

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING A

Chair Deborah Kafoury called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Vice-Chair Lori Stegmann and Commissioners Sharon Meieran, Jessica Vega Pederson present. Commissioner Loretta Smith was excused.

Also attending was Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

IRCO: The Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization

Lee Po Cha: GOOD EVENING TO YOU ALL. ON BEHALF OF IRCO I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTY CHAIRS AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THEM TO TAKE THEIR PROCESS TO OUR COMMUNITY, SO ON BEHALF OF IRCO I AM SO PLEASED. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. [APPLAUSE]

Paul Lumley: THE COALITION WAS FORMED IN 2001, AND IS AN ALLIANCE OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WITH REPRESENTATION FROM AFRICAN, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, ASIAN, LATINO, NATIVE AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND SLAVIC. THE MISSION OF THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES, INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, AND INTERSECT OF SERVICE EXPERIENCED BY OUR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN. THE COALITION HELPS US TO ORGANIZE OUR COMMUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION RESULTING IN SOCIAL CHANGE TO OBTAIN SELF DETERMINATION, WELLNESS, JUSTICE, AND POVERTY. MULTNOMAH HAS COME A LONG WAY OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, AND I RECOGNIZE THE PROGRESS AND SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. THANK YOU. THE COALITION HAS MANY INTERESTS IN MULTNOMAH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING BUT NOT EXCLUDING INADVERTENTLY SUN SCHOOLS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AGING AND DISABILITY, YOUTH GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, HOMELESSNESS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND DRUG REHABILITATION, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, AND CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ARTS EDUCATION. SO CLEARLY MUCH MORE MUST BE DONE BUT OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS RUN DEEP AS WE CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY AND PARTNERSHIP. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM OUR COMMITTEES OF COLOR TONIGHT AND HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THEM. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE] LET US NOW TURN IT BACK TO OUR COUNTY CHAIR, SO THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. I AM DEBRA KAFOURY, AND I AM YOUR MULTNOMAH CHAIR. I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TONIGHT. THIS IS OUR FIRST PUBLIC HEARING, OUR BUDGET PROCESS HAS JUST START YESTERDAY SO WE'RE RIGHT AT THE VERY BEGINNING. WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL COMING OUT TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS, YOUR HOPES AND YOUR DREAMS, WE'RE ALSO HAVING TWO MORE HEARINGS AFTER TONIGHT. WE'RE HAVING ONE NEXT WEEK ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THEN ALSO NEXT WEEK'S HEARING WILL BE WEDNESDAY MAY 3 AT THE MULTNOMAH BUILDING ON HAWTHORNE AND GRAND, SOUTHEAST PORTLAND, AND THEN THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY MAY 10 WE'RE HAVING A PUBLIC HEARING OUT IN EAST COUNTY AT OUR EAST COUNTY BUILDING. BOTH THOSE START AT 6:00. SO IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY WHO WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT HERE TONIGHT AND THEY WANT TO COME A DIFFERENT TIME TO TESTIFY, THOSE TIMES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE IS AT ANY TIME. WOULD ANYBODY WHO IS WORKING IN MY -- ON MY STAFF, MULTNOMAH COUNTY RAISE YOUR HAND OR STAND UP. THERE THEY ARE, KIM AND ADAM CAN HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS OR ABOUT ANY PARTICULAR PROGRAMS. I WANT TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT WE DO HAVE INTERPRETER SERVICES HERE TONIGHT SO IF YOU SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AND YOU WANT SOMEONE TO HELP YOU, MARINA IN THE BACK CAN HELP HOOK YOU UP WITH AN INTERPRETER. CAN YOU RAISE YOUR HAND? THAT'S WHERE INTERPRETIVE SERVICES ARE IF YOU NEED LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE. HEAD ON OVER THERE. AGAIN WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN TO YOU. WE WON'T BE RESPONDING TO YOUR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS TONIGHT. WE ARE HERE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE ARE HAPPY TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION AFTERWARDS. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND NOW I WOULD LIKE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

Commissioner Meieran: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. MY NAME IS SHARON MEIERAN, AND I AM THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM DISTRICT 1. THAT'S ALL OF THE WEST SIDE AND INTER-SOUTHEAST OUT TO CHAVEZ. I CONSIDER ALL OF THE COUNTY -- ALL OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE TONIGHT AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. MY STAFF IN THE BACK, HIS NAME IS KYLE. KYLE -- HE'S IN THE BACK, THERE HE IS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME.

Commissioner Vega Pederson: GOOD EVENING EVERYONE. CAN YOU HEAR ME? OH, THERE, NOW YOU CAN HEAR ME. GOOD EVENING, I AM JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON, THE MULTNOMAH COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 3 SO EVERYONE HERE TONIGHT IS IN DISTRICT 3 SO WELCOME. MY DISTRICT GOES FROM CESAR CHAVEZ ALL THE WAY OUT TO 148TH SO A BIG PART OF EAST PORTLAND WHICH IS WHERE I CALL HOME. AND MY FAMILY LIVES OVER BY DAVID DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL SO IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OUT HERE TONIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME OUT HERE. I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO LISTENING TONIGHT TO HEARING YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE BUDGET AND ABOUT THE MULTNOMAH GOVERNMENT. SO THANK YOU.

Commissioner Stegmann; GOOD EVENING. I AM LORI STEGMANN, AND I AM THE COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 4, WHICH REPRESENTS SOUTHEAST 148TH APPROXIMATELY AND GOES ALL THE WAY OUT PAST MULTNOMAH FALLS, SO I AM THRILLED TO BE HERE AND HEAR WHAT YOUR CONCERNS AND WHAT YOUR INPUT IS AS WE DELIBERATE ON THE BUDGET. MY STAFF HAD A FLAT TIRE SO SHE WILL BE HERE BUT AS SOON AS SHE GETS HERE, HER NAME IS JANET. SHE IS AND SHE IS BILINGUAL SO IF WE HAVE ANY SPANISH SPEAKING FOLKS, JANET IS HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOU AFTERWARDS.

Commissioner Vega Pederson: I REALIZE I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE EVERYBODY TO MY STAFF. CAN YOU GUYS STAND UP IN THE BACK SO WE HAVE CHRIS? AND HAYDEN AND ANNA, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR ANY PROGRAMS THAT YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO SPEAK WITH THEM. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: BEFORE LINDA GROW, WHO IS OUR BOARD CLERK, SHE'S GOING TO CALL PEOPLE UP TO TESTIFY AND EVERYONE WILL HAVE TWO MINUTES TO SPEAK BUT I ALSO WANTED TO EXPRESS MY CONDOLENCES THAT COMMISSIONER LORETTA SMITH IS UNABLE TO ATTEND TONIGHT. SHE IS HOME ILL SO WE HOPE THAT SHE HAS A SPEEDY RECOVERY AND I KNOW THAT SHE IS SORRY TO MISS TONIGHT BECAUSE THIS IS ALL OF OUR FAVORITE TOWN HALL. THANKS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public Testimony will be taken. This is a time for the Board to hear Public testimony, not for Board deliberation. Time to testify will be decided by the Chair Based on the number of folks who sign up

Board Clerk: WHEN I CALL THE YOUR NAME PLEASE COME FORWARD. [NAMES READ]

Dio Bandari: I WILL GO FIRST. GOOD EVENING COUNSELORS, MY NAME IS DIO BENDARI PROGRAM. BEING A REFUGEE FOR 23 YEARS, AND THEN ARRIVING TO THE UNITED STATES 2.5 YEARS AGO MY EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES HAS SHOWN ME THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR [INAUDIBLE] PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES CULTURALLY SPECIFIC CASE MANAGEMENT TO ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER, SLAVIC, AND AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY TO SUPPORT [INAUDIBLE] AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING. OUR

BILINGUAL. WE HAVE COME FROM THE COMMUNITIES THAT THEY ARE SERVING [INAUDIBLE] AND RESTORE JUSTICE. THE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SUPPORT ARE CRITICAL [INAUDIBLE] SHOWS THAT CURRENT REFUGEES ARE STRUGGLING TO BENCHMARK MORE THAN 75% OF AFRICAN CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY AND SLAVIC YOUTH LIKE BEHIND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN LITERACY SCORES AN AVERAGE OF 10%. IRCO YOUTH AT ADVOCATE HEALTH OF OUR NEWCOMERS INTO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND BRIDGE THE GAPS BETWEEN OUR SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES. OUR APPROACH MEET STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AT SCHOOL, HOME [INAUDIBLE] AND FACILITATE THE SERVICES TO THE RISK FACTORS SUCH AS CULTURAL [INAUDIBLE] LANGUAGE BARRIER, BEHAVIORAL ISSUES AND BASIC NEEDS.

Dio Bandari: I HAVE WORKED WITH SEVERAL FAMILIES AND HAVE CONNECTED THEM TO DIFFERENT WRAP-AROUND SERVICES, RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE TO HELP PREVENT THEM FROM BEING BY KEEPING OUR FAMILIES STABLE OUR CHILDREN WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL. OUR PROGRAMS HAVE A STRONG TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS WITH 85% OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATING 90% OR MORE ATTENDANCE IN THE SCHOOLS AND 85% OF HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS OBTAIN A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FUNDING FROM MULTNOMAH COUNTY. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE OUTCOME FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES IN OUR COUNTRY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Jan Yu Won: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) DEAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MY NAME IS [INAUDIBLE], MY TWO BOYS ARE A SEVENTH GRADER AT HARRISON PARK. WE WERE EMIGRATED OVER FROM CHINA A YEAR AGO. WE DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH. MY TWO BOYS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR IRCO ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER, SUN YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM HELP US CONNECT WITH SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY. IT ALSO HELP IMPROVES OUR KIDS' GRADE IN ENGLISH AS WELL AS IMPROVE OUR LIFE BY CONNECTING US WITH ALL THE IRCO SERVICES. THANK YOU COMMISSIONERS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Maria: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) MY NAME IS MARIA. MY DAUGHTER IS, UM, IS GOING TO DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL. WE ARE HERE FOR THREE MONTHS ONLY. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW WE CAN GO THROUGH THIS HARD TIME WITHOUT IRCO. IS THAT BETTER? I VERY APPRECIATE THE HELP FROM THE PROGRAM. BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER HAVE THE PROBLEM. IRCO IS HELPING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM HELPS THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE SCHOOL AND UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT CULTURE. WHEN THEY ARE GOING TO THE SCHOOL I HAVE NO CONCERNS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THERE IS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE IRCO WHO

ARE HELPING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL, FULL-TIME STUDENTS. THERE IS A PERSON WHO HELPS THEM. SHE IS TOURING THE SCHOOL AND SHE IS INTERPRETING WHEN IT'S NEEDED. AS A PARENT I CAN SAY THIS PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IS VERY IMPORTANT HERE. IT HELPS TO OUR KIDS TO BUILD A FUTURE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FORGIVING ME TIME TO PARTICIPATE HERE AND ADDRESS MY CONCERNS. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: HELLO.

Illiana Seyena: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) WE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES 24 YEARS AGO. I AM VERY APPRECIATE THAT EVEN THOUGH WE ARE HERE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME BUT MY KIDS HAVE A [INAUDIBLE] WHO IS HELPING HIM WITH SCHOOL. I APPRECIATE THAT IRCO HELPED TO PAY THE BILLS. I APPRECIATE IT. I ALSO WANTED TO SAY IF THERE WILL BE AN OPEN PROGRAM AND ALSO THERE WILL BE LIKE A RENT ASSISTANCE OR HOUSING ASSISTANCE, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS, AS WELL. THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME PLEASE COME FORWARD. [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: WHY DON'T YOU START.

