

10/19/83

TO:

REV. FRANK W. SHIELDS

CHAIRMAN —

MULTNOMAH COUNTY HOME RULE
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

SIR: COVER LETTER ENCLOSED
PERTAINING TO ATTACHED MATERIAL.

THANK YOU!

MRS. GEORGIANA YEE
1922 S.W. IDAHO ST
PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
October 19, 1983

Rev. Frank W. Shields, Chairman
Multnomah County Home Rule
Charter Review Committee
2505 SE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

Dear Mr. Shields:

I received a letter from Commissioner Caroline Miller dated Sept. 28, 1983, in which she suggests it might be helpful if I would meet with the Charter Review Committee to express some of my experiences in dealing with the Administration and their method of communicating with Commissioners. When I contacted Mr. Robert Castagna, he informed me of the date, time, and place of your next meeting at the Peninsula Senior Center. I thought it might be better if I tried to summarize my story to you first, then let you make the determination on whether it would be of interest to your committee.

My story is long, involved, and has been an on-going and active matter for at least the past six months. I'm an ordinary citizen, taxpayer, and registered voter, who just happens to have a son still residing with this household who works for Multnomah County Vector Control. From last winter's hearings on proposed budget cuts in the county, this commences to involve mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, conspiracy, discrimination and insensitivity on the part of program managers and administrators in the Department of Environmental Services.

The frustrations we've encountered in trying to expose these irregularities and seek remedies has led me to question the present structure of county government that allows management to indulge in excesses without worry of accountability. In some cases, program managers are virtual mini-dictators ruling their turf through iron-fisted methods of intimidation or coercion. So firmly entrenched have these people become, no employee dares question their actions in fear of losing their jobs. My son is the exception to the rule, putting his job on the line and receiving threats from superiors.

I find it difficult to summarize the broad spectrum of incidents as we sought help step-by-step up the administrative ladder. I've decided to provide you with a copy of the correspondence and notes I've amassed in hope that a quick scan on your part will tell you enough to determine if you wish to hear more.

In an article by Paul Manley in today's Oregonian, he quoted Ronald Cease, president of the Metropolitan Citizens League: " the commissioners spend their time on short-term problems that ought to be handled by the county executive. " Perhaps that's true, but I hand-delivered a letter to the office of County Executive Dennis Buchanan, with copies to all the commissioners.

Nine days went by with no reply or acknowledgement from Mr. Buchanan. I finally had to telephone his office in order to elicit a return call. In all our months of efforts to seek a solution to the problems at Vector Control, only Commissioner Miller responded with assistance and concern. She did all that was within her power to do with the limitations of her office, time, and staff. Just as many of us experienced, she was also patronized and lied to by administrators. I eventually went to the news media with the story.

We've since been informed that pressure from several areas has prompted the County Auditor to investigate. We've also been told that improprieties have indeed been discovered, giving credence to our allegations. That investigation is still in progress, as is one by the State Civil Rights with whom my son has filed charges of employment discrimination.

With our present system of government, most citizens with similar complaints would have found the frustrations too much to bear and would long since have given up hope. Our inquiries and complaints and details were funneled through the system right back to the perpetrators, where they could then threaten and retaliate. We were, in effect, totally ignored all the way to the top. It was only persistence and determination on our part, and pressure from Commissioner Miller that finally something is being done. How many citizens would be willing to put in the time, effort, and expenses we did?

In this atmosphere, greed and corruption can and does exist and flourish. Some people have felt secure to the point of flaunting their transgressions with impunity. These conditions might be expected of government on the east coast, but I always thought Oregonians prided themselves on fairly CLEAN government. There must be a better way than that which now exists. It certainly won't be found by cutting staff and time of some of our hard-working commissioners.

I told Mr. Castagna that my son is somewhat bound by county policy that forbids him to make these allegations himself, which is why I became involved initially. I am enclosing copies of these policies as requested by Mr. Castagna and my son and I are ready, willing, and able to meet with your committee if you feel it would be worthwhile. I plan to be out of town tomorrow, but will be available thereafter.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Georgiana Yee
503-244-2948



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

September 28, 1983

Ms. Georgiana Yee
1922 S W Idaho St.
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Ms. Yee:

Thank you very much for your letter dated September 22nd. Thank you for seeing through the attempt to politically embarrass me when I am raising some very difficult questions about the way this government continues to conduct business.

Your own experience, I know, tells you how sloppy some of the work of government can be...if not downright neglectful.

I will send a copy of your letter to Bonnie Morris, who continues to track; will do some preliminary looking at the issue, and then I will probably ask Paul Yarborough to come and see me. This whole matter is extremely frustrating, because I do not feel that I always get direct answers from the Administration.

You know, Mrs. Yee, you would do me a tremendous favor if you would meet with the Charter Review Committee, expressing some of your experiences on the Administration's straight forward method of communicating with Commissioners, and let them know how critical it is not to reduce the Board of County Commissioners to part-time officials. I can hardly keep up with the "technical" inexactitudes, as well as the improprieties and sloppinesses of this government, with the two full time staff I have. To be reduced to part-time would be a disaster. Citizens like yourself speaking out on your own experiences would certainly help justify my claim that I need more staff and more time, not less.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE MILLER
Commissioner, Dist. 3

CM:brl



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
2115 S.E. MORRISON
PORTLAND, OREGON 97214
(503) 248-5000

DENNIS BUCHANAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 17, 1983

To: Ken Yee, Vector Control
Bldg #312

From: Sherrill Rudolph, Admin. Asst. S

Subject: Requests for Policy on Media Contacts

I have attached the Administrative Procedures Manual policy on dealing with press and media contacts. It is somewhat outdated but the basic policy remains the same.

Each Section/Division has an in-house informal policy of dealing with the media. You should check with Pete DeChant for information on how he wishes the policy administered within Vector Control.

Some Managers prefer to have all requests for information referred to them. This procedure assures them that any information going to the media is accurate and keeps them informed on contacts. It also provides uniformity of responses.

Basically, the policy encourages prompt and accurate responses to any media request. If in doubt, always take a message and offer to get back to the person or refer the call to your manager. It is always unwise to guess or give information that may be inaccurate.

To make sure that the County Executive's office is informed of all media contacts, each Section is responsible to notify the departmental liaison (that's me) of the request. I then relay the information on to the County Executive's Office. This keeps their office covered on what may appear in the papers or on the various news networks.

Our goal is to aid the press and media whenever possible.

I have not sent the procedures and policies for press releases, press conferences, or public information brochures. I assume you need only this policy on news contacts.

If you need more information, don't hesitate to contact me or your manager, Pete DeChant.

Enc.

cc: Pete DeChant

administrative procedures transmittal...

SUBJECT NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS	DATE 12/1/81	PROCEDURE NO 1710	TRANS. NO. #22
CONTACT PERSON Dean Smith	DEPARTMENT County Executive		

PROCEDURE SUMMARY

- (1) General Policy: All employees are encouraged to make prompt and accurate reply to inquiries from the media on any subject that can be defined as the "public's business."
- (2) Each department head shall designate an existing central staff person to coordinate public information activity.
- (3) The County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant is responsible for news media relations involving or related to the County Executive or his office. The County's Public Information Coordinator is responsible for assisting Departmental officials with news media relations involving County programs and services.
- (4) The County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant must be notified in advance of the issuance of news releases dealing with a matter of major significance, or of news conferences that have been scheduled with the approval of the department head.
- (5) If time does not permit advance notice, the County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant should be notified afterwards of news conferences and sent a copy of any news releases.
- (6) The County's Public Information Coordinator should be notified in advance of any routine press release or news conference. The Public Information Coordinator should be notified following any routine inquiry from the news media of Departmental personnel.
- (7) News releases should be sent on blue logo County News Release letterhead and should contain relevant identifying information in order to facilitate follow-up inquiries.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Multnomah County Counsel

APPROVED BY


Donald E. Clark, County Executive

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: News Media Relations

PURPOSE: To standardize the procedures used by all County units in relations with the news media. To facilitate full and accurate release of information to the news media.

ORGANIZATION
RESPONSIBLE
FOR PROCEDURE: Office of the County Executive

DATE PREPARED: October 27, 1981

REVISION
NUMBER & DATE: 1 12/1/81

ORGANIZATIONS
AFFECTED BY
PROCEDURE: All

LEGAL CITATION: None

PROCEDURE NARRATIVEGeneral Policy:

- (1) Each department head is responsible for conduct of relations with the news media in compliance with the County's policy to keep the public informed about the public's business.
- (2) *Sherrill* → Each department head shall assign responsibility for coordination of public information activities by the department to an existing staff person, preferably central staff. A department head may perform this function himself or herself if desired.
- (3) Every effort shall be made to reply promptly and accurately to inquiries from the news media on any subject that can be defined as the "public's business." County administrators are encouraged to maintain an open door for the news media.
- (4) *1. Manager*
2. Sherrill Subordinate employees with specific data or information they feel should be made public, should be encouraged to work with the department's public information coordinator in contacting news media.
- (5) *1. Manager*
2. Sherrill Employees who receive inquiries from the news media which they feel unable to answer adequately shall refer such inquiries to the department's public information coordinator.
- (6) Department heads are urged to work with the County's Public Information Coordinator to inform employees about news media policy and procedures through staff meetings, employee orientation programs, or otherwise. Cooperation with the media should be stressed.

News Releases:

- (7) Department heads are responsible for any news releases, public announcements, or paid advertising issued or bought on behalf of the department or the County. This responsibility may be delegated to the department's public information coordinator or other employee.

A news release is a statement or announcement relating to official, public business of the County, intended for distribution to the news media for publication or broadcast. The objective is to inform the public and to develop broad support for County programs and services.

- (8) The County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant shall be notified in advance of the issuance of a news release dealing with County policy matters or matters of major significance in the opinion of department heads.
- (9) The County's Public Information Coordinator should be notified in advance of news releases of a routine nature not involving County policy or matters of major significance so as to provide technical assistance and support in the preparation and distribution of the release. The County's Public Information Coordinator will inform the County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant of any release of a nature significant enough for involvement by the County Executive.
- (10) Copies of all news releases, with a notation as to their distribution, shall be sent to the County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant and County's Public Information Coordinator.
- (11) County news release letterhead should be used for all written releases. All releases must include date of issuance and name, title, address and phone of person to be contacted for further information.

News Conferences:

- (12) The County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant must be notified in advance when a news conference is scheduled with the prior approval of a department head.
- (13) For those news conferences not directly involving the County Executive, Departmental personnel should solicit the assistance of the County's Public Information Coordinator for technical support.
- (14) Impromptu news conferences (those not scheduled in advance with prior approval) are occasionally dictated by circumstances. In that event, the employee involved in such a meeting with news media representatives is requested to notify the department's public information coordinator as to the nature of the meeting. The coordinator, in turn, shall notify the County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant.

Inquiries from Media

- (15) Representatives from the news media often initiate inquiries directed to County employees at management or subordinate levels. (See Item 5). If the matter discussed involves County policy or is of more than routine nature, the employee is encouraged to handle the inquiry to the best of his knowledge and then shall notify the department's public information coordinator, who, in turn, shall notify the County Executive's Public Affairs Assistant.

Repeat: Routine inquiries are exempt from this requirement.

1. Employee should notify manager of any contact.
2. Manager contacts Departmental Liaison (Sherill)
3. Sherill notifies County Executive's office

News Conferences scheduled by Sections need prior authorization from Department Director



OFFICE MEMORANDUM . . . DIVISION OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

TO: All employees of Vector Control

DATE: 10-17-83

FROM: Peter DeChant

SUBJECT: Media Contacts

Effective immediately no employee of Vector Control is to contact the media in an official capacity or act as a representative of Vector Control to the media without my prior approval. This does not limit anyones right to express their opinion as an individual to the media.

read
Please ^{read} circulate + sign.

Larry Helmick
K.Y. Kenneth yee
Diane Turner
Robert Hansen
Margaret Kennedy

The issue:

PUBLIC HEALTH VERSUS TENNIS COURTS ?

MULTNOMAH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CUTS ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL FROM VECTOR CONTROL (Rodent-Solid Waste-Insect-Nuisance), YET CAN AFFORD TO BUILD TENNIS COURT-BASKETBALL-WEIGHT ROOM FACILITIES FOR THE " PHYSICAL FITNESS" OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES AT VANCE COMPLEX !

The question:

WHERE IN A NORMAL WORKDAY CAN EMPLOYEES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY FIND TIME TO PLAY TENNIS, AND HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED TO THE TAXPAYERS WHEN DRASTIC CUTS ARE BEING MADE IN PERSONNEL AND SERVICES ?

Response from DES:

Director Paul Yarborough and Tor Lyshaug (Operations and Maintenance Supervisor) attempt to justify these facilities as a PHYSICAL FITNESS operation. Mr. Yarborough classifies such facilities as falling within the category of " LUNCHROOMS PROVIDED IN MOST COUNTY BUILDINGS."

The story:

This began as an effort by three county employees in the Vector Control office to save the position of their one secretary from being cut in the budget crunch. In the process, this effort has uncovered wrongdoings by management such as the siphoning off of funds, equipment, and personnel for the benefit of other departments. In addition to supervisory neglect of this office (which provides an essential community service), there has been mismanagement and waste.

You will note from the enclosed documents, a small item such as JANITORIAL SUPPLIES blossomed from a \$550 per year allowance to \$1350 in the final version of the budget proposal. Vector personnel clean their own restrooms and less than \$100 per year is needed. This is just an example of waste.

You will note I have also enclosed a budget proposal put forth by Peter DeChant, a staff member, that would cut the cost of operations and supplies enough to save the secretary's OA 3 position, yet it was totally ignored by supervisors and administrators, and DeChant was reprimanded for having come forth with it. I have been told that supervisors and administrators have a free hand in determining how the funds are spent.

On the following page is a summary of the copies of correspondence I have initiated as a private citizen concerned with waste and irresponsibility, and the responses received primarily from Commissioner Caroline Miller. She was the only county commissioner concerned enough about the issues to respond, and totally through her efforts, the supervisor of Vector Control was removed from his position. Mr. Sorensen is still PARKS director. 2,4-D is still being sprayed at Blue Lake Park.

