



Board Clerk <boardclerk@multco.us>

Save Londer Learning Center

2 messages

Kelsey Stark <stark.kelsey@gmail.com>

Wed, May 10, 2017 at 8:58 PM

To: boardclerk@multco.us

Dear Commissioners,

Tonight I attended the public hearing on the proposed FY18 budget for Multnomah County. I was inspired by the stories and positive work being done in our community. I know it's a tough decision to cut funding from essential programs. That said, I would like to encourage you to continue to fund the Londer Learning Center. Their services offer a second chance for some of the most marginalized and vulnerable in our community, those transitioning out of jail or prison or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system.

Citizens worry and complain about public safety and criminals. We incarcerate individuals at an astonishingly high rate. Yet most offenders will return to the community at some point after they've been traumatized in jail and are then offered no support in their transition. After returning to the community after incarceration, individuals have a difficult time getting employment or housing and are forced to return to their criminal ways to live. It's a never ending cycle of incarceration that hurts everyone.

We all know how transformative education can be. The Londer Learning Center helps folks earn their GED, or learn to read or write, and most importantly, provides support and empathy for those society has forgotten. This is essential in reducing recidivism. I am so inspired by those working incredibly hard to make amends and change their lives, and we owe it to them to forgive and support them on their path to recovery.

Please fund the Londer Learning Center.

Thank you,

Kelsey Stark

Board Clerk <boardclerk@multco.us>

Thu, May 11, 2017 at 10:20 AM

To: Kelsey Stark <stark.kelsey@gmail.com>

Thank you, Kelsey. I will pass on your Testimony to the Chiefs for each Commissioner, and make sure this goes in the permanent file. We appreciate your kind remarks.

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