Alan Manley: SHOULD I USE THIS? OH, THERE IT IS. GOOD EVENING. I AM ALAN MANLEY AND I WORK FOR SELF ENHANCEMENT INCORPORATED IN THE HOUSING PROGRAM, AND I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR THE LAST 23 YEARS WORKING WITH SELF ENHANCEMENT BUT DIRECTLY WITH HOUSING FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS. AND I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BUDGET THAT WE HAVE, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE, THE COMMUNITY FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, IF WE DID NOT HAVE THIS BUDGET. NOT ONLY ARE WE ABLE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH HOUSING BUT WE ARE ALSO ABLE TO MAKE SURE THAT. THEY ARE STABLE, AND THEY ARE ON AN INDEPENDENT PATH TO SUCCESS. WITH THAT COMES HELPING THEM TO PAY THEIR RENT, POSSIBLY THEIR UTILITIES, HELPING THEM WITH EMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS HELPING THEM WITH OTHER THINGS LIKE A FINANCIAL PROGRAM. WE PROVIDE WRAP-AROUND SERVICES WITH SCI, AND IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BUDGET LIKE I SAID BEFORE WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE, THOSE CONTINUED SERVICES, SO WE GIVE YOU A LOUD SHOUT OUT AND WE THANK YOU AND WE HOPE TO SEE THE BUDGET CONTINUE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

Amina Abu: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) MY NAME IS AMINA ABU. I AM HERE TO SHARE WITH YOU THAT I'VE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES 11 YEARS. I CAME TO PORTLAND IN 2012. I WAS HOMELESS. SO THE AFRICAN HOUSE PEOPLE, THE PROGRAM RENTAL ASSISTANCE HAD HELPED ME. I DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING. NO INCOME. THEY HELPED ME WITH THE RENTAL AND FIND A PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE WITH MY KIDS AND THEY PAY SIX MONTHS FOR MY RENT. I HAVE THREE CHILDREN. I'VE BEEN IN THE CACOOMA FOR 11 YEARS. SO MY INCOME IS LITTLE AND I ALWAYS RECEIVE LOW INCOME SO IT WILL BE GREAT TO FUND THE PROGRAM FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HELP ME OUT TO FUND THIS PROGRAM. I HAVE THREE CHILDREN, AND MY INCOME IS VERY LOW, AND I ALWAYS NEEDED HELP, AND I WOULD ASK YOU TO HELP ME. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: ALL RIGHT, YOU ARE UP. YOU CAN DO IT. YOU CAN DO IT.

Sarah: COUNTY COMMISSIONER, MY NAME IS SARAH --

Jamima: AND I'M JAMIMA, WE ARE IN SIXTH GRADE, WE GO TO GEORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL, I AM FROM CONGO, AND WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR SIX YEARS NOW. IN THOSE SIX YEARS WE'VE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM. OH!

Chair Kafoury: YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB.

Jamima: WE HAVE IN THE SYA PROGRAM FOR THREE MONTHS NOW, IN THAT PROGRAM WE'VE BEEN GETTING HELP WITH OUR HOMEWORK AND THINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE LAST WEEK WE WENT TO THE, WHAT'S IT CALLED? THE WALTON BEACH TO PICK UP TRASH ON THE SIDEWALKS. YEAH. THINGS LIKE THAT. WE WOULD LIKE THIS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE BECAUSE IT THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED US A LOT IN LIKE GETTING TO KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING AROUND IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOW WE CAN HELP AROUND. I CAN'T. THE THING I LIKE MOST -- THE THING I LIKE MOST ABOUT THIS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM IS THAT WE GET TO TALK A LOT ABOUT -- OH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN START.

Raul Mendez; GOOD EVENING TO OUR ESTEEMED COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND MEMBERS. MY NAME IS RAUL MENDEZ AND I AM THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY COORDINATOR AT LATINO NETWORK. I AM HERE TODAY TO COMMEND THE COUNTY FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE

CONTINUE TO FACE CHALLENGES IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD. I WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK THE COUNTY FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT WITH THE SUN AND THE COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE PROGRAMS, CHAI AND EARLY INTERVENTION, ALLOW US TO WORK WITH GANG IMPACTED YOUTH AND OTHER TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED PEOPLE. I HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THE CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF SOME OF THESE FAMILIES IN THE TIME OF MY AGENCY, AND WITHIN MY OWN PROGRAMMING. THEIR RESILIENCE, WORK ETHIC ARE INSPIRING. WE RECOGNIZE THE CHALLENGES AT THE STATE AND REGION FACE IN TERMS OF BUDGET, BUT I WANT TO REMIND YOU OUR PARTNERS THAT OUR PROGRAMS HAVE A CONSISTENT TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS AND PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL RETURNS FOR THE REGION. WHILE MANY OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE THIS PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF ACHIEVING DESIRED OUTCOMES AND PROVIDING POSITIVE IMPACTS WE FACE SIGNIFICANT INCREASING CHALLENGES EVERY DAY.

Raul Mendez; WE HAVE RISEN TO CONFRONT THESE ISSUES HEAD-ON AND WHILE WE DO WHAT WE CAN WE HAVE MADE SO FAR MADE THESE EFFORTS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. OUR ORGANIZATION HAS WORKED IN TANDEM WITH OTHER PARTNERS TO CREATE THE FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN, PROVIDE AND COMPILE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND OFFER [INAUDIBLE] TRAININGS AND WE ARE PROUD OF OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITIES TO ACHIEVE THE SUCCESS SAYS. WE WANT TO REITERATE HOW SERIOUSLY OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WERE OVERCOME WITH NEAR PARALYZING FEAR, WITH THE RECENT EVENTS OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. TO GIVE YOU SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY RECENTLY, NEARLY IN TERRACE THE PERSON TOLD ME HOW SHE NO LONGER HEARS THE CHILDREN PLAYING OUTSIDE HER NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE THE PARENTS ARE TOO AFRAID TO LET THEM OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMES. THESE ISSUES GO BEYOND EMPLOYMENT AND RECREATION, AND IN ANOTHER INSTANCE THE STAFF MEMBER FLEW TO OHIO TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A FAMILY WHO WAS TOO FEARFUL TO TRAVEL ALONE FOR HER SON'S MEDICAL TREATMENT. WE HAVE DONE OUR WORK [INAUDIBLE] AND WE WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN AND ASK YOU TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. WE ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Romeo Souza: GOOD EVENING CHAIR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. I AM ROMEO SOUZA AND I WORK FOR WORKERS RIGHTS [INAUDIBLE] PROJECT. WE WORK WITH CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH JOBS. WE OPERATE THE MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER AND DO A LOT OF SKILL TRAINING, HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAININGS, AND CLASSES, COMPUTER CLASSES, ART CLASSES, SO WE DO LIKE AN EXCELLENT JOB TO BENEFIT THE IMMIGRANT IN THE LARGE COMMUNITY. ALSO WE HAVE ABOUT 3,000 EMPLOYERS IN MULTNOMAH

COUNTY THAT DEPEND ON THE LABORERS, THE DAY LABORERS SINCE THEY DO SMALL AND BIG PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY, SO WE HAVE CONNECTED ABOUT 27,000 JOBS SINCE WE OPENED THE WORKER CENTER. PART OF THAT, LIKE [INAUDIBLE] WITH THE DAY LABORERS, AND WE HAVE -- THEY CAME UP WITH THE 400,000 THAT CONTRIBUTE IN ONE YEAR, SO IN THE BUDGET IT'S 150,000 FOR THE, TO OPERATE THE WORKER CENTER. WE KNOW THAT WE ARE LATE IN THE PROCESS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE DIDN'T DO THIS IN TIME BUT PLEASE CONSIDER TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO ASK FOR THE SAME AMOUNT LIKE IN THE PAST YEARS AT \$25,000. THANKS.

Danielle Milan: HELLO, COMMISSIONER, I AM DANIELLE [INAUDIBLE] ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THEATER MILAGRO, THE PREMIERE BILINGUAL THEATER COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY MAKING OUR COMMITMENT TO CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ARTS, EDUCATION, QUINTESSENTIAL TO THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THREE YEARS OF SUPPORT THROUGH THE RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE FOR ONGOING FREE BILINGUAL ARTS, INTEGRATED RESIDENCIES FOR PORTLAND AND EAST COUNTY SCHOOLS. WE HAVE REALIZED A DOCUMENTED INCREASE IN READING COMPREHENSION OF OVER 50% IN THESE SCHOOLS. WITH ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTY THIS YEAR WE HAVE ALSO SUCCESSFULLY PUT TOGETHER 15 YEARS OF BILINGUAL ARTS CURRICULUM INTO ONE COMPLETE BOOK FOR TEACHERS TO LEARN METHODS OF MULTI-CULTURAL ARTS INTEGRATION. THIS TEXTBOOK IS CURRENTLY IN ITS FINISHING STAGES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH, AND WE WILL HAVE A VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION DRAFT BY JUNE. TO DO THIS WE EMPLOY ARTISTS OF COLOR IN A MODEST WAGE AND MAXIMIZE OUR EFFORTS WITH COUNTY SUPPORT BUT COST OF LIVING EXPENSES AND HIGH DEMAND FOR OUR PROGRAM LEAVES US REALIZING WHAT OUR POTENTIAL COULD BE WITH A MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO SUPPORT OUR TEACHING ARTISTS WORKING IN UNDERSERVED SCHOOLS. WITH AN INCREASE IN ONGOING FUNDING, MULTNOMAH CAN ALSO SUPPORT THE EXPENSE OF ADDITIONAL TRANSLATIONS OF THE TEXTBOOK INTO OTHER LANGUAGES, AND CONTINUE TEACHER TRAININGS AS WELL. I CAN EMAIL YOU COPIES OF THE TEXTBOOK TO YOUR OFFICES IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT COUNTY DOLLARS WELL SPENT CAN DO FOR OUR STUDENTS AND OUR SCHOOLS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, COMMISSIONERS.

