

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
IRCO - 10301 NE Glisan St., Portland, Oregon**

Wednesday, May 02, 2018

IRCO 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, and Jessica Vega Pederson present. Commissioner Loretta Smith was excused.

Also attending was Marina Baker, Board Clerk.

Lee Cha: MY NAME IS LEE CHA. I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IRCO, AND I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO WELCOME EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO OUR ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS AND BUDGET HEARING WITH OUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. FIRST, LET ME SAY THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TAKING THEIR BUDGET PROCESS TO OUR COMMUNITY. I HOPE THAT YOU TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK YOUR MINDS ABOUT THE CRITICAL SERVICES THAT THE COUNTY OFFERED TO OUR COMMUNITY. WITH THAT, I JUST SAY WELCOME TO YOU-ALL. AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IRCO, I WANTED TO ALSO APPRECIATE THE COALITION OF COMMUNITY OF COLOR FOR CONTINUING TO PROVIDE CRITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR, WE HAD OUR BOARD CHAIR, MR. PAUL LUMLEY, WHO IS NOT ONLY REPRESENTING OUR ORGANIZATION BUT ALSO REPRESENTING THE COALITION OF COMMUNITY OF COLOR. WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP ME TO WELCOME MR. PAUL LUMLEY? [APPLAUSE]

Paul Lumley: THANK YOU FOR THIS HONOR TO BE HERE. IT'S AN HONOR, CHAIR KAFOURY, AND COMMISSIONERS. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS HONOR. AS LEE SAID, I'M A EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILY CENTER, CURRENTLY THE CHAIR OF THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. WE WERE EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE OF OUR NATIVE COMMUNITY TURN OUT HERE TONIGHT, BUT THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER EVENT THAT'S GOING ON. IT IS AN AWARENESS EVENT FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS. THERE ARE ABOUT 70,000 NATIVE AMERICANS HERE IN PORTLAND, WHICH MAKES US THE NINTH LARGEST URBAN COMMUNITY. I ALSO WANT TO MENTION MULTNOMAH COUNTY, WHICH IS A NATIVE NAME.

IT IS FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THIS AREA. IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO BE HERE WORKING TONIGHT WITH ANOTHER NATIVE ORGANIZATION. THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FORMED IN 2001 AS AN ALLIANCE OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE REPRESENTED BY A BROAD RANGE OF ENTITIES FROM THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, ASIAN, LATINO, MIDDLE EASTERN, NATIVE

AMERICAN, NORTH AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND SLAVIC COMMUNITIES. THE MISSION OF THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IS TO ADDRESS SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES, INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, INEQUITIES. THIS COLLECTIVE ACTION RESULTS IN SOCIAL CHANGE TO OBTAIN SELF-DETERMINATION, WELLNESS, JUSTICE, AND POVERTY. OVER THESE PAST FEW DECADES, WE HAVE REALLY COME A LONG WAY WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT AND HONOR THAT PROGRESS WE'VE MADE SO FAR. OUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE MET SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST MONTH OR SO TO IDENTIFY OUR INTERESTS WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I'M GOING TO READ A LIST. SUN SCHOOLS, SUN YOUTH ADVOCACY, CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, HEALTHY PREGNANCIES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AGEING AND DISABILITY, YOUTH GANG PREVENTION, HOMELESSNESS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOUSING STABILITY WITH ENERGY AND RENT SUPPORTS, MENTAL HEALTH, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, UNIVERSAL LEGAL REPRESENTATION WITH COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ARTS EDUCATION. NOW THAT IS AN AMAZING LIST. IT IS AN AMAZING LIST BECAUSE THESE ARE OUR PARTNERS THAT WILL HELP US GET THIS WORK DONE. [APPLAUSE]

Lee Po Cha: WELL, CLEARLY, WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND PROGRESS TO MAKE. I JUST WANT TO THANK THE COMMISSIONERS AGAIN FOR THIS JOURNEY THAT WE'RE ON, THIS PARTNERSHIP. I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR TONIGHT. AT THIS POINT, I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO THE COUNTY CHAIR.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. THANK YOU. HELLO? THERE IT GOES. GREAT. THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. LEE, AND THANK YOU, PAUL LUMLEY. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TONIGHT. MY NAME IS DEBORAH KAFOURY. I'M YOUR MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAIR. I'M EXCITED TO BE HERE FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUM. I JUST WANT TO SAY HOW PROUD WE ARE OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY TO PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ORGANIZATION AS A COLLABORATIVE AND ALSO EACH INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION AS WE ARE REALLY COMMITTED TO SERVING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND MAKING OUR COMMUNITY MORE EQUITABLE. WE KNOW THAT THE COMMUNITIES KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM, AND THAT IS WHAT WE TRY TO EMBODY IN OUR BUDGET IS TO REALLY GET OUR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PARTNERS STRONG, HEALTHY, AND VIBRANT AS ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT COMMUNITIES, ALL THE COMMUNITIES, IN OUR COUNTY CAN THRIVE. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET IS NOT AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NEXT YEAR. I'LL PUT IT THAT WAY.

WE HAVE UNFORTUNATELY, AS WE LOOK OVER THE HORIZON FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS -- WE'RE GOING TO HAVE FEWER DOLLARS TO SPEND. AND IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHEN WE SEE ALL THE BUILDINGS AND THE CRANES GOING UP AROUND OUR COMMUNITY HOW THAT COULD BE. THAT'S A LONGER

STORY THAT WOULD TAKE ALL NIGHT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND OUR PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM, BUT I'M HAPPY TO TALK MORE WITH PEOPLE IF THEY'RE INTERESTED. THIS YEAR IS A STABLE BUDGET. WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF NEW MONEY TO SPEND, BUT WE'RE NOT HAVING TO CUT SERVICES FOR THE MOST PART. WE HAVE A PRETTY FLAT BUDGET. WE ALSO HAVE -- AS I SAID, THIS IS OUR FIRST BUDGET HEARING. WE HAVE TWO MORE EVENING HEARINGS. TO 8:00 AT THE MULTNOMAH BUILDING, 500 SOUTHEAST HAWTHORN. THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY IS OUT IN EAST COUNTY AT 600 NORTHEAST 8TH IN GRESHAM. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY. WE'LL ULTIMATELY BE VOTING ON THE BUDGET ON MAY 31ST. I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU BEFORE THEN TO TALK TO OUR OFFICES, TO TALK TO US, TO TALK WITH OUR COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS. I KNOW THAT THE BUDGET DOCUMENT IS ABOUT THIS THICK IF YOU GET A HARD COPY. IT IS NOT VERY EASY TO ACCESS ONLINE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PROGRAM YOU CARE ABOUT IS IN THE BUDGET OR IF THERE'S OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW, I WOULD LIKE ALL OF THE FOLKS WHO WORK FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY TO EITHER STAND UP OR RAISE YOUR HAND. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE -- SEEMS LIKE OVER HERE ON THIS END, THIS SIDE OF THE -- THAT WORK FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND ARE HERE TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS. CAN DIRECT YOU TO SOMEBODY WHO CAN ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS FOR YOU. BEFORE WE GET STARTED, I WOULD LIKE MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

Commissioner Meieran: HELLO. MY NAME IS SHARON MEIERAN. I'M COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 1. THAT IS ALL OF THE WEST SIDE OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND ALSO INNER SOUTHEAST, BUT I DO CONSIDER ALL OF THE COUNTY MINE. NOTHING PERSONAL, CHAIR. [LAUGHTER]

Commissioner Vega Pederson: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON. I'M THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 3, WHICH WE ARE IN DISTRICT 3. [APPLAUSE] AND I'VE BEEN VERY PROUD TO REPRESENT THE PLACE WHERE IRCO IS BOTH WHEN I WAS A STATE LEGISLATOR AND NOW AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER. IT FEELS LIKE BEING AT HOME, SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HOSTING US TONIGHT.

Commissioner Stegmann: GOOD EVENING. I'M LORI STEGMANN. I'M THE COMMISSIONER FOR EAST COUNTY DISTRICT 4, WHICH IS PART OF SOUTHEAST PORTLAND, GRESHAM, FAIRVIEW, DROUGHT DALE, WOOD VILLAGE, CORBETT, AND ALL THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS. I HAVE THE BEST DISTRICT BECAUSE I HAVE THE GORGE DISTRICT. MULTNOMAH FALLS. LAST WEEKEND, MY OFFICE ALONG WITH THE MULTNOMAH YOUTH COMMISSION AND YOUTH FROM AFRICA HOUSE HOSTED A KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING WITH IRCO, AND I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT WAS A FABULOUS EVENT. I JUST WANTED TO THANK IRCO FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND ALL OF THE YOUTH.

DO WE HAVE ANY YOUTH HERE THAT PARTICIPATED? THEY WERE AMAZING. THIS WAS A YOUTH-LED KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING FOR YOUTH. I JUST WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. THE RULES OF THE EVENING IS WE APPRECIATE IF PEOPLE WOULD STICK TO TWO OR THREE MINUTES AT THE MAX FOR THEIR TESTIMONY. WE ALREADY HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE SIGNED UP. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS A CHANCE TO BE HEARD. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE USING TRANSLATION SERVICES, AND THEY MIGHT NEED A LITTLE BIT MORE TIME, SO LET'S GET STARTED. I'D ALSO LIKE TO INTRODUCE MARINA BAKER, WHO IS OUR NEW BOARD CLERK FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY. SHE IS GOING TO KICK US OFF TONIGHT. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: I'LL CALL FOUR PEOPLE AT A TIME. PLEASE COME FORWARD AND HAVE A SEAT AT THE PRESENTER TABLE. KIMBERLY, SHERYL, CINDY, AND RAUL.

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN BEGIN.

Kimberly Dixon: WELL, HELLO, CHAIR. COMMISSIONERS, GREAT TO SEE YOU-ALL THIS EVENING. IRCO, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HOSTING US. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BACK BEING TO YOU. I AM A PARENT AT FABIAN SCHOOL, AND I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THREE TO PH.D. AND MORE SPECIFICALLY OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 736 STUDENTS TODAY, AND THAT'S QUITE A RISE. WE STARTED OFF AT AROUND 200 WHEN WE TRANSITIONED OUT OF TUBMAN. WE WERE AROUND 540. NOW WE'RE AT 736 OF WHICH 120 SLOTS BELONG TO OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AREA. IF I COULD SPEAK TO WHY THAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHY THE FUNDING IS IMPORTANT FOR THAT AREA, WE ARE FINISHING UP -- OBVIOUSLY, COMPLETING THE PROJECT THERE. WE'RE ASKING FOR 500,000. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO FAMILIES? IT MEANS TO FAMILIES LIKE MYSELF WHO HAVE HAD CHILDREN COME THROUGH GRACIOUSLY PRE-K PROGRAMMING -- IT MEANS THAT FAMILIES HAVE KNOW THAT THEIR CHILD IS SAFE. IT MEANS THAT YOUNG STUDENTS ARE IN CLASSROOMS AND THERE ARE NO STRANGERS TO CLASSROOMS. OUR BABIES START OFF AT 6 WEEKS OLD. THEY'RE IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY COME TO KNOW CLASSROOMS AS NORMAL, AS SCHOOL AS NORMAL, AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AS NORMAL IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE HOME WITH SUPPORTS. THE REASON WHY THAT'S IMPORTANT TO FAMILIES -- DAY CARE IS REALLY HARD.

IT IS REALLY HARD IN OUR ECONOMIC TIMES, AND BEING ABLE TO EDUCATE YOUR CHILD IS HARD. SO, WHEN YOU HAVE A PLACE WHERE YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD IS SAFE, WHERE YOU HAVE BEYOND QUALIFIED STAFF BECAUSE OUR STAFF ARE NOT ONLY HIRED THROUGH PPS BUT WE ALSO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HAVING CONCORDIA STUDENTS WHO ARE THERE, WHO WERE HANDS-ON, THEY ARE PROVIDING SUPPORTS, THEY'RE LEARNING HANDS-ON WHAT IS IT

IS LIKE TO BE AN INSTRUCTOR AND DEVELOP A CURRICULUM AND WHAT IS IT IS LIKE TO TEACH FROM THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR. WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT? BECAUSE OUR FRESHMEN DON'T WIND UP GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE GOING THIS MIGHT NOT BE FOR ME. THEY DON'T WIND UP BEING FRUSTRATED IN A CAREER THAT MIGHT NOT BE FROM THEM. THEY FIND OUT EARLY ON THIS IS THE BEST FIT FOR THEM, THAT THEY DO HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE. HOW DOES THAT BENEFIT OUR CHILDREN? OUR BABIES -- AND THEY'RE ALL OUR BABIES. OUR BABIES WIND UP LEARNING AND SEEING COLLEGE AS NORMAL, AS NOT JUST AN OPPORTUNITY OR A PIE IN THE SKY. THEY ALSO COME TO LEARN THAT THEY, TOO, CAN PURSUE THEIR HIGHEST DREAMS, EVEN IF COLLEGE ISN'T THEIR FIRST CHOICE. THEY SEE THE POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE, AND IT IS UNHINDERED BECAUSE WE HAVE REMOVED SOME OF THE BARRIERS BY HAVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT THE FOREFRONT, SO THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Sherrill I Martin: HI, I'M SHERRILL MARTIN. I'M HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR CONTINUED FUNDING TO TREAT THE NON ADJUDICATED YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXHIBITED SEXUALLY OFFENDING BEHAVIOR. I'M A MOM OF TWO, AND IN 1999, OUR FAMILY WAS IN CRISIS. WE WERE A ONE-INCOME LOWER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY AT THE TIME. MY SON WAS 8 AND MY DAUGHTER WAS 3 WHEN A CLOSE FAMILY FRIEND TOLD US OUR SON HAD INAPPROPRIATELY TOUCHED THEIR DAUGHTER. BECAUSE OF THE AGE DIFFERENCE AND THE DETAILS OF THE SITUATION, OUR SON WAS THE AGGRESSOR. I WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR SON'S FUTURE AND HOW THE BEHAVIORS HE WAS EXHIBITING WERE GOING TO IMPACT ALL PHASES OF HIS LIFE. I WORRIED THAT HE MIGHT LIVE A LIFE IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM GROWING UP TO BE SOMEONE WHO IS DESPISED BY THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY. I FEARED HE WOULD STRUGGLE WITH THIS PROBLEM ALL OF HIS LIFE. WE SOUGHT OUT A CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST FOR HELP, BUT AFTER A FEW MONTHS AND ABOUT \$1500, WE WERE BECOMING VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON OUR FAMILY. AT THAT POINT, WE ALSO REALIZED THERAPISTS WE WERE SEEING DIDN'T HAVE THE EXPERTISE THAT OUR SON NEEDED. THAT'S WHEN WE LEARNED ABOUT THE MORSON CENTER COUNTERPOINT OUTPATIENT CENTER. THAT'S WHEN WE REALIZED OUR SON NEEDED EXTENSIVE THERAPY, AND WE DIDN'T HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO COVER A LONG-TERM PROGRAM LIKE COUNTERPOINT.

