

## PORTLAND TRANSITION TEAM

*Date range February 1<sup>st</sup>-February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

From February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> the Portland Transition Team received a total of 35 public comments through our online comment form, via email and verbal public comment. 0 out of the 35 comments were submitted on behalf community-based organization(s). To date, we've received **2,814** public comments during the transition of Portland's city government.

**Raw public comments received during February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Attachments are included at the end of the report. Replies from city staff are not included in the raw public comments. The \*\*\* indicates the commenter reply to a city employee's response.**

### Raw Public Comments

Howdy, I'm trying to register for the future council listening session and the registration link appears to be broken. Thought I would give you a heads up. The blue text stating "Please register for the listening session here" takes you to a non existent page. Both screenshots attached below. I've also included a link to the page here:

<https://www.portland.gov/transition/events/2024/3/14/future-city-council-operations-listening-session-march-14-2024>

I'd love to be able to register for this! Thank you.

Hello, Council. Thank you for having us today. I am with the City of Portland professional workers union cppw. We are here today to introduce you to our union and to update you about our experience in contract negotiations. I am a city worker at Portland permitting and development. I was also part of founding this union and am currently serve as union president. I'm not alone here today. There are those up here with me, behind me and watching, representing our 800 members around the city. Classifications in our union include coordinators, analysts, admin, specialists, and more. We are part of virtually every program here at the city, doing the people's business, doing essential work. Our work helps provide the services the Portlanders need from city government so that they can thrive and be successful. Think of us as kind of the glue that holds things together. We started this union because we wanted clarity in our working conditions, protections on the job, and a voice at decision making tables that affect our careers and our families. We have been negotiating for nearly a year. Our experience is that labor relations say they want to get to the end and to settle this contract. However, they are not making it happen. They are dragging their feet. As we move into mediation, we are asking you to empower your negotiators at the table to

settle this contract. The city does not need to push every contract through an expensive mediation process or force every union to exercise our right to strike in order to secure a fair and reasonable contract for your workers. So please empower your team to settle this contract so that we can focus on being your partner to move the city forward. We've also heard that you've inherited a difficult budget cycle. Our members are the financial and data analysts around the city, so we have a unique perspective on the budget. We'd love to talk with you more about that at some point. Potentially tough budget is one thing, but what we find problematic is the relentless and fear mongering communications about budgets, resets and layoffs coming out of the city administrator's office. On top of all the national chaos that we are experiencing. This creates fear, low morale, and discontent in your workers. This is the time for us to focus our collective energies and be clear about our priorities. We are asking council to use your power to refocus the transition and the budget on providing essential services that Portlanders need, want, and are required to have our members execute the city's core priorities. We do that work, so please empower your team to settle the contract so the city can live its values and so that your workers can have the stability that we need to do the people's business. Thank you

Good morning. Council. Mr. Mayor. Chief administrator, I appreciate this opportunity to address the council. Thank you. Like you, I am a city worker, and I am honored to serve the people of Portland. I am also a proud member of the city of Portland professional workers union. I work at the portland bureau of emergency management, where I coordinate our volunteer first responder program, and I'm also an on-call duty officer. I know that as a group you've been educated about my bureau's work and our holistic perspective on City's business and our entire reason for existing as a bureau is to support emergency responders and protect the public's well-being and their property. Now, I want to be clear when I say emergency responders, I mean every single city employee. Emergency responders are not only our brave and visible frontline personnel like firefighters and police. CPP members are also essential for many critical functions. For example, emergency responders include the cp workers, who are procurement and grant specialists. Obtaining the critical materials that we need to support shelters for homeless populations today. Emergency responders include the pw workers, who issue permits that ensure that businesses can keep their doors open and serve the public safety. Emergency responders include CPP workers and the police bureau, who are on call as victims advocates to protect those most impacted by crimes. Emergency responders include CPP professional communication staff, who in the last few days have been very busy ensuring the Portlanders know what to do in the case of winter weather, how to get around, how to care for the most vulnerable among us, and where to go for resources. Emergency responders include CPP housing bureau staff who, in response to federal threats of withdrawal of funding, have been drawing down emergency funds once again for the critical care and well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors. I could go on, but I won't. CPP is keeping labor peace. No one wants a strike. As an independent union led by volunteers and

staffed by volunteers, our goal is to preserve stable, high impact jobs in the city of Portland and attract the best possible talent. The city's negotiators seem to be using stall tactics to exhaust us. Makes sense, but let's stop wasting time and tax dollars on expensive mediation and strike preparation. Let's keep doing the good work. Like many CPP members, I've spent years of my career in the private sector. To be perfectly frank, we could make more money working somewhere else. But like you, we know the calling of public service. That's why we're here. All we ask in return is for stability and to focus on the good work. All we want is a fair contract. I hope you'll use your positions to encourage the city's negotiators to do the right thing, not only for CPP, but for all Portlanders we serve. So, I thank you for your time and your consideration, and I thank you for your service to our city.