Cara Carmencino: HI, GOOD EVENING, I AM CIARA CARMENCINO AND I AM HERE AS THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS FOR THE ASIAN-PACIFIC NETWORK OF OREGON OR APANO. THIS IS A STATEWIDE GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY GROUP WORKING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF THE STATE'S 250,000 ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS. WE ARE LOCATED IN THE J DISTRICT IN THE HEART OF DISTRICT 3. WE ARE HERE TONIGHT SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTY FOR OUR ROOTS TO RISE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO BUILD A VIBRANT LANDMARK WITH MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. A PUBLIC PLAZA, A CULTURAL CENTER, NONPROFIT OFFICES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE J

DISTRICT. WE'VE BEEN OPERATING THIS SPACE OUT. OLD DISCOUNT FURNITURE STORE ON THE CORNER OF 82ND AND DIVISION. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS WE'VE SEEN COUNTLESS EVENTS, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE REALLY SHOWING THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SPACE IN EAST PORTLAND. LAST YEAR ON HER 20,000 PEOPLE CAME THROUGH THIS SPACE THROUGH OUR EVENTS. IN THE NEW BUILDING IT WILL INCLUDE 48 AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESIDENCES FOR HOUSEHOLDS RANGING FROM 30 TO 60% OF MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME AND INCLUDE FAMILY SIZE, TWO AND THREE-BEDROOM UNIONS. APANO'S REQUEST TO THE COUNTY REPRESENTS 1.2% OF THE PROJECT BUDGET BUT IS KEY TO HELPING ENSURE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING EXISTS IN THE J DISTRICT AND THAT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING ENGAGEMENT AND ORGANIZING THAT THIS COMMUNITY SPACE CURRENTLY MAKES POSSIBLE WILL CONTINUE WITH PERMANENT ROOTS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Board Clerk: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME PLEASE COME FORWARD. [READS NAMES]

Colini Fenitoa: OK. GOOD AFTERNOON, GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. I AM COLINI FENITOA I AM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR IRCO'S YOUTH CAMP PREVENTION SERVICES. TODAY I BROUGHT THE YOUTH WE WORK WITH TO SHOW YOU THEIR EXPERIENCES. FIRST LET ME SHARE WITH YOU ABOUT THE PROGRAM. THE YOUTH PREVENTION SERVICES WE SERVE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH, MULTNOMAH SCHOOL DISTRICT, AGES 11-16. WE WORK WITH STUDENTS THAT HAS POOR ATTENDANCE, SUSPENSION, EXPEL. STUDENTS FROM [INAUDIBLE] ENGLISH IS NOT THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE, FAMILY THAT'S, THAT HAS A HISTORY OF CRIME, YOUTH WITH DELINQUENT PEERS, AND FAMILIES THAT ARE FROM HIGH CRIME NEIGHBORHOODS. CURRENTLY WE HAVE 84 YOUTH OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER CLIENTS. 122 PARENTS, AND 21 MULTNOMAH SCHOOL. THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE, WE PROVIDE BILINGUAL, BI CULTURE, AND IN THE FAMILIES THAT WE WORK WITH THE ASIAN FAMILIES, SOME OF THEM ARE NEW HERE IN THIS COUNTRY. AND SO NAVIGATING THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS A NEW THING FOR THEM. JUST ADJUSTING TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND NEW CULTURE AND NEW COUNTRY IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH, BUT THEN THERE IS THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WHICH IS NEW, AND THAT'S A PART TO HELP THE FAMILY, HELP THE YOUTH, AND WE ALSO HELP THE SCHOOL IN COMMUNICATING FROM SCHOOL TO HOME AND HOME TO SCHOOL. I WANT TO SHARE MORE BUT I WANT TO GIVE TIME TO THE YOUTH WE WORK WITH. THESE ARE THE YOUTH THAT ARE NOT ADJUDICATED. THESE ARE THE YOUTH THAT DO NOT MAKE IT TO BE ADJUDICATED SO WE CAN GET FUNDING. WE KEEP THESE KIDS OUT AND THAT'S WHY WE DO NOT SHOW UP ON YOUR RADAR. SO 25%, IF WE GET CUT FROM OUR BUDGET, 30%, 50% YOU KNOW, MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLAND.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Senedal Anoa GOOD EVENING I AM SENEDAL ONOA, AND I AM NEW TO THIS COUNTRY. I CAME HERE IN 2015, AND WE COME HERE AND WE TALK ABOUT YOUTH PREVENTION AND PROBLEMS AND SERVICE, AND THEN MY EXPERIENCE ABOUT GANG, WHEN I WAS BACK TO MY HOME ISLAND, I WATCHED A MOVIE ABOUT GANG AND [INAUDIBLE]. WHEN I GET TO THE UNITED STATES, GANG, HOW THEY ARE DOING THAT, AND I STARTED [INAUDIBLE] WHAT THEY ARE DOING THERE WITH MY FRIEND AND STUFF. THIS SERVICE, LIKE THIS COMMUNITY OR THIS TELL ME THE HELP OR MOVE FROM THE BAD THING TO A GOOD LIFE, AND THEN WE NEEDED TO KEEP GOING AND THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Zekina: MY NAME IS ZEKIN AND I AM A FRESHMEN AT MADISON HIGH. I AM FROM MICRONESIA. THE REASON WHY I AM HERE IS TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE CONSIDER IRCO AS ONE OF THE HELPFUL AND GREAT ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELPS A LOT OF FAMILIES FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. NOT ONLY THAT BUT ALSO I AM IN ONE OF THE PROGRAMS THAT IS CALLED YGPS FUNDED BY THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY THROUGH THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT AT THE ASIAN FAMILY CENTER. THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED A LOT OF STUDENTS FROM THE ISLANDS INCLUDING MYSELF. BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM I AM NOW ABLE TO CONTINUE MY LEARNING AND SEEING MY FRIENDS FROM THE SCHOOL.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

David Falitoa: ALL RIGHT, GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. FIRST AND FOREMOST I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU ALL FOR ALLOWING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S BUDGET HEARING AND ALLOWING MY VOICE TO BE HEARD ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE'S. MY NAME IS DAVID [INAUDIBLE]. I ATTEND CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL. I AM A PART OF THE YGPS PROGRAM THROUGH IRCO, AND GROWING UP IN CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE MOM WAS ALWAYS OUT WORKING AND STUFF, AND SISTERS WERE NEVER HOME. I AM THE YOUNGEST OF THE FAMILY, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. I AM THE YOUNGEST OF THE FAMILY, AND I LIVE WITH MY AUNTIE NOW. GROWING UP IT WAS HARD TO STAY OUT OF LIKE FIGHTS AND STUFF. I GOT SUSPENDED AND EXPELLED A COUPLE TIMES. I GOT INTO FIGHTS A LOT. I BASICALLY HAVE LIKE AN ANGER PROBLEM. AFTER ALL THE CALIFORNIA STUFF WE MOVED OUT HERE TO OREGON HOPING THAT WE WOULD FIND A NEW PLACE TO STAY AND NEW LIFE AND STUFF, AND WE GOT OUT HERE IT WAS JUST LIKE MORE LIKE BLESSINGS, YOU KNOW. IT'S LIKE WE GOT OUT HERE AND WE MET COLINI AND HE HELPED US OUT A LOT. HE HELPED US TO FIND A HOUSE AND HE HELPED ME STAY OUT OF TROUBLE AND STUFF LIKE I DON'T FIGHT NO MORE. I DON'T LIKE -- I USED

TO BE LIKE -- I USED TO DRINK, TOO, I DON'T DRINK. I DON'T DO THAT STUFF NO MORE. AFTER LIKE ALL THE HELP HE'S GIVEN ME I COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO REPAY HIM BUT JUST BY GOING ON WITH THE PROGRAM THAT HE'S PUT ME IN. HE'S ALSO SET UP SOME MEETINGS WITH LIKE THE POLICE AND STUFF, SO THE FIRST TIME I THOUGHT THAT I WAS IN TROUBLE BUT LIKE I WASN'T REALLY IN TROUBLE. [LAUGHTER] HE SET UP A LOT OF MEETINGS WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND THAT CAN HELP ME OUT. FOR THAT I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL. BLESSINGS ARE REAL. I LIKE TO THANK YOU GUYS FOR LETTING ME SPEAK TODAY AND THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Adrian Austin King: HI THERE. I AM ADRIAN AUSTIN KING. I LIVE IN DISTRICT 2. MY ZIP CODE IS 97227. TODAY I AM HERE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY ELECTIONS VOTER AND EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM. I WAS DEVASTATED TO LEARN THIS PROGRAM WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COUNTY CHAIR'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET. AS A LOVER OF DEMOCRACY THE SUN OF AN IMMIGRANT AND SOMEONE RAISED SPEAKING MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AT HOME I BELIEVE THAT IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO FUND THIS PROGRAM. THE VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM ALLOWS FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WHO MAY NOT HAVE A MASTERY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO STILL HAVE ACCESS TO VOTING RESOURCES AND TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR GREAT DEMOCRACY. AS WE SIT HERE IN THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION HALL I HOPE THAT WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOTING SHOULD BE A RIGHT THAT IS PROVIDED TO ALL OF OUR CITIZENS AND NOT JUST THOSE WHO SPEAK ENGLISH. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL REVISE THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE GREAT PROGRAM. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Daisy Ngyuen: HI EVERYONE. MY NAME IS DAISY NGYUEN AND I AM WITH THE IRCO AFC ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM SO I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MY CLIENTS. I HAVE ONLY BEEN WORKING IN OUR PROGRAM FOR LESS THAN A YEAR BUT I HAVE SEEN SO MANY INSPIRING STORIES FROM MY CLIENTS THAT THANKS TO THE FUNDING FROM THE MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE AND THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE, THE FUNDING THAT HELPS SO MANY OF MY CLIENTS GET STABLE. THEY COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS. THEY ARE HERE. THEY ARE REFUGEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE HAVE SEEN PEOPLE -- ONE OF MY CLIENTS WENT FROM BEING TRANSFORMING FROM A PERSON THAT DOES KNOW HOW TO TAKE A BUS, DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO TAKE A BUS AND THANKS TO THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE THEY CAN SHIFT THEIR FOCUS ON THE GOALS OF BEING

STABLE. SO HE COULD HAVE -- HE COULD GET ON THE BUS FINDING A JOB, GET THAT JOB AND ALSO, RECENTLY WE JUST HEARD THE NEWS THAT HE GOT HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE APPROVED, WHICH IS GREAT NEWS SO THAT NOW HIS FAMILY CAN BE STABLE AND THEY CAN GO -- THEY CAN WORK AND SUPPORT THEMSELVES. WE ALSO WORK WITH THE ENGLISH -- WITH CLIENTS THAT DOES NOT SPEAK MUCH ENGLISH AND WE HELP THEM NOT ONLY WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE BUT ALSO WITH EDUCATION, TUITION, AND THE [INAUDIBLE] MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE ALSO HELPS WITH EDUCATION GOALS THAT HELP MY CLIENT FROM KNOWING ZERO ENGLISH TO BE ABLE TO CONVERSE JUST DAILY CONVERSATION AND THAT'S AMAZING. WE SAW SO MUCH PROGRESS IN THEIR LIFE, AND ANOTHER PROGRAM THAT IS NEW, THE PILOT PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL WE HAVE GEORGE SHAVER, HARRISON PARK, AND ALSO [INAUDIBLE] THAT HELPS THE FAMILY THAT STAY IN THE SCHOOL AREA TO BE ABLE TO STAY THERE AND HELP THEIR CHILDREN TO KEEP GOING TO SCHOOL AND -- YEAH. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE FUNDING THAT YOU'VE BEEN SUPPORTING AND WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Nicole Kennedy: GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU. MY NAME IS NICOLE KENNEDY. I WAS NOT PLANNING TO SPEAK BUT DECIDED THAT I SHOULD. AS A PARENT AND AN EDUCATOR SO I PREPARED SOMETHING THAT I AM GOING TO READ FOR YOU GUYS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER EXTENDING PARTNERSHIPS TO EXTEND COMMISSIONER LORETTA SMITH'S GOAL OF THE PROMISED NEIGHBORHOOD'S INITIATIVE DRAWING FROM THE NEW FEDERAL EDUCATION LAW, EVERY STUDENT SOUTHEASTWARDS ACT, PROMISED NEIGHBORHOODS ESTABLISHED UNDER LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDES FUNDING TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES. THE PURPOSE OF PROMISED NEIGHBORHOOD IS TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE MOST DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFORM THOSE COMMUNITIES BY IDENTIFYING AND INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES THAT ARE FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING RESULTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD.

BUILDING A COMPLETE CONTINUUM OF CRADLE TO CAREER SOLUTIONS OF BOTH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WITH GREAT SCHOOLS AT THE CENTER. INTEGRATING PROGRAMS AND BREAKING DOWN AGENCY SILOS SO THAT SOLUTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY ACROSS AGENCIES. DEVELOPING THE LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF SYSTEMS, RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUSTAIN AND SCALE UP PROVEN EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE BROADER REGION BEYOND THE INITIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEARNING ABOUT THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROMISED NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AND ABOUT THE

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTICULAR STRATEGIES AND PROMISED NEIGHBORHOODS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES INCLUDING A RIGOROUS EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM, I LIVE AND TEACH IN A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT HAS BEEN GENTRIFIED. MY CHILDREN ATTEND THE MOST PROMINENTLY -- THE MOST PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL IN THE STATE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ENGAGE FAMILIES TO POLICY AND TO EQUITABLE PRACTICES IN MORE INNOVATIVE WAYS. I THANK YOU, ALL RIGHT, AND THANK YOU AGAIN.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk:[READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: ALL RIGHT YOU CAN GO FIRST, CAN YOU DO IT? YOU CAN DO IT.