WE WERE RELIEVED THE PROGRAM WAS SPONSORED BY COUNTY FUNDS. WHILE IN THE PROGRAM, OUR SON, MY HUSBAND, AND I ATTENDED FAMILY GROUP SESSIONS. OUR SON HAD INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, AND I ALSO ATTENDED PARENTING CLASSES. DURING THAT TIME WE SPENT THERE, SCOTT BROWN SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME HELPING ME REALIZE I WAS EXPERIENCING A CLINICAL DEPRESSION. HE CONVINCED ME TO SEEK INDIVIDUAL THERAPY WITH A PRIVATE THERAPIST. DURING OUR TIME AT COUNTERPOINT, WE ENCOUNTERED MANY FAMILIES WHO HAD FAR LESS

RESOURCES THAN WE DID. THE PROGRAM STRENGTHENED OUR FAMILY, GAVE US HOPE FOR OUR SON'S FUTURE IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE SEEMED TO BE NO HOPE. WHEN WE GRADUATED FROM THE PROGRAM, MY HUSBAND AND I WERE BETTER PARENTS. OUR SON, OUR FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY WERE SAFER. AND WE WERE MUCH MORE AWARE OF HOW TO IDENTIFY SEXUALLY OFFENDING BEHAVIORS. PART OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S COMMISSION IS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE IS HEALTHY AND ANYONE WHO NEEDS HELP HAS A PLACE TO FIND IT. DEFUNDING THIS PROGRAM WOULD DENY TREATMENT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AND A LIFELINE TO PARENTS DESPERATELY SEEKING HELP FOR THEIR CHILDREN. FAMILIES WITH NONADJUDICATED YOUTH IN CRISIS ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF THE SUPPORT THE COUNTY OFFERS THROUGH THIS PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAMILIES, GIVE THEM HOPE FOR THEIR OFFENDING CHILDREN, GIVE THEM HOPE WHERE THEY DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY, AND TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Cindy Pollard: HELLO. MY NAME IS CINDY. I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM AND THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT IT PROVIDES THE INDIVIDUALS THAT SERVE. I'M A CAREER COACH IN A PRISONER RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. I'VE WORKED IN THIS PROGRAM FOR SEVEN YEARS. WORKING AS A CAREER COACH PROVIDING RE-ENTRY SERVICES AT SOUTHEAST WORKS, I'VE LEARNED THAT THE LACK OF HOUSING IS THE NUMBER ONE BARRIER FOR PEOPLE WITH BACKGROUNDS INTEGRATING BACK INTO SOCIETY AND BECOMING SELF-SUFFICIENT. HAVING A BACKGROUND MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SECURE HOUSING EVEN WHEN YOU MAKE A DECENT WAGE. BECAUSE OF THE EOP HOUSING ASSISTANCE, MY CUSTOMERS ARE ABLE TO COMPLETE OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING AND SECURE HOUSING. ONE CUSTOMER WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE HER TRAINING WITH THE OREGON TRADES WOMEN AND IS NOW AN IRON WORKER. SHE SPENT 16.5 YEARS IN PRISON, SO WHEN SHE CAME OUT, IT WAS REALLY HARD FOR HER TO ADJUST. SHE REMAINS IN STABLE HOUSING AND IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. ANOTHER FEMALE CUSTOMER WAS LIVING IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. BECAUSE OF THE EOP HOUSING ASSISTANCE SHE RECEIVED, THE CUSTOMER WAS ABLE TO MOVE INTO HER OWN APARTMENT, GAIN CUSTODY OF OUR YOUNG DAUGHTER, AND OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS A CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. CURRENTLY SHE MENTORS AT HER CHURCH. ONE OF THE WOMEN IN HER BIBLE STUDY OFFERED TO PAY HER BILLS FOR A WEEK SO SHE COULD GET THE CERTIFICATION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN HER. THANK YOU COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: GOOD EVENING.

Raul Mendez: BUENOS DIAS. MY NAME IS RAUL. I'M THE LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR AT LATINO NETWORK. I'M HERE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S IMPORTANT

WORK AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE CHALLENGES THAT WE CONTINUE TO FACE AS A COMMUNITY. LATINO NETWORK, AS YOU ALL KNOW, IS A LATINO-LED AND LATINO-SERVING SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER IN PORTLAND. EACH YEAR, WE SERVE OVER 7,000 FAMILIES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY AND PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CULTURALLY SPECIFIC EDUCATION AND CHILDHOOD SERVICES AS WELL AS FAMILY STABILITY SERVICES AND WRAPAROUND SUPPORT FOR AT-RISK YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES. SINCE THE 2016 ELECTION, THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION HAS ENGAGED IN ANTI-IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RHETORIC AND INITIATED MULTIPLE ATTACKS AGAINST OUR COMMUNITIES. THE CULTURE OF FEAR IS PERVASIVE. WE'VE HAD TO STEP UP OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY OF OUR STAFF, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS AT-LARGE. THIS MEANS HAVING TO HAVE DONE A COMBINATION OF TRAINING, FRONT LINE STAFF TO ADDRESS MEDIA AND RESPOND TO THE NEW REALITIES OF DISCRIMINATORY ACTS AND DEVELOPING RESOURCES AS WELL AS STAFF CAPACITY TO CONFRONT THESE ACTIONS. WHAT WAS ONCE ANTICIPATED TO BE A SHORTER TERM RESPONSE HAS REVEALED TO BE A NEW REALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR TARGETED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. ONE THAT REQUIRES A PERMANENT ADJUSTMENT OF OUR PROGRAM SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS TO PROVIDE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IMMIGRATION SUPPORTS AND NAVIGATION FOR OUR CLIENTS. THAT IS IN YOUR HANDS TODAY. WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE INVESTMENT IN LEGAL SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE LEGAL PROGRAM THAT WAS REFLECTED IN THE CHAIR'S BUDGET.

Raul Mendez: TO SUPPORT FAMILIES -- TO FULLY SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD, WE MUST ALSO INVEST IN A CAPACITY TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP NAVIGATING THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS LEGAL SERVICES. WE'RE ALSO ASKING THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO GROW ITS INVESTMENT IN LEGAL CONSULTATIONS AND DIRECT REPRESENTATION FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS FACING DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS. I WANTED TO BRIEFLY SHARE WITH YOU MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, BOTH AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS DIRECTLY WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE FACING IMMIGRATION ISSUES DAILY AND AS AN IMMIGRANT MYSELF. IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHEN MY MOTHER BEGAN THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING HER STATUS, I HAD TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISION OF USING ALL MY COLLEGE SAVINGS TO PAY FOR AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY. AS SOMEONE WHO HAS WORKED ON THE ISSUE ON A DAILY BASIS, AS SOMEONE WHO HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, I CAN TELL YOU JUST HOW DIFFICULT, CONFUSING, AND FRUSTRATING THE PROCESS IS. I HOPE YOU BEAR THIS IN MIND. I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: PLEASE COME FORWARD [READS NAMES].

Patrick Gihiring: HI. I'M PATRICK, CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER AT WORK SYSTEMS. THANKS FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY THIS EVENING. I'M HERE TO THANK CHAIR CAN FOURRY, COMMISSIONER MEIERAN, COMMISSIONER PEEDER SON FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO RESOURCE THE JOINT OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY WHO ARE HOMELESS OR WHO ARE FACING IMMINENT EVICTION AND AT THE SAME TIME LOOKING FOR A JOB THAT AFFORDS THEM A PLACE TO LIVE. WE'RE EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON PEOPLE WHO ARE IN HOUSING CRISIS AND PROVIDING THEM WITH HOUSING SUPPORT, OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT. 2017 MARKS THE FIRST YEAR SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION THAT MIDDLE-INCOME JOB GROWTH HAS EXCEEDED LOW-INCOME JOB GROWTH. THIS REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE MORE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT HIGH RISK OF HOMELESSNESS INTO JOBS AND CAREERS THAT CAN SUPPORT THE HIGH COST OF HOUSING IN THE COUNTY. HELPING PEOPLE IN HOUSING CRISIS TO MOVE INTO LIVING WAGE JOBS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING OUR REGION'S HOMELESS AND HOUSING CRISIS. PEOPLE NEED TO BE HOUSED TO COMPLETE TRAINING AND START A JOB, AND HAVING A JOB HELPS PEOPLE TO GET AND STAY HOUSED. THIS IS A VIRTUOUS CYCLE THAT WE NEED TO BUILD ON. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Stacy Triplett: HELLO. I'M STACY, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MANAGER AT WORK SYSTEMS AS WELL. I WOULD LIKE TO ECHO THE THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE HOME FOR EVERYONE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM. I'M GOING TO DELVE IN A LITTLE BIT DEEPER WITH THE PARTNERSHIPS, MANY OF WHOM ARE IN THE ROOM AND SOME THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD. WE HAD SOUTHEAST WORKS THERE WITH THE CAREER COACHING TESTIMONY. THE PARTNERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN PROVIDING THAT INDIVIDUALIZED ONE-ON-ONE CAREER COACHING THAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO MOVE PEOPLE INTO BOTH TRAINING PROGRAMS AND INTO EMPLOYMENT ARE PROVIDED BY HUMAN SOLUTIONS, BY IRCO, OUR HOST TODAY, BY CENTRAL CITY CONCERN WORKING WITH TRANSITION PROJECT RESIDENTS OF THE SHELTER THERE, POIC, AS WELL AS PROGRAM ESPANO, URBAN LEAGUE. THAT ROBUST NETWORK HAS SERVED OVER 250 RESIDENTS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED OR ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING INSECURITY OR ARE ON THE CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR THOSE ISSUES.

THEY ARE PROVIDING OR RECEIVING INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER COACHING THAT CREATES OUTCOMES AT A FAR GREATER LEVEL THAN IF THEY DIDN'T RECEIVE THE RENT ASSISTANCE THAT'S BEEN PARTNERED INTO THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE USE OF THE HOUSING HUB. THE EOP CUSTOMER IS ABLE TO ACCESS RENT ASSISTANCE AS A PART OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. I JUST WANT TO GIVE A LITTLE BIT OF RESULTS INFORMATION IN THE STUDY PERIOD, SO IN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS OF THE PROGRAM. PEOPLE

WHO COMPLETED THE PROGRAM WERE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME, BOTH THOSE WHO RECEIVED RENT ASSISTANCE AND THOSE WHO NEEDED RENT ASSISTANCE BUT THE FUNDS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO HAVE THEM RECEIVE RENT ASSISTANCE, THEY BOTH DID INCREASE THEIR INCOMES, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT WE SEE WITH PEOPLE RECEIVING RENT ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY NEED IT, THE RENT ASSISTANCE GROUP INCREASED THEIR INCOMES BY MORE THAN DOUBLE. THEY SAW AN INCREASE OF 113% IN THEIR INCOMES COMPARED TO 57% OF THOSE WHO DIDN'T RECEIVE IT BUT WHO NEEDED THAT REFERRAL. I DON'T WANT TO GO ON TOO LONG BECAUSE WE HAVE ANOTHER PERSON TO INCLUDE HERE, SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE PAIRING AND THE SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE WITH THE HOUSING NETWORK.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Stacy Triplett: I FORGOT. I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY ALSO THE MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE IS PART OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY AS WELL. THE NETWORK HAS BEEN SUPPORTING AND RECEIVING THE CUSTOMER ALIGNMENT THAT THAT SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT REPRESENTS AS WELL, SO THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Michelle Jolie-Roberts: MY NAME IS MICHELLE. I BECAME HOMELESS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AFTER THE DEATH OF MY HUSBAND. I FOUND MYSELF AND MY TWO SONS OUT IN THE STREET AND NOT HAVING A HOME TO GO TO. I GOT HELP FROM URBAN LEAGUE. I GOT HELP FROM -- THANK YOU -- SOS. I WENT BACK TO URBAN LEAGUE WHERE THEY ACTUALLY HELPED ME WITH HOUSING AND WENT BACK TO REBOOT WHERE THEY HELPED ME GET BACK IN WITH MY CAREER. I PRESENTLY HAVE A JOB WORKING FOR OREGON METRO. I'M A TECHNICAL SUPPORT. I'VE BEEN IN MY FIELD FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS, AND YOU JUST REALLY NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHING CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. I'M SO VERY GRATEFUL TO THIS COMMUNITY AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY AND MYSELF TO GET OUT OF THE STREETS AND TO BE ABLE TO BE AT HOME THAT WE LOVE. I THANK YOU FOR THAT. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Isabelle Sinclair: HELLO, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS ISABELLE. I'M A FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSON. I WAS RELEASED FROM COFFEE CREEK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR, 2017, AND I RECEIVED HELP TO FIND -- WELL, HELP WITH MY RENT THROUGH EOP AND HUMAN SOLUTIONS. I HAVE TO SAY IT AIDED ME -- IT WAS TREMENDOUS IN MY TRANSITION. I HAD 90 DAYS TO FIND A JOB, TO FIND A DIFFERENT PLACE TO LIVE, AND BY THE TIME THAT I DID HAVE THIS JOB, I HAD ABOUT BASICALLY FOUR WEEKS LEFT TO FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO MOVE. BEING YOUNGER AND HAVING ACTUALLY POOR CREDIT AT THIS POINT, IT WAS REALLY

DIFFICULT TO TRY AND FIND A PLACE THAT WOULD ACCEPT ME OR TO TRY TO FIND A PLACE THAT WASN'T TOO EXPENSIVE. IT WAS JUST A LOT OF BENEFIT ACTUALLY. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HELPED ME THE MOST WAS TO HAVE SOMEBODY THERE TO COACH ME THROUGH IT, TO HELP ME NARROW DOWN MY OPTIONS, TO HELP ME BE REALISTIC, AND REALLY TO HELP ME WITH THE FIRST LAST MONTH'S RENT, THAT HUGE PAYMENT. IT HELPED ME SAVE MONEY FOR SCHOOL. IT HELPED ME WORK THE TWO JOBS THAT I HAVE WITHOUT NEEDING TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING \$2,000 IN ONE LUMP SUM. IT HELPED ME BASICALLY IN A SENSE GET BACK ON TRACK WHERE I WANTED TO BE WITHOUT HAVING TO FLOUNDER. THERE WERE SO MANY OTHER THINGS THAT WERE SIMPLY OVERWHELMING TO ME AT THE TIME THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TACKLE BECAUSE I HADN'T EVER HAD THE SKILL SET TO DO IT. I CAN'T EVEN EXPLAIN HOW MUCH THAT HUMAN CONNECTION MADE A DIFFERENCE. BEING ABLE TO WORK WITH HUMAN SOLUTIONS, BEING ABLE TO WORK WITH THE CAREER COACH, CINDY, AT SOUTHEAST WORKS, THESE THINGS REALLY HELPED ME GET MY HEAD BACK ON MY SHOULDERS, REALLY HELPED ME KEEP MY FOCUS AND MY DETERMINATION WHEN THINGS WERE REALLY CHALLENGING. I HAVE FRIENDS WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES THAT AREN'T AS WELL ENDOWED PERHAPS, THAT ARE SMALLER COUNTIES THAT DON'T HAVE AS MANY RESOURCES. I CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHERE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET MYSELF AND WHERE THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET THEMSELVES BECAUSE SIMPLY THEY DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH HELP. THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM, SO ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT MADE A VERY BIG DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE. I WILL CARRY THAT GRATITUDE WITH ME FOR A LONG TIME. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: NEXT STEP IS ANDRE, KRISTINA, AND OTHERS.