Hello. Good morning. Council. Mr. Mayor. City administrator. My pronouns are she her, and I'm a data analyst at the bureau of planning and sustainability. I'm also co-chair of the CPP bargaining team as a data analyst. I do the people's business. Analysts like me perform essential services. Our work makes the city's work transparent to the public. We make sure the city is being fiscally responsible, as well as equitable and accountable for our actions. For example, I developed the interactive city or climate and energy dashboard, which is filled with graphs, charts and maps about local carbon emissions and energy use in Portland. The dashboard holds us accountable to our climate goals and shares information about how we make our decisions. I also work with other analysts across the city and our service area to establish performance measures and report on them to ensure we are meeting the city's goals year after year. Without analysts, the city wastes money. We make sure that city work is effective in meeting the needs of the community. Something that I know all of us here want. As I said, I am our union's bargaining co-chair. I am here simply to update you on our experiences at the bargaining table. I am in these negotiations, bringing proposals forward and listening to the city's side. Meanwhile, the city's bargaining team is not doing its part in settling these contracts. We have been bargaining since March 2024 and would expect to be much closer to a settled contract nearly one year later. For example, in the last bargaining session in January, the city's team did not bring any proposals to the table, even though we had already filed for mediation by that point. The city has over 20 outstanding articles. They should be actively negotiating with us. They are not. Instead, a majority of their work is incomplete, and we have only 12 tentative agreements, many of them boilerplate, leaving important things like sick leave, layoff protection and overtime still unsettled. We've pressed for mediation as a mechanism to get the city to do their work, because a slow negotiation is a waste of money for you and our union. We are ready for our members to get what they need and deserve a strong contract. CPP's goal with our first contract is to have clear and consistent expectations for our members. This is our first contract as an independent union, and we are determined to create a solid and just foundation for current and future members. We want to settle this contract. We want. We need labor. Peace. As city workers, we are

united, showing that we love the work we do to serve Portlanders every day. But we also want to exercise our right to organize and be respected by our employer. Thank you.

Thank you for this Opportunity to provide public comment. I live in southeast Portland and I'm a principal at Kurt fisher Structural engineering. I run our downtown Portland office. I also grew up in Portland and I'm now raising my kids here, so I'm Committed to seeing our downtown fully recover and prosper. I'm providing public comment today to offer a recommendation, a recommendation for the council on how Portland can create more housing downtown by updating the zoning code to spur more office to residential conversions, also known as adaptive reuse. Residential conversions in the downtown area will improve our community in four keyways, bringing additional foot traffic that will help downtown businesses recover. Increasing our region's housing stock while providing the environmental benefit of reduced carbon impact relative to new construction. It preserves our historic buildings by giving older buildings a new life and avoids demolition of underutilized buildings. It Makes our city safer because renovated buildings will be retrofitted, which means they will be much safer and more resilient than existing older buildings that often have significant seismic deficiencies. It sounds like a great option for Portland to convert some of these underutilized office buildings to residential. So why is it not Happening? It's simple. These conversions are often not profitable in the Portland market or are deemed to be financially too risky and time consuming. So, if we want to see more office to residential Projects move forward, something needs to be done to address the cost, duration or risk associated with the project. Fortunately, other cities have tackled this same issue and found solutions for potential ways forward. I urge the council to look at other cities that have had success with residential adaptive reuse conversions. One city in Particular is Los Angeles. In 1999, they passed an adaptive reuse ordinance that was the Catalyst for the city, creating 12,000 units of housing in the first 15 years. This was done by making adaptive reuse in certain areas of the city by right, meaning that they just need to adhere to the building code, but get to bypass a zoning code. Requirements and design review. The rationale behind eliminating these steps is that the building already exists, so in some sense it should be grandfathered in instead of applying new zoning and design review board requirements to the existing building. Thus, the main focus of the adaptive reuse projects in Los Angeles is on the safety aspects of the conversion, as mandated by the building code. This shortens the time to get a conversion permitted often by more than a year, and also reduces the risk taken on by the owner. While this is not likely to be the only change needed to make office to residential projects viable in Portland, it is a good idea that the council should consider when next Looking at this issue. Thank you for providing this opportunity to speak, and I'd be happy to provide more information if anyone on the council is interested.

Good morning, madam president and councilors. I'm the co-chair of the government transition advisory committee, or the GTAC. The GTAC serves as the primary advisory body

for the city's transition. The GTAC did not deliberate on the appointment of Michael Jordan, but we did deliberate on the appointment process, and we recommend a robust, well-designed, timely, community informed, transparent city administrator appointment process. In December, the GTAC sent a letter to the mayor and councilors elect detailing our recommendations. We've resubmitted that letter as written testimony. Last year, the city chose to contract with a recruiting firm called modus recruiting to develop a recommended recruitment plan this past fall, after input from hundreds of Portlanders and the GTAC, modus recruiting finalized the draft position announcement. Community informed recommendations for a city administrator job description, and a recommended recruitment strategy and timeline. The reasons for the city to adhere to a good process are to recognize how crucial the hiring of the city's first permanent city administrator is to the successful transition to a new form of government, to set the standard for all appointments to follow, to provide transparency necessary to guarantee the charter requirement, and lift up the qualifications so everyone can see them. To embody community expectations of what it means to have a professional city administrator to align with good government values embedded in charter reform. To provide a roadmap for the city during a time of significant transition and elected leader onboarding, and to serve as an accountability mechanism. The GTAC wants to reiterate its recommendations from December. Acknowledge the overarching purpose of the recruitment is to appoint a city administrator on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications as directed by the charter. Receive a briefing on the recruitment efforts as soon as possible. Recognize modus recruiting as recommended. Recruiting plan is a good example to follow for the initial appointment. Encourage a recruitment that is nationwide in scope. Ensure the process at minimum engages community such as listening sessions and a series of interview panels composed of city and community leaders. Consider whether the recommended timeline can be accelerated, and a city administrator appointed before June 25th without sacrificing strategies to engage community. And early on, establish and communicate to the public your general support for a formal recruitment process and ensure appointment is neither delayed nor pressured to occur outside of an open and transparent process. In conclusion, the GTAC recommends a robust, well-designed, timely, community informed, transparent city administrator appointment process. Thank you.