Sahara: OK. HI. MY NAME IS SAHARA, A FRESHMEN FROM MADISON HIGH SCHOOL. I ORIGINATED FROM SOMALIA BUT I AM FROM PORTLAND, OREGON. I PARTICIPATED IN IRCO THROUGH THE YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM. I HAVE BENEFITED SO MUCH FROM IRCO. THEY HELPED ME WITH MY GRADES, ATTENDANCE, AND BEHAVIOR. THEY WOULD ASK ME HOW MY GRADES WERE AND HOW MY DAY WAS GOING. THEY WOULD TAKE US ON FIELD TRIPS. THEY WOULD TAKE US TO FIELD TRIPS TO COLLEGES, WHICH HELPED ME A LOT BECAUSE I CAN SEE WHICH COLLEGES BEST FIT ME. IRCO HAD A BIG IMPACT ON ME BECAUSE MY GRADES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS THEY WERE IF IT WASN'T FOR THEM. THEY MADE ME FEEL LIKE A FAMILY AND ALWAYS HAVE A SMILE ON THEIR FACES. WE WOULD HAVE TIMES WHERE WE COULD HANG OUT AND HAVE A GOOD TIME AND THERE WERE TIMES WHERE THEY WOULD CHECK ON OUR GRADES. THEY WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE UPTIGHT. THE IRCO AFRICAN HOUSE FEELS LIKE PLACE WHERE I CAN FEEL SAFE, GOOD BEING IN BECAUSE THEY ARE PEOPLE THAT I CAN CONNECT WITH BECAUSE WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. NO ONE WOULD FEEL LEFT OUT. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST OF US ARE MUSLIM, LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY AND HOW TO STRUGGLING TO THROUGH SCHOOL. IRCO HAS HELPED ME, MY FAMILY AND MY COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IRCO. [APPLAUSE]

Fozia Abraham: HELLO, CAN YOU HEAR ME? I AM A SOPHOMORE FROM MADISON HIGH SCHOOL, MY NAME IS FOZIA ABRAHAM. I CAME TO AMERICA IN 2004. I WAS BORN IN A VILLAGE IN KENYA. I CAME TO OREGON ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO, SO THAT'S LIKE IN 2015. I CAME HERE WITH MY FAMILY, WITH MY MOM SPECIFICALLY. I LIVED IN BOISE BEFORE I CAME HERE. BACK IN BOISE I USED TO LIVE IN APARTMENTS. I WAS IN AND OUT OF APARTMENTS. I NEVER LIVED IN A HOUSE, SO WHEN I MOVED TO OREGON IT WAS THE FIRST TIME MY FAMILY HAS LIVED IN A HOUSE, AND AT THAT TIME MY MOM WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME. AS A WOMAN WORKING IN THE U.S. LIKE WE ALL KNOW THAT WOMEN MAKE LESS THAN MEN, THAT WHOLE THING, BUT ANYWAY MY

MOM WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME, AND THERE WAS A POINT LIKE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO THAT SHE WAS NOT ABLE TO PAY OUR WATER BILL. THAT WAS REALLY STRESSFUL, ESPECIALLY RAISING TEN KIDS. IT'S REALLY HARD LIKE IF YOUR WATER BILL GOES OUT HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO COOK FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND HOW ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO GO SHOWERS AND READY FOR SCHOOL. THAT WAS SO STRESSFUL BUT THANK GOD IRCO WAS THERE. THEY HELPED HER PAY FOR HER WATER BILL, AND ALSO THEY HAVE HELPED ME TOO IN SO MANY WAYS. SPECIFICALLY SUN SCHOOL FOR ME. I AM IN A JOB AS A YOUTH AMBASSADOR FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION, AND SUN SCHOOL HELPED ME TO PREPARE FOR THAT JOB WHICH WAS THE FIRST FINAL THAT I HAVE EVER GOTTEN A JOB SO IT WAS TERRIFYING. THEY HELPED ME PRACTICE FOR MY INTERVIEW AND WROTE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR ME WHICH WAS REALLY USEFUL BECAUSE THEN I WAS MORE PREPARED ONCE I GOT THE JOB AND I AM ABLE TO HELP MY MOM BECAUSE I AM ALSO A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR MY FAMILY, AND ALSO THERE IS THIS PROGRAM CALLED GLOBAL WORKS WHICH IS THIS PROGRAM THAT TAKES YOU TO ANOTHER COUNTRY AND YOU GET TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE OVER THERE WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT I AM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT. I PLAN ON BEING A HUMANITARIAN, BY THE WAY. IN THAT PROGRAM IT TAKES YOU TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. MY PARENTS WERE KIND OF AFRAID FOR ME TO GO BECAUSE OF THE TRUMP BANNING MUSLIM THING AND SIERRA OUR SUN COORDINATOR HELPED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH MY PARENTS AND NOW I GET TO GO TO PUERTO RICO IN THE SUMMER SO THAT'S EXCITING SO SUN SCHOOL HAS HELPED ME A LOT AND THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS.

Chair Kafoury: GOOD LUCK IN PUERTO RICO. EXCITING. [APPLAUSE]

Gideon Artiticolie: CAN YOU HEAR ME? OK. SO MY NAME IS GIDEON ARTITICOLIE AND I AM A JUNIOR AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL. I MOVED INTO THE UNITED STATES THREE YEARS AGO WITH MY SISTER. AND FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU GUYS FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS THAT CREATE A CONDUCIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS TO GET USED TO THE SYSTEM AND THRIVE THROUGH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. SPECIFICALLY AFRICAN HOUSES HELPED MY SISTER AND I BECAUSE WHEN WE FIRST MOVED IN HERE WE DID NOT KNOW ANYONE SO WE SEE PEOPLE THAT WE LOOK LIKE AND FAMILIARIZE WITH SO THAT KIND OF ATMOSPHERE MAKES US BE OURSELVES AND IT HELPS US TO LEARN, AND ALSO IT CREATES TIME AND SPACE FOR OUR STUDENTS WHO HAVE LIKE SPORTS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL TO SOMETIMES ON WEEKENDS SO YOU GET TO DO YOUR WORK AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. AND ALSO IT'S OVERWHELMING WHEN LIKE YOU MOVE IN HERE AND YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO. YOU GO TO SCHOOL AND EVERYBODY IS ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS BUT LIKE WHEN YOU HAVE THESE GROUPS THAT ARE LIKE SPECIFICALLY FOCUSING ON CERTAIN ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, IT KIND OF LIKE MAKES YOU FEEL AT HOME BECAUSE LIKE

YOU SEE PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW LIKE PEOPLE THAT SHARE THE SAME CULTURE AND EXPERIENCE AS YOU DO. IT HELPS YOU TO LIKE YOU KNOW GIVE YOUR ALL. THESE AMAZING STAFF ARE LIKE DOING A REALLY GOOD JOB OF LIKE SACRIFICING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO HELP US SUCCEED THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. ALSO THEY KIND OF HELP US BY YOU KNOW JUST TAKING US FUN PLACES OR TAKING US ON COLLEGE VISITS TO, YOU KNOW, EXPEND OUR THINK NOT JUST IN HIGH SCHOOL BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL BECAUSE YOU KNOW MOST OF US HAVE LIKE FAMILY. WE ARE LIKE THE FIRST GENERATION TO GO TO COLLEGE SO THEY BROADEN OUR KNOWLEDGE, SO I APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEEP FUNDING THESE PROGRAMS FOR OTHERS COMING AFTER US TO ENJOY WHAT WE ARE ENJOYING. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Fasia Osman: GOOD EVENING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS FASIA OSMAN I AM 15 YEARS OLD AND I AM A FRESHMEN AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL. MADISON HIGH SCHOOL IS A MELTING POT WITH DIVERSITY LIKE NO OTHER. I AM GLAD THAT IRCO AND SUN IS THERE TO PROVIDE FOR ME AND OTHER IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES WITH CULTURAL SPECIFIC MENTORING WITH THE MADISON COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEM THE EQUITABLE RESOURCES NEEDED AS STUDENTS. THROUGHOUT MY YEARS IN SCHOOL I HAVE ALWAYS NEEDED MORE THAN WHAT A SCHOOL CURRICULUM HAS TAUGHT ME. AS SOMEONE NATURALLY CURIOUS AND EAGER TO LEARN NEW INFORMATION DAILY CORE SUBJECTS WERE ENOUGH, WEREN'T ENOUGH. IN THE FIFTH GRADE MY SCHOOL WAS INTRODUCED FOR A NEW AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERING VARIOUS RANGES OF CLASSES FROM GARDENING TO PHOTOGRAPHY, SUN SCHOOLS ALWAYS ALLOWED ME TO PROVIDE -- EXPRESS MY CREATIVITY AND FEED MY BRAIN WITH KNOWLEDGE FROM TRYING NEW THINGS. THAT WAS WHAT I WANTED. I WAS CONSTANTLY BEING CHALLENGED, WORKING WITH OTHER STUDENTS, STRENGTHENING MY TEAMWORK SKILLS AND BECOMING A LEADER WHO COULD USE THESE ESSENTIAL SKILLS, INCORPORATED WITHIN IRCO AND SUN PROGRAMS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I AM MORE THAN THANKFUL FOR SUN SERVICES AND NOT JUST THE CLASSES BUT THE MADISON FOOD PANTRY AND THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES THAT ARE OFFERED TO STUDENTS. MOST IMPORTANTLY SUN AND IRCO HAS INTRODUCED ME WITH AMAZING ADULT STAFF WHO ARE PASSIONATE IN THEIR WORK TO EMPOWER YOUTH AND MAKE THEM LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NATION. PEOPLE LIKE STACY WHO ONLY IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME WAYS TO BE CIVICALLY INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF MY INTERESTS, MY INTERESTS IN HELPING PEOPLE IN UTILIZING MY VOICE. THIS IS WHY IRCO AND SUN NEED NO PLACE IN THE BUDGET CUTS. IT IS A SERVICE NECESSARY FOR FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS, STUDENTS WHO ARE FLUENT IN ENGLISH, WHO COME HOME WITH THE HUNGRY STOMACH AND STUDENTS WHO WANT MORE