Chair Kafoury: DO YOU WANT TO START DOWN HERE? YOU CAN GO. YEAH. OH, YOU NEED THE MICROPHONE.

Christina Romadanan: TRANSLATOR: I GREET YOU ALL, CHAIRS. MY NAME IS CHRISTINA. I LIVED IN A REFUGEE CAMP FOR 20 YEARS. I'M A SINGLE MOTHER OF FIVE. WHEN I ARRIVED IN OREGON, I WAS IN A HOUSE THAT HAS STAIRS. I WAS SLEEPING IN THE LIVING ROOM. I WAS REALLY STRUGGLING. WHEN I GOT MY SECOND HOUSE, I WASN'T TAKING A SHOWER. I WAS THERE FOR ONE YEAR AND TWO MONTHS WITHOUT TAKING A SHOWER. I CAME TO AFRICA HOUSE BECAUSE WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR A HOUSE I COULDN'T TAKE A SHOWER AND I WAS JUST WIPING MYSELF. THEY DID HELP ME TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER HOUSE THIS COULD BE BETTER. RIGHT NOW, I'M LIVING IN LOW-INCOME HOUSING. IT IS ACCESSIBLE. NOW I CAN TAKE A SHOWER. NOW I CAN MOVE AROUND IN MY HOUSE. FOR ONE YEAR AND TWO MONTHS, I WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE A SHOWER. I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR THE JOB THAT THE INITIATIVE HELPED. I WAS LIVING LIKE A BABY. I WAS JUST THERE WIPING ME. I WAS JUST -- NOW I CAN GO TO THE BATHROOM. I CAN TAKE A SHOWER. I CAN

MOVE IN MY HOUSE, AND I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR THAT. MY ASK TO YOU, PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THIS PROGRAM SO THAT YOU CAN HELP OTHER WOMEN LIKE ME. I'M VERY GRATEFUL. AND I'M HAPPY THAT I CAN SEE YOUR FACE. GOD BLESS YOU. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Andre: GOOD EVENING, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS ANDRE. I'M A SLAVIC YOUTH ADVOCATE WITH IMMIGRANT REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN SLAVIC YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM. WITH TWO YEARS, I'VE BEEN WITH IRCO. I'VE SEEN MANY GRATEFUL CLIENTS WHO EXPERIENCE A POSITIVE CHALLENGE BECAUSE OF SERVICES THEY WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH IRCO'S SLAVIC NETWORK, A COMPREHENSIVE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SUPPORT NETWORK THAT AIMS TO SERVE THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY FROM BIRTH TO SPECIFIC SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUTH AND THEIR PARENTS IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL. THE PROGRAM FOCUSES ON YOUTH 11 TO 17 YEARS OLD TO HELP THEM OVERCOME THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AS IT RELATES TO ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SKILL BUILDING. WITH SLAVIC YOUTH ADVOCACY, OUR YOUTH ARE ABLE TO LEARN AND DEVELOP NEW SKILLS TO NAVIGATE U.S. CULTURE WHILE STAYING CONNECTED WITH FAMILY CULTURE AND LANGUAGE. COMING TO THE UNITED STATES AS A NEW IMMIGRANT CAN PRESENT MANY CHALLENGES.

Andrea: LANGUAGE BARRIERS, CULTURAL SHOCK, FEELINGS OF ISOLATION, A SENSE OF BELONGING. CHALLENGES ARE OVERWHELMING FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES AS THEY ADJUST. HAVING SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THIS EXPERIENCE AND SHARES THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT DURING THESE TRANSITIONAL STAGES OF ADJUSTMENT. IRCO SLAVIC YOUTH ADVOCACY RECEIVE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT, IN-CLASS SUPPORTS, AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES. DURING GROUPS, THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND SHARE THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURES. YOUTH EVEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THEIR NATIVE CULTURES WITH MAINSTREAM COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THEIR TEACHERS AND PEERS THROUGH FOOD AND ARTS, STORYTELLING. ADDITIONALLY, BILINGUAL BICULTURAL ADVOCATES ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND INCREASE SCHOOL TO HOME AND HOME TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND OVERALL PARENT ENGAGEMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR SLAVIC YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM AND GIVING IRCO THE RESOURCES TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGES WITHIN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO EMPOWER OUR FAMILIES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Irena Rudenko: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS IRENA. I'M HERE TO REPRESENT IRCO. I'M ADVOCATING FOR OUR DIVERSITY AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING, WHICH HELPS CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE IRCO TO INCREASE CONSTITUENT PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL CIVIC GOVERNANCE. I'M FROM RUSSIA, AND I HAVE LIVED IN PORTLAND FOR 12 YEARS. MY COMMUNITY HAS OVER 50,000 INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN PORTLAND AND OVER 100,000 MORE IN OUR SURROUNDING AREAS. SOME OF THE OBSTACLES FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT I'VE EXPERIENCED AND NOTICED IN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY IS THAT WE TEND TO SHY AWAY FROM PUBLIC SYSTEMS AND DEPEND ON COMMUNITY LEADERS TO RESOLVE OUR CONFLICT RATHER THAN INVOLVING PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. IRCO'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM MADE A DIFFERENCE. I DEVELOPED SKILLS IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING, RELATIONSHIP AND TRUST BUILDING, SHARING INFORMATION, NETWORKING, AND FACILITATING MEETINGS. I HOPE TO MIRROR THE EXPERIENCE BY HELPING MORE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE LEADERS ENGAGE IN THE PUBLIC SYSTEM. OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPE THE WAY THEY INTERACT WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES AND SYSTEMS. MY HOPE IS THAT WE WILL ENCOURAGE THESE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO VOICE THEIR NEEDS AND PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN DECISIONS THAT ARE MADE FOR PORTLAND. I ASK FOR SUPPORT FROM YOU, COMMISSIONERS, TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS LIKE THE DIVERSITY AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WHICH WORK TO INVOLVE AND SERVE THE INCREASINGLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES LIVING IN PORTLAND. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Isha Omar: SPEAKING THROUGH A TRANSLATOR: I'M HERE TO TALK FOR AFRICA HOUSE AND WHOEVER WORKS OVER THERE AND FOR THE EMPLOYEES WHO HELP PEOPLE LIKE ME, WHO HELP GET SETTLED. I'M A SINGLE MOM. MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED BACK IN AFRICA IN REFUGEE CAMP. WHEN I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES, I SETTLED AT A HOUSE THAT WAS SO EXPENSIVE. THERE WAS UTILITIES THAT I HAVE TO PAY SEPARATE. SINCE I HAVE KIDS, I NEED SOMETHING TO ENTERTAIN THEM, SO I HAD TO BRING INTERNET TO THE HOUSE. I CAME TO AFRICAN HOUSE. I ASKED THEM FOR HELP BECAUSE I WAS HAVING STRUGGLE. THERE WAS THIS PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL. HE HELPED ME TO LOOK FOR A HOUSE. WHEN WE FOUND THE HOUSE, I COULDN'T PAY THE DEPOSIT OR THE RENT. SO, HE HELPED ME TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER PERSON SO I CAN GET HELP. HE TOLD HER THE STRUGGLE I WAS HAVING AND THAT I CANNOT PAY THE RENT OR THE DEPOSIT. THAT OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WORKED FOR AFRICAN HOUSE, SHE JUST GOT SAD AND SHE JUST TRIED TO HELP ME AS MUCH AS SHE CAN. FOR THAT REASON, SHE HELPED ME TO PAY THE DEPOSIT AND FOR THE FIRST RENT. AND I'M THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP LIKE THAT I GET FROM AFRICA HOUSE. AND ESPECIALLY FOR HER BECAUSE SHE HELPED ME A LOT. I'M GRATEFUL TO HER. WITH THE PROGRAM, SHE'S HELPING WITH THE PEOPLE TO KEEP GOING. AND FOR THE PEOPLE SHE WORKS FOR, I'M GLAD

THAT SHE WORKS FOR THEM. SHE HELPS THEM, THE OTHER PEOPLE, SO SHE CAN KEEP DOING HER JOB. ALSO, THIS PROGRAM THAT THEY DO HAVE HELPING KIDS WITH THEIR SCHOOL AND HELPING WITH THE RENT, I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP GOING. I PRAY FOR ALL THE EMPLOYEES AND ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HELP ME WHO WORK FOR AFRICAN HOUSE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: WILL YOU STAY FOR ONE MORE? [READS NAMES]

Janice Cheing: GOOD EVENING. HELLO? CAN YOU HER ME? I'M JANICE. I'M HERE REPRESENTING IRCO AS WELL. I'M THEIR IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY. AS PART OF OUR NEW PROGRAM OF IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES, I WANT TO SPEAK TO A COUPLE OF THINGS, BUT FIRST TO THANK THE COUNTY FOR ITS INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES THAT ITS BEEN SUPPORTING THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. I WANT TO ALSO SAY THAT IT IS WORKING. FOR IRCO AS A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, WE HAVE HEARD TIME AND TIME AGAIN FROM MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, MANY OF OUR CLIENTS, MANY OF OUR STAFF WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THESE COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE THAT DIRECT FACE-TO-FACE TIME WITH IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS IS AN ACTUALLY REAL, REAL NEED OBVIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY IN THIS POLITICAL CLIMATE WHERE THERE IS SO MUCH HEIGHTENED FEARS THAT ARE LEGITIMATE.

A COUPLE OTHER THINGS I WOULD WANT TO POINT OUT TOO IS THAT THERE'S SO MANY BARRIERS, RIGHT, FOR MANY OF OUR CLIENTS WHO COME HERE AS REFUGEES, SO MANY BARRIERS IN REGARDS TO HOUSING, SCHOOLING, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH CARE, LEGAL BARRIERS. NAVIGATING SUCH A COMPLEX IMMIGRATION SYSTEM FOR MANY OF US WHO ACTUALLY ARE EDUCATED IS SO HARD FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS AND NEW REFUGEES. I WOULD SAY FROM WHAT I HEAR FROM FOLKS IT IS JUST ON PAR, IF NOT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THAN SOME OF THESE OTHER ASPECTS BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT THEIR STATUS, GETTING THAT EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD SO THEY CAN FIND A JOB SO THEY CAN SUPPORT AND PAY FOR HOUSING AND FOOD AND MAKE THEIR FAMILIES STABLE. I JUST WANT TO MAKE THAT POINT AND AGAIN TELL YOU-ALL WE APPRECIATE YOUR INVESTMENT. BUT IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE I WOULD SAY MOST IMPACTFUL, WE NEED CONTINUED SUPPORT NOT JUST FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES COMPONENT BUT ALSO THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMPONENT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND ALSO HELPING CLIENTS TO NAVIGATE THAT SYSTEM, SO THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Janice Cheing: I BROUGHT A CLIENT TO SHARE.

Ayan Hussein: SPEAKING THROUGH A TRANSLATOR: I WAS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING MY GREEN CARD. IT WAS TAKING A LONG TIME WHEN I APPLIED AND MY TRANSITION PERMIT WAS EXPIRING. I CAME TO IRCO, AND I GET HELP FROM IMMIGRATION LAWYER WHO IS SITTING NEXT TO ME. SHE HELPED ME TO ACHIEVE MY GREEN CARD, SO NOW I HAVE MY GREEN CARD. IF THIS PROGRAM, IRCO, HELPING US WAS NOT THERE, I WOULDN'T BE HAVING MY GREEN CARD. I WOULDN'T BE WORKING RIGHT NOW. I WOULD BE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING MY BILLS PAID, SO I'M GLAD THAT I GET THAT HELP AND GET MY GREEN CARD SO I CAN WORK. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

John Herrera: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AND TO MOST OF ALL THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED. I'M JOHN HERRERA. I'M THE DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES. WE ARE ONE OF THE NONPROFIT LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER THAT HAVE BEEN DOING THE CONSULTATIONS THAT ARE HELPING ALL THESE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY ARE. THE CLIENTS ARE NOT TRYING TO FIND ATTORNEYS. WE ARE GOING TO MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE, AND THIS HAS BEEN AMAZING. WE REALLY THANK YOU FOR THIS PROJECT AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT WITH THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE BUDGET TO DO IT AT THE LEVEL THAT YOU CAN. BUT ALSO I'M HERE AS AN IMMIGRANT TELLING YOU HOW DIFFICULT IT IS, THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, AND ALSO WHAT WE ARE FACING NOW AS THE SEPARATION OF FAMILIES. IMMIGRATION COURT IS REALLY COMPLEX PROCESS WHERE THE IMMIGRANT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY PAID BY THE STATE BUT HAS TO BE PAID ON THEIR OWN POCKET. PRIVATE ATTORNEY CAN COST BETWEEN \$10,000 TO \$20,000 TO REPRESENT SOMEONE IN COURT, SO THESE FAMILIES THAT YOU SEE ON A DAILY BASIS ARE GOING TO BE SEPARATED BECAUSE MOST OF US, FOR LACK OF REPRESENTATION.