Good morning, president Pirtle-Guiney and council, thank you so much for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Michael Jordan's reappointment as Portland City administrator, even though I'm unable to be with you in person this morning. So many long history of working with Mike in different roles over the last several years. During my time in the Oregon legislature serving house district 47. Mike and I worked closely together when I served as a state representative on the joint information and audits committee, and mike as the director of the Oregon department of administrative services, was a partner to me and to legislative leadership on a number of critical and complex issues that had statewide impact, whether it was digging into an audit on the department of transportation or bringing new it projects

online for the state. More locally, I want to make sure all of you know about the importance of Mike's commitment and diligence as we work together over the last 20 months on our intergovernmental agreement to continue addressing homelessness collaboratively as a city and county. He was a leader and advocate in these discussions and in the creation of our homelessness response system. His current role in co-chairing the hhs's implementation committee is very important, and the true partnership he brings to this work is notable and commendable. This committee's consistent work to implement the homelessness response action plan is critical to our success. Mike has the proven leadership and experience in overseeing day to day operations across two dozen bureaus and offices at the city of Portland, and he took his responsibility for leading Portland's voter approved transition to a new form of government. Seriously and I know that I as a portland resident, am grateful for that. The city under Mike's leadership has worked hard alongside the county as we've implemented ranked choice voting and continue to integrate a new form of government in the way that we work together. Mike's reappointment brings stability in this transition to a new form of government that the residents of portland should welcome and will definitely benefit from. The power of governmental partnership is a value that we all hold, and I look forward to continuing our strong, effective partnership in all of Multnomah county and the city of Portland's shared commitments and work, both in the work with you as a council and with mayor wilson, and with mike jordan and his administrative team. Thank you so much.

I have a big problem with a couple of things. He could continue as an interim director, but there's no point in making this a contract. The mission is that we need the opportunity to get the highest, best qualified in the country to join us and help us out. No effort has been done to accomplish that and because there's been no effort, I don't think we should postpone this any further and the effort should begin now. And he would continue as a temporary now. The legacy of Ted Wheeler is going to continue as the ruination of this city for many decades. And one of the problems is the people that he elected or chose to serve on staff, and that was a failure. Janet Hardesty, Chris Warner, the committee members of the charter, Mingus Mapps being given to bureau two largest bureaus without the experience. These things are terrible and that's why if wheeler were to run again and the only opposition was a donkey, the donkey would have won. So, the biggest problem with Mr. Warner is he was selected by Chris. Chris was selected by the mayor and this he's already failed in the sense that the charge of the last commissioner before city council and like November was that the city must hire independent consultants to review what could be the biggest disaster in the history of our city. The 32.1 \$2.1 billion cost to relocate the city water works from bull run to gresham. Thats \$2.1 billion. And that excludes interest. The interest on that, including the Wi-Fi alone, is about \$900 million. That's a \$3 billion project to begin with. That was a lie. See what it was going to cost us. It's \$3 billion, so we need to immediately convince the mayor and the current manager to follow the instructions of the city council. We need to immediately hire the independent contractors and consultants to determine if this is the biggest disaster ever

made. This started out as a \$150 million project for ultraviolet, and \$350 million lie for sand filtration to lie was 500 million. Now we can do the ultraviolet for \$700 million, and the bull run project is \$3 billion, including \$900 million worth of interest. We're losing \$8 million a day for every day we do.