Georgiana Yee

SUMMARY OF ENCLOSED COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Item 1. Letter to Paul Yarborough, Director of DES, from three staff members of Vector Control protesting layoff of secretary and pleading for reconsideration. Attached is response from Yarborough in which he states it was choice of cutting OA 3 (secretary) or a sanitarian. BOTH positions were cut! Letter dated March 31, 1983.

Item 2. My letter to Dennis Buchanan, with copies sent to Gordon Shadburne and all the other county commissioners, dated April 12, 1983. Attached is copy of response from Caroline Miller dated 4-21-83.

Item 3. The secretary, Mrs. Virginia Pratt attempts to work through her union (Local 88) to save her position. Letter to Tom Gunn dated April 20, 1983.

Item 4. My letter to Commissioner Miller dated April 27, 1983, with which I had enclosed photos of the tennis court and mentioned rumors of a WEIGHT ROOM being built primarily for executives to relieve stress. Attached is her response dated May 2, 1983.

Item 5. My letter to Commissioner Miller dated May 9, 1983, and her response dated May 11, 1983.

Item 6. Letter from Commissioner Miller with attached copies of DES responses to the TENNIS COURT - WEIGHT ROOM issue. Dated May 17, 1983.

Item 7. My letter to Commissioner Miller dated May 20, 1983, with the attached copy of the agenda for my son's meeting with Dennis Buchanan, dated May 19, 1983, and Commissioner Miller's response dated May 23, 1983.

Item 8. My somewhat personal letter to Commissioner Miller to thank her and her aide (Bonnie Morris) for all they have accomplished in our behalf. This letter includes my observations, comments, personal feelings, plus an update on events at Vector. A \$67,000 SURPLUS had been found in the current PARKS-VECTOR budget, which is ironic when it is claimed there will not be enough funds in new budget to retain Mrs. Pratt, or to allow services to remain at current levels. Also, veiled threats had been relayed to my son through second parties. Not once has any supervisor or administrator confronted him personally besides Buchanan. Dated June 7, 1983.

Item 9. My son's letter to Buchanan dated June 8, 1983, informing him of threats received from Tor Lyshaug and Leo Sorensen.

Item 10. Letter from Commissioner Miller about memorandum from Yarborough titled INTERNAL REORGANIZATION, dated June 3, 1983. At the same time, a copy of that memo was received at the Vector office, read and initialed by all the staff with the exception of Mrs. Pratt.

Item 11. My letter to Robert C. Hughley, Affirmative Action Officer for Multnomah County, in protest of the assignment of Peter DeChant to the Vector Supervisory position without benefit of fair employment procedures. As stated in that letter, this promotion is not coveted per se, only that

page 2 (summary)

equal opportunity (for whatever reasons) has always been denied to my son at Vector Control. Our feeling is that this constitutes discrimination, though we may be wrong. Attached is notice received from Mr. Hughley's office, sent while he was still out on vacation. Both items dated June 9, 1983.

Item 12. My letter to Commissioner Miller dated June 16, 1983. This letter again only reflects personal feelings of the issues, plus an update on events at the Vector office.

—Item 13. Fact sheets, newsletter, diagrams, and stories about the Vance Complex. Nowhere in any of this literature is there mention of a WEIGHT ROOM, a TENNIS COURT, or even a BASKETBALL HOOP, to be built for the pleasure and exercise of employees and executives of Operations and Maintenance!

—Item 14. Portions of the Expenditure Summary, a copy of which was given to my son during his meeting with Paul Yarborough on April 8, 1983.

Item 15. The budget proposal by Leo Sorensen dated 2-8-83 on the page titled BUD 1. Subsequent pages of this proposal bear different dates. BUD 2 of this proposal had already listed Peter DeChant as Maintenance Supervisor, dated 1-26-83. BUD 3, is where the \$550 is listed for " cleaning and restroom supplies," for Vector.

Item 16. This budget proposal by Leo Sorensen is the one finally adopted. Dated 4-11-83. On BUD 2 of this proposal, the position of Nuisance Control Officer was added back. On BUD 3, item #622, Cleaning and Restroom Supplies had mysteriously ballooned to \$1350!

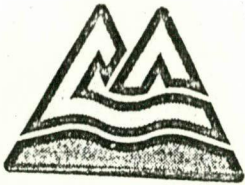
—Item 17. Proposal by Peter DeChant, cutting overly-generous allowances for operating expenses and supplies allows retaining the OA 3, Mrs. Pratt. Dated May 12, 1983, this is the proposal IGNORED by administrators. The cover page of this proposal details duties performed by Mrs. Pratt, the last page explains changes in the budget. Overall, a sensible account that allows for smooth, efficient operation of the Vector Control office in face of the tight budget situation.

Item 18. Copy of letter to Paul Yarborough from Tom Gunn of Local 88, dated June 13, 1983.

COMMENT: The letter from Mr. Gunn to Yarborough only serves to reinforce our feelings of apprehension of the tactics and statements made thus far by administrative personnel regarding ALL of the issues raised.

With the death last week of the 9-year-old boy in Klamath Falls, (from Bubonic Plague) Multnomah County can ill afford any loss of experienced personnel at Vector Control. The plague was discovered in Columbia County as recently as March of this year, just one county away. Additionally, complaints of bats (sick, menacing, and observed during the day) are increasing in frequency. Meanwhile, a seasonal worker will replace Mrs. Pratt, this person totally lacking experience and expertise to handle any potential emergency. There is also the FACT, only one sanitarian will be on duty for the entire county. Must we resort to Lane County methods of giving advice over the phone, and nothing else?

Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
503-244-2948



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

VECTOR CONTROL SECTION
5235 N. COLUMBIA BLVD.
PORTLAND, OREGON 97203
PHONE: 289-6069
289-1405

March 31, 1983

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DON CLARK, Chairman
DAN MOSEE
ALICE CORBETT
DENNIS BUCHANAN
MEL GORDON

Mr. Paul Yarborough, Director
Department of Environmental Services
2115 SE Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Mr. Yarborough:

We, the undersigned, are employees of Multnomah County Vector Control with offices at 5235 N. Columbia Blvd. We have been informed of the imminent and permanent loss of our one and only secretary. Jointly, and for the record, we wish to protest the layoff of this highly valued and efficient member of our team.

Three months ago, Virginia Pratt was pulled from our office and temporarily assigned to Operations and Maintenance at the Vance Building, thereby leaving our office of Vector Control without clerical or secretarial services. During that time, she was permitted to return on occasion, one day at a time, to attempt to restore some semblance of order to the amount of paperwork in which this office had become mired. Productivity of this department as a whole suffered in her absence, though fortunately for us it was the "slow" season of the year. A few days ago, she was released by Operations and Maintenance and permitted to return to this office just as our "busy" season commences with an increasing number of telephone calls seeking assistance in the various related problems of our field, and a corresponding increase in workload.

Now suddenly and abruptly, we've learned we are again to be deprived of our secretarial services, this time on a permanent basis. We assume this drastic step is a budget cutting measure. If true, then certainly a cost-benefit analysis should be made to determine exactly how much money is saved, or (conversely) wasted, by elimination of a position that serves as the hub of our operations and a vital link in communication for those of us in the field during the day. During the past three months, as we muddled along without Mrs. Pratt, it became glaringly apparent to us just how important she was to this office and the amount of work that was her responsibility.

Example: While she was gone, the gates to the compound and the doors to the office were locked. There was no one there to take deliveries of pesticides, fuel, laundry, mail, no one to meet the people who came for possum traps, rat poison, gambusia fish, insect identification, or to conduct other vector control business. One of us would delay going into the field just to wait for the meter reader from the utilities.

Example: In the afternoon we would forego other work to process calls recorded on the code-a-phone, which often consumed two or three hours of our

time, while much of the public refused to even speak with an answering device. When calls were shunted to Vance via call-forwarding, only Mrs. Pratt had the knowledge or expertise to deal with questions and problems in Insect, Rodent, or Nuisance Control. She often did this in addition to carrying the full work load demanded of her job in that office.

Example: All letters and notices that required typing and/or registering had to be taken out to Vance, a 45-minute drive from this office, and added to Mrs. Pratt's work. File cards and other lesser office work, we attempted among ourselves, seldom achieving feasibility in terms of time and salary involved. We still missed someone to keep accounts, pay bills, make purchase orders, research (when necessary) legal ownership of property and relay such information via radio to the one in the field.

Enclosed is a summary of the activities and services of Vector Control. We invite you, Mr. Yarborough, to visit our office and inspect our records. Judge for yourself the seriousness and validity of this protest, and whether our request that you reconsider the proposed layoff of our only secretary, Mrs. Pratt, is indeed being made frivolously.

Our staff has already been pared to the bone, with but two sanitarians for all of Multnomah County for rodent work, and one Nuisance Control officer. Summer workers, upon whom we depended in the past for insect spraying and sewer baiting, have been also substantially cut as you must know. Further depletion of staff at this point would lead to chaos at this office as the year progresses into the warmer months and calls multiply rapidly enough to cause a backlog.

Finally, Mrs. Pratt is capable, efficient, personable, and skilled in dealing with the public both in person and over the telephone. It seems the county is now forcing her to either accept an opening at Animal Control in Troutdale, or suffer a layoff in which she may lose 40 percent of her retirement benefits. The position at Animal Control would entail nearly a fifty miles round-trip drive from her home each work day. This treatment appears callous and unjustified in view of more than 28 years of loyal service she has given the county.

Again, we respectfully request that you reconsider this proposed termination of Mrs. Pratt's position at this office.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Yee
Kenneth G. Yee
Reg. Sanitarian

Peter DeChant
Peter DeChant
Reg. Sanitarian

Lawrence Helmick
Lawrence Helmick
Nuisance Control Officer

Encl.



OFFICE MEMORANDUM . . . DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TO: Kenneth Yee ✓
Peter DeChant
Lawrence Helmick

March 31, 1983

Date

FROM: Paul Yarborough *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Vector Control Cut

Thanks for your letter (received March 31, 1983) regarding the cut of the OA 3 position, the long effective work of Virginia Pratt, and the difficulties of continuing the valuable activities of Vector Control. I appreciate your concern and understand the situation encountered.

Unfortunately, massive cuts have to be made in much of the County to deal with a general fund shortfall of twelve to fourteen million dollars. Close to two million dollars of those cuts come out of DES under the County Executive's Proposed Budget. Of the DES cuts, almost \$400,000 is coming out of the Parks-Vector Control-Cemeteries Section - and most of that out of Parks Operation.

It all gets down to trying to figure a way to cut in such a way that preserves as much of the services as possible and minimizes job losses to current employees as much as possible.

For Vector Control it appears to me that we are faced with the hard choice of either cutting the OA 3 position or one of the sanitarian positions. The choice of cutting the OA 3 position was not a reflection of Mrs. Pratt's capabilities. We do, however, have another OA 3 position to which she can transfer which was part of the reason for the cut of the OA 3 in Vector Control. She may not choose to take that transfer, and possibly other openings might be available that she would prefer. I hope so, and we will do our best to assist her.

When budget cuts as deep as these are experienced it always means that some loyal, effective employees will be facing job loss. I don't know how else to cut in Vector Control. If you have a substitute method or position, please let me know. The Nuisance Control Officer position was also slated to be cut, but we were able to get the Executive to keep that position and a Zoning Investigator position to preserve some resources for dealing with citizen complaints.

A great many of our positions will be cut throughout the Department based on the proposed budget. The Board of Commissioners will begin budget hearings in early April. They will be under intense pressure to put more money back into the Sheriff, Library, Health, and other departments. We will be doing our best to keep the DES cuts from going any deeper.

After the budget is settled, we will have to look for ways to rearrange office and support services to minimize damages and get the most mileage out of what remains.

Thanks again for your letter. If you want to meet with me I will be pleased to set up a time.

PY:rm

cc: Leo Sorensen

Mrs. G. Yee
1922 SW Idaho St.
Portland, Oregon 97201
April 12, 1983

Mr. Dennis Buchanan
Office of the County Executive
Room 1500, The Portland Building
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

In deference to your limited time and being aware of your extremely busy schedule in the midst of budget cuts, proposals and hearings, I chose to write rather than trying to meet with you in person. I hope you will somehow find a few minutes time to give some thought and consideration to the matter described herein. This letter is in regards specifically to the part of the budget cuts proposed by Environmental Services that will deprive Vector Control of its one and only secretary, Mrs. Virginia Pratt (OA 3). This is not to be viewed as merely the loss of one job among the many to be cut in the county, but as possibly the collapse of an entire sector of a vital community service.

The opinions and comments here are entirely and strictly those of a private citizen, a taxpayer appalled at the waste and inefficient use of time and labor that will be generated by the cut of one staff member crucial to maintaining Vector Control as a smooth, productive, essential unit of government. I also happen to have a son employed by the county as a sanitarian in Vector Control, hence my seeming knowledge, familiarity, and interest in this case. My son has been voicing his objections to the proposed layoff of their secretary, and possibly jeopardizing his own job in the process, but he feels strongly compelled to work with other staff members to try salvaging a situation that clearly appears to have gotten out of hand. In the more than four years employed at Vector Control, he has witnessed operations of this office shrink and deteriorate month by month, year by year. Personnel have been lost through attrition, yearly budgets have eliminated increasingly more staff positions, and Vector Control funds and equipment have been diverted and siphoned off into other departments, such as Parks. Not only has his office been cannibalized to a mere skeleton of its former being, but it is further being starved, trampled, and strangled into oblivion. Unlike Parks, Vector Control is a mandated, vital health-related service.