30% TO 40% OF THE CLIENTS BEING REPRESENTED IN COURT -- FACING COURT ISSUES ARE NOT BEING REPRESENTED. 80% OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING REPRESENTED. IF YOU CAN IMAGINE SOMEONE WITH ALL THE POWER OF THE STATE AND THE POWER OF THE LAW WITH A JUDGE IN A DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TRYING TO DEPORT SOMEONE AND YOU BARELY UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM -- AND WE ARE SEEING PEOPLE, ADULTS AND KIDS, EVEN 6 MONTHS OLD, FACING REMOVAL ISSUES. I ENCOURAGE YOU TONIGHT, ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER THE UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION THAT WE ARE HAVING. IT IS A IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION, NONPROFIT, AND SOCIAL AGENCIES PUTTING TOGETHER THIS PROJECT TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES TOGETHER. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU. THE CITY OF PORTLAND ALREADY GRANTED \$500,000 TO REPRESENT THE PORTLANDERS. WE CAN REPRESENT MORE PEOPLE IF YOU CONSIDER MATCHING THIS FUND. I KNOW IT IS DIFFICULT TIMES. THERE'S MONEY ISSUES, BUT WHAT WE'RE DEALING

WITH HERE IS SEPARATION OF FAMILIES. IT IS IN YOUR HANDS. I KNOW IT IS HARD. YOU HAVE SO MANY REQUESTS, BUT PLEASE CONSIDER. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

May Low: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR KAFOURY. GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONERS. I WOULD LIKE TO ECHO MY COLLEAGUE JOHN AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK THAT YOU'VE DONE REPRESENTING US AS MULTNOMAH COUNTY RESIDENTS. MY NAME IS MAY LOW. I'M THE CHIEF OF STAFF AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ECHO WHAT JOHN HAS SAID ABOUT UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION. THIS MIGHT BE A FACT THAT PEOPLE DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT AN IMMIGRANT, UNDOCUMENTED ALL THE WAY TO A GREEN CARDHOLDER, IF YOU ARE BROUGHT INTO ANY IMMIGRATION PROCEEDING, YOU DON'T HAVE RIGHT TO COUNSEL. ONE OF THE GREAT TENANTS OF AMERICAN LAW IS WHEN YOU COMMIT A CRIME, YOU GO TO COURT AND YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION, BUT THAT DOESN'T TRANSFER OVER TO IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS. WHEN YOU ARE IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS, YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME. YOU JUST HAVE TO BE AN IMMIGRANT. ONE OF THE BIG THINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WITH UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION, THEY HEAR THE WORD DEPORTATION AND THEY AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME THAT THE PERSON IN CUSTODY IN PROCEEDINGS HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG. THAT IS FOR THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO DECIDE, RIGHT OR WRONG.

May Low: A LOT OF TIMES SOMEBODY IS IN PROCEEDINGS JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE UNDOCUMENTED. THEY ARE UNDOCUMENTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE COME TO THIS COUNTRY TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES, TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. WHEN THEY ARE IN PROCEEDINGS, THAT IS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT THEY HAVE TO POTENTIALLY ADJUST THEIR STATUS BECAUSE A LOT OF IMMIGRANTS ARE HERE AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA THAT THEY MIGHT POTENTIALLY HAVE A CLAIM TO SOME KIND OF LEGAL STATUS. AT THAT PROCEEDING LEVEL, THAT'S WHEN IT IS ADJUDICATED, SO WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO COME HERE THE WAY ALL OUR FAMILIES HAVE COME HERE AND GIVE THEM THAT OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES TOGETHER, TO FIND A LIFE FOR THEMSELVES. WE CAN ONLY DO THAT IF WE ARE ABLE TO FUND THIS UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION FUND AND SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT. I, LIKE JOHN, AM ALSO AN IMMIGRANT.

I CAME HERE 20 YEARS AGO, AND I'M NOT A CITIZEN YET, BUT AT ANY POINT IN THE TIME I'VE BEEN HERE I COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN OUT OF STATUS. I COULD HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME. ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME, BUT I'M EDUCATED AND I SPEAK ENGLISH. ALREADY APPLYING FOR STATUS AND TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT I KEEP IN STATUS HAS BEEN

REALLY DIFFICULT. I CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT IS LIKE TO NOT SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, TO COME FROM A COUNTRY WHERE YOUR SYSTEMS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. THE REASON I'M HERE DOING THE WORK THAT I DO IS BECAUSE OF THIS PRIVILEGE THAT I HAVE, AND I KNOW THAT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY, AS IS ALL OF OURS, TO REACH OUT AND HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE. THEY WANT THE SAME THINGS WE DO, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE SKILL SET TO NAVIGATE THAT. WE ASK YOU TO HELP US AND TO FUND UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN GO FIRST.

Francis Kham: HI, GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR COMING AND SPENDING YOUR TIME WITH US HERE TODAY. MY NAME IS FRANCIS. I WORK AT IRCO. I'M FROM MYANMAR. I CAME TO OREGON IN 2015, SO I'M JUST ALMOST THREE YEARS IN U.S. I WORK WITH THE CULTURE SPECIFIC FOR THE COMMUNITY HERE IN PORTLAND AS WELL AS THE MYANMAR COMMUNITY HERE. AS A COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKER AND CHW, WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO COMMISSIONERS AND THE COUNTY THAT SUPPORT FOR THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN, BUT AGAIN WE HAVE -- WE'VE BEEN TELLING PEOPLE -- THE MYANMAR COMMUNITY HERE, ABOUT 3,000 TO 4,000 -- I'M THE ONLY PERSON THAT SUFFER THE NONLIMIT FOR THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS. MY MEMBERS ARE LIKE YOURSELF. THEY HAVE THREE, FOUR, FIVE KIDS AND HUSBAND WORKING ALL DAYTIME. MOM DOESN'T SPEAK A WORD OF ENGLISH, AND THEY COME FROM REFUGEE CAMP. THEY ARE HERE SETTLED IN U.S. IF YOU CAN THINK ABOUT YOURSELF IN THIS SITUATION, IT IS VERY HARD TO SURVIVE WITH MANY KIDS WITHOUT ENGLISH AND DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO GO. MY PROGRAM AT IRCO, WE SUPPORT THE FAMILIES IN THAT SITUATION, SO WE GIVE THEM TRAINING.

WE GIVE THEM DIFFERENT THINGS THAT THE FAMILY CAN HELP, BUT AGAIN I CANNOT HELP THE WHOLE MYANMAR COMMUNITY. IF YOU SUPPORT MORE IN ORDER TO GET MORE COMMUNITY WORKERS, MORE CHW, IT WOULD BE MORE BENEFIT FOR MY COMMUNITY AS WELL. BEFORE I END MY TESTIMONY, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST END WITH TWO THINGS. WE LEARN THINGS FROM EXPERIENCE. WHEN I CAME TO U.S. IN 2015, I LEARNED THAT FISHING IS PROHIBITED IN PORTLAND. ONE OF MY MEMBERS, HE WENT TO THE FISHING POND. HE JUST GET A FISH. FINALLY, HE GOT CAUGHT AND HE GOT ARRESTED. HE FACED DIFFERENT THINGS. ALSO, YESTERDAY, I ATTENDED ONE MEETING THAT -- PICKING MUSHROOM HAS TO HAVE A LICENSE. WE LEARN FROM THAT TYPE THING. IF WE HAVE MORE CHW, MORE CW, WE CAN PREVENT ALL THESE THINGS BEFORE IT TAKES TOO LONG. THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE FISHING GUYS, THEY GOT ARRESTED. THEY WERE SENT TO THE COURT AND FACE DIFFERENT THINGS. WE CAN PREVENT IN HELPING THE CHW/CW BEFORE ALL THESE THINGS HAPPEN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR

SUPPORT. I WOULD LOVE TO REQUEST MORE SUPPORT FOR MY COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OTHER REFUGEES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Muna Abu: DEAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS MuNA. I'M HERE REPRESENTING AFRICA HOUSE. I'M ALSO HERE REPRESENTING THE MANAGER OF IRCO SCHOOL-BASED CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY IRCO SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES PROGRAM, WHICH IS FUNDED THROUGH THE COUNTY'S RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE. I'M HERE TODAY TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WITH THIS WORK. PROGRAMS IN THIS INITIATIVE ADDRESS KEY OUTCOMES LIKE INCREASED STUDENT ATTENDANCE, DECREASE DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS, AND INCREASE POSITIVE CULTURE EDUCATION AND S.T.E.M. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE 180 ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER, AFRICAN IMMIGRANT, AND THE SLAVIC YOUTH ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION TO THIS, WE HAVE INCREASED OUR COLLABORATION AND IMPROVED SCHOOL CLIMATE ALONGSIDE OUR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC AND PARTNERS AT THIS SCHOOL. AT SIX SCHOOLS IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, WE OFFER CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ADVISING, PARENT COUNSELING, AND PARENT WORKSHOPS AND PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, COMPETENCE TRAINING FOR SCHOOLTEACHERS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT STUFF TO HELP TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TO UNDERSTAND THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN OUR SCHOOLS.

Muna Abu: THAT HAS LED TO IMPROVED SCHOOL CLIMATE AND INCREASED OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH OF COLOR. PART OF OUR PROGRAM ALSO INCREASED COLLABORATION IN PARTNERSHIP ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL SETTINGS WITH OUR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC AND RESPONSIVE PARTNER AGENCIES IN OUR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PARTNERS. STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WE SERVE HAVE IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL STAFF HAVE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING IN THEIR SCHOOLS. THIS TYPE OF PROGRAMMING IS CRITICAL FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. KEY REPORTS FROM COALITION OF COMMUNITY OF COLOR HIGHLIGHT EXISTING DISPARITIES FOR COMMUNITY OF COLOR ACROSS MULTIPLE EDUCATION RELATED TO QUALITY OF LIFE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY HAS THE HIGHEST CHILD POVERTY RATE IN THE REGION WITH 67% OF ALL AFRICAN YOUTH LIVING UNDER POVERTY. WE KNOW THAT EDUCATION IS A KEY FACTOR TO DECREASING RISK FACTORS JUST LIKE POVERTY AND YET THE DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION CONTINUES. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Marcus Waughtfield: HELLO, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY. MY NAME IS MARCUS. I'M THE GANG PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND OUTREACH PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR IRCO. TODAY, I'M HERE WITH SOME STAFF AND SOME FAMILY MEMBERS AND SOME YOUTH TO SHARE SOME SUCCESSES THAT OUR PROGRAM HAS IN PREVENTION AND TO ADVOCATE FOR CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEES IN REGARDS TO GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION. CURRENTLY, IRCO RECEIVES INTERVENTION FUNDING -- CURRENTLY, WE DON'T RECEIVE INTERVENTION FUNDING. HOWEVER, WE HOPE TO APPLY IN THE FUTURE FOR THAT. ALTHOUGH WE RECEIVE FUNDING FOR GANG PREVENTION, IT IS PROPOSED TO BE CUT BY 60%. THAT WOULD ONLY LEAVE 21 YOUTH FROM THE API AND AFRICAN COMMUNITY TO BE SERVED COMBINED. THAT'S WITH THE 50/50 SPLIT BETWEEN THE TWO POPULATIONS. THIS SIMPLY IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE COMMUNITY NEEDS AND THE COUNTY'S LARGER EQUITY PLAN. THESE CUTS WOULD HAVE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND SERIOUS LONG-TERM IMPACTS. THE ASIAN POPULATION IS THE THIRD LARGEST AT-RISK POPULATION TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE SYSTEM, AND THEY ARE ONLY SURPASSED BY WHITE AND HISPANIC POPULATIONS WITH REGARDS TO THAT. IN 2017, 6,600 API YOUTH WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE SYSTEM.

Marcus Waughtfield: TRAGICALLY, THERE'S NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COUNTY -- THERE'S NO DATA AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNTY FOR AFRICAN IMMIGRANT YOUTH BECAUSE THEY'RE COUNTED AS AFRICAN-AMERICANS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER OF YOUTH COMING IN CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE SYSTEM FOR AFRICANS IS LOWER THAN API. HOWEVER, THE OUTCOMES ARE WORSE AND DIRE. DATA FROM 2017 MULTNOMAH COUNTY REPORTS THAT AFRICAN/AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE SYSTEM ARE SEVEN TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURTS THAN THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS. OUR STREET-LEVEL GANG OUTREACH TEAM WHO WORK DIRECTLY IN LOCAL HOT SPOTS IN PORTLAND AND GRESHAM REPORT THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH 250 AFRICAN AND ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH ON AVERAGE PER MONTH. TO SUMMARIZE, THE PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE API AND AFRICAN COMMUNITIES WITHIN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND WE URGE YOU TO FIND A WAY TO INCREASE THE RESOURCES FOR THESE COMMUNITIES. [APPLAUSE]

Madina Abukar: HI. MY NAME'S MADINA, AND I AM HERE FOR -- SORRY. I'M KIND OF NERVOUS. I'M REALLY NERVOUS RIGHT NOW -- IRCO'S GANG PREVENTION. I'M GOING TO TELL YOU MY STORY OF HOW I ENDED UP WORKING WITH THEM. LET'S START WITH MY BROTHER. MY BROTHER GETS INTO A LOT OF VIOLENCE. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR AN IMMIGRANT TO GET INTO SITUATIONS LIKE THAT, BUT HE STILL ENDED UP SELLING DRUGS AND DOING STUPID THINGS. THE OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT? BUT BASICALLY, IT WAS KIND OF HARD

BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY FEMALE IN THE HOUSE. I HAVE TO HAVE A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. THEN THERE'S HIGH SCHOOL. YOU HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE EVERYTHING THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS YOUR MOTHER WHO EXPECTS YOU TO DO THINGS AND KNOW THINGS. IT IS REALLY HARD TO READ THINGS BECAUSE I HAVE A DISABILITY AND I STRUGGLE WITH DYSLEXIA. MY MOM DOESN'T KNOW THAT. WHEN MY TEACHER IN FIFTH GRADE TOLD HER, SHE WAS LIKE, WHAT IS THAT. WHY ARE YOU CRYING? BECAUSE I HAVE DYSLEXIA AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT. WORKING WITH IRCO IS AWESOME. MY MENTOR INTERPRETS AND KNOWS THE HISTORY OF THE BACKGROUND OF AFRICANS WITH THE FEMALES AND THINGS LIKE THAT. NO OFFENSE -- YOU WON'T TAKE THAT OFFENSIVE, BUT WHAT'S IT CALLED? US KIDS, WE'RE VERY -- WE HAVE A LOT OF DUTIES TO DO, CLEAN, TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS, TELL THEM WHEN TO USE THE RESTROOM, TELL THEM HOW TO CLEAN THINGS. IT IS JUST TRYING TO GET EVERYTHING IN ORDER AND ALSO FOCUS ON SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME. I FEEL LIKE MY MOM IS VERY SEXIST WHEN IT COMES TO, OH, YEAH, I WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL OUTSIDE. WHY? ARE YOU A GUY? OH, YOU'RE TRYING TO BE A GUY NOW. FIRST OF ALL, THAT'S NOWHERE NEAR WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO. I'M JUST TRYING TO BASKETBALL. SHE COMES OUT OF NOWHERE AND TALKS, BLAH BLAH BLAH, MEDINA, I WANT YOU TO READ THIS TO ME. THAT'S A PROBLEM BECAUSE I HAVE HARD TIMES READING. IRCO COMES AND ARE LIKE I'VE GOT YOU. WHEN MY BROTHER WENT TO JAIL, IT WAS LIKE, OKAY, THAT'S A LOT OF THINGS THEY NEED TO DO. MY MOM LIKES TO SIGN THINGS, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT. PLEASE DON'T SIGN THIS BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT. IRCO BASICALLY TRANSLATED AND HELPED MY MOM UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS ABOUT. OKAY. I DON'T TO SIGN THIS. THAT'S NOT OKAY, AND THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT MY KID TO END UP IN. I FEEL LIKE IT HELPED MY MOM REALLY WELL WITH THAT. WHEN IT COMES TO THE HOUSE BILLS AND THINGS LIKE THAT, MY MOM DOESN'T HAVE A JOB, SO I KIND OF HAVE TO HELP WITH THAT. I KIND OF WORK WITH PORTLAND PARKS RECREATION. HERE. I HAVE THE MONEY. I REALLY DON'T WANT IT BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO BUY. YEAH. I'M REALLY BAD AT SPEAKING.