At the 350 PDX mayoral forum. I asked the question about whether there would be a national search for the city administrator and would it involve public engagement. Candidate Wilson quoted nothing about us without us. He talked about a search looking for a record of success we could verify in cities similar in size to portland, and then testing their fit with our values and having public engagement in that process. After the zenith decision making, I would urge you to consider carefully these two confirmations. We witnessed a presentation by city staff and zenith filled with omissions, misleading information, and evasion of important questions. Councilors are the policy makers, and this is an important precedent, precedent setting decision that Jordan oversaw. And your involvement should not have been circumvented. City attorney Taylor, when pressed publicly, conceded that there were options for council involvement but did not help you pursue them. I asked my question at the mayoral debate as someone who had followed the city's so-called climate emergency plan, as well as emergency planning as a net volunteer affordable housing policies and public safety carefully over the past four years, and understood that some of the same players worked behind the scenes with industry and business interests to help shelf or delay progressive key policies and push forward other policies not in the best interests for reducing emissions health or for the public or environmental good. We know what happened with the Portland clean air protection program. We watched developers overturn environmental amenities and protections. We follow the cleanup of superfund sites, the economic opportunities plan, the delay on even the mildest options for the phase one build shift plan, much less actual decarbonization, the city's role in freeway expansion, and the list goes on. In the midst of a climate emergency and other pressing needs, we don't have time for these misdoings. We can't afford leaders without courage, nor players who have let Portland slide backward from being a beacon of progress for localities around the country. At this point, other cities have surpassed us in many policy realms, and we might learn from their skilled implementers. We've managed to transform city governance and have this promising city council to build from. But you must fight for your power together as a council in these difficult times ahead. You need city implementers who will deliver on what you decide and what voters have called for. Portlanders want and need honesty, transparency, accountability, oversight, and public engagement. We fear the old bureaucratic culture hasn't yet and may be incapable of allowing this new governance experiment to move forward in the best of ways and with the support it needs, instead of being a barrier. So please consider this carefully, and I would also encourage council to in the future, support the amendment or the resolution by Green and Morillo on zenith.

Good morning, esteemed members of the council. I am a business owner in district four and resident of district three. I'm here to speak today in support of the appointment of Michael Jordan as city manager. As we consider this important decision, I urge you to reflect on the pressing matters of safety and livability that our city faces and how Mr. Jordan's leadership can advance these critical areas. The role of city administrator, as outlined in section 2-406, requires a demonstrated ability to manage complex city affairs effectively. Among the core responsibilities is the imperative to advance the city's core values of equity and transparency. Safety and livability are fundamentally intertwined with these values. By prioritizing equitable access to safe neighborhoods, Mr. Jordan can help foster an environment where all residents feel secure in their homes and communities. In recent years, we have witnessed challenges that threaten public safety and the quality of life in our city, from rising crime rates to the impacts of homelessness. These issues require an administrator who can not only execute and enforce laws but also collaborate with community stakeholders to develop comprehensive solutions. Mr. Jordan's commitment to communication and collaboration, as highlighted in his job description, is essential in addressing these multifaceted challenges. I believe Mr. Jordan will make certain that the deputy administrator of public safety will be present, communicate with public safety organization as well as citizens of Portland. Furthermore, the responsibility to control and administer the financial affairs of the city is crucial in ensuring that resources are allocated effectively toward public safety initiatives. This includes investing in community policing, mental health services, and housing solutions that directly contribute to the livability of our neighborhoods. Mr. Jordan's experience in budget, preparation and finance will be vital in making informed decisions that benefit all Portlanders. Therefore, I know Michael Jordan will do the right thing and not cut emergency service budget in the next fiscal year. Additionally, Mr. Jordan's role in investigating city affairs and ensuring compliance with laws can enhance accountability within our departments. This oversight is key to maintaining public trust, which is essential for a safe and livability. Livable city a well-informed administrator can ensure that our city's policies reflect the needs of the community and are effectively enforced. In conclusion, as we move forward in this critical appointment, I strongly believe that Michael Jordan is well equipped to address the pressing issues of safety and livability in our city. His leadership will be instrumental in advancing our core values, ensuring efficient administration, and ultimately creating a portland where all residents can thrive. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hi, city council members, thank you for this opportunity to address this issue. I'm a small business owner in outer southeast Portland. This new city council is such a refreshing change from the lack of transparency, disregard and disregard for community input of the last city council. Two city councilors have called for an investigation into possible violations of its franchise agreement and make all public records around zena's backroom dealings with the city, which included Donny Oliveira, who is his boss, is Michael Jordan, so they asked for a pause on all zenith related proceedings until investigations have been completed. This council

has made it clear you value transparency and community involvement. Unfortunately, mayor Wilson's interim city administrator, Jordan, apparently did not get the memo. Mayor Wilson, city administrator Jordan, and deputy city administrator Oliveira just screwed over the community, the environment, local tribal entities and stripped power from the city council. You all took away your power by granting zenith energy, the land use compatibility statement. They need to continue to expand their dirty, dangerous business of transporting fossil and so-called renewable fuels with no real public process or oversight. During the public briefing about zenith, dca, Oliveira presented information and misinformation clearly biased in favor of zenith energy. He neglected to mention zena's many violations, including the most recent one that led to the deq to require the new lux. In the zenith briefing, a representative from the Columbia River inter-tribal fish commission clearly stated that zena's proposed expansion violates indigenous treaty rights relating to the river. Why did administrator Jordan ignore input from the tribes? Once appointed, Michael Jordan will be free to defy the will of the council when it suits him. He is clearly not the right person for this job. The community deserves better, the river and those who depend on it for their livelihoods deserve better. And honestly, this city council deserves better. Block this appointment and insist on a real process to find the best person for this job. Michael Jordan has clearly proven he is not that person. Thank you.