TO COME OUT OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE THAN JUST A DIPLOMA. NOT HAVING THESE RESOURCES WOULD DISPARAGE WHAT THEY COULD BE, AND LIKE THE BOY I WAS WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE, MANY OTHER YOUNG ADULTS [INAUDIBLE] FOR THEM TO TRY VARIOUS CLASSES TO STEVE TUTORING AND BETTERING THEMSELVES ALL TO FIGURE OUT WHO THEY ARE AND ALLOW EVERYONE A CHANCE OF OPPORTUNITY. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Bakisa Nore GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN WITH A QUOTE FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING FROM HIS LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL. JUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE. MY NAME IS BAKISA NORE AND I AM A JUNIOR AT JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL. I AM CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN THE SUN YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM AND MANY OTHER CLUBS, AND AS WELL AS I HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER WORKS. TODAY WE COME HERE TOGETHER TO UNITE OUR VOICES, THE VOICES THAT HAVE BEEN UNHEARD OF, THE VOICES THAT HAVE BEEN PUSHED AWAY FOR YEARS BUT TODAY WE WILL BE HEARD. IT'S ALREADY HARD ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EMIGRATED HERE, LEAVING THEIR HOMES FOR REFUGE AND LET ALONE WHAT AWAITS THEM. LANGUAGE BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLE MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR COMMUNICATION RESULTING IN UNEMPLOYMENT AND MANY MORE. THEREFORE THEY SEEK HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT. IRCO IN OTHER WORDS PROVIDES THE REFUGEES THAT IMMIGRANTS NEEDED NOW THAT THEY ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE AMAZING ACTS OF ORGANIZING THE EVENTS THAT BRINGS US TO GO AS A COMMUNITY LIKE RIGHT NOW FOR AN EXAMPLE. WITH THE [INAUDIBLE] ADVOCACY PROGRAM I AM ALSO ABLE TO FIND A PLACE THAT GIVES ME SOLACE WHEN I AM FRUSTRATED. I AM ABLE TO FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN DO MY HOMEWORK IN A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT OR GO THERE FOR A LAUGH. WITH THE HELP OF IRCO SUN WORKS IS POSSIBLE, DOORS BECOME OPEN TO US WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN SEALED BEFORE. GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE EXPERIENCES OUR PARENTS NEVER HAD SO WITH THAT WE ARE A STEP CLOSER TO FULFILLING OUR EDUCATION. AND I WOULD LIKE TO APPRECIATE STACY AND SARAH FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AS OUR COORDINATORS, THEY ARE [INAUDIBLE] STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES PREPARING US FOR OUR FUTURE. THIS SUN YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FUNDING FROM OUR COUNTY SO THANK YOU FOR THE CONTRIBUTION TO NOT ONLY HELPING ME BUT FOR MANY OTHERS AS WELL FOR A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE, AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY HOW AMAZING IT IS SEEING FEMALES UP HERE BECAUSE YOU RARELY SEE THAT SO YOU ARE SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO SO THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE] WILL YOU ALL SMILE SO I CAN GET A PICTURE OF YOU? ONE, TWO, THREE. ALL RIGHT. YEAH. THANK YOU.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Marshall Gaus Jr.: GOOD EVENING. GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CAN YOU HEAR ME THERE? I AM A SPORTS GUY SO I GUESS I GET TO PRACTICE MY TWO-MINUTE DRILL HERE. I AM HERE ON THE BEHALF OF [INAUDIBLE] AS A PARENTS, AS AN ADVOCATE, AS A MENTOR, AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER, LEADER.

Chair Kafoury: CAN YOU SAY YOUR NAME FIRST?

Marshall Gaus Jr: MARSHALL GAUS JR., I AM SORRY. I HAVE TALKING POINTS, AND ONE OF THE THINGS IS I AM VERY OFF THE CUFF, COMPASSIONATE INDIVIDUAL. BUT I WILL STICK TO MY TALKING POINTS GIVEN THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL. SPEAKING OF KAIROS, PDX, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THAT PROCESS. AS YOU KNOW KAIROS IS AN INNOVATIVE SCHOOL, AND THEY ARE DOING A TON OF EDUCATIONAL THINGS THAT ARE GROWING THE MINDS OF OUR CHILD, SPECIFICALLY WHEN I WALK INTO THE SCHOOL, THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT THAT IT CREATES. SOMETIMES KNOWING I HAVE TO GET OFF TO WORK MYSELF I ACTUALLY WORK AT [INAUDIBLE] ELEMENTARY FOR ANOTHER SUN SERVICE, SUN SERVICES SO THERE IS A DOUBLE TASK HERE. UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DISCIPLINARY, DISPROPORTIONATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS ARE FOUR TO SIX TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE DISCIPLINED THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF STUDENTS. [INAUDIBLE] OFFER THAT IS OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO GROW THROUGH INNOVATIVE CHANGES AND IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I LOVE SO MUCH ABOUT THAT SCHOOL, I PERSONALLY, BEING HONEST, HAVE ANXIETY AROUND PLACING MY CHILDREN IN SCHOOL NOT KNOWING WHAT SYSTEM IS GOING TO BE PERFECT FOR THEM OR FIT THEIR NEEDS. COMING ACROSS KAIROS IT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT TOOK THE WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS. AS A PARENT I LOOK FOR THOSE THINGS THAT ELEVATE THE MINDS OF OUR YOUTH. AS AN ADVOCATE IN THE SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICES THEREAFTER. THE EXTENDED DAY SERVICES, AND WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY IS THAT WE NEED TO TURN AROUND AND GIVE ALL THESE YOUTH THESE ADOLESCENTS AND THESE YOUNG ADULTS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THEIR COURAGE AND THEIR INSPIRATION. I KNOW MY TWO MINUTES IS UP. THAT WAS REALLY QUICK SO THAT'S MY SPIEL.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Lakiesha Robinson: HI, I AM LAKEISHA ROBINSON ALSO A KAIROS, PDX PARENT, MY DAUGHTER HAS ATTENDED THAT SCHOOL FOR THREE YEARS SINCE IT STARTED. SHE WAS A KINDERGARTENER WHEN SHE FIRST STARTED. THE THING THAT STRUCK ME MOST ABOUT IT WAS THEIR ALB TO BE ABLE TO HELP HER WITH SOME TRAUMA THAT SHE CAME INTO THE KINDERGARTEN. THERE

WAS THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN OUR FAMILY UNEXPECTED, AND I REMEMBER WHEN WE WALKED INTO THE SCHOOL AND OUR FAMILY WAS STRUGGLING WITH DIFFERENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THAT WE NEEDED AS PARENTS, AS CHILDREN, AS TEENAGERS WE HAD A LOT GOING ON. I REMEMBER WHEN WE NEEDED ADDITIONAL FAMILY SUPPORT AND THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO USED TO PICK HER UP LIKE HER GRANDMA, HER GODMOTHERS AND AUNTIES AND THEY WOULD SAY GOSH THAT SCHOOL IS ALWAYS ASKING HOW ARE YOU TODAY? WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU? AND THEY WERE ABLE TO JUST TO SEE ALL OF THE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. IT WAS NOT JUST THE TEACHING THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR THE SUPPORT THAT OUR FAMILY NEEDED. IT WAS JUST THAT EXTRA HOW ARE YOU. WHAT WE'RE ASKING FOR IS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT KAIROS AND HELPING OUR CHILDREN DISCOVER WHAT IT IS THAT THEY NEED SO THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ADULTS AND HELPING THEM AS CHILDREN SO THAT THEY CAN GROW INTO SUCCESSFUL TEENAGERS AND SUCCESSFUL ADULTS, AND THIS TYPE OF FUNDING IS WHAT HELPS US INITIATE OUR CHILDREN INTO SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Juliana Martin: I AM JULIANA MARTIN, A FRESHMEN AT FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL. GROWING UP COLLEGE WAS NOT A CHOICE. GAVE ME MOTIVATION TO START THINKING ABOUT THE TOPICS. BEING A THIRD GRADER AT THE CLACKAMAS DISTRICT WAS THE WORST, [INAUDIBLE] WAS THE FIRST QUESTION THAT I WOULD HAVE TO MEMORIZE. I LEARNED THAT QUESTION BEFORE I LEARNED MY FULL ABCS. IMAGINE THAT. IMAGINE GOING TO A SCHOOL AND FEELING AS IF I SHOULD NOT BE THERE. TRANSFERRING TO THE PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I HAVE EVER DECIDED TO TAKE. I MEAN LET ME ASK YOU WHY WOULDN'T YOU KEEP FUNDING OUR SCHOOL PROGRAMS LIKE LATINO NETWORK FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? I AM MEXICAN. AND I NEVER LEARNED A THING ABOUT MY CULTURE BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS GETTING TOLD THAT IT DID NOT MATTER. BECAUSE OF EARLY [INAUDIBLE] I WAS ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT MY HISTORY. LEARN ABOUT THE REASONS OF WHY I SHOULD KEEP TRYING IN SCHOOL. WITHOUT THE RESPECT I DON'T THINK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT IS TO HAVE THE TEACHERS TELL YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE NO MATTER WHAT YOUR DAMN SKIN COLLAR IS AND [INAUDIBLE] I WAS ABLE TO LEARN THAT. I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THESE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. LATINO NETWORK AND [INAUDIBLE] HAVE TAUGHT ME TO BE PROUD OF MY ROOTS AND SHOW THAT THE PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ONE OF THE BEST IN OREGON. JUST FOR ACCEPTING MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND I FOR BEING DIFFERENT.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT.

Aljandro Solice: GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS ALEJANDRO SOLICE AND I WANT TO START BY SAYING THAT THIS PROGRAM THE LATINO

NETWORK IS REALLY SPECIAL TO ME. I STARTED OFF SCHOOL LIKE JUST SKIPPING CLASS AND NOT GOING TO SCHOOL. I DIDN'T TRY IN SCHOOL. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT DROPPING OUT, AND I HAVE HAD FAMILY PROBLEMS. LATINO NETWORK HAS HELPED ME. I AM STILL NOT LIKE YOUR 4.0, GPA STUDENT BUT I AM SLOWLY GETTING THERE, AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ME LIKE I HAVE HAD FAMILY PROBLEMS AND I FEEL LIKE I NEVER HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER MY OTHER SIBLINGS WITH MY PROBLEMS BECAUSE THEY HAD THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. IN THE LATINO NETWORK IT'S A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND YOU CAN TALK TO ANYONE LIKE FEELING THAT YOU ARE ACCEPTED IN THAT COMMUNITY. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT IT'S BEEN A BLESSING HAVING THIS PROGRAM. I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD KEEP DOING THIS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT NOT JUST ME BUT OTHER PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SUFFER AND THIS PROGRAM WILL HELP THEM. YEAH. AND LIKE -- I JUST WANT TO SAY JUST PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND, AND I AM NOT JUST SAYING JUST FOR LATINO NETWORK BUT JUST DO IT FOR EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM. ALL THESE PROGRAMS. THEY ARE SPECIAL TO EVERYONE. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: THANKS.

Rofina Atkenberg: YEP. HI. GOOD EVENING, I AM ROFINA ATKINBERG, AND I CAME FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION 25 YEARS AGO, AND I AM VERY THANKFUL, AND MY FAMILY ALSO FOR ACCEPTING US IN AMERICA. BUT I HAVE STILL TWO CONCERNS. ONE CONCERN IS ABOUT SMALL CHILDREN. I KNOW A CHILD WHO WAS BORN VERY WEAK WITH COMPLICATION. HE HAS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY. THE MOTHER NEEDS TO HAVE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, SOMETIMES VERY OFTEN. AND BECAUSE OF THE INCOME, IT IS HARD, A LIMIT. SOMETIMES SHE CANNOT AFFORD ALL MEDICAL EXPENSES. SHE'S VERY FRUSTRATED ABOUT THIS. SO FIRST MY POINT IS CAN GOVERNMENT HELP THIS MOTHER, OUR CHILDREN? TO BE DECISIVE TO TAKE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AS CHILD NEEDS BECAUSE IT IS VERY HARD, EXTREMELY HARD TO WHERE THE CHILD SUFFERING FROM ASTHMA ATTACK. IT CAN BE SPECIAL WHEN CHILD HAS A COLD. ANOTHER POINT IS ABOUT SENIORS. I HAVE WORKED HERE FOR 25 YEARS. NOW I AM RETIRED. I NEED TO APPRECIATE ALSO THAT I COULD GET EDUCATION HERE AND TO WORK HERE. BUT SOMETIMES WE ARE NOT YOUNG PEOPLE. I AND MY HUSBAND AND WE HAVE ALSO MEDICAL PROBLEMS. BECAUSE YES WE HAVE MEDICARE AND WE NEED TO BUY SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL INSURANCE BECAUSE MEDICARE DOESN'T COVER EVERYTHING. BECAUSE OF EXPENSIVE, BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE DR. SPECIALISTS THEY COST NOT, I MEAN, NOT AFFORDABLE SOMETIMES, SO WE DECIDED MY HUSBAND, WHATEVER HAPPENED, HAPPENED. WE ARE NOT YOUNG. WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENED. TO NOT USE THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ALSO. BUT STILL SOMETIMES WE ARE SELFISH. WE WANT TO LEAVE. STILL WE WANT TO LEAVE BECAUSE I WORK IN MY COUNTRY, FOR MY COUNTRY, AND HERE ALL TOGETHER 55 YEARS, AND I WANT TO ENJOY MY RETIREMENT, SO MY POINT IS TO HELP SENIORS LIKE I. THESE ARE NOT TOO

MUCH, LOW INCOME. I THINK THAT I HAVE PRETTY GOOD SOCIAL SECURITY. I AM ON SOCIAL SECURITY BUT STILL MY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WE CANNOT COVER. SO I WANT YOU TO HELP OUT WITH THIS ALSO FOR SENIORS, AND I WANT TO APPRECIATE YOU THAT YOU ACCEPT ME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THIS BECAUSE IN MY FORMER COUNTRY I WASN'T ON THIS LEVEL OF SOCIETY TO TALK TO EXECUTIVES LIKE YOU HERE REAL DEMOCRACY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. THANKS FOR COMING. [APPLAUSE]

Zena: GOOD EVENING. I AM ZENA [INAUDIBLE]. I AM A BOARD MEMBER OF THE [INAUDIBLE] SOCIETY AND ALSO I AM A MEMBER OF [INAUDIBLE], THE EAST PORTLAND ACTION PLAN.