If you will read the enclosed copies of correspondence related to this matter, you will see that attempts have been made to reverse the proposed layoff, but to no avail. Both my son and I voted for you in the last election for County Executive, Mr. Buchanan, and now we are left to ponder whether we may have acted foolishly or in error. Mr. Paul Yarborough is apparently an appointee of your administration to the post of Director of Environmental Services. In response to his memo, my son Kenneth, and Mrs. Pratt made an appointment with him last Friday (April 8, 1983) at 4:00 P.M. to discuss the situation and the conditions in their sector. As my son related this meeting to me, not only did they fail to impress upon him the destructive nature of this layoff, but I am outraged at the needlessly rude and condescending attitude Mr. Yarborough apparently dis-

played towards them, and in particular towards my son. Mr. Yarborough repeatedly interrupted as my son attempted to speak or focus on the facts, leaving him with scant opportunity to present his views. Whatever questions or statements my son was able to squeeze in edgewise was summarily dismissed by Mr. Yarborough with either vague answers, no answers, or continual referral to the printed budget proposal advanced by Leo Sorensen and Tor Lyshaug. Invited to visit the site of the Vector Control offices to assess the situation for himself, the new director of DES replied he didn't have to see it, as he had seen vector control services in California and knew all about them. Need it be stressed here that Multnomah County is NOT California? Operations vary not only from state to state, county to county, but city to city. No two situations are alike, no two administrators are alike. When pressed for a commitment to save Mrs. Pratt's position should staff come forth with an alternative budget or modify the budget now proposed to find the funds to pay her, Mr. Yarborough implied that only Leo Sorensen and Tor Lyshaug could make that decision. That amounts to throwing the carcass back to the wolves! The two gentlemen named above appear firmly committed to their version of the budget, and have shown little but neglect, total lack of interest, and utter disregard for the welfare and survival of Vector Control and its staff. In the past two years since Mr. Sorensen took over Parks, he also remained the supervisor and program manager of this department, yet his visits to this office have been few and far between. The staff at Vector Control is losing patience, morale, and effectiveness, as their ranks and funds have been continuously ravished to fulfill the needs of other departments such as Parks, and Operations and Maintenance. They are getting a raw deal, to say the least. There is much more to this story than I can possibly relate to you in this letter. I wish you would meet with the staff and hear them out, Mr. Buchanan. You are in a position to right some wrongs, give incentive and encouragement to the county employees who are still working hard trying to maintain high standards in these financially difficult times.

The OA-3 position at issue here is but a minuscule part of the overall county budget, yet it serves as a nerve center for an extremely important operation. Though present management may choose to downgrade their work, and perhaps regard this department as a vexation, it still does not alter the status of Vector Control or its role in our community. The Vector Control compound on N. Columbia Blvd. houses the offices, lab, safe storage areas for pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, heavy equipment, fuel, etc., and is provided by the city to the county rent-free, because of the existing vector control contract with them. This site is away from the more congested areas of other county property, thereby lessening any danger of accidental exposure or contamination from toxic substances to other county employees. To move Vector Control to Vance, as suggested by Mr. Yarborough, is not only to give this property back to the city, but would cost well over 40 thousand dollars to effect the move. That sum is far in excess of the cost of retaining Mrs. Pratt in her position at this office. In view of this, any move would be unfeasible and indefensible.

Furthermore, the two sanitarian positions at Vector Control are being cut back to ONE. My son will still have his job, if only because of seniority, but he will be expected to cover the entire area of Multnomah County alone in rodent and solid waste complaints. This is an immense territory to cover, and they propose he do it without clerical or secretarial services. This depicts most

graphically the lack of understanding and concern management has for the work done by this office. The number of calls and complaints (varying from 4200 to 5000 per year on rats and garbage alone) have not diminished over the years, nor has the workload. This department at one time in the past employed four to five sanitarians just for rodent control work, in addition to summer workers. Now, management expects just ONE MAN to carry the entire burden, and it borders on insanity. Not only could he become dangerously tired and overworked, but emergency calls for assistance from the public may well go unanswered, and such calls occur frequently enough to be of real concern. Only last week, a call was received at noontime about a sick bat lying in the grass of the park block directly across the street from the County Courthouse on Fourth and Main St. Were it not for Mrs. Pratt in the office to take the call and relay the information to my son, response would have been delayed, or the call may not have even been processed from the office code-a-phone until late afternoon when someone returned to the office. Meanwhile, some unsuspecting citizen could have been bitten since the bat was menacing and hissing. Additionally, the plague has been found in Columbia County, just one county away. As has happened in the past when response time was delayed, taxpayers have been upset enough to call the offices of the various county commissioners. They in turn have demanded an immediate settlement of the problems from Vector Control. Isn't it safe to assume such calls to commissioners will now increase? With loss of staff at Vector Control, delays will be inevitable, prompt response humanly impossible. That alone could lead to breach of contract with the city.

Politics, executive privileges, and "perks" aside, there are gross injustices that should not be tolerated or allowed to flourish. "Whistle-blowing" stems from frustration, and I, plus those who feel as I do, am not above blowing the whistle on apparent mismanagement and misappropriation of funds. The media can always arouse the taxpayers to demand an audit of DES accounts. And I wonder what the public will think of a TENNIS COURT at Vance, when staff and services are being so drastically cut? Certainly this tennis court was not built in the interest of the average wage-earner who only gets a 30-minute lunch break?

As for Mr. Yarborough's attitude, perhaps he didn't realize my son is not just some kid out of high school, but a polite, well-educated, capable young man of 32 years, with integrity, self-respect, and a sense of purpose. He didn't deserve to be patronized or given the "bum's rush," but again, it could have been a bit of racial discrimination on Mr. Yarborough's part. However, that is Mr. Yarborough's problem, not ours.

To reiterate, I'm writing only as a concerned private citizen, taxpayer, and registered voter, who also just happens to have a son in county service. We live just a few hundred feet from a county Operations and Maintenance enclosure and accompanying gravel piles. I have had ample opportunity to observe first-hand gross mismanagement and waste in this one area alone, and we have been here twenty years. My written complaints and telephone complaints about the noise, pollution, and wasted fuel from heavy equipment left running idle for up to four hours at a time, have always fallen on deaf ears. But that is straying from the issue at hand.

Each of the county commissioners will receive a copy of this letter, and I shall await your reply.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
Mrs. Georgiana Yee

To: Board Chairman Mr. Gordon Shadburne
Multnomah County Commissioners

Date: April 13, 1983

Subject: VECTOR CONTROL BUDGET

Dear Chairman Shadburne;

I think you should have a copy of a letter I am sending to Mr. Buchanan regarding Vector Control funding and my allegations of waste, irregularities and mismanagement.

Though I am writing as a private citizen, I have a son working for Vector Control as sanitarian. At issue is not only the layoff of the one and only office worker in their section, but assuming you will have a copy of the proposed Vector Control budget before you, you will note that on page E-81, under PERSONNEL DETAIL, the sanitarian positions have also been cut to ONE. I wish someone could explain to me how my son is expected to respond to and perform the variety of activities involving rodent and solid waste control for the ENTIRE county, alone, and without clerical or secretarial assistance?

Copies of correspondence related to this matter is also provided.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Georgiana Yee

Mrs Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
503-244-2948

4/21/83

Dear Mrs. Yee,

I have taken up the
concerns in your letter with
Mr. Jarbough. I am very
concerned about the issue
of raise. I hope the budget
will permit some adjustment

Sincerely
Annie Miller

April 20, 1983

Mr. Tom Gunn, Business Agent
AFSCME Local 88
210 N E. 20th
Portland, Or. 97232

Dear Tom:

Enclosed are copies of letters, one sent to Paul Yarborough, Director of D.E.S. by three of our employees at Vector Control in protest of cutting the secretarial position (OA 3) and the other is Mr. Yarborough's reply.

Mr. Yarborough states in his reply that it was a choice of my position or a Sanitarian position. Please look at the enclosed '83-84 "Expenditure Summary", E-81 where both the OA 3 and one Sanitarian positions have been cut.

Peter DeChant has been doing most of the Supervising at Vector Control that Leo Sorensen (Programmer I) use to do and should still be doing. In the '83-84 budget, Peter DeChant has been given a new classification as Maintenance Supervisor (See BUD 2) He will spend half of his time working on a new roadside spraying program together with supervising duties which will not give him enough time to fulfil his role as Sanitarian. I think the roadside spraying operation should be under the Operations and Maintenance Road section and leave Vector Control with enough Sanitarions to carry out demands on service.

I don't know exactly how they arrive at some of the figures shown on both the Summary and BUD sheets enclosed but here are some of my figures that are questionable.

On BUD 2 they don't show the Nuisance Inspector's position even though it was an add back.

On BUD 3, regarding Part-time: This amount could be cut almost in half because we usually hire students from College and they are unable to work until June and leave the 2nd week in Sept. We have only one checker that came to work in March. I am not certain if we will even have four this year since all we had checking last year was three.

I think overtime should be eliminated at this time and comp time be given instead.

Regarding "Premium Pay", we don't need a Maintenance Worker 3 to supervise with Peter DeChant supervising (if they change his classification to Maintenance Supervisor), thus eliminating \$2,088.

Our small operation must not cost \$800. for printing and reproduction. Licenses that we require were shown in Misc. so I don't know what they are referring to.

(2)

The amount budgeted for communications is in excess of \$2,000, and our janitorial supplies aren't \$550. We do our own maintenance work at Vector Control and use very little janitorial supplies.

As for "External Equip. Rental" that's a big laugh. Mr. Sorensen has been renting a power washer and airless sprayer at \$300. or more a month for over a year and according to the new budget plans to continue this farce. We have never used a power washer etc. at Vector Control but he is charging our budget for it....\$2,000!

Under "Misc", he has over-estimated our expense for licenses, demurrage and film.

I would appreciate any help you could give me in saving the Secretarial position at Vector Control, not just for myself but for the few dedicated, hard-working people that are left there. They tell me that the Secretary is the hub to the wheel because of the telephone being our source of business and the radio dispatching for contact in the field. Of course, the other functions of a Secretary should not be omitted. How can a wheel run without a hub!

Sincerely,

Virginia Pratt, Sec'y.
Vector Control
5235 N Columbia Blvd.
Portland, Or. 97203

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
April 27, 1983

Caroline Miller
Multnomah County Commissioner
District Three
County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Miller:

Thank you, for your handwritten acknowledgment of the somewhat "open" letter I addressed to Dennis Buchanan dated April 12, 1983, regarding the DES budget proposals and Vector Control funding and irregularities.

Your note of 4-21-83 was encouraging and deeply appreciated for the effort you made and the time it must have taken from your busy schedule. The interest and concern, the involvement you have in the issues that matter to us, is in sharp contrast to the lack of response from your colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners. To this date, no other commissioner has found time to reply, comment, or even acknowledge the existence of that letter or the issues presented therein. In all fairness, harsh judgment is uncalled for at this time when every department in the county is out in force to battle budget cuts with the commissioners.

Nine days after personally delivering the letter to Mr. Buchanan's office, and having received no response or reaction from him, I finally telephoned his office last Friday (April 22, 1983). When Mr. Buchanan returned my call that afternoon, I asked only if he had found the opportunity to read the contents of the letter, what his reaction was, and if he intended to do anything to alleviate the problems. He offered little in way of a real commitment for action, or change, except to say he had spoken with Paul Yarborough about my letter, and his staff is working on a number of the other issues I covered in that letter. He mentioned a move towards trying to place Vector Control back into the Health Department, where it rightfully belongs. I have no quarrel with that line of thinking, as Vector was formerly a part of Health, and should it again become a segment of that department, all the better. However, if this is all they plan to do, if the considered move is merely a ploy, a way to pacify, a way to whitewash or skirt the issues confronting them, then I won't hesitate in staying atop the situation even at risk of being labeled with a pesky, meddlesome, unprintable name. In short, I intend to stick this out until some type of equitable resolution of the existing conditions come about. From comments he made during our conversation, I can only conclude Mr. Buchanan is firmly aligned with a budget proposal (for this sector) which will make no allowance whatsoever, for retaining the vital OA 3 position, the very item that precipitated these protest letters.

Meanwhile, perhaps you should be aware the raiding of Vector Control resources continues unabated. For all intents and purposes, and until the new budget is formally adopted and in force for the new fiscal year, there should still be two sanitarians working rodent-solid waste control at Vector. Yet, only

yesterday, Leo Sorensen instructed Peter DeChant to drop all his regular duties to give top-priority to the Blue Lake project, for the Parks Department. Pete was told to give his share of rodent complaints (from N, NE, far SE) to my son Ken, and to give his share of garbage complaints to CITY nuisance inspectors. This creates an impossible situation! It has been repeatedly stressed the onset of warmer weather brings a corresponding increase in the number of rodent-solid waste complaints. In one afternoon last week, while Pete was on vacation and the secretary absent, 25 calls were logged from the office code-a-phone, in addition to the usual large number of "clicks" audible on the tape indicative of callers who hung up upon being greeted by the recording device. With 25 to 35 calls per day normally distributed between two sanitarians, it doesn't take much imagination to picture what will happen as the workload is shifted onto one man. Garbage will be left to rot in many instances, allowing rat proliferation. There is doubt whether CITY inspectors have even been consulted about the possibility of taking up the slack.

Incidentally, the Blue Lake project is an effort to remedy the milfoil weeds fiasco by Leo Sorensen, a mistake that cost taxpayers \$300,000. From our private files, I will make photocopies of two articles from the Oregonian dated June 27, 1982, detailing Mr. Sorensen's mismanagement of Blue Lake that incurred the wrath of adjoining landowners. The work he has set for Pete includes mapping of a program for chemical spraying to kill the milfoil weed, and thus to push his favored SWIM CENTER for Blue Lake Park. Meantime, as garbage piles up and rats run rampant, the Parks Department garners glory from a new SWIM CENTER. This raid of manpower from Vector has been typical of management, along with equipment and funds.

According to Paul Yarborough's letter, it came down to a choice of cutting one sanitarian or the OA 3 position. You'll notice they have taken BOTH in the new budget. Peter De Chant is to be promoted to Maintenance Supervisor leaving him no time at all for rodent-solid waste control. He will be doing roadside spraying for Operations and Maintenance in addition to whatever projects he is assigned from Parks. Along about now, you must wonder whether this is "sour grapes" due to Pete's promotion. Rest assured, my son has no interest in the type of work Pete will be doing, they are the best of friends, and we all wish him well. Our objection is that the Sorensen-Lyshaug budget proposal is a farce. The basis of concern and anger is the flawed and arbitrary detail of funds, an example of which \$550 is itemized for cleaning and restroom supplies at Vector. The staff does its own cleaning of restrooms, with only soap, bath tissue, and paper towel expenditures - nowhere nearing that amount. No one has explained satisfactorily why, if adjustments can be made to find the funds to pay the OA 3, there is still such resistance to retaining that position, all the way down the line. How can we help but suspect this to be more than mere budget problems?