Hello. Thank you for entertaining my comments today. I'm here to urge you to not appoint Michael Jordan to city administrator. Mr. Jordan oversaw the 2022 process, which was flawed and illegal. That led to granting the lux to zenith energy. It included illegal lobbying by zenith, parts of which were false or meaningless Concessions that allowed them to continue pursuing their catastrophic climate strategy. Jordan's deputy, Donnie Oliveira, said that the conditions in the 2022 lux quote were based on conversations we've been having with advocates at the time, unquote. To the extent he meant the environmental and community groups who have been blowing the whistle on the backroom deal. This is a complete fabrication. Not only were advocates specifically not consulted during this process, it happened while the city was being sued by zenith over the 2021 lux, where Columbia River keeper was involved in the litigation to defend the city. Instead, the city created a separate, secretive process to pursue its own agenda. Staff also did not explain what made them decide to reverse their decision in 2022, in spite of zenith's continued violation of the comprehensive plan and zoning in its presentation to the city, staff omitted key information, including that zenith has to acquire a new lux because it was caught doing illegal modification and use of piping, and did not have adequate permission to operate. Staff skewed its presentation to avoid mention of any of zenith's past violations, including failure to report its 2022 lobbying and ongoing investigations. Staff declined to answer questions about the construction and modification that was the subject of deq's. November 2024 investigation. Interim city administrator Jordan had the responsibility to interrupt these unethical and illegal actions and see that the process was set on a proper track. He should not be appointed

city administrator. Instead, the investigation proposed by councilors Green and Morillo needs to be pursued.

Good morning, mayor and council members. First, I'd like to register my support for all Portland workers in achieving fair contracts. But I want to say I'm not happy today. I've been very sad and angry since I heard that the city administration granted zenith, the lux, and some office in city hall without any public process. It's not just that I think it was a bad decision, and I think you've heard a lot. We have ample evidence for this, but it's the way the decision was made. My main reason for testifying is to support our city council. Not only were Portlanders kept out of a transparent process on the lux, but the council was as well. The administration of the city, in large part led by Michael Jordan and mayor Wilson. They did an end run around the council on around the council on Friday, two council members let it be known that they planned to introduce the reasonable resolution calling for a delay in the lux consideration pending investigation into whether xena's franchise agreement had been violated. After this, just a few days later, Monday morning, the lux slid through. Why couldn't that decision wait? City staff acknowledged on 121 that the deq's February 4<sup>th</sup> deadline did not bind the city. Where was the respect due to the legislative branch of our city government by the executive branch? Council members at best. Heard about the lux decision a half hour before the public. How will Portland be governed? The public wants involved council members who will ask the hard questions, for instance, about zenith's franchise violations. Maybe councilors will ask the questions that the administration won't ask because these questions might well put corporate players on the spot. There's only one-way I'd even start considering a support for hiring Michael Jordan, and that's if he acts legally, morally, and reasonably and rescinds the lux until the resolution council is Morillo and Green are considered properly. Other than that, we need a new administrator who will work with the city council and the public. And I also want to add, and due respect, we're not leaving.

Good morning, everyone. As someone who lives in the blast zone on the north Portland peninsula and who has worked on the Portland harbor superfund cleanup on the lower Willamette for many years, I'm heartbroken, utterly heartbroken that mayor wilson and city administrators are giving zenith the lux despite their legacy of violations overlooked by the previous city government. And at a time when the future of the country itself is being taken over by corporate interests at every level, it's truly traumatizing. The imminent and ongoing disaster of the zenith oil terminal, which threatens the cei hub where most of Oregon's fuel is stored, is a harbinger of whether or not Portland will be a safe place to live. I urge mayor Wilson and staff to rescind this lux and make time for this new and hopeful city council to consider Greens and Morillo's resolution giving council members time to investigate zenith's violation of the city's franchise agreement. Thank you.

Hi, city councilors. I'm a lifelong Portlander. And I, like many people here, are utterly appalled at the administrative decision to grant zenith deluxe. So I'm here to speak in opposition to the appointment of Michael Jordan. We need a city administrator who understands the emergency we're in. I worked in the labor movement for 40 years, and when I retired, I put my attention to the climate emergency. And boy, that was scary. So six years ago, I was part of a part of a group of Portland residents who built a garden on the railroad tracks at zenith. And we did that because the city had a no new fossil fuels zoning ordinance, but couldn't do anything to prevent this expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure that zenith was engaged in. And we were appalled then. It was wrong. In this time of climate emergency, to expand the transport of fossil fuels around the globe. Five years ago, five of us pled guilty and went to a trial in the Multnomah county court hearing, and five out of six jurors voted to acquit us because we had made the case that we had tried everything else to shut down this ongoing harm in our community and that peaceful protest was more important and more justified than letting these oil trains continue to roll. Now it's five years later. Since that time, and the zenith through put has only increased exponentially in that time. Emissions around the globe continued by zenith. Continued operation here have only grown. The evidence of climate breakdown is everywhere. The time for business as usual is over. We need a city administrator. So, we need, You, the city council, to make sure we have administration who will take bold action on behalf of Portlanders in the midst of the climate emergency, which is only going to get worse. Thank you.