Zena: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) HELLO. FIRST, INTERPRETER, SHE IS SAYING I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ENGAGING THE IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES AND I APPRECIATE YOUR INCLUSION ON THE EQUITY POLICIES. I LIKE TO ASK TO KEEP FUNDING THE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC HEALTH WORKERS PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM IS VERY ESSENTIAL TO INTEGRATE OUR COMMUNITIES AND TO PROVIDE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. HEALTH SERVICES AND CONNECTING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS TO HEALTH PROVIDERS AND EMPOWERS OUR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Momar Buti: HELLO AGAIN, GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS MOMAR BUTI. I AM WITH THE IRAQI SOCIETY OF OREGON. I AM A DIRECTOR, AND SHE IS A PARTNER. I AM ALSO A VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD. I WANT TO SAY ESPECIALLY THANK YOU FOR REFUNDING FOR THE TWO PROGRAMS, THE [INAUDIBLE] AND TREATMENT PROGRAM. WE WERE JUST INFORMED THAT IT WAS RESTORED, SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOUR FUNDING SEEMS TO BE THAT A HIGHER RATE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN OREGON. AND THESE IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS PREVENTING HEALTH PROBLEMS NOT ONLY SAVE MONEY DOWN THE ROAD BUT ALSO SAVES LIVES TODAY. SO THANK YOU FOR THAT. AS AN IRAQI PERSON OF OREGON I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT WHAT ZENA TALKED ABOUT, THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS THING. COMMUNITY HEALTH IS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY NOW WE ARE GOING INTO MODERNIZING THE HEALTH SYSTEM. MODERNIZING MEANS THAT IT IS GOING TO BE TRAUMA AND ACTUALLY IT'S ALSO GOING TO BE OR SHOULD BE CULTURALLY INFORMED. THE BEST WAY TO BE CULTURALLY INFORMED IS TO HAVE THE CULTURE SPECIFIC COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. I THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE HEALTH EXPENSES. SO THANK YOU AGAIN, AND SO FAR I KNOW THAT TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN -- TWO TRAINING PROGRAMS, FOR TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN FUNDING, FUNDED. I HOPE

THAT ARABIC COMMUNITY GETS FUNDED, TOO. WE ARE A SMALL COMMUNITY, SO WE TEND TO FALL BELOW THE RADAR. THAT'S WHY I AM HIGHLIGHTING IT. AND AGAIN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORK HELPS IN HEALING AND ADJUSTMENT TO BUILD NEW CITIZENS FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR COUNTRY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Lupe Campo: GOOD EVENING CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS. I AM LUPE CAMPO AND I AM AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM MANAGER AT LATINO NETWORK WHERE I MANAGE THE PARENT CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FUNDED BY THE COUNTY. WE JUST GOT THIS, IS SO WE ARE BARELY ACCOMPLISHING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM. I COULD LIST MANY THINGS THAT THIS PROGRAM HAS DONE TO HELP THE FAMILIES THAT WE'RE SERVING. THAT WOULD TAKE ME DAYS TO SHARE EXACTLY THE IMPACT THAT IT HAS. THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPACT RIGHT NOW IS BEING A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE FACING THIS PARALYZING FEAR DUE TO THE ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE FAMILIES THAT HAVE NEEDED ASSISTANCE AND HAVEN'T WANTED TO GO AND GET ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID OF THE CONSEQUENCES. THE PARENT EDUCATORS BEING FROM THEIR COMMUNITY AND HAVING SHARED EXPERIENCES ARE, OUR FAMILIES HAVE PUT THEIR TRUST IN THEM AND HAVE DONE WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO FOR THEIR FAMILIES. SO I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT THAT YOU ARE GIVING THESE PROGRAMS THAT ARE HERE TODAY SPEAKING. CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE. THAT IS WHY I WENT INTO ECE AS A CAREER, AND AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE YOUTH THAT HAVE SPOKEN HERE TODAY SO VERY WELL THAT THEIR LEADERS -- THEY ARE LEADERS, AND IF WE ARE THERE OFFERING THEM SUPPORT FOR THEM TO USE THE VOICE THAT THEY HAVE OUR NATION IN THE FUTURE WILL BE ONE OF THE GREATER NATIONS. A WISE POET ACTIVIST AND OVERALL STRONG WOMAN ONCE SAID MY MISSION IN LIFE IS NOT MERELY TO SURVIVE BUT TO THRIVE AND TO DO SO WITH PASSION, SOME COMPASSION, SOME HUMOR, AND SOME STYLE. SO YOUR OPENNESS AND RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES THAT ARE RISING IN OUR COMMUNITY HAVE ALLOWED THAT. OUR GREATEST RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE ARE OUR HEARTS, RIGHT. WE CAN WORK WONDERS WITH THE COMPASSION THAT WE HAVE SO I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR STANDING UP AND DEFENDING THESE PROGRAMS IN THESE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR THAT ARE IN A VULNERABLE POSITION.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk; [READ NAMES]

Hyat Hassan: GOOD AFTERNOON COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS HYAT HASSAN. I AM A SOPHOMORE ATTENDING PARKROSE HIGH SCHOOL. I AM HERE TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF SYAP, SUN YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM. AS A FIRST GENERATION STUDENT I ALWAYS FELT SCARED IS, STARTING HIGH SCHOOL

WHEN I FOUND SYAP, THE FEAR WENT AWAY BECAUSE I FOUND PEOPLE WHO SHARED THE SAME IDENTITY AS I DID. I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES FOUR YEARS AGO. SYAP SERVES ME IN MANY WAYS. THEY HELP ME TO GET ACADEMIC SUPPORT, PROVIDE ME BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND TRAINING. THEY ALSO TAKE ME TO FIELD TRIPS LIKE COLLEGE VISITS, MUSEUM, AND OMSI. COLLEGE VISITS HELP ME WITH -- TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, WHAT I WANT TO DO LATER ON IN LIFE. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND I HOPE THAT YOU GUYS CONTINUE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Matanda Lucy: GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS MATANDA LUCY. I AM AN IMMIGRANT MOTHER FROM CONGO. I USED TO BE IRCO CLIENT A LONG TIME AGO, AND NOW I AM COORDINATING THE PROGRAM CALLED AFRICAN IMMIGRANT PARENT AND CHILDREN SERVICES IN THE SAME ORGANIZATION. I DECIDED TO WRITE SOMETHING TO READ TO YOU, IF YOU CAN GIVE ME ATTENTION. MY PROGRAM IS CALLED [INAUDIBLE] AND WE SERVING ALMOST 67 AFRICAN CHILDREN IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY EVERYWHERE. OUR PROGRAM SERVES CHILDREN RANGING FROM ZERO TO FIVE YEARS OLD. SOMETIMES WE GO TO SIX IF THE CHILD WAS NOT IN SCHOOL BEFORE FIVE YEARS OLD. OUR GOAL IS TO PREPARE IMMIGRANT CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN READINESS. IMAGINE CHILDREN ARE COMING FROM REFUGEE CAMP AND EVERYWHERE AND EVEN AT SCHOOL, PEOPLE THAT DON'T HAVE THE LANGUAGE, WHEN THEY GO TO KINDERGARTEN THEY ARE LOST. THAT'S WHY WE DO OUR BEST TO START, YOU KNOW, TEACHING THEM WHILE THEY ARE AT HOME. WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR CHILDREN, WE SUPPORT MOTHER, PARENTING SKILLS AND EDUCATION. IT IS NOT EASY TO ADJUST TO THE NEW COMMUNITY IF YOU EVER HAVE BEEN THERE. ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH, WE CONNECT CLIENTS TO MANY PEOPLE LIKE CLOSET CLOTHES, FOOD BANK. KINDERGARTEN. REGISTRATION. WE PROCESS FOR CLIENTS. WE DO MANY THINGS WITH PARENTS. THIS PROGRAM WHERE WILL NEEDS TO BE CONTINUED. IF YOU -- I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN SAY AMERICA IS THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR MOTHERS FROM AFRICA. NOW CAN YOU PLEASE EXTEND THIS PROGRAM. I BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM BY BEING A CLIENT AND TODAY I GET THE EDUCATION AND I CAN COORDINATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS PROGRAM. CAN YOU LET ANOTHER MOM TO COME HERE, IN THE FUTURE, TOO. PLEASE DON'T CUT THIS PROGRAM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Alex: HI EVERYONE. MY NAME IS [INAUDIBLE] I GO BY ALEX BECAUSE IT IS MY BAPTIZED NAME. I AM 19 YEARS OLD AND I CAME FROM CONGO. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS. CAME HERE IN 2009. THE PROGRAM THAT I WAS GOING TO REPRESENT, I WANTED TO MIX IN WITH MY LAST STORY BECAUSE I THINK THIS PROGRAM IS REAL HELP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE ME.