April 29, 1983

The other evening just as I was about to bring this letter to a close and thank you, once again, for your interest and concern, my son returned home with news of late developments at Vector. I don't mean to be so long-winded, but

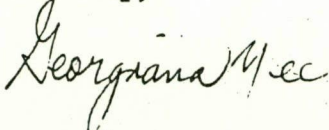
thought you'd like to share in what little we've learned, though I'm sure you have access to sources of information normally denied us.

It has now been determined that Vector Control will have a budget of its own, separate from all other departments. Every purchase or expenditure will be for Vector only, and will be accounted for. No longer can such items as fertilizer be charged and delivered to Vector, then hauled off to Parks. No longer will manpower be pulled from Vector to be used elsewhere and be unaccounted for, just as the secretary was used for three months this year by Operations and Maintenance. Any further use of Vector Control staff will be charged against the department requesting such use and reimbursement made to Vector. I'm certain this is a step in the right direction, that without drains on funds, equipment and staff, there should be enough money saved to fund the much-needed OA 3 position. Yet, the resistance of which I spoke earlier seems to prevail. The word is that the secretary will still be cut, and replaced by summer help in the office. Summer help will also work on the annual sewer baiting program for rats, but no sanitarian is to replace the position vacated by the promotion of Peter DeChant. In view of this, perhaps I should rightly refer to this as a HALF-STEP in the right direction?

Whatever budget is finally adopted can also be modified. The fight to keep Mrs. Pratt at the office is not over. No summer help can match her expertise in handling the various types of complaints without long experience and training, and by then summer will be over. We are all wondering whether this persistent, and insistent, step to remove her from this office is personally or politically motivated? Regardless of management opinion, she is not stupid, only honest and hardworking. Perhaps that is the problem.

Although somewhat encouraged by the turn of events, it is barely a dent in the long list of injustices. The fight isn't over, and without constant vigilance, the unscrupulous can always find advantage. Change comes ever so slowly, especially in government where certain people are firmly entrenched. Your efforts and concern in our behalf are appreciated, your friendship highly valued. Sometimes issues are important only to those involved and to no one else. Thank you, again, from all of us.

Sincerely,



Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho St.
244-2948



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

May 2, 1983

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 S. W. Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mrs. Yee:

I am again forwarding your letter to Bonnie Morris who has been tracking this issue. Bonnie did speak directly with Paul Yarborough who informed her that he would be making the arrangement that you outlined in the latter part of your letter, i.e., that Vector Control would be placed on its own budget. I do feel that this is a step in the right direction. It might be useful, however, to see Vector Control placed back in the hands of the Department of Human Services. While that Department has been severely cut in terms of human health care (that is, Project Sharing) the Board is considering funneling some money back into the Department for various projects if we realize some savings in our unemployment fund.

Bonnie did also check with Yarborough regarding the tennis courts, and went out and made a physical inspection. There is no tennis court there. In the concrete space there is a basketball hoop that someone put up rather flimsily, but it is not a resort environment at all, so you can rest assured that money has not been spent toward that kind of facility. The Department in the current budget reflects two sanitarians, so I am interested in whether or not that second position will be filled after the promotion of Peter De Chant.

In any event, I will have Bonnie address these issues one more time with Mr. Yarborough, and will keep you informed of anything we learn. I agree you should keep the pressure on, and we will try to do so from our end as well.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE MILLER
Commissioner
District 3

CM/bw

*P.D. Saw for picture
of tennis courts - will check a
weight room.*

May 9, 1983

Caroline Miller
Multnomah County Commissioner
District Three
County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Miller:

Once again, THANK YOU, for responding with your letter of May 2, 1983. This is just to update you on events of the past week.

On May 3 (Tuesday), Leo Sorensen telephoned the Vector Control office and spoke with Virginia Pratt, the secretary. He told her Tor Lyshaug had received a copy of the letter I addressed to Dennis Buchanan. From the way it was described, Mr. Lyshaug was furious, demanding to know who Kenneth Yee was. Apparently we hit a touchy spot with the issues, and Leo intimated that Ken "had better be careful," which we loosely interpret to mean he could lose his job for speaking up.

Fortunately, we are neither stymied nor intimidated by fears of such threats becoming reality. We have possession of enough evidence and documentation to form the basis of a lawsuit against management anytime we decide to pursue that course of action. We can proceed towards any confrontation with sufficient leverage accorded by this so-called ACE IN THE HOLE. Leo said Mr. Lyshaug planned to have a talk with Ken. Whenever he wishes to set an appointment, he is welcomed to meet with either one or both of us. To this date, he has yet to make contact. Please forgive my reluctance, at this time, to discuss details of this case. If push comes to shove, the element of surprise is a distinct advantage we can't afford to lose. Whichever way the budget battle turns out, we may yet decide to institute litigation. Should that be the case, you will be among the first to know, though all details will eventually be public knowledge. Though the similarity and relationship to the issues exist in the fact the people involved are the same, we prefer they remain separate matters at this time.

On May 4 (Wednesday), while Peter DeChant was at Vance, Mr. Lyshaug took him aside to question him further about my son. He wanted to know, " what his gripe is?" Pete answered that Ken was concerned about the budget. It's evident the issues presented in the letter are less than clear to Mr. Lyshaug. He told Pete the tennis court was no big deal, the cost was only \$27, and the work was done during off hours. Whether fact or fabrication, the gist of the matter and the most important question still is: WHO HAS TIME TO PLAY TENNIS? Anyone at Vance with the time to indulge in sports, be it executive or wage-earner of lower rank, gives the impression and appearance of FAT that could be cut from the budget. It's my understanding that normally everything at Vance is locked up after hours, the premises inaccessible. It has been mentioned the tennis court was put in to give those under stress a way to exercise and relax. We wonder why they can't use the athletic club located less than one mile away on Division Street?

It is easy to see how Bonnie Morris may have missed seeing the tennis area at Vance. Ken tells me it's out back, the ground level parking area. It

has been paved (we are told) with a special mix, the best available. Will try to enclose with this letter a diagram of Vance complex with the areas in question noted in red ink. If further investigation is attempted, perhaps it would be more productive to ask workers rather than administrators. The project didn't please all county employees, a few are resentful. With security to prevent retaliation, harassment or job loss, someone may be willing to talk. Meanwhile, we're making every effort to keep channels open on gathering information by protecting our sources. Not everyone is willing or able to risk all, just to prove a point. At the extreme, violence against their person or property, or vandalism, is not entirely impossible. It was something we had to consider before becoming embroiled in this cause.

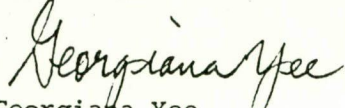
May 5 (Thursday), employees of Operations and Maintenance were observed playing tennis during the day. It will obviously be explained as lunch-break time, just as we anticipate Mr. Lyshaug will make necessary moves to cover tracks, having now been alerted to the idea someone could be watching. Under the circumstances, hard evidence of waste or wrongdoing will become increasingly difficult to obtain, but we will keep trying.

Vector finally received a new copy of the budget. The one example previously cited by me, of \$550 set aside for restroom and janitorial supplies for Vector, have mysteriously ballooned to \$1350 in the new version of the budget. From a quick scan, Ken said the staff could see where at least \$17,000 could be saved to help retain Mrs. Pratt's position. More study most likely will turn up other areas where more savings could be effected. The task is to convince administrators.

In retrospect, it seems incredible so many things have surfaced just from our wanting to fight for the job of one secretary. Personally, it has been an enlightening experience, though battles for rights are nothing new, and more wars are on the horizon.

I will keep you posted. Thanks, again.

Sincerely,


Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho St.
Portland, Oregon 97201
244-2948

GY/cy
Enclosure



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

(POWER WASHER)

BEN MIDDLETON RENTALS
5201 S.W. WESTGATE DRIVE
\$300 PER MONTH
M5/9 80A

(11:50 AM - 5:42 - 83)
NOTE: PHONED COMMISSIONER MILLER'S OFFICE WITH ABOVE INFO -

May 11, 1983

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 S. W. Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mrs. Yee:

Thank you for your most recent letter dated May 9th. I have a couple of questions for you that would help us in tracking down the air pressure machinery.

Do you, by any chance, know what company leases this said equipment to us or do you have an idea of what the lease order number or invoice number might be?

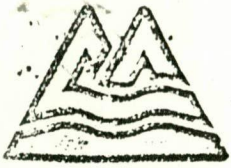
I suspect that you don't have this information since you tell me that no one has ever seen this equipment, but on the off chance that you might know, I would appreciate it if we could at least have the name of the company from which this air vac machine is supposedly being leased. That would get us a long way toward really researching how it is used. Otherwise, I will have to call the Department of Environmental Services, and probably that is not the wise thing to do at this time since from your letter there appears to be a fair amount of hostility toward your son, and I don't want to make that worse.

Thank you for continuing to keep me posted on your efforts.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE MILLER
Commissioner
District 3

CM/bw



OFFICE MEMORANDUM . . . DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TO: Bonnie Morris,
Commissioner Miller's Office

May 12, 1983

Date

FROM: Paul Yarborough

SUBJECT: Tennis Court, Physical Fitness Room

Attached is a memo from Tor Lyshaug which provides background and a best estimate of cost spent for the "tennis court".

As you will note, the physical fitness room is only in the talking stage. Before we would proceed with this project we will provide the Board with information on an informal memo basis. Then if it is the desire of the Board, we could schedule it for discussion. My expectation is that it would be accomplished on a volunteer basis at no, or insignificant cost - say in the category of what was done and expended for the tennis area.

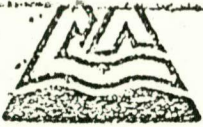
I think this falls into the general category of coffee areas and lunch rooms which are provided in most County buildings.

We agree fully that even though these ideas are for the benefit of employees, they need to be kept on a very modest basis.

PY:rm

cc: Tor Lyshaug

Attachment



OFFICE MEMORANDUM . . . DIVISION OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

TO: Paul Yarborough

DATE: May 5, 1983

FROM: Tor Lyshaug

SUBJECT: Tennis Courts and Weight Room

This memo is to fill you in on the two issues. First of all, the weight room is still in its talking and planning stage. The reason we have not proceeded any further with it is that, at present, the room in the basement we tentatively are planning for use for a physical fitness and weight room is occupied by salvaged kitchen furniture from Edgefield Manor. This is all stainless steel tabletops, etc. Our plans were to utilize that in trade for obtaining a commercial type refrigerator for the blockhouse at Blue Lake Park. We are working with Property Management on consumating that deal.

The so-called tennis court consists of an area on the southeast parking lot that is used for equipment storage. Through the effort of volunteer personnel here at Vance Shop, a tennis court was laid out and striped on the asphalt parking lot and a set of removable steel posts were installed by the interested personnel at the shop. The work was done on their own time, mainly during lunch breaks, coffee breaks, and some after-hours work. Net and wire is on loan from the Parks Department which they bought three years ago as replacement for the tennis courts we maintain at Vance Park and Erroll Heights Park.

Due to the extensive amount of vandalism, it has been our experience that it has become futile to replace nets because new ones get vandalized right away. However, when they reach a certain amount of disrepair, the vandals seem to lose their interest and the nets will still serve the purpose for which it was intended. The winch for tightening the wire, holding the net, is a salvaged trailer winch that had been broken and was repaired by our blacksmith, Mr. Keener. This was done on his own time and, incidentally, he is one of the daily users of the court together with one of our body and fender repair people by name of Hildebrand. Both Keener and Hildebrand put an awful lot of time and effort on their own to make this happen and they really should be applauded for their effort.

The pipes supporting the wire was salvaged water pipe. The only outright expenditure that I can find about tennis courts, so far, is for \$4.69 for a gallon of paint used for striping the court layout. I furnished a bag of used tennis balls--approximately fifty--and the users are furnishing or bringing their own rackets.

The total out-of-pocket expense to the County for this tennis court is probably somewhere under \$25. The payoff to the County is, of course, of an entirely different magnitude. The orderly parking of equipment in the southeast parking lot is no longer a problem. The policing seems to be taken care of and there seems to be an additional effort to make this area neat and organized.

We had a similar experience at the southeast entrance to the Shop complex where we have the basketball hoop installed. Prior to installation of the hoop, the unauthorized parking and traffic pattern in the area was a problem. Since the installation of the hoop, this has disappeared to everyone's satisfaction.

It is my desire and goal to try to involve as many of the personnel in the physical fitness activity and also make this place a work environment that they are proud to be associated with. I hope that we can continue to do what we are planning in this field and, I believe, that by involving the personnel in physical fitness efforts we can show improvement in their overall health and cut down on absenteeism as well as state industrial claims due to sprained ankles, sore backs, pulled muscles--all of these things that really are an indication of a poor physical condition.

TL:mb

Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
May 20, 1983

Caroline Miller
Multnomah County Commissioner
District Three
County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Miller:

Your letter of May 17, 1983, with attached copies of DES responses to the tennis court issue arrived yesterday. Thank you.

Your short letter caused me to burst out laughing (involuntarily) all afternoon, as my thoughts wandered back to where you said to feel free to make any comments. Indeed, comments came easily and quickly to mind concerning Tor Lyshaug's response, but unfortunately for the most part they were very unladylike, unprintable, and on further thought, unnecessary. Better to allow that gentleman to hang himself with his own rope. His attempt to explain, to justify and rationalize, was pathetic. It should fool none but the most dense. To compound the insult, he had the audacity to suggest the efforts should be applauded.