Chair Kafoury: IT'S A GOOD PROGRAM.

Madina Abukar: YEAH. THIS IS REALLY AWESOME, HONESTLY. A LOT OF FEMALES, USUALLY THERE'S GUYS TAKING OVER THE WORLD. YOU GUYS ARE REALLY KILLING IT RIGHT NOW, BUT LET ME JUST STOP TALKING. [LAUGHTER]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. SHE'S TOO CUTE.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: HI.

Brandon Alik: HELLO. HI CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS BRANDON. I WORK FOR IRCO'S YOUTH ADVOCACY. BASICALLY, AS YOU'VE HEARD, THIS PROGRAM IS GREAT. OUR YOUTHS ADVOCATE FOR OUR ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS, AT LEAST MY PROGRAM DOES, IN ALL THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS. WE PROVIDE CULTURELY SPECIFIC AND RELEVANT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL ACADEMIC GROWTH FOR OUR YOUTH. ONE PART OF OUR PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE AN AFTERSCHOOL GROUP TO PROVIDE A SPACE FOR KIDS TO FEEL SAFE TO EXPLORE THEIR CULTURE AND TO HAVE HOMEWORK SUPPORT. I'VE BROUGHT THREE OF MY STUDENTS FROM GEORGIA MIDDLE SCHOOL TO TALK ABOUT THE PROGRAM. WE HAVE PETER, JADEN, AND RAVNEL, WHO ARE GOING TO SPEAK.

Peter longi: HELLO. MY NAME IS PETER. I'M TONGAN. THIS PROGRAM GOT ME A 504 PLAN THAT HELPED ME BRING MY GRADES UP. MY ADVOCATE PROVIDED FIELD TRIPS THAT MOTIVATED ME TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL WHILE GETTING TIME TO DO MY HOMEWORK DURING THE PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE WITHOUT IT I WOULDN'T HAVE GOOD GRADES. BEFORE I GOT IN THIS PROGRAM, I DID NOT HAVE SOMEONE OR SOMEWHERE TO GO TO. ALSO MY HOMEWORK WAS HARD FOR ME AND MY PARENTS DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP ME. HAVING MY ADVOCATE MADE SCHOOL EASIER AND FUN FOR ME. DURING SCHOOL, I STRUGGLED IN CLASS AND I TALK WHEN THE TEACHER IS TALKING. BUT WHEN I GO TO ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM, MY ADVOCATE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME. HE TELLS ME SOLUTIONS TO MY STRUGGLES AND TELL ME WHEN THE TEACHER IS TALKING AND IT WORKS FOR ME. I WAS NEVER ALONE IN THE CLUB. I GOT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE. WE DIDN'T GET ALONG, BUT ALONG THE WAY, WE DID REALLY WELL. I WOULDN'T BE WITH THEM IF ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CLUB WASN'T THERE, SO I'M HAPPY TO BE IN THIS PROGRAM. THANK YOU FOR FUNDING. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THIS PROGRAM. [APPLAUSE]

Jaden Quiontanilla: HI. MY NAME IS JADEN. I AM A BLACK STUDENT AT GEORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL. I'M PART OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM. I COME FROM A HOUSEHOLD OF FOUR WITH A SINGLE MOTHER WHO WORKS A LOT, AND THIS PROGRAM GAVE ME A SPACE TO DO MY HOMEWORK WHILE GETTING SUPPORT FROM ANOTHER ADULT. ALSO, THIS GAVE ME A WAY TO EXPLORE MY PACIFIC ISLAND CULTURE. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SHOES, AND CLOTHES ALL TO HELP MY MOTHER. THIS PROGRAM HAD ME EXPLORE MY CULTURE BY -- CULTURAL TRADITIONS BY MUSIC, FOOD, AND OTHER ISLAND TRADITIONS. THIS PROGRAM HELPED AND CONTINUES TO HELP ME. THANK YOU FOR FUNDING API SYA. [APPLAUSE]

Ravnel Prasad: HELLO. MY NAME IS RAVNEL. I'M AN EIGHTH GRADER AT GEORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL. I JOINED API BECAUSE I WAS STRUGGLING IN SCHOOL. I DIDN'T GET TOO GOOD GRADES. API WAS PRETTY MUCH LIKE HOMEWORK HELP FOR ME BECAUSE WHEN I JOINED IT, I GOT MORE BETTER GRADES. THAT'S ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: YEA. GOOD JOB, GUYS. THANK YOU.

Ravnel Prasad: THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: YOU GUYS WERE AWESOME. GOOD JOB. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk :[READS NAMES].

Chair Kafoury: GO AHEAD.

Tony Defalco: THANK YOU. MY NAME IS TONY. I'M THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT VERDE. VERDE IS A NONPROFIT FOCUSED ON CREATING GOOD PAYING GREEN JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR. I'M HERE TO GENERALLY SUPPORT THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR PRIORITIES AND SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS TO CLIMATE JUSTICE AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. I WANT TO THANK THE COUNTY FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN PASSING THE 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOLUTION AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEED TO RESOURCE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN PARTICULAR TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UNIQUE WINDOW THAT YOU HAVE CREATED FOR US TO GET GOOD JOBS, TO INCREASE MINORITY WOMEN CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES, AND ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITIES IN THIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSION AROUND CLIMATE AND HOW IT CAN BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITIES BECAUSE WE'RE SEVERELY UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE WORKFORCE IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR.

WE'RE SEVERELY UNDERREPRESENTED IN CONTRACTING. THERE'S ONLY ONE MINORITY OR WOMAN SOLAR INSTALLER IN THE STATE OF OREGON. AND WE'RE SEVERELY UNDERREPRESENTED AND UNDER RESOURCED IN OUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES ABOUT HOW TO ADDRESS POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY. I WANT TO THANK YOU-ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND REALLY SEEING TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITIES. IT IS A UNIQUE JOB THAT YOU HAVE, AND I APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK THAT YOU SHOW TO CONTINUE TO LEAD AND SHOW HOW WE CAN AND ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THAT. SPECIFICALLY, I'M ASKING FOR A ONE-TIME REQUEST OF \$150,000 TO RESOURCE COMMUNITY OF COLOR-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT, FOR INCREASING MINORITY AND WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE, AND INCREASING MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Danielle Manlan: HELLO. I'M DANIELLE. I AM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE ONLY LATINO ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER IN PORTLAND PROVIDING BILINGUAL

ARTS EDUCATION IN CLASSROOMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNT. WITHOUT MILAGRO, STUDENTS OF COLOR WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEMSELVES ON THE STAGE OR ENGAGE IN AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE ARTS. WITH THE SUPPORT OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROMISED NEIGHBORHOODS RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE, IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MILAGRO BROUGHT LATINO ARTS RESIDENCIES TO 3,000 STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS IN PORTLAND AND EAST COUNTY. MILAGRO HAS DEMONSTRATED 35% INCREASE IN IMPROVED READING COMPREHENSION. THERE'S A TEACHER WORKBOOK AVAILABLE IN SPANISH, SOMALI, AND VIETNAMESE. WITH SUPPORT OF IRCO, MILAGRO WE PLAN TO DEVELOP TRANSLATIONS IN OTHER LANGUAGES. THESE WORKBOOKS ARE ESSENTIAL TO TEACHERS TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE THE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC TOOLS THAT THEY GAIN FROM MILAGRO. ALL THIS INCREDIBLE WORK IS DONE ON A RELATIVELY MODEST BUDGET, BUT COST OF LIVING INCREASES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE TIME COMMITMENT AND STAFF HOURS NEEDED TO PROVIDE THESE FREE PROGRAMS TO SCHOOLS. A MODEST INCREASE IN OUR ONGOING PROMISED NEIGHBORHOODS RGI FUNDING WOULD GUARANTEE THIS PROGRAM, CONTINUING TO REACH AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONERS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Machina Sikan: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. I'M FROM MICRONESIA, PACIFIC ISLAND. COMFORTABLE WITH IRCO, THEY UNDERSTAND MY CULTURE. MY KIDS CAN TRUST ISLANDER STAFF AND GOOD ROLE MODEL. PLEASE GIVE MORE MONEY TO HELP OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER FAMILIES IN NEED. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Anna Munoz: GOOD EVENING. I'M PROGRAM MANAGER AT LATINO NETWORK FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. AND I'M HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FUNDING. PAUL LUMLEY READ A LIST OF CATEGORIES WHERE COUNTY FUNDING IS INVESTED IN. ONE OF THE CATEGORIES IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. THAT'S AN AREA THAT'S CONTINUALLY GROWING IN OUR ORGANIZATION. I HAVE SCHOOLS ASKING ME HOW TO OFFER OUR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AT THE SCHOOLS, AND I HAVE OTHER AGENCIES, LIKE IRCO, SEEKING US OUT AS WELL FOR THOSE SERVICES. IT'S REALLY HARD. WE RECEIVE SOME YOUTH ADVOCACY FUNDS. THAT'S HOW MY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED. WE DON'T HAVE FUNDING SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. NOWADAYS WITH THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AND ALL THE CHALLENGES THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE GOING THROUGH, THEY'RE NOW COMING FORWARD. THEY WANT TO BE EDUCATED. THEY WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR YOUTH. HOWEVER, WE DON'T HAVE THE SERVICES THAT CAN SUPPORT THEM FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT. WE ALREADY HEARD A LOT OF STORIES

WHERE A LOT OF FAMILIES ARE BENEFITTING FROM OUR CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC SERVICES AND PROGRAMS. WE WANT TO EXTEND THAT. AT LATINO NETWORK, I WANT TO OFFER THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO GUIDE THEIR YOUTH INTO THE RIGHT PATH FOR THEM TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES IN THEIR EDUCATION AND FOR THEIR FUTURE. I'M HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR MORE FUNDING. I HEARD THAT, YEAH, FUNDING IS GOING TO BE CUT, AND IT IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO GET WORSE IN THE FUTURE, BUT PLEASE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OUR FAMILIES OF COLOR THAT NEED THIS TYPE OF SERVICES FOR US TO GO OUT THERE AND FOR ME NOT TO HAVE MY SIX STAFF MEMBERS STRETCHED AMONG 20 SCHOOLS, AMONG THE SIX SCHOOL DISTRICTS, IN THE COUNTY. THAT'S NOT INTENTIONAL WORK THAT WE WANT TO DO. WE WANT TO BE MORE INTENTIONAL. WE WANT TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN WHAT WE OFFER OUR FAMILIES SO WE CAN CREATE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR FAMILIES SO THEY CAN COME TO OUR AGENCIES, LIKE LATINO NETWORK, IRCO, AND TRUST US AND HAVE AN AGENCY THAT CAN SUPPORT THEM AND BACK THEM UP IN THE NEEDS THAT THEY'RE CONFRONTING, SO PLEASE SUPPORT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Mark Holloway: GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM MARK WITH SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS, AND I'M HERE TO TESTIFY WITH MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SOME BUSINESS INVESTORS THAT WE TALKED TO AND PHILANTHROPISTS TO SUPPORT THE \$100,000 ASK FOR A TASK FORCE ON EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCES. I THINK BACK TO MY OWN PRESCHOOL. I REMEMBER MS. WILSON AND THAT FAB PLAY KITCHEN THAT I GOT TO PLAY IN AS A KID AND HOW IT HELPED ME FROM A VERY SMALL TOWN IN LOUISIANA TO KIND OF BE WITH OTHER KIDS AND TO BEGIN TO ASSOCIATE AND GET READY FOR SCHOOL. WE LOOK AT OUR OWN COUNTY, AND THERE ARE 67% OF OUR KIDS IN POVERTY ARE KIDS OF COLOR. WE LOOK AT THE DATA AROUND KIDS THAT HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL. 52% OF OUR KIDS, 35,000 KIDS IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, HAVE ALL THE RISK FACTORS FOR NOT HAVING THE SUPPORT THEY NEED IN SCHOOL. THERE ARE DATA IF A KID IS NOT AT GRADE LEVEL BY KINDERGARTEN, THAT ONLY HAVE A 13% CHANCE OF EVER CATCHING UP DESPITE HERO TEACHERS.

WE HAVE TO DO EARLY EDUCATION. WE HAVE TO DO PRESCHOOL. WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DO THIS IN COUNTY TO FOLLOW EXAMPLES AROUND THE COUNTRY FROM MIAMI TO PHILADELPHIA AND CHICAGO AND NEW YORK AND BOSTON AND EVEN TULSA AND SAN ANTONIO AND SEATTLE AND SAN FRANCISCO. THEY'VE ALL DONE SOME FORM OF UNIVERSAL OR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL. WE IN PORTLAND AND MULTNOMAH COUNTY ARE GOING TO FALL BEHIND, AND OUR KIDS REALLY NEED THIS SUPPORT, SO I'M ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS' PURPOSE BUT ALSO WITH

COMMUNITY. COMMUNITY HAS HELPED TO PLANT THIS SEED FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND GROUPS LIKE IN THE ROOM HERE, MANY OF THOSE HAVE CALLED FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL. THEY PLANTED THAT SEED. MULTNOMAH COUNTY NOW HAS THE CHANCE TO REALLY CULTIVATE IT, TO FERTILIZE IT WITH THOSE COMMUNITY PARTNERS. NOT ASIDE FROM THEM AND WITH COMMISSIONER JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON'S LEADERSHIP, WE BELIEVE WE CAN MOVE THIS SEED TO THE REALITY. THIS IS POSSIBLE WITH COUNTY SUPPORT, AND WE'RE COMMITTED AS SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS AND ALL THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN. THANK YOU FOR PUTTING THAT IN THE INITIAL BUDGET, THE DRAFT BUDGET, AND I WANT TO SUPPORT THAT WITH MY HEART AND SOUL AND MS. WILSON AND THAT FAB KITCHEN.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Tom Perez: GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. MY NAME IS TOM. I'M HERE TODAY TO SPEAK TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUT OF THE IN-JAIL HUMAN TRAFFICKING SERGEANT POSITION WITHIN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. I'M THE FOUNDER OF THE EPIC PROJECT AND A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE C-STEC COMMITTEE. I ALSO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THIS COUNTY HAS EARNED A REPUTATION FOR A SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO INCUBATING INNOVATION WITH REGARDS TO THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THIS POSITION IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THAT.