City council and president Pirtle-Guiney. In my friend group, I'm known for being the uppity politico who's always linking news articles and makes sure everyone reads through the voter's pamphlet, even when they have better things to do. After election night, I was put in this weird position of having to defend electoral politics to minimum wage workers who foresaw losing their insurance, friends who foresaw family members being torn away from them, and trans people who foresaw losing access to gender affirming care. For me, the best argument not to tune out was the local elections. Me and hundreds like me spent our summer and fall working tirelessly to elect a diverse and representative city government. We succeeded and this gave us so much hope in such a dark time. I spoke to over a thousand voters and climate came up constantly. Zenith came up constantly. I don't remember a single voter approving of zenith at the January meeting. Donni Oliveira said the fourth was not a legally binding deadline for the city to approve the lux. So imagine how I feel trying to mobilize people against a second trump administration. After the mayor rushes approval through just before the council that we broke our backs for can get a chance to investigate it. Now I look like an idiot. I hesitated to even show up today because I want to work in government, and I feel like testifying today might put me on some kind of blacklist, but there's no point trying if you can't look voters in the eye and say you have their best interest at heart. Mayor Wilson, zenith is a losing issue, and by rubber stamping it, you've permanently tarnished your administration. You started your term by prioritizing the profits

of a Texas oil company over the welfare of your electorate and the democratic process. If you want to see where that gets you, I suggest you ask the previous mayor. I'm not sure what recourse this council has at this point, but it's crucial that the investigation see the light of day. Michael Jordan has been a medium sized fish in a larger, larger ecosystem of voter contempt, dysfunctional blue state governance that, when faced with a fascist takeover of the federal government, turns around and tells us concerned voters just looking out for one another that we're the problem. Consequences may not exist in dc, but I need to believe that they exist in here. Thank you.

Good morning. Counsel counsels. The city administrator is appointed to advance the city's core values, which includes transparency, communication and collaboration. The administrator is also responsible for advancing the city's efforts to mitigate the human made climate crisis and prioritize environmental justice initiatives. It is our duty to call into question the clear violation of our city's core values, city administrator Jordan's and dca Olivera's unorthodox nontransparent process and their poorly communicated decisions, which prioritize zenith energy over the health and safety of Portlanders, will place us in peril for decades to come, relying on the promise of zenith energy, a profit based fossil fuel company with a history of dishonesty and violations, to lead the way in reducing our city's greenhouse gas emissions using so-called renewable fuels, with the clear goal of increasing the throughput of flammable fuels in the hub. Calls into question the commitment of the administrators in advancing efforts to mitigate the human made climate crisis and prioritize environmental justice initiatives. Not only do records show malfeasance and lack of transparency regarding zenith energy, but our administrators also chose to ignore councilor Green and Morillo resolution to investigate zenith and false statements made by the city staff. Rather than collaborate with the city council's call for transparency and clearer communication, our administrator chose to collaborate with zenith energy, advancing their core values over those of the city's rewarding zenith illegal activities. By approving the lux. We need leaders who are willing to admit mistakes and take responsibility for them. We need a city administrator that clearly upholds our city's values. Thank you very much.

You all city administrator, mayor, councilor city staff have my empathy, best wishes, gratitude and commitment to support you to best serve Portlanders. Which means I also want you to immediately reverse your bad decisions, to allow zenith and to cut all budgets except the police. If you don't correct this, it will have devastating, horrific consequences for city governance and funding, public trust and cooperation, success with official city priorities. Local and state economy and environment and harm. The safety and resilience of all Portlanders and regional people and entities. Zenith and cops endanger public safety and mental health, reduce housing security, cost us all while doing us no good and are not our costs and inability to pay taxes. The city bond value goes down. Corporations in the cities overcharge and under service, and wise investors are knowledgeable residents with the

ability to willfully Portland metro. Those who remain will have less money and willingness to pay taxes, have less money, time, energy, health, and ability to do the unpaid volunteer work and community building and disaster resilience we need. Businesses and tourists won't come to such a dangerous, unfair, depressing, violent, ugly place. Stop zenith until it cleans up its mess, complies with city priorities, provides proof of safety, pays fines for its lies and fraud and violations and pre-pays response for future injuries, health care, housing, environmental cleanup and restitution to businesses, nonprofits, governments and civilians to return. 30 years after zenith leaves and cleans up all its mess and harm. Requires zenith to reimburse local businesses, nonprofits, schools and businesses for increased insurance. Because zenith increases our risk. Prevent oil bomb trains so more housing can be more affordable along the tracks. Require zenith have its site proven safe and effective. Fire prevention, suppression, loud and visible public warnings for all people, and environmental cleanup and escape require all cops to pay their own liability insurance to the city and fire them when they don't protect all Portlanders and comply with city social justice, climate housing security priorities, cut the police budget and increase the parks, housing and social justice investments. Have cops enforce laws against polluters, bad landlords, employers that pass homelessness, lying property owners and empty housing units, and bad landlords property managers, instead of wasting money on cops and zenith, invest into what we need for requiring empty, habitable houses and accessible people. Less housing to be available to houseless people, affordable rent, livable wages, local solar, electric and food security, a public bank and public power. Hemp and bamboo for making our own face masks and medical gowns. When the us wars against China and suppliers. The repeated lies and reckless and dangerous all along with and pop culture of dishonesty and violent and unaccountable racism, classism, ableism, sexism endangers all of portland. Our economy and city finances give us reasons to trust and invest, do not.