SO WHEN I WAS 16 I STARTED HANGING OUT WITH BAD FRIENDS AFTER I DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. BEFORE I DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL I STARTED DOING DRUGS AT THE AGE OF 15, AND SKIPPING SCHOOL. I WOULD COME HOME AND MY MOM WOULD ASK ME WHERE I WAS ALL DAY, AND THEY CALLED THE SCHOOL AND I TOLD HER TO MIND HER OWN BUSINESS. WE GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT ONE DAY TO THE POINT THAT I TOLD HER THAT SHE WASN'T MY MOM. BUT THEN I JUST REALIZED THAT RIGHT NOW LOOKING BACK INTO THAT LIKE I OWE EVERYBODY THAT I DISRESPECTED, BIG APOLOGIES WHERE THIS IS GOING TO IS I AM TRYING TO ASK YOU GUYS TO HELP THIS PROGRAM CALLED AFRICAN GANG [INAUDIBLE] PROGRAM TO HELP WITH THE YOUNG TEENAGERS WITH GANG BANGERS AND DRUGS PRETTY MUCH, THINKING OF PARTYING BUT NOT REALLY. WELL I'VE BEEN IN THAT SITUATION SO I KNOW HOW IT IS. I CAN TALK TO SOMEONE OUT OF IT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THERE, YOU KNOW, AND I'VE BEEN TO JAIL TEN TIMES, AND I AM 19 YEARS OLD. I LIKE, IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS I DONE WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO LIKE LONG PERIOD OF TIME OF MY LIFETIME. SO I JUST REALIZED THAT AFTER ALL THOSE I AM LOOKING AT PROBATION, I AM LOOKING AT 60 MONTHS. WHATEVER, GOING TO JAIL EVERY NOW AND THEN, AND THEN I AM IN SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING IN LIFE STARTS TO STOP MATTERING. THAT'S WHEN LIFE GOT DIFFICULT FOR ME UNTIL I REALIZED IT WOULD NEVER BE TOO LATE TO ASK FOR HELP AND STUFF AND JUDGE YOU SAY I AM 19, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT AM I GOING TO DO AFTER MY 20S AND 30S AFTER I DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL AND ALL I DID WAS JUST SKIP HIGH SCHOOL AND WENT OUT THERE AND SMOKED AND STARTED ARGUING WITH MY NEIGHBORS AND STUFF. LAST THING THAT I WANTED TO SAY IS THAT PEOPLE -- I CAN SAY BETTER THAN I CAN SHOW IT TO YOU, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THAT PEOPLE IF YOU JUST LIKE GIVE SOMEONE ATTENTION, AT LEAST OF LIFE, I THINK IT HELPS A BIT, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I THOUGHT NOBODY REALLY CARED, YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW. I WAS TO A POINT WHERE LIKE WHAT IS LIFE? AND WHAT AM I DOING HERE IN OREGON AND STUFF LIKE THAT? AND WHY IS EVERYBODY REALLY INTO MY LIFE, LIKE BOTHERING ME. THEY ARE JUST TRYING TO WATCH OUT FOR ME. I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THERE WAS I DON'T KNOW BEING ANNOYING AND STUFF. THEN I REALIZED THAT I WAS ON DRUGS AND I THINK THAT MAYBE IT'S ME TRIPPING ON THEM BUT REALLY IT'S THEM TRYING TO HELP ME OUT, AND THAT'S HOW IT GOES IS EVERYTHING GOES WEIRD -- I THOUGHT IT WAS COOL AT FIRST BUT THEN I HAD TO LEAVE IT, AND IT JUST MOVED MY LIFE FORWARD AND NEVER LOOKED BACK AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. THANK YOU GUYS AND HELP THIS PROGRAM, PLEASE.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY. [APPLAUSE]

Kate Gonzales: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS MY NAME IS KATE GONZALES, THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR AT THE OREGON JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER. OJRC IS A PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM THAT REPRESENTS CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED OREGONIANS AND ADVOCATES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM. WE ARE HERE TONIGHT AS AN ALLY AND A PARTNER TO

MANY OF THE ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS ROOM. IN 2016 OJRC PARTNERED WITH SEVERAL OTHER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY RACE AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES REPORT. THIS REPORT CONCLUDED THAT IF YOU ARE A PERSON OF COLOR YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO INTERSECT WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND BE PUNISHED MORE SEVERELY. IN ORDER TO CREATE A MORE FAIR AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEM WE ASK YOU TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS TO REPORT AND MEASURE OUT ON RACE AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES EVERY SIX MONTHS. TONIGHT AS YOU WEIGH THE COUNTY BUDGET PRIORITIES IT'S TIME TO ASK OURSELVES WHY SO MANY OREGONIANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE BLACK AND BROWN, CONTINUE TO CHURN IN AND OUT OF OUR LOCAL JAILS AND THIS IS AT A TIME OF DECADES OF DECLINING CRIME. IT'S TIME TO TAKE A SMARTER APPROACH. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE FUNDING PREBOOKING DIVERSION ALTERNATIVES AND TO MORE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SPENDING WHERE IT MATTERS BY REDUCING OUR RELIANCE ON JAIL, AND IN THE YEAR AHEAD WE URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND FUNDING FOR FORWARD-THINKING ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION SUCH AS MANY OF THE PROGRAMS IN THIS ROOM. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: ALL RIGHT WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Chair Kafoury: YEAH.

Kenji: I AM KENJI, AND I AM A SOPHOMORE AT REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL, AND I AM PART OF THE YOUTH GANG PROTECTION PREVENTION SERVICE. BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL I GUESS THAT I WAS A BAD KID BECAUSE USUALLY IN THE EVENINGS I WOULD HANG OUT WITH THESE KIDS IN THE APARTMENTS AND COME HOME AROUND MIDNIGHT, NOT MIDNIGHT BUT AROUND NIGHT-TIME. AND MY MOM WAS MAD AT MY OLDER SISTER TOLD ME TO WATCH MY ATTITUDE SINCE I'VE BEEN THROWING ATTITUDES OR AT THE TIME, BUT THEN WHEN IT GOT TO, I THINK, MY FRESHMEN YEAR AT REYNOLDS I WAS SLOWLY CHANGING AND I WAS STILL, I GUESS GIVING A BAD ATTITUDE TO MY FAMILY BUT DURING HALF END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR I CAME TO A CLUB CALLED [INAUDIBLE], AND MY SUPERVISOR TAUGHT ME A LOT OF THINGS AND HELPED ME A LOT IN LIFE AND BECAUSE USUALLY I WOULD GO AND STAY AFTER SCHOOL AND ESCAPE FROM REALITY AND JUST DO MY HOMEWORK BUT WHEN I GOT HOME I JUST USUALLY DO NOTHING AND JUST STAY AROUND AND BE LAZY AND NOW MY SOPHOMORE YEAR I AM COMING ALMOST EVERY WEEK

ON WEDNESDAYS, AND JUST HEARING MY SUPERVISOR AND TAKING THIS FROM HER, AND JUST HELPS ME A LOT IN LIFE, AND I AM BECOMING A GOOD GUY AGAIN. I AM PRETTY HAPPY ABOUT IT. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Ayni Amir: HI EVERYBODY. COUNTY COMMISSIONER I AM [INAUDIBLE] AMIR AND I AM FROM SOMALIA AND WORK AT THE IRCO AFRICA HOUSE, AND I'VE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES ALMOST TEN YEARS. I HAVE STARTED WORKING COORDINATING FOR THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER. MY ROLE INVOLVED ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TOWARDS HEALTH, BEGINNING OUR COMMUNITIES ESPECIALLY OUR MOMS AND OUR WOMAN'S AND MOTHER HAVE A HIGH NEEDS FOR THE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC TRAINING WE PROVIDE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PROVIDING OUR PROGRAM. WITHOUT THE COUNTY WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE GREAT WORK. WE DO TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY. I HOPE ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM, THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY HELP AS MORE REFUGEE ARRIVING AND IMMIGRANTS TO THE PORTLAND. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Carina Mena: OK. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO US. GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS CARINA MENDA. I AM PART OF THE [INAUDIBLE] DISTRICT. FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS I'M A VOLUNTEER AT THE SCHOOL. I AM PART OF THE COMMUNITY, AND I FIGHT FOR A LOT OF [INAUDIBLE] FOR THE SCHOOL. WE DO IT FOR SUCCESSFUL. ONE YEAR AGO I LOST MY HOME IN A FIRE. AND FOR ME, ANY WAY TO GO TO FIND HELP OR SOMEONE NEEDS TO HELP ME AND WHAT CAN I DO? SO I GO TO THE SCHOOL AND WE HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERYONE OVER THERE, WITH THE STAFF, WITH THE PRINCIPAL. AND WITH IRCO NOW.

I HEAR ABOUT THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BECAUSE I KNEW IN THE SCHOOL, SO I MADE THE APPLICATION AND WAS ACCEPTED, BUT MY BIG CONCERN IS NOT ABOUT HOW CAN I PAY MY RENT OR MY DEPOSIT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IS THAT THE PROBLEMS IS COMING WHEN I FIND A LOT OF DISCRIMINATION, A LOT OF INFORMATION, THAT THE NEW RULES FOR THE TENANTS AND [INAUDIBLE] AND OBLIGATE AND OBLIGATE FOR ANY REASONS I WORK WITH THE CO-WORKER [INAUDIBLE] PROGRAM FOR THE SYSTEM, SO THE POINT IS I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE PROGRAMS THAT YOU HAVE FOR HOUSING, OR FOR HELP FOR SYSTEM PROGRAMS, IS HEALTHY FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT THE BIG PROBLEM IS NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEOPLE CAN RENT THE HOUSES, THE APARTMENTS FOR US. TOO MANY PROBLEMS IF I DO THAT BECAUSE FOR MY CO-WORKERS IT IS EASY TO MAKE A LOT OF APPLICATIONS, BUT WHEN THE PEOPLE AND THE APARTMENTS DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT'S NEW, DON'T WANT

TO TRY IT. SO I THANK YOU NOW. I HAVE HOUSE. MY KIDS ARE SO HEALTHY. I CONTINUE IN MY SCHOOL. I CONTINUE IN MY COMMUNITY. I WANT TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR -- TO FIND A NEW HELP FOR THE COMMUNITY AND FOR MY SCHOOL, SO I WANT TO SUPPORT THAT THIS PROGRAM AND I WANT TO [INAUDIBLE] AND A LOT OF PEOPLE NEED IT, AND I WANT, I WENT TO THIS PROGRAM FOR HELP WITH OTHER PEOPLE THAT HELPED ME IN MY TIME SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: WE CAN PULL ANOTHER CHAIR UP HERE FOR YOU. WHO WANTS TO START? OK.

Abdi: MY NAME IS ABDI, AND I AM A STAFF AT IRCO AFRICA HOUSE, AND I WORK IN THE PROGRAM, YOUTH GANG PREVENTION, FUNDED BY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND THE AIM IS TO BASICALLY RAISE AND PREPARE YOUTH COMMISSIONERS JUST LIKE YOU ALL, RATHER THAN FUTURE [INAUDIBLE] GANGSTERS, SO THAT'S THE AIM AND THESE ARE THE PARENTS, AND THEY WANT TO TESTIFY ON WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS DONE FOR THEM AND FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT, THANK YOU. THERE IS ALSO A MICROPHONE RIGHT THERE, TOO.