THROUGH THE SYSTEMATIC MONITORING, COLLECTING, AND ANALYZING THE INFORMATION FLOW BETWEEN THE JAIL POPULATION AND THE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY, THE TRAFFICKING SERGEANT POSITION PROVIDES HIGHLY USEFUL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE COMMERCIAL SEX BUSINESS IN THIS COMMUNITY. IT ENHANCES LOCAL POLICY AND STRATEGY. IT IS ALSO AN EMERGING BEST PRACTICE WORTHY OF EMULATION IN OTHER COMMUNITIES AS WELL. FURTHERMORE, IT PROVIDES INSIGHT ON THE TRENDS THAT ALLOW SEX BUSINESSES TO FLOURISH. MORE THAN 120 LOCAL CIVILIAN MEN, RECRUITED, TRAINED, AND LED BY EPIC HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING TO DISRUPT THE ONLINE DEMAND THAT DRIVES COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. THESE MEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISRUPTING MORE THAN 11,000 LOCAL ATTEMPTS TO BUY SEX ONLINE WHICH TRANSLATES TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF OVER 5,000 UNIQUE ACTIVE ONLINE SEX BUYERS IN THE PORTLAND AREA. THE RECENT DEMISE OF BACKPAGE.COM IS CAUSE FOR GREAT CELEBRATION LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY. BUT WITHIN DAYS OF THE WEBSITE GOING DOWN, MY STAFF IDENTIFIED MORE THAN 30 NEW OR RENEWED WEBSITES VYING TO BECOME THE NEXT BACKPAGE.

I SHARE THAT SIMPLY TO MAKE THE POINT THAT JUST BECAUSE BACKPAGE IS DEAD IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT DEMAND IS NOT ALIVE AND WELL. I CAN ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT IT IS JUST THAT. IF THIS COUNTY WANTS TO CONTINUE ITS LEADERSHIP IN COMBATTING THIS PARTICULAR FORM OF SEXUAL INJUSTICE, WE REALLY NEED THE KIND OF INSIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE THAT THIS POSITION PROVIDES. I CAN ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT THIS COUNTY HAS A SOLID REALLY ADMIRABLE REPUTATION NATIONALLY IN THIS WORK. THIS COUNTY CAN RIGHTLY CLAIM CREDIT FOR FOSTERING A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY-WIDE COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO COMBATTING THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN A COMMITMENT TO TEAMWORK IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD. OUR WORK AS A CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION IS INSPIRED AND INFORMED BY THAT COMMITMENT AS WELL. HOWEVER, ELIMINATING THE IN-JAIL POSITION AT THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WEAKENS OUR TEAM AND LEAVES US SHORTHANDED AT A TIME WHEN STRONG COLLABORATIVE EFFORT CAN MOVE THE NEEDLE TO LASTING CHANGE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Robin Miller: HELLO. GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU, CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS, FOR HAVING ME. IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I'M HERE IN SUPPORT OF THE IN-JAIL HUMAN TRAFFICKING POSITION, TO KEEP IT IN EXISTENCE. I'M COMING AS AN ADVOCATE AND A SURVIVOR OF EXPLOITATION.

Chair Kafoury: I'M SORRY. SAY YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD.

Robin Miller: OH, MY NAME IS ROBIN. I FORGOT. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO HOW THIS POSITION DIRECTLY AFFECTS VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING. IN MY JOB, WHEN I WAS WORKING AT LIFE WORKS NEW OPTIONS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM, ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS I DID IN THAT JOB WAS TO SIT THROUGH A TRIAL -- THROUGH TESTIMONY OF VICTIMS FACING THEIR EXPLOITERS. PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE US. WE'D LIKE TO SEE EVIDENCE. THEY WANT TO SEE EVIDENCE. WHAT'S THE EVIDENCE? I KNOW THIS POSITION IS ABLE TO GATHER INTEL TO PROVE THIS. TRAFFICKERS ARE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FROM JAIL. I SAT IN ON A CASE IN A TRIAL WHERE A VICTIM TESTIFIED. SHE WAS A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN. I DON'T KNOW HOW THE CASE WOULD HAVE ENDED WITHOUT THE INTEL THAT WAS GATHERED. HE WAS TRAFFICKING HER. WATCHING HER SIT UP THERE IN FRONT OF HIM, IT WAS AWFUL. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. I DON'T WANT US TO GO BACKWARDS. WE'VE GOTTEN SO FAR. WE'RE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THIS POSITION IS - - IT CHANGES LIVES. VICTIMS FEEL SAFER. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO EVEN GET THE COURAGE. I DIDN'T EVER HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT THE WOMEN I'VE SEEN DO. I DIDN'T TESTIFY. I DIDN'T GO BEFORE THE JUDGE AND ACCUSE MY EXPLOITER, BUT IT'S SCARY. WHEN YOU KNOW THERE'S SOMEBODY -- WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF THEY KNOW THERE IS SOMEBODY LISTENING, BUT I

KNOW. I'M NOT SAYING THIS VERY WELL. I JUST DON'T WANT IT TO GO AWAY. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. WE HAVE TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING. TO LOSE IT, I DON'T THINK WE'RE DOING OUR BEST. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Dom Belcastro: HI, COMMISSIONERS. THANKS FOR BEING HERE TO LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DO THE GOOD WORK THAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY WHAT IT IS. I'M HERE SPEAKING -- MY NAME IS DOM - - AS A VOLUNTEER ON A HOTLINE. I'M ALSO SPEAKING AS A RENTER AND AS A STUDENT OF PCC AND SOMEBODY WHO HAS DEALT WITH MANY DIFFERENT HOUSING ISSUES OVER THE YEARS AND NOT KNOWING ENOUGH ABOUT IT UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. HAVING TO EXPERIENCE A NO CAUSE EVICTION BEFORE WE HAD PROTECTIONS AROUND THAT IN PORTLAND, HAVING TO MOVE OUT -- WELL, MOVING OUT AND NOT REALIZING I HAD A RIGHT TO THE SECURITY DEPOSIT I PAID AND JUST WRITING THAT OFF AS LANDLORDS TAKE THAT ANYWAY, BUT I'M HERE SPEAKING AS SOMEONE WHO LISTENS TO SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE THROUGH THE RENTERS RIGHTS HOTLINE. THAT CAN AFFECT A RENTER IN PORTLAND AND THE WIDER COUNTY BECAUSE EAST COUNTY, WE GET A LOT OF CALLS FROM THERE TOO. THERE ARE ISSUES THAT ARE DIFFERENT THAN THEY ARE IN THE CITY. THERE ARE DIFFERENT LAWS.

Dom Belcastro: IT IS REALLY DIFFICULT FOR RENTERS TO NAVIGATE THAT ON THEIR OWN HAVING NO LEGAL BACKGROUND OR JUST NOT KNOWING WHERE TO LOOK FOR RESOURCES FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR WHERE THEIR RIGHTS ARE. I JUST WANT TO SPEAK AT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THIS CONTINUES TO BE FUNDED, CONTINUES TO BE FULLY SUPPORTED BECAUSE WE'RE STILL ON THE PEAK OF THE HOUSING CRISIS. WHILE THERE ARE CHANGES THAT ARE ON THE WAY AND THERE'S PROGRESS THAT'S HAPPENING, THERE'S STILL A GIANT NEED -- A GIANT BERTH BETWEEN WHERE RENTERS ARE IN THEIR EDUCATION AND THEIR RIGHTS IN HOW THEY'RE ASSERTING THEM AND WHERE WE SHOULD BE BECAUSE TACKLING THE HOUSING PROBLEM WE HAVE IN OUR CITY BEGINS WITH KEEPING PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES AND KEEPING THEM IN HABITABLE HOMES AND KNOWING THAT THEY CAN PUSH FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS. I'VE HEARD TONIGHT -- I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INTERSECT WITH HOUSING AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER GREAT THING THAT THE RENTERS RIGHTS HOTLINE DOES FOR PEOPLE IS CONNECT PEOPLE TO ALL THESE DIFFERENT COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TALKS RENTERS THROUGH THE PROBLEMS THEY'RE GOING THROUGH. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR LISTENING.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: MARSHALL, LYDIA, PARDON ME, DELORES -- AND I DON'T HAVE A NAME FOR THIS ONE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE LINDA. PLEASE COME FORWARD.

Marshall Goss Jr.: GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR HAVING US HERE. MY NAME IS MARSHALL. I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF KAIROSPDX. I WEAR MANY DIFFERENT HATS THROUGH KAIROS. I'M A COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, MENTOR. I'M A MEMBER OF THE STAFF, AND I AM A PARENT OF A KAIROS STUDENT, WHICH HASN'T COME BACK IN HERE IN A WHILE. WHOEVER IS DOING CHILD CARE, LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING A GREAT JOB. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Marshall Goss Jr.: I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THIS YEAR WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE PARTIAL FUNDING FROM CHILDREN'S LIVING FUND TO EXTEND SERVICES FOR AFTERSCHOOL CARE. I AM CURRENTLY THE CARE COORDINATOR FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM. MY EXPERIENCE IS SEVEN YEARS BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE AS A SUN SIGHT MANAGER FOR A FEW DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES. I HEARD THE YOUNG MAN SPEAKING FROM GEORGIA. THAT'S WHERE I STARTED. I WAS IN THE BACK GRINNING AND SALUTING HIM. THE REASON WHY I SIT HERE IS TO TALK MORE ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE AFTERSCHOOL CARE AND THE SUN SERVICE THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROVIDES FOR OUR STUDENTS THROUGH EXTENDED SERVICES WITH ACADEMIC AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING. AGAIN, CURRENTLY WE ARE PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE CHILDREN'S LEVY FUND. WE'RE HAVING THAT WE BE SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO EXTEND OUR OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY AT KAIROS PDX. IN THE SHORT TIME THAT WE'VE HAD THE PROGRAMS THERE AT KAIROS, WE'VE SEEN A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE CONNECTIONS MADE JUST THROUGH THE SERVICES AND THE EXTENDED PARTNERSHIPS THAT WE'VE HAD WITH BUILDING BLOCKS, WHICH IS A LEGO ROBOTICS PROGRAM AND FRIENDS OF BASEBALL. THROUGH THAT FUNDING, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT A LOT OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THAT HAVE THEN WANTED TO PARTICIPATE AND VOLUNTEER AS ACTIVE PARENTS THROUGH THOSE PROGRAMMING. WE'RE ASKING THAT YOU TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE DO OVER AT KAIROS AND HELP US A LITTLE BIT, MAYBE THROUGH MATCHING FUNDS, SO THAT WE CAN SERVE MORE OF OUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Lydia Gray-Hoyfuel: I APOLOGIZE BECAUSE I CAN BARELY TALK, BUT BECAUSE I LEAVE IN KAIROS I'M HERE ANYWAY. MY NAME IS LYDIA. I'M ONE OF THE CO-CHAIRS FOR KAIROS PDX AND ALSO THE FOUNDER OF THE PARENT COUNCIL AT KAIROS. KAIROS SUPPORTS FAMILIES IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS NOT ONLY JUST AT SCHOOL BUT AS WELL AS IN THE COMMUNITY. WE PROVIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT AND MEET THE FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE.

WE ARE SO BIG ON FAMILY. WE BELIEVE IN DEFINITELY SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING AFTERSCHOOL CARE, BY PROVIDING CLASSES, ALSO BY PROVIDING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. WE HAVE NIGHTS WHERE WE ENGAGE THE FAMILIES AND HAVE THEM COME OUT AND WORK AND LISTEN TO DIFFERENT PARENTS THAT ARE ABLE TO SPEAK ABOUT THEIR LIVES. WE ALSO HAVE SPEAKERS WHO COME IN AND TALK TO OUR FAMILIES AND ALSO GIVE THE FAMILIES ENCOURAGEMENT AND RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY. OVER THE HOLIDAYS, WE WERE ABLE TO SPREAD THE LOVE BECAUSE KAIROS IS ABOUT SPREADING THE LOVE. WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE LOVE GIFTS TO FAMILIES THAT DID NOT HAVE BECAUSE OF THE FAMILIES THAT GO TO KAIROS, SO I'M ASKING YOU WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE BUDGET THAT YOU CONSIDER KAIROS, ONE, BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER, WHO HAS BEEN A PART OF KAIROS FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, HAS GROWN LEAPS AND BOUNDS. SHE IS SO FAR AHEAD OF THE GAME WHEN IT COMES TO HER SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH. I HAVE RAISED 17 CHILDREN IN THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY AREA. BECAUSE OF THIS, I HAVE WATCHED MY CHILDREN GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS. I HAVE TO SAY BY FAR KAIROS IS ONE OF THE TOP SCHOOLS, IF NOT THE ONLY TOP SCHOOL. I WISH IT HAD BEEN OPEN BACK WHEN THE OTHER CHILDREN WERE GOING TO SCHOOL, SO I ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUPPORT KAIROS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. WE HOPE YOUR VOICE GETS BETTER. [APPLAUSE]

Delores Burgos: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS DELORES, AND I SERVE AS THE HOUSING AND ENERGY SERVICES MANAGER AT THE NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER. TONIGHT, I AM ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF PORTLAND'S NATIVE COMMUNITY WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, WITH 70,000 STRONG REPRESENTING OVER 380 TRIBES IS THE NINTH LARGEST NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY. MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS A GREAT PARTNER AS WE BOTH AIM TO CREATE A HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOOD TO WORK AND LIVE FOR PORTLAND'S THRIVING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. PROGRAMS LIKE THE SUN CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC YOUTH ADVOCACY AND CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC AND UNDERSERVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THAT OUR FAMILIES NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES AND INVEST IN OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS. IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY THAT WE'RE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES. THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WE OFFER PROGRAMS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE FAMILY WHEN TIMES ARE DIFFICULT. PROGRAMMING SUCH AS EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE OR HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS EXIST TO RESPOND TO THE REAL-LIFE EMERGENCIES THAT IMPACT NATIVE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS. THESE PROGRAMS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FUNDS PROVIDED BY