Good morning, esteemed council members. I'm a tribal citizen of the confederated tribes of warm springs. I serve as chair of the portland harbor community coalition, which is an organization committed to ensuring that the cleanup and future of the portland harbor reflects the needs of impacted communities. I'm here today to stress the critical importance of holding our city administrators accountable to the people that they serve, particularly when it comes to decisions impacting the Willamette River. This also includes tribal sovereignty and environmental justice across the board. As we've heard today, the recent approval of xenos energy land use compatibility statement is deeply concerning. Zenith energy has a well documented history of environmental violations in Portland. That goes without saying. The Willamette River is sacred to Indigenous peoples and central to the culture and survival of many tribal nations. My ancestors have lived along these waters since time immemorial, fishing, gathering and stewarding the land long before industrial pollution made it unsafe. The Portland harbor superfund site is a direct result of ongoing and unchecked industry contaminating the river, disproportionately impacting tribal nations and

other frontline communities and all those here today. Any decision regarding this river must center the voices of tribal nations through meaningful consultation, not as an afterthought, but as a fundamental requirement of environmental justice and treaty obligations. Just as the Columbia River inter-tribal fish commission reiterated at the January 21st listening session. And I'll also go on to say that we've had a lot of outreach with the office of government relations, and we still have not heard back. Councilor Morillo made a point in this discussion. Quote, our role as elected officials is to be watchdogs on policy decisions that are coming before us. The public deserves we deserve to have all of the information in front of us before we make decisions on granting land use credentials like this. Yet we have seen in this process a failure of transparency and due diligence and the actions of mayor Wilson, city administrator Jordan and deputy city administrator oliveira do not exemplify this. The prioritization of the health of Portland residents. Instead, we see dialog and approving the statement deepens the mistrust in city government and also calls into question the commitment to the well-being of our communities, accountability to the health of the river and the surrounding community is built upon trust. We all know this when city leaders ignore the voices of frontline communities, tribal nations, and environmental advocates, they continue to erode the public faith and government and reinforce the system that continues to put corporate fossil fuel interests above the public health and safety of our people. If trust is to be rebuilt, it starts with rejecting zenith's continued expansion and ensures a future that prioritizes environmental justice alongside you all. As chair of the portland harbor community coalition, I know that our communities care deeply about the Willamette River and the health of our people. I want to just end with that. Our tribal cultures are built upon respect for the land, air, water, animals and to each other. And we own the collective responsibility to care for the river for future generations. And we must uphold this.

First, thank you. Councilor Morillo and Green very much. I am a tribal member of the Confederated tribes of multiple tribes of this land and original stewards of our mother earth. You now have the privilege to reside on. And yet you're seeing a decision now contributed to the contamination of our sacred mother. As evidenced by this decision. And despite overwhelming community opposition due to pollution of our air risk, to our health and safety, lack of Portland core city values of transparency. Zenith is a deadly threat to our environment and Portlanders lives. These are your community members. Pollution does not discriminate. So if this decision was made despite horrific risks to all life, it's time to more deeply review the core city values, which should be your values as a city administrator and mayor and should be the lens you hold up to all your decisions to earn our trust. Now only not only was there disregard for the core city values of transparency, but also the fiscal value, which states the City of Portland is dedicated to being fiscally accountable to the public. And whereas fiscal resiliency, climate action, equity and the needs of our most vulnerable, which is us when it comes to this decision, will be the focus of every budget decision. And whereas community values, addressing inequities and transparent budgetary decisions are essential to

developing that trust. This brings me to the city's land acknowledgment, which is rarely acknowledged. We acknowledge that the rivers, lakes, streams and lands of the lower Willamette River rest upon the occupied territories of my people, of multiple tribes. We recognize the many villages, traditions, cultures. And this is your land acknowledgment, cultures and relationships that existed along the river since time immemorial. We recognize these tribes, stewarded these lands and rivers for future generations. We recognize and undertake responsibility for the destruction of the river and land. These are our sacred places. We recognize the economic and social values that enable the harm to the river and perpetuate harm against communities along the river. With this acknowledgment, you all are committed to honoring and learning and working towards a more equitable and sustainable future for the lower Willamette river. We, the city, commit to seeking solutions that acknowledge the inequities of socioeconomic policies and the harm done to people and our relationships, to the lands and water. We want to trust you all. So I ask you, how can you legitimize the harm to us and our sacred mother earth? My concern is this and other decisions and plans don't respect most of the core city values and the fact that administrator Jordan is a wheeler appointee, blocked Jordan.