The warmth, graciousness, and patience you extended to me during our most pleasant though unexpected meeting last Friday will leave a lasting impression. I had been an admirer from afar, having joined with Vector Control staff in attending one session of the budget hearings last year (December 8, 1982) at which you presided. We all remarked on the calm, firm, professional way you handled the potentially explosive nature of the large crowd and the issues so hotly debated that day. That was the meeting at which Dr. Diack and Commissioner Blumenauer exchanged strong words with one another, with the subsequent feeble apologies.

Now, for the update:

May 17 (Tuesday) - Pete DeChant was reprimanded by Leo Sorensen on the telephone. Details included under Item 3 of the meeting-memo my son made to take with him to the meeting with Dennis Buchanan, a copy of which is enclosed.

May 19 (Thursday) Virginia Pratt receives phone call from BURTON NELSON of Operations and Maintenance. He informs her he will visit Vector at 3:00 PM that day, to discuss with her the possibility of being allowed to remain at Vector if she will agree to downgrade to OA 2. The question arose immediately in our minds as to why that particular hour and day was chosen. It was the exact time of Ken's appointment with Buchanan. With Ken occupied and unable to be present to help defend her position, and knowing of Mrs. Pratt's delicate health and recent pressures stemming from the insecurity of her job, someone must have decided she would thus be malleable and vulnerable. All we could do was counsel her to stand firm and be strong.

May 19 (Thursday) - My son meets with Buchanan. The county executive senses Ken might be a bit nervous, and tries his best to put him at ease. Mr. Buchanan stressed at the outset, before anything had been read or discussed, this meeting was at HIS request, had not been mentioned by him to anyone, and no harassment or retaliation should be taken on Ken. If such actions occurred, Mr. Buchanan was to be notified.

The issues raised in my letter (to Buchanan) were discussed point by point, and all related matters touched upon with the exception of the tennis court question. Ken provided him with a copy of the DeChant budget which he looked over and seemed to find acceptable. The only concern was the possibility that once funds were cut for certain items, they might be lost or a difficult task to replace at any new budget session. However, Ken told him of Mrs. Pratt's upcoming retirement in another one-and-a-half years, which would solve part of the funding problem for necessities at that time. A new worker replacing her would enter that position at a lower grade level, not drawing the same pay or benefits now earned by Mrs. Pratt.

Mr. Buchanan also seemed to understand the staff wishes to retain Mrs. Pratt in the office, in particular, because of the team concept. Everyone works well and smoothly together to deal with the variety of problems the public presents to them daily. He said he would speak with Tor Lyshaug and Paul Yarborough about adoption of the budget that would keep her there.

Ken said Mr. Buchanan made no comment on Leo Sorensen each time the name was brought up. Ken did not refer to the outline of topics for discussion we had typed up, but left with him a copy of it upon departure. It is understandable if one would not accept or condone personal attacks on a political supporter, but the record of malfeasance should not be ignored. It will be interesting to wait and see just what actions will be taken, what changes will occur, if any.

Meanwhile, back at the office, Burton Nelson did not show up at 3:00PM. He called Pete DeChant, wanting to know how she was taking to the idea of being downgraded. Pete told him she was " thinking it over," had made no decision. Nelson said he would then let her think it over all during the weekend, then would go out to see her Monday. It appears to be a "softening up" process in the game they are playing. It is also cruel and heartless.

May 20 (Friday) - Virginia Pratt did not report for work, saying she felt like a football being tossed around. She also had contact with another county worker during the day, learned of an OA 3 position open at Juvenile Hall. It was already rumored the job would be filled on JUNE 1st, by a person named VIRGINIA, who had only a year-and-a-half to retirement. Whether this rumor was planted for a reason, or whether they intend it to become truth, it is unmitigated cruelty to torment anyone this way.

In view of these events, I'm at the point of declaring all out WAR! I've tried being patient, holding back, hoping for reason and sanity, but it appears these people want to play dirty pool. So be it. I still can't

shake the feeling they are trying to be rid of her for other than budget reasons. If it is related only to budget, then it would be because they want to use those funds for their own purposes, hiding the money among the generous allowances for individual items, to be plucked later at their discretion.

On the progress of the weight room: A seasonal worker has been hired at \$6.00 per hour, with VECTOR FUNDS, to move equipment and clean out a basement room at Vance. The equipment is being moved to Blue Lake Park, and the worker says much of it is too heavy for one man, and he often needs help. So much for the "talking and planning" stage referred to by Tor Lyshaug. His letter also points out just how much interchange and cooperation there is between PARKS and OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.

As situations develop, will keep you posted, more surprises everyday.

Sincerely,

Georgiana Yee

MEETING - MEMO

LOCATION: OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, PORTLAND BUILDING
TIME - DATE: 3:00 PM, MAY 19, 1983
PARTICIPANTS: MR. DENNIS BUCHANAN, MULTNOMAH COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KENNETH G. YEE, REGISTERED SANITARIAN, VECTOR CONTROL
SUBJECT: VECTOR CONTROL BUDGET AND SUPERVISION OF DEPARTMENT

POINTS OF CONCERN AND PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF DISCUSSION:

1. Our primary objective is to save the OA 3 position of Mrs. Virginia Pratt in the Vector Control office from proposed termination.

Her list of duties is lengthy and varied, and compiled on the cover page of Peter DeChant's alternative budget proposal for Vector Control.

A seasonal worker had been provided for in the Sorensen budget to replace Mrs. Pratt. Training a new worker as replacement requires too much time during our busy season, and would be wasteful and ineffective in view of the short months such a worker is available to us.

2. A budget proposal alternative by Peter DeChant, who has had access to pertinent information, should be considered for adoption. The total amount of approved funding has not been altered, only the cutting back of overly-generous allowances on individual items for Vector Control. This step alone, saves enough money to fund the OA 3, while still maintaining the minimum levels of mosquito and rodent control measures stipulated by a tight county budget.
3. Leo Sorensen should be disqualified as supervisor and program manager in Vector Control for the following reasons:

(a) His interest is primarily PARKS, in particular Blue Lake Park and the new SWIM CENTER. We suspect he may be attempting to salvage a personal image tarnished last year by his handling of the milfoil weeds project, a \$300,000 fiasco.

In this regard, he reprimanded Peter DeChant by telephone on Tuesday (May 17, 1983), for coming forth with an alternative budget proposal, for going over his head in doing so, and for using Vector Control workers to spray mosquitoes instead of working on his Blue Lake project. He stated unequivocally, BLUE LAKE IS TOP-PRIORITY! He demanded that mosquito spraying be shoved aside and workers be sent IMMEDIATELY to Blue Lake for herbicide spraying to eradicate the weeds so the new SWIM CENTER program can proceed. His reasoning, the Swim center is a revenue source, the mosquito program is not.

He refuses to consider the mosquito larvae now hatching into adult biting insects capable of spreading disease and causing problems from lack of adequate control. Not mentioned yet, are RATS, and the disastrous epidemics of disease they can cause.

(b) Despite Mr. Yarborough's recent directive making Vector Control accounts and budget separate from all other departments, Leo Sorensen continues to divert manpower and materiel from Vector Control over to PARKS.

(c) Mr. Sorensen has, in addition, mismanaged personnel, disregarded permit requirements, and has ordered the spraying of certain herbicides banned by the EPA.

(d) Mr. Sorensen has steadfastly and blatantly refused recognition of Vector Control as a mandated county service, with a city contract, whereas PARKS is not. He uses Vector funds for Parks materials, Vector facilities for storage, Vector Personnel for Parks work (also for Operations and Maintenance work), and Vector equipment for spraying of herbicides and pesticides for Parks.

To continue operations of Vector Control under a supervisor who has no interest in maintaining a vector control program, who continues to use and abuse its meager resources for other purposes, who seldom even visits the office, is inviting chaos and disaster for the entire program. The ultimate losers are the taxpayers who keep believing they are receiving the services and protection for which they are paying.



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

May 23, 1983

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 S. W. Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mrs. Yee:

Thank you for your latest memorandum.

You have raised some serious charges here with
which I intend to follow through.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE MILLER
Commissioner
District 3

CM/bw

Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
June 7, 1983

Caroline Miller
Multnomah County Commissioner
District Three
County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Miller:

Just saying "THANK YOU," over and over again seems a bit monotonous, yet that's exactly what I find myself doing in writing to your office. There are no words truly adequate to express our appreciation and gratitude for the tremendous expenditure of time, effort, and concern in our behalf in dealing with the problems at Vector Control.

Bonnie Morris has been magnificent, to say the least. She has been able to remain patient while explaining the pros and cons of the issues during our telephone conversations, no easy task with a bull-headed person like me on the other end of the line. She has also been able to relay the prevailing moods and attitudes of the people involved, which gives me something to work with as I try to carry this battle further.

The limitations of your office are completely understood. You have already taken these issues much further than I had ever dared to hope. Without your help there would have been no progress at all, and we have progressed. That is all that sustains me whenever I feel discouraged or weary of seeming to pound my head against a stone wall. It is then that a nest of clichés also come to mind: YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, or, WITH EVERY GAIN THERE IS A LOSS, etc.

In the short weeks that remain before the new fiscal year begins, I will be very surprised if we can turn this around and somehow manage to save Mrs. Pratt's job at Vector. The managers have been systematically taking away work and responsibilities from her at this office, until they are able to say they don't need an OA 3, and that a seasonal worker would do as well. While she worked at Vance earlier this year for three months, the phone was put on call-forwarding, and she did the fulltime duties for Operations and Maintenance in addition to answering all the calls for Vector. She was so concerned and conscientious about keeping up with the office work at Vector, we had a hard time talking her out of spending her weekends to work without compensation.

The rest of this letter will be filled with random thoughts, observations, comments, some happenings that I have already related to Bonnie Morris but would like to put on record, and whatever late news I can muster. Also attached will be a copy of a letter to Dennis Buchanan.

In the two months since the first letter was drafted and sent to Paul Yarborough pleading for Mrs. Pratt's position, neither Tor Lyshaug nor Leo Sorensen have ever spoken with Ken on any of these issues, not one word. Yet, they BOTH have sent threats to him through other persons. Leo used Mrs. Pratt, and on June 2, 1983, Tor Lyshaug used Peter DeChant. The message was simple: If Ken ever went over his (Tor's) head again, he would be treading on very thin ice!

I am curious as to just what these two gentlemen think they are accomplishing treating Ken as a nonentity. Are they actually afraid of confronting someone with guts to take a stand against them? From all accounts, Tor Lyshaug rules like a mini-dictator with the iron hand of INTIMIDATION. If that is the name of the game, I have news for him. Better men have tried, and failed. No one can stay in business as long as our family has, and do it successfully, by knuckling under to intimidation from any source. My children grew up learning to handle people and situations under all conditions. They have nothing to prove, but neither will they be used or stepped on by anyone, least of all by a public servant such as Mr. Lyshaug! If, as I suspect, not recognizing his existence is a preliminary to being discharged from Vector, the Lyshaug-Sorensen duo may find that a bit tough to do if Ken is not READY to leave.

It is ironic, with the so-called budget problem of DES for the upcoming fiscal year, the CURRENT Parks-Vector budget should find itself saddled with a whopping \$67,000 SURPLUS. The scramble is now on to find ways to spend that money before the month runs out. I have read of these things in the past, common practice with government. Too bad, isn't it, that the money cannot be used to store needed supplies for the coming year, thus freeing enough funds in the new budget not only to retain Mrs. Pratt but allow for another sanitarian to replace Pete DeChant? When Pete asked Ken what he might need or want from this surplus money, Ken asked for a pair of rubber gloves with which to handle possible diseased animals or toxic substances he might encounter, plus some type of butterfly net to handle the increasing number of BAT complaints. I wonder if the controller of the budget will see fit to grant his request? I wonder also, if some of these funds might find their way into weight room equipment for Vance?

As you know, it was not my intention to comment on the DES explanations to your inquiries into the tennis court-weight room-basketball hoop issue. I've changed my mind because I can't accept Paul Yarborough's explanation of a PHYSICAL FITNESS ROOM falling into the category of coffee areas and lunch rooms provided in most county buildings. I have been to lunch at the courthouse cafeteria, and while there I failed to note anyone who looked as if they might have just emerged from a Physical Fitness Room or a tennis court. Please correct me if I am wrong. More importantly, please tell me where in the county such facilities exist so I might tell my son to take advantage of them. It's a darned shame he has been missing out on so much fun and exercise. Maybe he would have been in good enough shape to have fended off that charging pit bull a couple months back, instead of ending up in the emergency room of the local hospital with

serious and multiple wounds. Perhaps he can choose to starve through an eight-hour work day to spend his 30-minute lunch break playing a few sets of tennis. He'd even bring his own racquet. As for the weight room being accomplished at no, or insignificant cost, I wonder if everyone is to bring their own dumbbells? Gosh, we have a set of those, too. However, we can't quite afford all the other equipment any self-respecting weight room wouldn't be caught without.

Tor Lyshaug's rationalization of a Physical Fitness Room preventing sprained ankles, sore backs, and pulled muscles? I contend these very injuries can be the result of unsupervised physical exercise of the type done in a weight room. Does Mr. Lyshaug intend to hire a trainer as part of his staff? Then why not have a masseur or masseuse, and a jacuzzi, to iron out the kinks and aching muscles?

To reiterate a statement I made awhile back, it isn't merely the cost of building these facilities I take issue with, but the fact that county employees can find the time during a normal workday to make use of them. Why should workers at Vance complex be so privileged? And how can one justify this to the taxpayers during a time of drastic cuts in services and personnel? Physical Fitness Rooms, and physical fitness in general is fine as a concept, but only for private corporations with money that doesn't come from every citizen's pocketbook!

We have heard, Tor Lyshaug has made no cuts in some sections of his Road Department. One crew has both a foreman and a supervisor, and enough employees that often they run out of work to do. He is drawing not only from road department funds, but money from the general fund. Is that his prerogative, or something that should be tracked down? If he insists on cutting a secretary from the Vector office who is so sorely needed, why then doesn't he cut manpower standing idle in his own department? I am told that (of course,) no one in that sector will admit to idleness, but it does exist. Hard to prove.