MULTNOMAH COUNTY SUCH AS ARE MULTNOMAH STABILIZATION INITIATIVE, OUR MOBILE HOUSING TEAM, AND OUR COUNTY GENERAL FUNDS. THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP FAMILIES STAY IN THEIR HOMES, AVOID BECOMING HOMELESS, AND WORK ONE ON ONE WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO HAVE MORE STABLE HOUSING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. BEYOND JUST THE NUMBERS, ALLOW ME TO SHARE WITH YOU HOW THESE PROGRAMS IMPACT INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY. JUST AWHILE AGO, WE HAD A COMMUNITY MEMBER, WHO I WILL REFER TO AS HEATHER FOR THE SAKE OF ANONYMITY, COME ACROSS OUR DOORS. SHE WAS INITIALLY REFERRED FROM THE HOMELESS FAMILY SYSTEM OF CARE AFTER RECEIVING HOUSING PLACEMENT SERVICES. ONCE REFERRED TO THE MSI PROGRAM, HEATHER BECAME ACTIVE IN LOOKING FOR WORK. SHE RECEIVED SHORT-TERM RENTAL ASSISTANCE WHILE LOOKING FOR WORK. FINDING A JOB PROVED MORE DIFFICULT. SHE COMMUNICATED WITH HER CASE MANAGER ABOUT THIS AND THE TWO BRAINSTORMED ABOUT THE BEST POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR HOUSING STABILITY. HER CASE MANAGER HELPED HEATHER NAVIGATE THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM OF SERVICES. HEATHER REGISTERED WITH WORKFORCE AND SPOKE WITH A CAREER SPECIALIST. SHE ENROLLED IN THE BANK WARDS PROGRAM WHERE SHE'LL GO THROUGH A SHORT INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM. EVEN THOUGH HER TRAINING IS NOT YET COMPLETE, HEATHER HAS INFORMED HER CASE MANAGER THAT SHE HAS POTENTIAL JOB PLACEMENT.

Delores Burgos: ASIDE FROM EMPLOYMENT AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES, THE MSI PROGRAM HAS ALSO BENEFITTED HEATHER'S FAMILY THROUGH THE MSI PARTNERSHIP WITH METROPOLITAN PUBLIC DEFENDER. ALTHOUGH, AN ATTORNEY CALCULATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 47 HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR HEATHER'S TICKET FEES, APPROXIMATELY \$4700 TO BE PAID OFF. HEATHER'S CASE MANAGER WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT SHE HAD ENGAGED WITH THE PROGRAM ENOUGH TO HAVE HER ENTIRE BALANCE PAID. THE MSI PROGRAM HAS HELPED HEATHER ACCESS THE STABILITY AND SECURITY. SHE HAS TOLD HER CASE MANAGER SHE HAD NOT IMAGINED SHE WOULD EVER FIND A JOB, MORE OR LESS SUPPORT. HEATHER HAS SPOKEN ABOUT HER PAST TRAUMA AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AND HAS OFTEN SPOKEN ABOUT THE PROSPEROUS FUTURE WHICH SHE HAS NOW ENVISIONED. SHE AND HER CASE MANAGER HAVE HAD MANY JOYFUL CONVERSATIONS WHERE HEATHER ALSO EXPRESSES ENTHUSIASM AND EXCITEMENT TOWARD THE SERVICES WHICH THE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU, MA'AM. THANKS SO MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

Linda M: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS LINDA. I'M JUST A PRIVATE CITIZEN. I'M HERE TO SUPPORT AND ADD MY VOICE FOR FULL FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE FACING DEPORTATION. MY SPECIFIC REQUEST IS THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY MATCH PORTLAND'S

\$500,000 FUNDING. THE RATIONALE FOR THAT IS MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE FACING DEPORTATION. THE DATA SHOWS THAT LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR THOSE FACING AN I.C.E. ACTION INCREASES THE CHANCES THREEFOLD THAT THAT PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY LEGALLY AND NOT BE DEPORTED UNDER SOME ARRANGEMENT THAT CAN BE MADE. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE SAVINGS, THE RIPPLE EFFECT FROM A SUCCESSFUL REPRESENTATION, A SUCCESSFUL PROTECTION FROM DEPORTATION, IS PHENOMENAL IN TERMS OF PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO WORK IN THE COUNTY, FAMILIES NOT BEING BROKEN UP, COMMUNITIES NOT FACING THE TRAUMA, SO THAT THERE IS SURELY A RIPPLE EFFECT FROM BEING ABLE TO REPRESENT OUR RESIDENTS, AS YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THE OTHER SERVICES THAT WILL HAVE FEWER STRESSORS ON THEM. WE ARE A SANCTUARY COUNTY. PROVIDING ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE IS A FIRST RESPONDER ACTION FOR SOMEBODY WHO FACES DEPORTATION. AND I REALLY HOPE THAT YOU CAN PUT SOME MUSCLE BEHIND THAT ASPIRATION IN THIS WAY. THE CURRENT BUDGET AS I UNDERSTAND IS \$164,000 FOR IMMIGRATION SERVICES, A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP, AND SERVICES LIKE THAT, BUT MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT'S NOT REALLY THE SAME AS FACING DEPORTATION FOR WHICH I THINK AT THIS MOMENT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC FUNDING. SO, I HOPE YOU'LL GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIND SOME MONEY TO MATCH THE PORTLAND MONEY IDEALLY TO \$500,000. IT WOULD BE A 1:1 MATCH. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: YUNG, IVAN, LEAH, AND SHARI.

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN GO AHEAD.

Yung Ho: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. I'M GOING TO TRY TO KEEP IT SHORT AND SWEET. I KNOW WE'RE COMING TO THE END OF THE EVENING. MY NAME IS YUNG. I'M THE EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS. WE ARE A TENANTS' ADVOCATES GROUP, AND WE ENSURE THAT OUR WORK IS LED BY THE TENANTS THEMSELVES. I'M HERE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR EDUCATION SERVICES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS RUNNING OUR HOTLINE, OUR RENTERS RIGHTS HOTLINE, THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO MANY TENANTS THROUGHOUT MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND BEYOND AS WELL AS BEING ABLE TO DO EDUCATION WORKSHOPS, WHICH ARE -- WHAT WE EMPHASIZE IS TO BRING THE WORKSHOPS TO THE COMMUNITY AND NOT JUST HAVE THEM COME TO US AND THEN ENSURING THAT THOSE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGES AND ARE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE. ACCESSIBILITY IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE REALLY EMPHASIZE AS WELL.

SINCE OUR INCEPTION, WE'VE RETURNED ABOUT 47,000 CALLS, I BELIEVE, TO RENTERS IN NEED. WE'RE CURRENTLY IN A HOUSING CRISIS, SO I THINK SERVICES SUCH AS OURS, BEING ABLE TO TALK TENANTS THROUGH THEIR SITUATIONS, PREVENTING THEM FROM LOSING THEIR HOUSING, TALKING THEM THROUGH HOW THEY CAN ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES AND CONNECT WITH RESOURCES SUCH AS THE MANY GREAT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE HERE TONIGHT. AS DOMINIC SAID, OUR HOTLINE VOLUNTEER EARLIER, THERE'S A LOT OF INTERSECTIONAL WORK. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE'RE SUPPORTING ALL THESE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT REALLY SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES IN WHAT WE NEED. I JUST ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR HOTLINE, WHICH HELPS THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, PEOPLE OF COLOR, IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, SINGLE MOMS, SO MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED OF THESE SERVICES AND MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES OTHERWISE. OF COURSE, THE WORK WE DO TO BRING WORKSHOPS INTO THE COMMUNITY SO THAT TENANTS CAN ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Ivan Hermontez: GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS IVAN. I'M HERE AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER, AND I'M HERE IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION. I'M GOING TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY STORY. I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES UNDOCUMENTED WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF GOING THROUGH SCHOOL, LEARNING ENGLISH. AND EVEN THEN -- WHEN I WAS VERY, VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST MY STATUS AND I HAD GONE THROUGH COLLEGE, I STILL NEEDED LEGAL HELP. THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM HERE IS VERY, VERY COMPLICATED, AND IT HASN'T GOTTEN EASIER WITH THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION. WHAT I'M ASKING IS OUR COMMUNITIES JUST WANT AN OPPORTUNITY. WE WANT A CHANCE. WE WANT TO PLAY. WE WANT TO LEARN. WE WANT TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY. WE WANT TO BE PART OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WITH THIS, WITH UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION, IT WILL -- WE KNOW THE FAKE NATIONAL RHETORIC AROUND OUR COMMUNITIES THAT WE'RE HEARING AND MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A LEADER IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES FEEL SAFE, IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES FEEL WELCOME. I'M URGING YOU TO SET ASIDE A LARGE AMOUNT OR MATCH THE BUDGET THAT THE CITY OF PORTLAND HAD FOR UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Tiana Hammon: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS TIANA. I WORK AS A CAREER COACH WITH POIC FOR A GRANT CALLED A HOME FOR EVERYONE. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT MINORITIES WHO ARE HOMELESS TO

GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THEIR LIFE AND TO GIVE THEM HOPE AND TO HELP THEM RECONSTRUCT THEIR LIVES. I CAN GO ON FOR HOURS WITH SUCCESS STORIES AND EVEN OBSTACLES I HAVE RUN INTO WHILE RUNNING THIS PROGRAM, BUT AT THIS MOMENT, I JUST WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING A PROGRAM LIKE A HOME FOR EVERYONE TO HELP OUR DISPLACED FAMILIES. I HAVE WORKED WITH FAMILIES WHO ARE LIVING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, LIVING IN A CAR DURING THE COLD WINTER, OR EVEN STAYING AT VARIOUS SHELTERS. THIS PROGRAM IS WELL NEEDED. FOR THIS PROGRAM -- THE MONEY THAT I HAVE FOR THE PROGRAM TO LAST 12 MONTHS, I HAVE 16,000. 16,000 THAT I STRETCH ACROSS 12 MONTHS. THAT'S \$1,333. WITH A CASELOAD OF 35 PEOPLE, THAT'S ROUGHLY \$38 PER PARTICIPANT. THAT'S TO SUPPORT WITH BUS PASSES, GAS CARDS, MOTELS FOR MAYBE A COUPLE OF NIGHTS IF SHELTERS ARE FULL, APARTMENT APPLICATION OR INTERVIEWING CLOTHES. IF WE CAN CONTINUE TO FUND A PROGRAM LIKE A HOME FOR EVERYONE OR MAYBE EVEN INCREASE OUR FUNDING, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WILL HELP OUR COMMUNITY BE A BETTER PLACE. MY PARTICIPANTS WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT. NEXT TO ME, I HAVE ONE OF MY PARTICIPANTS WHO IS GOING TO TELL HER STORY.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Shaudae Yodkum: HI. I'M SHAUDAE. I'M PART OF A HOME FOR EVERYONE, SO I'M JUST GOING TO EXPRESS MYSELF. I'M A PAST GRADUATE OF ROSEMARY ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH IS AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FOR AT-RISK YOUTH. I'M ALSO A FULL-TIME COLLEGE STUDENT WITH A 4.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE. I'M ON THE HONOR'S, PRESIDENT'S, AND DEAN'S LIST. I ATTEND THE COLLEGE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE. I'M GOING TO BE A LAWYER. I'M ALSO CURRENTLY FULL-TIME EMPLOYED WITH POIC, AND I'M PART OF AN AWESOME PROGRAM CALLED A HOME FOR EVERYONE. THIS YEAR WAS RECENTLY HARD FOR ME BECAUSE I LOST MY SON TO SIDS. I HAD TO LEARN TO BE PATIENT AS THIS HAS BEEN A VERY GRUELING PROCESS. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I GOT DISCOURAGED AND THEY WOULD REASSURE ME IT WOULD ALL WORK OUT. LIVING IN A HORRIBLE SITUATION THAT WASN'T CONDUCIVE TO ME OR MY OLDER SON'S ENVIRONMENT OR OUR WELL-BEING, BUT CONTINUALLY BEING PATIENT. I HAVE BEEN WITH A HOME FOR EVERYONE FOR ABOUT NINE MONTHS. IN THAT TIME, I COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM WORK SO THAT I COULD FIND HOUSING. TIANA WOULD MEET WITH ME AT MY JOB ON MY LUNCH BREAKS. I CONTINUALLY FELT IT WAS HOPELESS AND I WOULD NEVER GET TO WHERE I NEED TO BE. A HOME FOR EVERYONE, TIANA, AND OTHERS HAVE NOT ONLY WALKED WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, HELPED TO NOT ONLY WALK WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, BUT ALSO TO HELP GUIDE ME TO SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAIN AN APARTMENT AND TO CONTINUE TO STAY PROFESSIONALLY PREPARED FOR ANY JOB THAT I FACE. HELPING WITH CLOTHING, PROFESSIONAL JOB EXPERTISE, AND THE COMPASSION TO UNDERSTAND THE STRUGGLES THAT THEIR CLIENTS FACE. I AM CURRENTLY HOUSED AND BEING HELPED WITH A HOME THROUGH A HOME FOR EVERYONE

AND HUMAN SOLUTIONS. I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU-ALL FOR LISTENING TO THOSE VOICES WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE HELP TO SUPPORT AND ACTUALLY TAKE ACTION IN DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IT ISN'T JUST GOING TO STOP WITH HELPING THEM GET HOUSING. YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THESE PROGRAMS SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTINUALLY ASSIST US. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU LADIES UP THERE FOR YOUR TIME AND DEDICATION AND JUST LISTENING TO ALL OF US UP HERE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN GO FIRST. GO AHEAD.

