

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

This form is a public record

MEETING DATE: 4/11/2013

Non- AGENDA ITEM: Food Project

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: Amy B Anderson

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 3735 SE SHERMAN

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97214

PHONE: 971-271-7182 EMAIL: advocate55@comcast.net

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:

1. Complete this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Presenters are called to testify in the order their form is received. The Presiding Officer may rearrange testimony or may ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
3. Public testimony is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Presiding Officer.
4. Written materials may be submitted to the Board Clerk for distribution to the Board and entry in the official record. Please provide 7 copies.
5. All meetings are audio and video recorded.
6. When your name is called, come forward & be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
7. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
8. The Presiding Officer has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so becomes a trespasser.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN INSTEAD OF ORAL COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: lynda.grow@multco.us
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

Amy ANDERSON

Σ The Sigma Project

The Sigma Project is a Portland nonprofit corporation founded to grow sustainable local produce for the disadvantaged community while creating independence through teaching the process. We are decreasing the number of food insecure individuals and families in our community by addressing key constraints to food accessibility by developing critical strategies and implementing solutions with innovative tools and practices creating sustainable food systems.

Our project ensures Portland families have access to fresh local nutritional food. We transform lawns and empty lots into suppliers of fresh local produce for the community. Uniting land lenders, volunteers, and experts together with all the necessary materials and supplies for this goal. We maintain pick up and home delivery, providing on site training and off site seminars teaching the process, creating independence, stronger community, and elevating the human condition. We provide the most disadvantaged members of the community with their only source of free sustainable fresh local organic fruits and vegetables essential to their health and well being they would otherwise do without.

The Oregon Department of Human Services estimates there are currently over 100,000 households in the city of Portland having trouble putting food on the table and receiving food benefits. Over 36% are children. Oregon has the highest rate of childhood hunger in the country.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that a 100 percent increase in food production will be required to feed the population by 2030 and avert further food insecurity. The sustainable production of sufficient plant products is required if we are to maintain the ability to produce enough food for the population of the United States now and into the future.

The latest government report released September 2012 (Coleman Jensen) states 17.9 million households in 2011, approximately 1 in 7, were food insecure. The highest number ever recorded.

Food accessibility must go beyond the provisioning of emergency supplies. It necessitates having access to sustainable sources that are produced in ways that sustain ecosystems and builds economic and social equity.

Our community will have a more equitable distribution of essential foods. A nutritional local food system without harmful chemicals and pesticides; stewardship of the environment and control over our food production.; less dependency on outside sources; less disparity and more independence for the most vulnerable members of the community. A community educated on the purpose and practices of sustainability.

First and foremost the disadvantaged community will have access to essential foods critical for their very survival. Our entire community will benefit from a cleaner healthier environment, easing the staggering costs of the food benefits program, and building economic and social independence and equity. Healthy foods and environment serves everyone in the community.

Your generous support makes this critically needed project possible. Your contribution is tax deductible.

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www.thesigmaproject.net

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JESSE BARTLETT CATHY