Dioxin has become a major issue across the country. Not only our local newspaper, but today's issue of USA TODAY has devoted an entire page to the controversy. With even the slightest question of its toxic qualities, it's incredible and particularly insensitive of Leo Sorensen to have ordered the spraying of 2,4,5,T in Blue Lake Park. Had the workers followed his orders, the county might easily find itself open to lawsuits seeking up to millions of dollars in damages. It WAS applied two years ago, and it doesn't seem to be biodegradable does it?

Finally, Ken is prevented from releasing information on county business without clearance, but no one can stop me. We will pursue these issues from every available angle, through every possible channel, until all avenues are exhausted. We may not win, but I'll sure give them a run for the money.

Thanks again, for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Georgiana Yee

Georgiana Yee

Kenneth G. Yee, RS
Vector Control Section, DES
5235 N Columbia Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97203
June 8, 1983

Mr. Dennis Buchanan
Office of the County Executive
Room 1500, The Portland Building
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

When I met with you in your office (May 19, 1983) at your request, you said you did not expect any threats, harassment, or retaliatory measures to be taken against me, and to inform you if such were to be the case. For the record, on June 2, 1983, Tor Lyshaug sent a threat to me through Peter DeChant. The message was simple and clear: If I should ever go over his head again, I would be treading on very thin ice!

Prior to that (May 3, 1983) Leo Sorensen telephoned the Vector office and spoke with Mrs. Pratt. It seemed Tor Lyshaug had just received a copy of the letter written to you by my mother, and became furious. Leo told Mrs. Pratt " Ken had better be careful," which I interpreted to mean I could lose my job for speaking up, or because my mother spoke up.

It seems strange neither one of these two gentlemen has ever made contact with me to discuss the issues. In the two months since the first letter was sent to Paul Yarborough pleading for Mrs. Pratt's position, not one word has been said to me personally, they have chosen only to relay threats through other people. Mr. Lyshaug seems to rule his domain through intimidation, but I refuse to be intimidated by him or anyone else. If their avoidance of contact is preliminary to relieving me of my job at Vector, they may find quite a battle on their hands because I am not yet ready to quit my job.

Though I am forbidden to discuss county business with the news media without proper clearance, my mother is under no such restriction. She seeks answers to many questions:

Why was Leo Sorensen allowed to order the spraying of 2,4,5T at Blue Lake Park when there is a nationwide controversy surrounding the dangers of DIOXIN? Only because workers involved refused to handle the material was the herbicide not used and the county spared from possible lawsuits. It WAS sprayed two years ago, and it doesn't appear to be biodegradable.

Why has Paul Yarborough accepted Lyshaug's flimsy explanation of the tennis court-weight room- basketball hoop issue? If a PHYSICAL FITNESS ROOM " falls under the category of coffee areas and lunch rooms provided in most county buildings " as stated by Mr. Yarborough, then I feel I have been missing out on some of the benefits of county employment. Aside from the cost of building and maintaining such facilities, the most important

question is where in a normal workday county employees can find the time to play tennis or work out in the weight room? If this facility is to be limited to Vance, why are employees there privileged over others working elsewhere in the county? How can this be justified to taxpayers when such drastic cuts have been made in essential services and personnel? Mr. Lyshaug's memo to Paul Yarborough rationalizing and justifying construction of such facilities fails to ring true. The concept of physical fitness is fine and good, were not the funds coming from the citizen's pocketbook. County workers are paid to do their work, not spend time playing tennis and working with physical fitness equipment.

Tor Lyshaug is adamant about abolishing the OA 3 position at Vector, giving as reason that not enough employees are in that office to warrant having an office assistant. If that is so, it's only because the personnel roster has been effectively trimmed to make it so. But ARE there such guidelines put forth by the commissioners regarding office assistants?

By contrast, in some sections of his own Road Department, Mr. Lyshaug has made no cuts of any kind. Crews often stand idle without enough work to do, including foreman, supervisor, and equipment. No one will admit to this idleness of course, but it does exist. Why doesn't he cut his own idle personnel rather than a sorely-needed secretary from Vector?

Paul Yarborough evidently did not see a copy of Peter DeChant's budget proposal which will allow enough funds for Mrs. Pratt. We assume he only took Tor Lyshaug's word for it, and Lyshaug has been against it from the start. We have since delivered a copy of that budget proposal to Mr. Yarborough's office.

The current Parks-Vector budget has a \$67,000 SURPLUS. It's too bad that money couldn't be used to store up supplies, thus freeing funds in the new budget not only to pay Mrs. Pratt, but to hire another sanitarian to replace Peter DeChant.

My mother plans to pursue these questions and issues from every angle and every possible avenue until more of the senseless waste and inefficient results of despotism can be eliminated. I know that I could be jeopardizing my job and my future with the county, but in all good conscience I simply am not able to stand by and watch these things happen without taking action to the best of my ability. There are better ways to allocate the limited funds available in these times of tight budgets. There are ways to save jobs without compromising services to the community simply by cutting waste and weeding out the HIDDEN funds from the budget. No private business could survive were it to be run as government is run.

There is more to this story, and the facts will surface soon.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Yee

Kenneth G. Yee
289-1405 OFFICE
244-2948 HOME

Encls.



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

June 8, 1983

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 S.W. Idaho
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Mrs. Yee:

I have heard officially from Paul Yarborough that Vector Control will now be directed by Tor Lyshaug and that Paul DeChant will report to Tor on a regular basis.

This also includes a separation from the Parks Bureau of the budget of these two divisions.

I hope that this will alleviate some of the problems that have arisen in the past.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE MILLER
Commissioner, District 3

CM:brl



OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

WILSON COUNTY

TO: Commissioner Miller

June 3, 1983

JUN -6 AM 10:28

Date

FROM: Paul Lyshaug

SUBJECT: Internal Reorganization

Carrie, I am sure you will be interested to know that effective June 2, 1983, Tor Lyshaug, with my concurrence, has established the Vector Control function as a separate section. Peter DeChant, a Registered Sanitarian, is the Vector Control supervisor, and now reports directly to Tor. Vector Control will have separately identified and administered accounts. This change recognizes the specialized character of Vector Control and will have the added advantage of letting the Parks Director concentrate on parks operations which are more complicated this year.

Tor has already been moving to establish new inventory controls, revised purchasing and office procedures, staff hiring and assignment procedures, etc. The sprayer is out of the Vector Control budget. 245T has not been used for two years. It will be disposed of along with any other questionable toxic materials.

PY:rm

cc: Tor Lyshaug

Please read and

initial

6-08-83

LARRY HELMICK

KEN

BOB

DAVID

RON

LARRY HAGGIN

Mrs. Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
June 9, 1983

Robert C. Hughley
Affirmative Action Officer
Dept. of General Services
Employee Relations Division
1120 SW 5th - Room 1430
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Hughley:

My son Kenneth, works as a registered sanitarian for Multnomah County Vector Control (part of DES). He has been employed by the county fulltime for almost four-and-a-half years, all of it at this office. The office of RODENT-SOLID WASTE CONTROL has been essentially a two-man operation for the past several years, whereas at one time in the past as many as five people did the work now assigned to two. Also in their office (at present) is a secretary (OA3), a Nuisance Control Officer, maintenance workers who do mosquito spraying, including seasonal workers. Leo Sorensen has been supervisor, at the same time also PARKS superintendent. As you may note from some of the enclosed material, Parks-Cemeteries-Vector are lumped together for purposes of budget and supervision.

Ken's co-worker in the Rodent-Solid Waste office is Peter DeChant, who for some while now has been groomed for promotion by management to the position of Maintenance Supervisor. At first this was not apparent to us, but as time progressed, it became unmistakably clear. Both Leo Sorensen and his superior, Tor Lyshaug (head of Operations and Maintenance) have included DeChant in all phases of planning, operations, and management of this department while my son has been treated as a nonentity. Ken has never been given access to information, never has been allowed equal opportunity to train or in other ways qualify for promotion of any sort. DeChant, and even some seasonal workers, were allowed to attend lectures and seminars directly contributing to the knowledge, skills and experience required for promotion and for the needed credits to keep current the pesticide applicator's license. Earlier this year, DeChant thought Ken might be interested in attending one particular seminar and asked Sorensen for permission to include him. Mr. Sorensen replied that he never asked Ken to obtain an applicator's license (which is not true), and that if Ken wanted to attend, it would have to be on his own. For the others, they went to the seminar on county time and with all fees paid by the county. My son did not go.

We cannot at this time pinpoint this rejection of Ken as pure racial discrimination, although my son IS Chinese, all the others White. It seems almost more a matter of favoritism, but even that is uncertain. Whatever shape, form, or category one wishes to place this matter, it is most certainly DISCRIMINATION. DeChant is now supervisor at Vector Control while Ken is stuck in what amounts to no more than a dead-end job. In no way does my son

covet DeChant's promotion per se, only that he has never been given the opportunities and choices accorded others. This step up the ladder could conceivably lead to further advancement in the future, all of which would be denied to my son. This is what really concerns us.

We have recorded evidence DeChant's promotion was long planned. The Sorensen version of the budget dated in January had already designated him for Maintenance Supervisor for the coming fiscal year. Though my son went through the motions of putting in his application for this promotion (closing date was May 20, 1983) we have no expectation he will even be considered a viable candidate. He was never contacted either by phone or mail, or was his application ever acknowledged. Yesterday, he finally phoned PERSONNEL to ask, was told that since there were two applicants only, an interview will be held, but no date has been set. The person conducting the interview will be Tor Lyshaug. That absolutely guarantees and leaves no question in our minds that Ken will be bypassed and disregarded in favor of Peter DeChant. Mr. Lyshaug has been working closely with DeChant for some while now.

DeChant was not supposed to gain title or begin his duties as supervisor at Vector until the new fiscal year, but in fact, a directive has been issued by Paul Yarborough, Director of DES (in the form of a memo to Commissioner Caroline Miller), a copy of which was sent to the Vector office to be initialed by everyone on the staff. This directive makes DeChant Vector Control supervisor effective June 2, 1983. This has come about partly because of concentrated efforts on our part to save the secretary's job, and in that process we uncovered a complex series of wrongdoings on the part of Leo Sorensen. He has been removed as Vector supervisor, but retains his position as Parks Superintendent. Yet, whichever way this has come about, we question management's right to install DeChant in the supervisory position without the process of fair employment practices.

I am enclosing complete details contained in copies of correspondence between Commissioner Miller and myself over the past two months. I will try to outline and summarize on a cover page to aid you in sorting out what began as a small attempt to save one person's job, but blossomed into a monster. We feel there is something amiss in the way Mrs. Pratt is being pushed out of her job at Vector. DeChant had come up with a budget proposal that would have allowed the funds to pay her, but according to Tom Gunn of Local 88, who recently spoke with both Yarborough and Lyshaug, neither man had ever seen a copy of it. Someone is not telling the truth. Mrs. Pratt has been the victim of discrimination also, though of a different sort. Please tell us what you can make of it, we would value your opinion.

My son has always done his job quietly and efficiently, and I am enclosing copies of letters from citizens to prove it. Only one time in his employment with the county has he raised a fuss. That incident was two years ago during an ice storm when all the staff was late for work because the freeways were closed due to ice, a fact documented in newspapers and radio logs. Mr. Sorensen chose to dock everyone for the time though not one person was

more than one hour late to work, including my son. Everyone at the office felt it unjust and grumbled about it, yet feared speaking up would jeopardize their jobs. Ken spoke up on behalf of all, leaving a note in an envelope on Sorensen's desk. At that time, Sorensen spent most of his time at the Morrison Street office, seldom visiting Vector during the day more than a couple times a week, and Ken would never see him. Sorensen was furious when he found the letter, though in no way was my son disrespectful towards him. He reprimanded Ken for writing it, told him his policy was simple: "NO WORK - NO PAY!" He nearly fired Ken on the spot. Later, Ken got a copy of a memo by then-executive Don Clark, which stated a two-hour grace period was allowed county workers stranded by inclement weather. My son left this memo on his own desk, knowing Sorensen regularly checks through their office and would see it. Shortly afterward, everyone in the office found the time that had been docked from their vacation hours had been returned on their paychecks. Of course, Sorensen never said another word about this again, much less admit he might have been wrong. Outside of our most recent activity in trying to save the secretary, there have been no other incidents. I feel this is discrimination of a long-standing nature, however much we hate to believe it.

For a number of years until a heart attack forced him to step down, my brother was Chief Sanitarian for Multnomah County. He is now retired. There were times in the past (while he was still on the job) when he would ask me if Ken planned to attend a particular meeting or seminar, saying he had forwarded all the literature to Sorensen. I always had to reply that we knew nothing of it, nothing was mentioned to Ken. The only seminar he has attended in the entire four-and-a-half years on the job is shortly after he was first employed fulltime. That only came about because Ken heard about it from another sanitarian who worked for the state. The sessions were held in Corvallis, Ken drove his own car, stayed with his sister in her apartment, and charged the county for only two meals he consumed amounting to about a total of six dollars. The notices for these events usually don't reach the Vector office until it is too late to register, or even after the sessions have concluded. Yet somehow, Dechant and some of the others are always informed and given a chance to decide whether or not they want to attend. The result is that there is no way for Ken to qualify for renewal of the pesticide applicator's license because credits cannot be accumulated at the rate of more than 15 points per year, with about 50 points needed. Whenever my son tries to reach Sorensen by phone, it always involves at least five or six tries over several days time. He never returns calls no matter how many messages Ken might leave.

We have kept the job description from when my son first applied for fulltime county employment. He had previously worked as a seasonal, having been hired by then-supervisor John Alderton. We also have a copy of the promotional job description which seemingly is tailored to fit DeChant in language and essence. We realize this happens often in government, making it a waste of time for anyone else to apply for a job. This, plus a copy of the supplemental application supposedly weighted 100 percent, is enclosed.

We intend to battle the issues to the bitter end, from all sides. We need and would very much appreciate your assistance and opinions on this particular matter involving what we strongly feel is discrimination. You will note that Ken has been threatened recently, but we refuse to be intimidated by anyone. If there is enough evidence, or if we have a strong enough case, I might consider a lawsuit. We simply want to know where we stand on this.