Joe Sack: HELLO. MY NAME IS JOE. I'M HERE AS A PRIVATE RESIDENT OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I RECENTLY ATTENDED SOME COUNTY COMMISSIONER FORUMS. AFTER HEARING ALL THE ISSUES YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH, YOU HAVE MY RESPECT. I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT SEX EDUCATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE. EXCUSE ME. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTY SEX ED PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH EQUITY PROGRAM. I SPECIFICALLY ASK YOU TO ENSURE THAT THESE COURSES INCLUDE INFORMATION ON CONSENT. I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE THAT INFORMATION. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXPAND THESE PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND LINGUISTICALLY ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR OUR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY SO THEY CAN MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR THEMSELVES WHEN IT COMES TO FAMILY PLANNING AND ASSESSING ALL FAMILY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE OPTIONS. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Andy Miller: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS. I'M ANDY. I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT HUMAN SOLUTIONS. IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT. LET ME BEGIN JUST BY SAYING THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS IRCO. I SEE LEE EARLIER. AWESOME JOB. ALSO, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THESE BUDGET HEARINGS EAST WHERE SO MANY OF THE FOLKS WHO RELY ON YOUR INVESTMENTS TO SIMPLY SURVIVE ARE ABLE TO ACCESS HEARINGS. I KNOW THERE'S ANOTHER ONE SLATED FOR GRESHAM, AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THAT. I EXPECTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE URGENT NEEDS IN OUR COUNTY AND WE CERTAINLY HAVE. THOSE NEEDS ARE URGENT AND THE INEQUITIES ARE UNACCEPTABLE, BUT I'M ALSO HEARTENED TO HEAR ABOUT ALL THE SUCCESS IN THIS ROOM FROM ALL OF THE PARTNERSHIPS THAT YOU ALL HAVE COLLECTIVELY INTENDED TO INVEST IN. YOU HAVE INTENDED YOUR INVESTMENTS TO FLOW TO SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WHAT I'M HEARING TONIGHT IS HEARTENING. THEY CERTAINLY ARE, SO THANK YOU FOR THAT CONTINUED FOCUS. I DID WANT TO SAY IN PARTICULAR TONIGHT THAT I WANTED TO EXPRESS MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE \$600,000 IN THE CHAIR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES. AS YOU RECALL, I WAS IN FRONT OF THIS COMMISSION BACK IN JANUARY SHARING SOME OF THE INCREDIBLE SUCCESS THAT HUMAN SOLUTIONS AND OUR PARTNERS HAD IN OUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS INITIATIVE. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS AND WERE ABLE TO MOVE 40 FAMILIES OUT OF HOMELESSNESS AND INTO HOUSING IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF 40 DAYS. WE WANT TO CONTINUE THAT SUCCESS. WE HAVE TRIED. THE CHALLENGE RIGHT NOW IS THAT THE RENT ASSISTANCE RUNS SHORT, AND SO WHILE WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS LANDLORDS WHO HAVE BROUGHT HOUSING TO THE TABLE AND WE HAVE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF FAMILIES IN DEEP NEED, THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND THE ASSISTANCE FOR STAFFING, ESPECIALLY TO MOVE SOME OF OUR MOST CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES INTO HOUSING QUICKLY AND SUSTAINABILITY SIMPLY ISN'T THERE. WHAT WE SAW IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET A \$600,000 FOR A PROGRAM FOR WHAT I UNDERSTAND TO BE A VOUCHER PROGRAM THAT IS TARGETING CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES COUPLED WITH THE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES THAT THAT HE HAS FAMILIES NEED TO STAY STABLE IN HOUSING, I SAW ONCE AGAIN YOUR INTENTIONS ON FOCUSING ON THE MOST VULNERABLE AND ON FUNDING THE PROGRAMS THAT WE KNOW WORK, SO I WANT TO EXPRESS MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR THAT PROGRAM AND FOR SO MUCH ELSE THAT IS IN THIS BUDGET. YOU'RE HEARING ABOUT ALL THE GREAT WORK. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THAT.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Margo Presley: GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONERS AND CHAIRS. MY NAME IS MARGO. I'M A DOCTORALLY PREPARED FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I HAVE THE HONOR OF WORKING AT MID COUNTY CLINIC, WHICH IS THE REFUGEE CHECKPOINT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON. I'M HERE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED INCREASE BUDGET FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. I BELIEVE IT IS AN INCREASE OF \$27 MILLION COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. AND I SUPPORT THAT BECAUSE CURRENTLY I SEE PATIENTS, MANY WITH INTERPRETERS -- I BELIEVE 60 TO 80 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN AT OUR CLINIC ON A DAILY BASIS. I'M ALLOTTED 20 MINUTES TO WORK WITH THOSE PATIENTS, WHICH IS THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME, 20 MINUTES, THAT I SEE MY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PATIENTS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS AND THE PRODUCTIVITY REQUIREMENTS FOR US. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS INEQUITABLE IN THAT OUR PATIENTS WHO REQUIRE INTERPRETERS TO BE SEEN NEED MORE TIME.

OUR PATIENTS BRING WITH THEM COMPLEX HISTORIES OF TRAUMA AND ILLNESS AND RESILIENCE. IN ORDER FOR ME TO PROVIDE SAFE CARE FOR THEM, I NEED THE TIME TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR CULTURE, THEIR BELIEFS, AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR CURRENT HEALTH STATUS. I ALSO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED INCREASE BECAUSE THE LONGEVITY OF MY COWORKERS' CAREER AT MID-COUNTY CLINIC IS ALL TOO SHORT. I BELIEVE THE AVERAGE TIME THAT PEOPLE STAY THERE IS TWO TO THREE YEARS. I'VE BEEN THERE FOR 1.5 YEARS. IN THAT TIME, SIX PROVIDERS HAVE LEFT. THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE TEAMS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO SERVING THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS THAT ARE ACCESSES CARE ON THE EAST SIDE OF PORTLAND. DUE TO THE BUDGET CUTS LAST YEAR, WE LOST SIX PROVIDERS, AND WE ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM THAT CUT. WE ARE NOT UP TO STAFFING CAPACITY YET, AND WE ARE REQUIRED TO DO THREE JOBS IN ONE AND HAVE TIME ONLY TO SEE PATIENTS. BUT AS PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS, WE ARE THE CARE COORDINATORS FOR OUR PATIENTS' HEALTH AND LIVES. WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO MEANINGFULLY COLLABORATE WITH THE INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE IN OUR COMMUNITY LIKE IRCO TO REALLY SUPPORT PEOPLE AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE THEIR BEST CHANCE OF HEALTH IN PORTLAND, OREGON. I'M HERE TO FULLY SUPPORT THE INCREASED BUDGET FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR AND TO ADVOCATE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HIRE AND MAINTAIN WONDERFUL PROVIDERS THAT WORK FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Saeed: HI. MY NAME IS SAEED. I'M FROM AFGHANISTAN. WE HAVE A VERY YOUNG COMMUNITY, WHICH IS ALSO -- TEN MONTHS AGO, WE STARTED WORK WITH THE EAST COUNTY AREA, WORK WITH AN AFGHAN FAMILY. WE NEEDED YOUR SUPPORT BECAUSE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME FROM AFGHANISTAN, ALL OF THEM U.S. ARMY FORCES, WHEN THEY COME TO UNITED STATES, THEY ARE FEELING KIND OF NOT VERY HAPPY. WE NEED FAMILY SUPPORT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE UNITED STATES, ONE WEEK, AFTER STARTING WORK. WHEN THEY ARE COMING TO SOCIAL SECURITY, THEY ARE NOT STOPPING TO START. BECAUSE THEY GO TO WORK, IT IS NOT ENOUGH BECAUSE IT IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT GIVES FOR THE DHS MONEY. THE HOUSING IS VERY HIGH PRICED, SO WE'RE ASKING FOR YOU TO HELP AND SUPPORT THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY BECAUSE THE FAMILY, THEY COME FROM AFGHANISTAN, THE WAR AREA, WHICH IS THERE EVERY DAY HAPPENING. WHEN THEY COME TO AFGHANISTAN, THERE IS NO GOOD NEWS. HERE WE HAVE GOOD OPPORTUNITY. WE'RE ASKING FOR SPACE. A COUPLE TIMES WE HAVE COME TO IRCO. WE HAVE A CULTURAL CELEBRATION DAY. TO RENT THIS PLACE, IT IS SO HIGH FOR US.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY BUDGET. HONESTLY, I'M TWO YEARS WORKING, LIKE VOLUNTEERING FOR AFGHAN COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY. THE WOMEN, THEY HAVE A COMPLETE DEPRESSION PROGRAM. IF YOU SUPPORT THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY IN THIS CASE, IT IS GOING TO BE LESS THAN THE PEOPLE WHO GO TO DOCTOR FOR DEPRESSION, FOR OTHER THINGS, WHICH IS HIGHEST PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY, I REALLY NEED TO ASK YOU TO SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY BECAUSE WE REALLY NEED TO MAY BE SO MANY FLIERS AND ADVERTISE AND TELL FOR ALL DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES TO UNITE IT. BECAUSE OUR EXPERIENCE -- I'M NOT IN MY COUNTRY. EIGHT YEARS AGO, I LEFT MY COUNTRY. I LIVE IN EUROPE. ALL COUNTRIES SAY DO NOT USE AND PLANT DRUG. STOP. HERE IN EVERY SCHOOL AROUND HERE WE HAVE DRUG. ALL THE TIME WE TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN PROTECT OUR KIDS. IN THIS CASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTECT OUR KIDS, BRING OUR KIDS FOR SOME SPACE. WE NEED YOU TO BRING IT, BUT WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO TELL THEM THAT DRUGS ARE NOT GOOD STUFF BECAUSE EVERYBODY HERE COMING -- SOME OF THEM MOM. SOME OF THEM ARE DAD. I TOO MUCH WORRY ABOUT MY KIDS. I HAVE SEVEN CHILDREN. YOU HAVE THE SAME THING YOU WORRY ABOUT. IF YOU SUPPORT ME, I WILL GO EVERYWHERE TO STOP THE DRUG DEALER STUFF AND THIS BUSINESS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL STOP BECAUSE WE NEED HEALTHY KIDS. WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR KIDS. MANY PEOPLE USING DRUGS FROM THE SCHOOL KIDS COMING, WHEN YOU SEE THEM MOVING LIKE -- IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. I WORRY ABOUT MY KIDS. I SEE SO MANY KIDS IN BAD SITUATION. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANKS FOR COMING. [APPLAUSE]

Board Clerk: I'VE CALLED THESE NAMES BEFORE, SO THIS IS THE LAST CALL FOR CADIJA, ANYA, LEOS, AND FLOYDA. THAT'S ALL WE HAVE, MADAME CHAIR.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. ANYBODY ELSE WANT TO GET UP HERE BEFORE WE CLOSE DOWN THIS VERY FIRST PUBLIC HEARING? ALL RIGHT. WELL, I WANT TO THANK -- SOMEONE'S COMING UP? ARE YOU COMING UP? COME ON DOWN.

Joy Jackson: HI. THANK YOU FOR HEARING ME OUT. I WAS FACED WITH A NO CAUSE EVICTION --

Chair Kafoury: I'M SORRY. WILL YOU STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD?

Joy Jackson: SORRY. JOY. I REALLY SCARED ME THAT ME AND MY FAMILY WAS GOING TO BE DISPLACED FROM MY HOME AND THAT MY CHILDREN WERE GOING TO BE DISPLACED FROM THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT. I HAD WENT TO A WORKSHOP, COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS WORKSHOP. IT EMPOWERED ME TO LEARN MY RIGHTS AND TO FIGHT FOR MY RIGHTS, MY TENANT RIGHTS. IN ME DOING THAT AND THEN IN ME WRITING A LETTER, THE LANDLORD WAS ABLE TO WITHDRAW. I WAS ABLE TO STAY IN MY HOME. I'M

JUST ASKING YOU TO PLEASE SUPPORT THIS AGENCY THAT HELPS SO MANY TENANTS FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND EMPOWER THEM. JUST HELP THEM. THEY REALLY DO HELP THEM. IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEARTS TO BE COMPASSIONATE TO SUPPORT THIS AGENCY, YOU'D BE DOING A GOOD SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Coya Crespin: I THINK I'M THE LAST ONE. GREETINGS, MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD. MY NAME IS COYA. I'M A PORTLAND TENANT. I HAVE BEEN RENTING IN PORTLAND FOR TEN YEARS. I'M ALSO A STAFF MEMBER AT COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS AND A MEMBER OF THE TENANT PROTECTIONS TEAM. I WANTED TO SHARE MY STORY OF HOW CATS PROGRAMS RECENTLY HELPED ME. MYSELF AND MY NEIGHBORS WERE CONNECTED WITH LEGAL HELP THROUGH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS WHEN WE RECEIVED RETALIATORY NO CAUSE EVICTIONS. AFTER WORKING WITH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS TO TRY TO REQUEST REPAIRS ON OUR HOMES IN ST. JOHN'S -- OUR APARTMENTS WERE FULL OF MOLD AND ROACHES. WHEN WE WROTE A LETTER ASKING FOR REPAIRS BE MADE BEFORE OUR LANDLORD RAISED OUR RENT, OUR LANDLORD THEN EVICTED ALL OF US. WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD A LAWYER ON OUR OWN WITHOUT THE HELP THAT THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS OFFERED US. MANY OF US WOULD BE HOUSELESS NOW.

Coya Crespin: I'M A SINGLE MOM OF TWO CHILDREN. YOU GUYS SAW MY SON INTERRUPTING A LOT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE LIFE WHEN I MOVED US TO NORTH PORTLAND. WE HAD A PLACE I CALLED HOME WHERE I WORKED HARD TO KEEP THE RENT PAID. ALL OF THAT WAS RIPPED OUT IN FRONT OF US WHEN WE GOT NO CAUSE EVICTED THROUGH NO FAULT OF OUR OWN. LUCKILY IN THE NICK OF TIME, I WAS ABLE TO FIND US A NEW APARTMENT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD IN ST. JOHN'S. COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS LOOKED OUT FOR US AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE IN CRISIS. SEVERAL OF US VOLUNTEER WITH CAT NOW. WE ARE TRUE SUCCESS STORIES OF CAT. TO FINISH UP, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT TENANTS SHOULD NOT BE IN FEAR TO ASK FOR REPAIRS FOR HOMES THAT THEY RENT ON FOR FEAR OF BEING EVICTED. THERE'S NO OTHER PROGRAMS LIKE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS THAT REALLY LOOK OUT FOR TENANTS LIKE ME WHO HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO GO. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING AND THOSE OF YOU WHO STUCK AROUND UNTIL THE BITTER END TO HEAR THESE GREAT STORIES AND IMPASSIONED PLEAS FOR SERVICES. I KNOW THAT WE LOVE THE WORK THAT WE DO, AND WE ARE EVEN MORE ENCOURAGED NOW TO FIND

ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO HELP ALL THESE GREAT PROJECTS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING TONIGHT, AND PLEASE JOIN US NEXT WEDNESDAY, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, AT THE MULTNOMAH BUILDING. [APPLAUSE]

ADJOURNMENT – 8:09 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.]

For access to the video and/or board packet materials, please view at:
http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

Submitted by:
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Board of County Commissioners
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