Public Testimony: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) WE CAME HERE TODAY TO TESTIFY THAT THE GANG PREVENTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL. IT KEEPS THE CHILDREN OUT OF THE STREETS BY MAKING THEM BUSY WITH HOMEWORK, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, SATURDAY DAY PROGRAM TRIPS AND FIELD TRIPS SO THAT WAY THEY ARE BUSY WITH SOMETHING THAT IS USEFUL FOR THEM -- FOR THEIR FUTURE RATHER THAN RUNNING AROUND THE STREETS AND THEN GETTING INVOLVED IN SOMETHING THAT IS USELESS AND THAT'S GOING TO CREATE MORE PROBLEMS NOT JUST FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES AT THE MOMENT BUT ALSO IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL LIKE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT'S VERY HELPFUL FOR US AND FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN BECAUSE IF YOU CUT THE PROGRAM THEN YOU BASICALLY ARE DENYING OUR CHILDREN A FUTURE THAT THEY DESERVE A BETTER FUTURE THAT THEY DESERVE, AND WHO BETTER TO HELP THEM THAN YOU GUYS BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE THE DECISION-MAKERS, AND IF YOU DECIDE TO CUT THE PROGRAM THEN YOU DENIED OUR CHILDREN A BETTER FUTURE THAT THEY DESERVE.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. THANKS FOR COMING. [APPLAUSE]

Public Testimony: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO WHAT THIS MOTHER OVER HERE SAID. WE ALL FACE THE SAME PROBLEM LIKE WHEN WE RAISING CHILDREN AND ESPECIALLY LIKE WHEN YOU COME FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE, AND THEN YOU COME TO A NEW SYSTEM TO A NEW CULTURE TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT IS VERY HARD, AND SOMETIMES LIKE PARENTS ARE BUSY WITH EVERYTHING THAT THEY ARE GOING THROUGH WORK AND EVERYTHING, AND THE CHILDREN GET ADAPTED TO THE NEW CULTURE, TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT QUICKER THAN THE PARENTS, SO LIKE -- SO AT THE SAME TIME, SO THEY NEED GUIDANCE, SO THIS PROGRAM, GANG PREVENTION PROGRAM THEY PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE CHILDREN, AND THEN WE NEED THAT GUIDANCE BECAUSE AS PARENTS WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT GUIDANCE BECAUSE WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM AND HOW IT WORKS. EVERYTHING COMES DOWN TO FUNDING MOPE BECAUSE THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE PROVIDING THE GUIDANCE, THEY NEED THE FUNDING TO PROVIDE THE GUIDANCE, AND WHEN THEY ARE FUNDED, WHEN THEY HAVE THE MONEY TO PROVIDE, WHEN THEY HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE THOSE GUIDANCE, THE HELP THAT OUR CHILDREN NEED, THEN THEY CAN SUPPORT NOT JUST OUR CHILDREN BUT US AS A FAMILY THEY CAN SUPPORT US, SO WE NEED THE FUNDING TO BE FINISH -- CONTINUED BECAUSE IT DOES NOT STOP. TODAY YOU DO SOMETHING, NEXT YEAR IF YOU STOP IT'S A RELAPSE AND THOSE CHILDREN WILL GO BACK SO WE NEED THOSE FUNDINGS TO CONTINUE. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME, AND I KNOW MY TIME IS UP SO I WILL PASS IT ON.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. THANKS FOR COMING. [APPLAUSE]

Libe Esra: GOOD EVENING EVERYONE. MY NAME IS LIBE ESRA. I AM FROM MICRONESIA. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SOMETHING TO SAY. INSTEAD I JUST EXPRESSED MY GREAT THANKS WITH THIS ORGANIZATION BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I WILL GET A LOT OF HELP FROM IT. BUT THIS EVENING I CAME HERE TO JUST ASK YOU TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THIS PROGRAM, NOT WITH [INAUDIBLE] BUT WITH HARD HANDS. I HOPE THAT WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR HANDS, HEART, AND VOICE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Angel Murphy: I AM ANGEL MURPHY, WE ARE WITH THE YGPS PROGRAM, AND I AM AN ADVOCATE WITH THE YGPS PROGRAM, I CAME HERE TO BE A VOICE FOR MY COMMUNITIES, A LOT OF THEM I WORK WITH ISLANDER COMMUNITY, AND A LOT OF THEM GO INVISIBLE. THEY ARE NOT ON ANYONE'S RADAR SO WITH THE INVISIBILITY THEY FEEL LIKE THEY CAN DO ANYTHING, DOING ANYTHING AS IN SKIPPING, DROPPING OUT, DRINKING, DRUGS, AND IT'S LOW KEY LIKE NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT SO THEY THINK THAT IT'S OKAY TO DO. SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE AS CASE MANAGERS, KNOWING HEY I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND I SEE YOU. AND SO WHEN THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE

BEING WATCHED, THEY KIND OF JUST STOP WHAT THEY ARE DOING, AND THEY DON'T STOP BUT THEY THINK ABOUT IT. AND WITH THAT THINKING PROCESS, YOU KNOW, COMES WITH MILD STOPPING, AND SOONER OR LATER, YOU KNOW, WE KEEP WORKING WITH THEM AND THEY EVENTUALLY DO STOP. THEY HAVE THE REALIZATION THAT THEY COULD BE MORE THAN WHAT THEY SEE. A LOT OF THEIR SIBLINGS COME HERE AND THEY DEVELOP THE AMERICAN LIFESTYLE, AND SO AS YOUNG ONES THEY SEE OH, HEY, THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING. THEY JUST ADOPTED THAT, AND THEY THINK DROPPING OUT IS A THING TO DO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE, AND SO THEY DON'T SEE THAT VISION OR THAT FUTURE IN THEIR LIFE AT ALL. THAT'S WHAT THEY SEE. THEIR SIBLINGS AND THEIR FAMILY, AND THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE DOING, AND SO THE PROGRAM WE TAKE THEM OUT TO COLLEGES. WE TAKE THEM -- WE JUST DID THAT LAST WEEK ACTUALLY. AND SO THEY SEE DIFFERENT VISIONS. THEY SEE A DIFFERENT PATH FOR THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING A PATH THAT THEY ALWAYS SEE EVERY YEAR. AND SO THAT'S WHY I AM HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR PROGRAM FOR YGPS TO CONTINUE OUR FUNDING. I ALSO WANT TO MENTION THAT PREVENTION IS THE KEY WORD. I KNOW THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE MIGHT THINK OH, ABI, GANGS, THAT'S NOT A THING, BUT I MEAN IT'S NOT A THING BUT MAYBE BECAUSE WE ARE PREVENTING ALL THESE KIDS FROM GOING INTO THESE GAMES. I KNOW MYSELF BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS AFFILIATED BUT IT WAS LOW KEY SO JUST MIND AND VISIBILITY IS THERE AND THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE BEING SEEN, AND THEY WILL REALIZE THAT THEY COULD BE MORE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Pi Yang: HELLO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I KNOW THE NIGHT IS LONG BUT THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PATIENCE. MY NAME IS PI YANG, AND I AM A YOUTH AND FAMILY ADVOCATE FOR THE YOUTH GANG PREVENTION SERVICES AT IRCO, AND I'VE BEEN HERE ABOUT FOUR YEARS. BEING A REFUGEE FOR THE LAST 37 YEARS AND STARTED TO -- ALMOST LIKE EVERYTHING GOES IN FULL CIRCLE, AND AS A PARENT ALSO AND AS A GRANDMA, MYSELF, AND I SEE THAT THERE IS ALSO IN THE SOCIETY DOES NOT REALLY ALWAYS GO WHERE WE NEED IT TO GO, AND SO THESE CHILDREN REALLY NEED GUIDANCE YOU KNOW, SO WHY YOU KNOW, WHY IRCO? WE ARE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC, YOU KNOW, WE WORK WITH CULTURALLY SPECIFIC, AND I THINK THAT THAT'S VERY UNIQUE WHAT SERVICES WE GIVE HERE AT IRCO, AND WE CAN RELATE IT TO THEM, SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE, AND WE CAN GO INTO NATURE HOME AND EAT STINKY FISH SAUCE AND BE OK WITH IT AND COME UP STINKY BUT IT'S OK. AND THOSE ARE THE KIND OF SERVICE THAT I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY COULD GIVE AND CULTURALLY SPECIFIC IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I REALLY DO BELIEVE IN. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM YOU ARE NOT GOING TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING. THE MINDSET, THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WORK A LOT WITH THE YOUTH IS THAT THE CHOICE THAT THEY MAKE. IT'S A

LOT WITH ACADEMIC BUT ALSO IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE CHOICES, AND I CAN'T. I USUALLY TALK TO THE YOUTH AND SAY YOU CANNOT SAY THAT YOU CAN'T BECAUSE IF THERE IS A WILL THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? SO JUST TEACHING THEM HOW TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND JUST RECENTLY THERE IS AN ARTICLE COMING OUT ABOUT ALL THE SHOOTINGS IN THE SCHOOL AND SO ON, AND THEY TALK ABOUT THOSE YOUTH THAT ARE SHOOTING. THEY COME FROM GREAT HOMES, PARENTS ARE WORKING MIDDLE CLASS, ALL OF THOSE, AND BUT YET THEY GET THEMSELVES IN THAT SITUATION IS BECAUSE THEY NEED HELP AND THE HELP IS NOT THERE FOR THEM. THE PARENTS ARE NOT THERE FOR THEM, AND NOBODY IS THERE FOR THEM, THEY NEED AN ASSISTANT, SO I THINK THAT THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTINUE GIVING US, YOU KNOW, THE SUPPORT SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE SERVING THE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Omi Sied: HI, I AM OMI SIED. I AM HERE IN AMERICA TEN YEARS AND I HAVE FOUR KIDS AND MY KIDS HAVE SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING AND I AM SO HAPPY AND THIS PROGRAM, AND I DON'T WANT IT TO BE STOPPED. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: IS THERE A MICROPHONE?

Public Testimony: (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR FUNDING IRCO TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES. I HAVE SIX BOYS AND ONE GIRL. IRCO PROGRAM HAS HELPED ME AND MY CHILDREN, AND IT'S REALLY GREAT. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO FUND THIS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OUR KIDS TO MAKE THEM -- KEEP THEM OUT OF THE TROUBLE. IRCO IS THE HAND FOR MY FAMILY AND MY FUTURE OF MY KIDS. THEY DO AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK FOR MY KIDS. THEY ALWAYS SUPPORT AND HELP MY COMMUNITIES AND MY FAMILY. I AM NOT AN EDUCATED PERSON BUT IRCO STARTED HELPING ME I FEEL MY KIDS AND MY COMMUNITY ARE BEING EMPOWERED AND BEING HELPED. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

Kadeeja: MY NAME IS KADEEJA (SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER) I AM HERE TO THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING IRCO AND ALL THE IRCO'S PROGRAM. IRCO HAS MANY DIFFERENT PROGRAMS THAT'S BEEN HELPING OUR COMMUNITY AND MY FAMILY, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM WORKER WHO EMPOWERED ME AND MY FAMILY. SO I WOULD ASK

YOU TO KEEP FUNDING THIS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WOMEN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Public Testimony: FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR COMING AND TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY TO COME AND LISTEN TO US TALK. I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD LIKE KEEP FUNDING THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE BEFORE THIS PROGRAM I FOUND MYSELF FOLLOWING MY OLDER BROTHER A LOT AND I WOULD DO EVERYTHING THAT HE DID BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS RIGHT BECAUSE HE WAS MY ROLE MODEL. SO LIKE WHEN HE WOULD SKIP SCHOOL I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE OK FOR ME TO DO IT BECAUSE HE DID IT PRETTY MUCH. WHAT THIS PROGRAM -- THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO DEVELOP MY OWN PERSON, AND IT TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIKE DO WHAT I DO AND NOT WHAT ANYONE ELSE DOES. AND IT PRETTY MUCH TAUGHT ME HOW TO DEVELOP MY OWN CHARACTER. WHAT THIS PROGRAM IT TAUGHT ME A LOT. RIGHT NOW I AM APPLYING FOR A JOB AND I AM WAITING FOR A RESPONSE. SO YEAH.

Chair Kafoury: GOT OUR FINGERS CROSSED FOR YOU. THANK YOU. GOOD LUCK. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: WELL THAT'S IT. I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING AND BEING SO BRAVE TO COME UP HERE AND TESTIFY. IT WAS WONDERFUL HEARING FROM ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU. YOUR WORDS MEAN A LOT, AND I AM GOING TO REMEMBER YOUR WORDS ABOUT YOUR HEART, YOUR VOICE AND YOUR HANDS. THANK YOU. HAVE A LOVELY EVENING AND PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO ALL THE WORK THAT YOU ARE DOING IN YOUR COMMUNITY. GOOD NIGHT. [APPLAUSE]

ADJOURNMENT – 08:52 p.m.

[CAPTIONS PROVIDED BY LNS CAPTIONING AND MAY INCLUDE INACCURATE WORDS OR PHRASES DUE TO SOUND QUALITY, OTHER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND/OR SOFTWARE ERRORS.]

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Submitted by:
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Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County, Oregon