We had not realized earlier the county had an Affirmative Action Officer so we contacted State Civil Rights. After hearing our story, the gentleman suggested we get in contact with you first to see what you might do for us.

Thank you for listening, and for letting us take your time in reading through the reams of material I am enclosing with this letter. My son's opportunity to write is limited, and he asked that I do so. We will be out of town Monday, June 13, otherwise I will be anxiously waiting to hear from you.

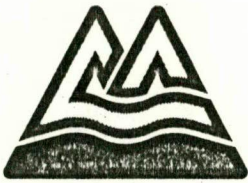
Sincerely,

Georgiana Yee

Georgiana Yee
503-244-2948

. Attch.

P.S. It is difficult for us to pin down exactly the number of meetings and seminars held for Vector personnel over the past several years. The department paying for the fees and the expenses involved should have the records, but I'm afraid if we asked, we wouldn't be allowed access to the information.



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DIVISION
1120 S.W. 5TH, ROOM 1430
PORTLAND, OR 97204
(503) 248-5015

DENNIS BUCHANAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 9, 1983

Kenneth G. Yee
1922 SW Idaho
Portland, OR 97201

FINAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

You have been placed on the list, Mr. Yee, for Maintenance Supervisor/Vector Control. As there were five or fewer applicants for this position, no examination will be necessary. You will receive no score and rank. The list expires on May 23, 1984 unless sooner abolished.

When you are being actively considered for an appointment, you will be contacted directly by the particular department concerned. In the meantime, please notify our office promptly if there is any change as to where or when you will accept appointment or if there is a change in your address or telephone number. If we are unable to contact you, it will be necessary to remove your name from the list.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DIVISION

705XYRH1

SENT ONLY AFTER KEN TELEPHONED AN INQUIRY, JUNE 8 - 1983

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Georgiana Yee
1922 SW Idaho Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
June 16, 1983

Caroline Miller
Multnomah County Commissioner
District Three
County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Commissioner Miller:

It's interesting. The memo you received from Paul Yarborough (dated June 3, 1983) clearly designates Peter DeChant the Vector Control supervisor effective June 2, 1983.

We protested to the Affirmative Action Officer Robert C. Hughley, that in this instance the fair employment procedures were abandoned. Upon his inquiry, Mr. Hughley was told by Yarborough that wasn't true, that he inadvertently left out the word ACTING (supervisor) in his memo to you. He explained also, he had written a memo to Buchanan that same day in which he DID include the words, " acting supervisor." How convenient.

Mr. Yarborough knows there is no way we can dispute or disprove his claim. Documents can be back-dated at will, language can be ambiguous, procedures can be arbitrary. Forgive me this sarcasm and cynicism, which is definitely NOT directed at you personally. If you could know of my life-long encounters with bigotry or prejudice, you would understand how easily I've learned to detect tactics of suppression. Two years ago, I found an article in The Oregonian that " hits the nail on the head," so to speak. A copy of that article is enclosed, along with a copy of the notice received in answer to Ken's application as candidate for the Vector Supervisor position. Referring to ambiguous language, note the first word, first sentence, paragraph two of that notice. To this date, no one has set any appointment to interview Ken for that position.

Civil Rights legislation enacted in 1960 may have provided a few tools with which to fight discrimination, but it can never change the way some people think and act. Patronizing attitudes are par-for-the-course, I come upon them often. Loopholes abound, there are a thousand ways to very effectively circumvent any law. It isn't just Blacks and Hispanics and women who are victims, but other minorities as well. Because those of Asian descent have always tended to be passive, are less organized, have no vocal, visible, militant advocates, the fight for our rights haven't progressed much beyond riding the coattails of the gains made by other minority groups. Because there are among our race the ultra-talented in scientists, engineers, and artisans, most people think we are not victimized by discrimination, but they are wrong. Among rank and file, Ken is a classic case, proving it is another matter. Much is determined by one's being in the right time, place, and circumstances.

This is a personal battle, there is little you can do to help us even if you tried. We've some time-consuming research to do and things will move slowly for awhile until we can compile the evidence needed to pursue this full course. There will be times we will become discouraged, the case will seem to hang by a thread, and we'd just as soon give up. This is to be expected, giving the adversary his due and never underestimating the power of his far-reaching tentacles. On our side, tenacity is all we have in abundance. In talking with Mr. Hughley on the telephone, I was not overly impressed by his tone or attitude, and in fact I am now suspicious as to which side of the fence he favors. His paycheck DOES come from the county.

Just thought you'd like to know: After a conference with Tor Lyshaug the other day, Pete DeChant returned to the office and rather disgustedly said Ken could have his job if he wanted it! It appears the inquiry from Affirmative Action filtered down, and upset SOMEONE at Vance.

Mrs. Pratt will be forced to accept the position at Animal Control, at least for the time being. From what we've heard, Leo Sorensen has been downgrading her to Betsy Williams, which makes Jinny feel just great (stepping into a hostile environment). Give the man credit for being a good actor, he just phoned her the other day with great concern in his voice for her welfare. Jinny said Leo actually had tears in his eyes when he first informed her a couple months ago that she would be cut from the office. Someone should nominate him for the TWO-FACE award, or Best Actor of the Year.

Health officials are unable to find the source of the bubonic plague which killed the 9-year-old Klamath Falls boy last week. Latest news reports are that numbers of dead animals have been found on a hill near the boy's home, and there is virtually no animal population existing on that hill. I wonder what the program managers here plan to do if the plague should reach Multnomah County? How will they explain only ONE sanitarian for rodent control? I've mentioned in the past the plague was already discovered in Columbia County earlier this year. I hope then, those people enjoy all the goodies they plan to buy with the money saved by cutting the Vector Control secretary and sanitarian.

The seasonal worker they insisted could replace the secretary will begin work next week at Vector. Should an emergency actually occur, it will be chaos. She has no experience dealing with the public, or with questions on rodents and insects, or nuisance problems. It should be a ball, thanks to a few short-sighted and stupid administrators.

It's time I stopped writing before I get carried away and forget with whom I am speaking. Hope I haven't offended your sensitivities with my anger, but I feel county government can do without people who are insensitive, incompetent, greedy and uncaring. Enough said.

Sincerely,

Georgiana McC

Encls.

P.S. Supposedly Tom Gunn has written a letter to either Lyshaug or Yarborough accusing them of lying to him when he asked about DeChant's budget proposal which saves the secretary's job. Jinny is trying to obtain a copy of that letter. Will send you copy when it becomes available.



CAROLINE MILLER
Multnomah County Oregon
Board of Commissioners
District Three

County Courthouse
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-5217

6/20/83

Dear Mrs. Lee,

Thank you for

keeping me informed.

If I can be of any
service in future,

please let me know

(Caroline Miller)

BUD 1**BUDGET
REQUEST****ORGANIZATION**
Parks (Vector Control)**DATE**
2/8/83**DEPARTMENT**

DES

PREPARED BY
Leo Sorensen**LINE ITEM****CURRENT
BUDGET****REQUEST**

510 FULL TIME

520 PART TIME

540 OVERTIME

550 PREMIUM PAY

570 FRINGE BENEFITS

\$ 85,880

\$ 25,056

\$ 402

\$ 2,088

\$ 31,399

PERSONAL SERVICES

\$144,825

611 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

612 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION

613 UTILITIES

614 COMMUNICATIONS

615 INSURANCE

616 EXT. DATA PROCESSING

617 EQUIPMENT RENTAL

618 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

620 POSTAGE

621 OFFICE SUPPLIES

622 JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

623 OPERATING SUPPLIES

624 MINOR EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

625 CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS

626 MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

627 FOOD

631 EDUCATION AND TRAVEL

633 LOCAL TRAVEL AND MILEAGE

651 SPACE RENTALS

659 MISCELLANEOUS

690 DRUGS

661 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$ 800

\$ 800

\$ 4,678

\$ 2,000

\$ 2,200

\$ 1,480

\$ 200

\$ 550

\$ 12,045

\$ 700

\$ 600

\$ 55

DIRECT MATERIALS & SERVICES

\$ 26,108

940 Indirect Costs

950 Data Processing - DPA

960 Motor Pool Services

970 Building Management

990 Other Internal Services

SERVICE REIMBURSEMENTS**TOTAL MATERIALS & SERVICES**

710 LAND

720 BUILDINGS

730 OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

740 EQUIPMENT

CAPITAL OUTLAY**DIRECT BUDGET****TOTAL BUDGET**

BUD 2

PERSONNEL
DETAILORGANIZATION
PARKS AND MEMORIALS - VectorDATE
1/26/83

DEPARTMENT

PREPARED BY

DES

Leo Sorensen

Job Title

Name

Base

Fringe

Total

Sanitarian

Yee, Kenneth

21,193

6,498

27,691

Maintenance Supervisor

DeChant, Pete

22,091

8,598

30,689

Maintenance Worker III

Gross, Orval

21,298

7,308

28,606

Maintenance Worker III

Hansen, Robert

21,298

6,469

27,767

FULL TIME

510

83,860

28,873

114,753

PART TIME

520

25,056

2,430

27,486

OVERTIME

540

306

96

402

PREMIUM

550

2,088

2,088

TOTAL

113,330

570

31,399

144,729

BUD 3**LINE-ITEM
DETAIL****ORGANIZATION**

Parks (Vector Control)

DATE

2/8/83

DEPARTMENT
DES**PREPARED BY**

Leo Sorensen

**LINE
CODE****DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST**

		(Base)	(Fringe)	(Total)
520	PART-TIME			
	1 applicator and three checkers			
	4 x \$6.00 x 1,044 hrs. x .097	\$25,056	\$ 2,430	\$27,486
540	OVER-TIME			
	Sanitarians work during periods of abnormal rodent infestation. Maintenance Worker IIIs operate both light and heavy power misters; schedule all Vector Control calls and spray remote areas along the Columbia River in summer months. It's often advisable to finish an area after a normal shift rather than return to base and then travel long distances over already-treated ground in order to complete an hour or two of work.			
	20 hrs. @ \$15.30 x .3145	\$ 306	\$ 96	\$ 402
550	PREMIUM PAY			
	One Maint. Worker III (Vector) shall be responsible for directing spray operations for all insect control; planning, scheduling and mixing for all checkers; overseeing all equipment and fleet maintenance, and planning and directing winter-time mosquito source reduction and trail maintenance.			
	2,088 hrs. x \$1.00 hr.	\$ 2,088		\$ 2,088
570	FRINGE BENEFITS			
	Total for Vector personnel, full and part-time:			\$37,939
612	PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	\$ 800	Forms, license, information brochures, etc.	
614	COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 4,678	Five, two-button phones	
618	EXTERNAL REPAIR AND MAINT.	\$ 2,220	Repairs to answer-phone, sprayers, typewriters, etc.	
620	POSTAGE	\$ 1,480	Certified mail, inter-office mail service, and misc. correspondence	
621	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 200	Office material	
622	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 550	Cleaning and restroom supplies	

BUD 3LINE-ITEM
DETAIL

ORGANIZATION

Parks (Vector Control)

DATE

2/9/83

DEPARTMENT

DES

PREPARED BY

Leo Sorensen

LINE
CODE

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST

623 OPERATING SUPPLIES

\$12,045

Insecticides

\$ 6,761

Herbicides

\$ 3,147

Neutralizing

agents, spread-
ers, etc.

\$ 180

Rodenticides

\$ 1,957

624 MINOR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

\$ 700

Sprayers

659 MISC.

\$ 600

Demurrage on oxy-acetylene tanks;
film development; applicators'
license fees, etc.

667 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$ 55

Subscriptions to pest control
magazines, Mosquito News and
membership dues to NW Mosquito
and Vector Control Assoc.

BUD 3a

SERVICE/RENTAL
CONTRACTS

ORGANIZATION

Parks (Vector Control)

DATE

2/9/83

DEPARTMENT

DES

PREPARED BY

Leo Sorensen

LINE
CODE

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION

VENDOR

MBE
FBEEXPIRATION
DATE

AMOUNT

611

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Laundry service

Industrial
Laundry

6/30/84

\$ 800.00

617

EXTERNAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Rental of power washer and airless
sprayer

Undeterm.

cont.

