households with children in Portland that OFB surveyed report incomes at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty line, which is \$11,000 a year for a family of four. In addition, out of the households surveyed, those with children are more likely to have an unemployed adult than households without children. High costs of food, gas, health care and child-care are also driving households to seek emergency food.

... because no one should be
HUNGRY

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Hunger negatively impacts a child's academic performance, cognitive development, growth, and physical and psychological health and without intervention, these impacts stay with children throughout their entire life. Children suffering from food insecurity are more likely to experience poor health including headaches and stomachaches, respiratory infections and nutrient deficiency; repeated exposure appears to be particularly damaging. Hungry children have lower school achievement, increased absenteeism, impaired ability to think, poor behavior, and a higher likelihood of repeating a grade. Food insecurity experiences also influence children's social skills including self-control, attentiveness and task persistence. Yet, household food insecurity is a situation that can be identified and treated with existing and available resources such as food assistance programs and emergency food. These interventions can help prevent developmental problems in children and increases the chances that children can grow up to be productive and successful adults.

Multi-faceted strategies and programs are crucial to helping families not only address hunger, but become more stabilized in the long term. Programs that provide childhood services such as early childhood investment, after-school and health care allow families to target limited resources to other necessities such as housing and food. Families surveyed by OFB identified employment as the number-one way that families could improve their situation, but also testified to the importance of crucial services such as affordable housing, health care, affordable child care, transportation, drug or alcohol abuse treatment and counseling in reducing dependence on emergency food.

Select agencies in the OFB Network receive funding from the Portland Children's Levy and are very grateful for this support. The levy provides funding to OFB's partner agencies for programs ranging from after-school enrichment to therapeutic intervention services to home-based pre-kindergarten. Funding from the levy is crucial to our partner agencies as they work to address the increasing need for supportive services including hunger relief. In the face of growing need and limited budgets, these agencies are continually exploring new ways to effectively serve families and children including providing wrap-around services and leveraging existing community resources.

We believe that addressing hunger requires partnerships between the public and private sectors and the city of Portland has been an incredibly supportive partner and collaborator in the fight to eliminate hunger. We appreciate the support that the city of Portland has provided to Oregon Food Bank over the years and we look forward to working with you to further address childhood hunger in our city.

Thank you and I'm happy to respond to questions.

Jon Stubenvoll
Director of Advocacy
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