\$ 2,000.00

BUD 1	BUDGET REQUEST	ORGANIZATION Parks/Vector Control		DATE 4/11/83
		DEPARTMENT DES		PREPARED BY Leo Sorensen
LINE ITEM		CURRENT BUDGET	REQUEST	
510 FULL TIME			110,873	
520 PART TIME			25,056	
540 OVERTIME			306	
550 PREMIUM PAY			2,088	
570 FRINGE BENEFITS			30,120	39116
PERSONAL SERVICES			177,939	177,939
611 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			4,050	
612 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION			1,000	
613 UTILITIES				
614 COMMUNICATIONS			4,678	
615 INSURANCE				
616 EXT. DATA PROCESSING				
617 EQUIPMENT RENTAL			2,000	
618 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE			2,200	
620 POSTAGE			1,630	
621 OFFICE SUPPLIES			200	
622 JANITORIAL SUPPLIES			1,350	
623 OPERATING SUPPLIES			12,045	
624 MINOR EQUIPMENT/TOOLS			700	
625 CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS				
626 MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES				
627 FOOD				
631 EDUCATION AND TRAVEL				
633 LOCAL TRAVEL AND MILEAGE				
651 SPACE RENTALS				
659 MISCELLANEOUS			800	
690 DRUGS				
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS			55	
DIRECT MATERIALS AND SERVICES			30,730	30708
940 INDIRECT COSTS				
950 DATA PROCESSING-DPA				
960 MOTOR POOL SERVICES				
970 BUILDING MANAGEMENT				
990 OTHER INTERNAL SERVICES				
SERVICE REIMBURSEMENTS				
TOTAL MATERIALS AND SERVICES				
710 LAND				
720 BUILDINGS				
730 OTHER IMPROVEMENTS				
740 EQUIPMENT				
CAPITAL OUTLAY				
DIRECT BUDGET				208147
TOTAL BUDGET				

BUD 2	PERSONNEL DETAIL	ORGANIZATION PARKS AND MEMORIALS - Vector		DATE 1/26/83	
		DEPARTMENT DES		PREPARED BY Leo Sorensen	
Job Title	Name	Base	Fringe	Total	
Sanitarian	Yee, Kenneth	21,193	6,498	27,691	
Maintenance Supervisor	DeChant, Pete	22,091	8,598	30,689	
Maintenance Worker III	Gross, Orval	21,298	7,308	28,606	
Maintenance Worker III	Hansen, Robert	21,298	6,469	27,767	
Nuisance Control Inspector	Helmick	24,993	8,217	33,210	
	FULL TIME	510 110,873	37,090	147,963	
	PART TIME	520 25,056	1930 2,430	27,486	
	OVERTIME	540 306	96	402	
	PREMIUM	550 2,088		2,088	
	TOTAL	138,323	570 39,616 28,116	177,939	

BUD 3**LINE-ITEM
DETAIL****ORGANIZATION**
Parks (Vector Control)**DATE**
2/8/83**DEPARTMENT**
DES**PREPARED BY**
Leo Sorensen**LINE
CODE****DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST**

		(Base)	(Fringe)	(Total)
520	PART-TIME			
	1 applicator and three checkers			
	4 x \$6.00 x 1,044 hrs. x .097	\$25,056	\$2,430 1930	\$27,486 26,986
540	OVER-TIME			
	Sanitarians work during periods of abnormal rodent infestation. Maintenance Worker IIIs operate both light and heavy power misters; schedule all Vector Control calls and spray remote areas along the Columbia River in summer months. It's often advisable to finish an area after a normal shift rather than return to base and then travel long distances over already-treated ground in order to complete an hour or two of work.			
	20 hrs. @ \$15.30 x .3145	\$ 306	\$ 96	\$ 402
550	PREMIUM PAY			
	One Maint. Worker III (Vector) shall be responsible for directing spray operations for all insect control; planning, scheduling and mixing for all checkers; overseeing all equipment and fleet maintenance, and planning and directing winter-time mosquito source reduction and trail maintenance.			
	2,088 hrs. x \$1.00 hr.	\$ 2,088		\$ 2,088
570	FRINGE BENEFITS			
	Total for Vector personnel, full and part-time:			\$ 39,616
612	PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	\$ 1,000	Forms, license, information brochures, etc.	
614	COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 4,678	Five, two-button phones	
618	EXTERNAL REPAIR AND MAINT.	\$ 2,220	Repairs to answer-phone, sprayers, typewriters, etc.	
620	POSTAGE	\$ 1,630	Certified mail, inter-office mail service, and misc. correspondence	
621	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 200	Office material	
622	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 1,350	Cleaning and restroom supplies	

BUD 3**LINE-ITEM
DETAIL****ORGANIZATION**
Parks (Vector Control)**DATE**
2/9/83**DEPARTMENT**
DES**PREPARED BY**
Leo Sorensen**LINE
CODE****DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST**

623	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$12,045	Insecticides	\$ 6,761
			Herbicides	\$ 3,147
			Neutralizing	
			agents, spread-	
			ers, etc.	\$ 180
			Rodenticides	\$ 1,957
624	MINOR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	\$ 700	Sprayers	
659	MISC.	\$ 800	Demurrage on oxy-acetylene tanks;	
			film development; applicators'	
			license fees, etc.	
667	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 55	Subscriptions to pest control	
			magazines, <u>Mosquito News</u> and	
			membership dues to NW Mosquito	
			and Vector Control Assoc.	

BUD 3a

SERVICE/RENTAL
CONTRACTS

ORGANIZATION

Parks (Vector Control)

DATE

2/9/83

DEPARTMENT

DES

PREPARED BY

Leo Sorensen

LINE CODE	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	MBE FBE	EXPIRATION DATE	AMOUNT
611	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				
	Laundry service	Industrial Laundry		6/30/84	\$ 700.00
	Hearings Officer (for Nuisance Control)			upon com- pletion	\$ 3,350.00
617	EXTERNAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL				
	Rental of power washer and airless sprayer	Undeterm.		cont.	\$ 2,000.00

Multnomah County Oregon

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: LEO SORENSEN &
TOR LYSHAUG

SUBJECT: CLERICAL HELP AT
VECTOR CONTROL

FROM: PETER DeCHANT

DATE: May 12, 1983

The following is a list of clerical duties that must be performed for Vector Control to function efficiently:

- 1) Answer phones and take complaints or make referrals.
- 2) Type and log rodent and solid waste assignments.
- 3) Type and log insect complaints.
- 4) Type nuisance notices.
- 5) Order legal printouts.
- 6) Maintain petty cash account.
- 7) Prepare monthly gas usage and mileage report.
- 8) Type all correspondence, memos and reports.
- 9) Maintain filing system.
- 10) Serve as radio dispatcher and coordinate work.
- 11) Compile data for Monthly report.
- 12) Advise public about insect and rodent problems.
- 13) Receive vehicle parking violations and call for DMV registrations for Nuisance Officer, while he is making field investigations.
- 14) Maintain attendance records and cost accounting data.
- 15) Keep materials inventory records and compile usage report.
- 16) Compile data for pesticide use plan.
- 17) Compile bee referral list and make bee swarm referrals.
- 18) Pay bills and type requisitions.
- 19) Order and maintain office supplies.

The burden of performing these duties will severely compromise the time of Vector Control personnel and the clerical help at the Parks office if Vector Control is left without full time clerical help in the 1983-84 fiscal year.

I have examined the budget figures given to me by Tor Lyshaug, and I am convinced that thru a restructuring of expenditures, the Office Assistant 3 position at Vector Control can be saved.

My figures, as well as an explanation of the changes made in the budget are attached.

PD:vp

If reply requested -- submit in duplicate.

BUD 1

BUDGET
REQUESTORGANIZATION
PARKS/ Vector ControlDATE
5/12/83DEPARTMENT
DESPREPARED BY
Peter DeChant

LINE ITEM

CURRENT
BUDGET

REQUEST

510 FULL TIME

520 PART TIME

540 OVERTIME

550 PREMIUM PAY

570 FRINGE BENEFITS

125,781

21,098

306

43,787

PERSONAL SERVICES

190,972

611 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

612 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION

613 UTILITIES

614 COMMUNICATIONS

615 INSURANCE

616 EXT. DATA PROCESSING

617 EQUIPMENT RENTAL

618 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

620 POSTAGE

621 OFFICE SUPPLIES

622 JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

623 OPERATING SUPPLIES

624 MINOR EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

625 CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS

626 MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

627 FOOD

631 EDUCATION AND TRAVEL

633 LOCAL TRAVEL AND MILEAGE

651 SPACE RENTALS

659 MISCELLANEOUS

690 DRUGS

1,000

1,630

200

100

5,957

400

623

55

DIRECT MATERIALS & SERVICES

17,175

940 Indirect Costs

950 Data Processing - DPA

960 Motor Pool Services

970 Building Management

990 Other Internal Services

SERVICE REIMBURSEMENTS

TOTAL MATERIALS & SERVICES

710 LAND

720 BUILDINGS

730 OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

740 EQUIPMENT

CAPITAL OUTLAY

DIRECT BUDGET

208,147

TOTAL BUDGET

BUD 2

PERSONNEL
DETAILORGANIZATION
PARKS AND MEMORIALS - VectorDATE
5/12/83DEPARTMENT
DESPREPARED BY
Peter DeChant

Job Title	Name	Base	Fringe	Total
Sanitarian	Yee, Kenneth	21,193	6,498	27,691
Maintenance Supervisor	DeChant, Pete	22,091	8,598	30,689
Maintenance Worker III (Chemical Applicator)	Entry Level	18,416	5,525	23,941
Maintenance Worker III (Chemical Applicator)	Hansen, Robert	21,298	6,469	27,767
Nuisance Control Inspector	Helmick, Larry	24,993	8,217	33,210
Office Assistant III	Pratt, Virginia	17,790	6,760	24,550
	FULL TIME	510 125,781	42,067	167,848
	PART TIME	520 21,098	1,624	22,722
	OVERTIME	540 306	96	402
	PREMIUM	550		
	TOTAL	147,185	570 43,787	190,972

BUD 3LINE-ITEM
DETAILORGANIZATION
PARKS (Vector Control)DATE
5/12/83DEPARTMENT
DESPREPARED BY
Peter DeChantLINE
CODE

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST

520 PART-TIME (Base) (Fringe) (Total)

Mosquito Checkers

1 - Lead (Mar. 1 - Aug. 31) \$6.00/hr

1 (May 1 - Aug. 31) \$5.50/hr

1 (June 15 - Aug. 31) \$5.50/hr

Other Seasonals

1 - Bait Sewers (May 1 - Oct. 31) \$5.50/hr
(Drive roadside truck in Sept. & Oct.
for Brush Control)

Driver Roadside (Feb. 1 - Apr. 31) \$5.50/hr

15½ mos. x \$5.50/hr x 174 hrs/mo. }	\$21,097.5	\$1,624	\$22,722
6 mos. x \$6.00/hr x 174 hrs/mo. }			

540 OVER-TIME

Sanitarians work during periods of abnormal rodent infestation. Maintenance Worker IIIs operate both light and heavy power misters; schedule all Vector Control calls and spray remote areas along the Columbia River in summer months. It's often advisable to finish an area after a normal shift rather than return to base and then travel long distances over already-treated ground in order to complete an hour or two of work.

20 hrs. @ \$15.30 x .3145	\$ 306	\$ 96	<u>\$ 402</u>
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550 PREMIUM PAY

(No premium pay) Orval Gross, Maintenance Worker III will be on disability.

570 FRINGE BENEFITS

Total for Vector personnel, full and part-time:	\$43,787
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612 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	\$1,000	Forms, license, information brochures, etc.
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614 COMMUNICATIONS	\$2,160	Phone bill \$180/mo. -we can reduce number of phones. (Five, two-button phones)
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618 EXTERNAL REPAIR AND MAINT.	\$1,000	Repairs to answer-phone, sprayers, typewriters, etc.
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620 POSTAGE	\$1,630	Certified mail, inter-office mail service, and misc. correspondence
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621 OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 200	Office material
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BUD 3		LINE-ITEM DETAIL		ORGANIZATION		DATE
				PARKS (Vector Control)		5/12/83
		DEPARTMENT DES		PREPARED BY Peter DeChant		
LINE CODE	DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUEST					
622	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 100	Cleaning and restroom supplies			
623	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$5,957	Insecticides	\$ 4,000		
			Rodenticides	1,957		
624	MINOR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	\$ 400	Sprayers (we have enough equip... may need some spray cans)			
659	MISC.	\$ 623	Demurrage on oxy-acetylene tanks; film development; applicators' license fees, etc.			
667	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 55	Subscriptions to pest control magazines, <u>Mosquito News</u> and membership dues to NW Mosquito and Vector Control Assox.			

BUD 3a

SERVICE/RENTAL
CONTRACTSORGANIZATION
PARKS (Vector Control)DATE
5/12/83DEPARTMENT
DESPREPARED BY
Peter DeChant

LINE CODE	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	MBE FBE	EXPIRATION DATE	AMOUNT
611	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES Laundry Service	Industrial Laundry		6/30/84	\$ 700.00
	Hearings Officer (for Nuisance Control			upon com- pletion	\$ 3,350.00

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES IN BUDGET

- 510 FULL TIME
Orval Gross, our Lead Chemical Applicator, will be out on disability. If replaced by entry level person who performs roadside spraying and mosquito control, the cost will be less.
OA 3, added back in.
- 520 PART TIME
Reduced total amount of part time help and pay for all but Lead Mosquito Checker.
- 550 PREMIUM PAY
Formerly given to Orval Gross but will not be needed now.
- 614 COMMUNICATIONS
Reduced to actual amount of phone bill. The number of telephones at Vector Control can be reduced to three, and we can cancel call forward feature on one line.
- 617 EQUIPMENT RENTAL
We do not use a pressure washer.
- 618 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE
We have an excellent shop facility at Vance where most repairs can be made. External repairs should not exceed \$1,000.
- 622 JANITORIAL SUPPLIES
The office at the Vector facility is small. We could never use \$1,350 worth of janitorial supplies in a year.
- 623 OPERATING SUPPLIES
Insecticides: Presently stocked with sufficient chemicals for most work.
Will need:
- | | |
|---|------------|
| 100 gal. Malathion 5E @ \$20.00/gal. | \$2,000.00 |
| 2700 Bactimos Briquettes @ 37¢ ea. | 1,000.00 |
| Larvae oils i.e.: Golden Bear | 500.00 |
| Sand for Sand Core Granules and Misc. emergency needs | 500.00 |
- Herbicides: Not needed for Vector work- - should have been requested in BUD 3 of Parks Budget (Roadside chemical purchased thru Road Fund)
- Neutralizing agents, spreaders, etc.: Plenty in stock.
- 624 MINOR TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
Reduced because we are well equipped already. We will need one or two spray cans and some safety equipment.
- 659 MISCELLANEOUS
Reduced because we will not be using welder since Orval Gross was the only employee who knew how to weld.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 88

AFFILIATED WITH

American Federation of State
County and Municipal Employees
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
OREGON AFL-CIO
Multnomah Co. Labor Council

Chartered by American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees A.F.L. - C.I.O.
210 N.E. 20th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
(503) 233-8817

June 13, 1983

Mr. Paul Yarborough, Director
Environmental Services
Multnomah County
2115 SE Morrison
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Paul:

I met with you last week to talk about Virginia Pratt. You had indicated earlier that if Virginia could be kept in the budget with the reduced funds, you would certainly look at it.

- During that meeting, I asked you if such a budget had been turned in. You asked Tor and responded in the negative. I was surprised as Virginia had told me such a budget existed.

This budget was sent to Mr. Lyshaug on May 17, 1983. His denial of its existence gives credence to claims of bad faith on the part of the Department of Environmental Services.

I will now be forced to file a grievance since I can no longer consider Mr. Lyshaug's statements as truthful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gunn

Thomas Gunn
Business Representative
AFSCME Local 88

TG/jr
opeiu #11

cc: Virginia Pratt