Hi. Good morning, city councilors. Before I make my case to oppose the reappointment of Mr. Jordan, I suggest you all to look at the room full of people and not reduce us as environmental activists. We are real people. You live in Portland just like we do. So we want our city to thrive, right? And therefore, we are here to weigh in on what qualities of leaders we require of our city administrator. So I urge you to listen from the standpoint of a collective desire to build Portland better. So I am a strategic consultant. So I use data across according to census data, more than 200 000 people moved away from portland since 2020. These are not just taxpayers or figure, but our friends, your neighbors, people that you nod to when you go on a walk, familiar faces at your workplace, and even at bars. People left because we did not see a valid leadership. And that's why you guys are here, where you are. We put you in power. So, when a bunch of kids got into trouble, we look to the school, we look at the principals and ask, why did you allow your kids or your students to behave like that? The former ted wheeler administration has definitely set portland back. And I say with my chest, because I moved here in 2020 and I'm finally feeling hopeful again for my life in Portland, where I want to make myself a permanent home here. So, it's evident that Mr. Jordan, as someone who has worked and dedicated his life in public serving. While often has put Portlanders interests at front, we should also look at the other decisions that he helped made. When people tell you who they are and who they are friends with, believe them. I am a gen z, so I will say Mr. Jordan can be seen as Ted Wheeler's exes. So, I want to empower city council members who are sitting here today and who are asking the smart governance questions to keep asking those critical questions. So, I was at the listening session the last time, and I was very impressed by councilor Green councilor Morillo councilor Kanal, councilor Lane and councilor Zimmerman. To ask those difficult procedural questions in

terms of your power and responsibility in relationship to city administration. Those are the questions that smart people ask, and they are painful. But I ask you to not be embarrassed or scared or rather be proud. Speaking as your constituent, I demand you feel supported, emboldened, inspired, and dedicated to steer a new leadership and no longer only delivers from business influence and corporate interests. Thank you for your time.

Good morning councilors. My pronouns are he him. I live in district three. We have heard from multiple speakers earlier today about transparency, about the need for transparent process in searching for a new city administrator, as well as transparency in city processes and operations and decisions. I would like to point out that the approval of the zenith land use statement is the opposite of transparency. It came out completely out of nowhere with without any input from the community. And it went to a company that has a history of ignoring the law. They went and did construction on their site without any permits. They have been fined by the state department of environmental quality. This is not your friend. And I would argue that city administrator Jordan's decision to approve this decision is disqualifying, and he should not be appointed reappointed as city manager. I urge you to reverse the approval of the land use decision. Do not and oppose the reappointment of city administrator Jordan and support councilor Green and Morillo initiative to bring more transparency to this government.

Thank you for the opportunity. And I certainly do agree with everything that the mayor and the others have said about Chief Bob Day. And I have been working in this city, in this community for many years trying to make it a better place to live. And so these comments that I would like to make in the next couple of minutes are not something that lofty. Ideas are thoughts that we just pull out from emotion, but they are things that are deep to our hearts. And so I just want to express, first of all, appreciation to Chief Bob Day for the man that he is and for the work that he has done during the time that he has been chief. I've known him for a number of years, and I want him to know that not only myself, but there are others that are very, very grateful for all the things that he has done and has accomplished up until this point. He has connections with many people in this city, in this community, and he has connection with all of the communities, which makes him so valuable. And he has proven that he is an asset to what he's done. The years that he has been working and doing the things that he has been doing has grown him into the person that he is. And to me, that is a person that I can trust. After listening to a presentation that he did a few weeks ago, the deep insight, the king perception that he had about the matters that are facing us today show showed me that he was really the right person for the job. When you talk about man, say a black man who is honest, law-abiding citizen who hasn't broken any laws, and when he looked into the rear-view mirror and he sees the red and blue lights go off and his heart beats faster, this shouldn't be. And it has to do with the thing that has been paramount over the years. And that's called trust. And so, Chief Day realized that that is an important factor. And

it's not a one and done deal. It's something that you have to actively pursue on a daily basis. And so these things have brought me to the point to say this, that I believe that for such a time as this, that chief a is the man for the job. And I would encourage him, if he will, to take in consideration to bring more SRO's into the school building. Thank you for this time. And thank you, chief bob day.

Thank you. So. Buenas noches. Good evening, mister mayor and councilors. I play many roles in the community. First, I am a proud mother and grandmother and also proud immigrant from Guatemala and proud from north Portlander. I do advocate for the Latino community in my portland community, which has been my home for the last 35 years. I am the honorary consul from Guatemala, and I have been serving my Guatemalan families in oregon for the last 29 years. In 2020, and a group of Latino leaders and activists, together with the portland police members, we established the new Latino advisory council, on which I am the co-chair, community safety and safety is our city are the foundation on which we all can build healthier families, focusing on education, economic, health, and physical and mental health as a criminal justice conversation is not an easy one. There is a lot of trauma, pain, fear, distrust and blame. But I choose to continue to choose and focus on solutions, on things and programs and projects that could either remove or minimize the community pain to improve our lives. So we need to we must be and feel safe in our communities. Many of us come from home, from countries that continue to experience safety problems and instability. Since I was a member of the first Hispanic advisory council in the late 1990s, In know and I speak from experience of social justice worker and activist. When I stated that the community safety is an extremely important. Elana our new Latino council, in my engagement with many chiefs and officers since 2020, allowed me to say with this confidence and that portland police bureau continues to show up with our community. And chief de and his officers show up to listen, to learn, and to work with our council and our community on addressing community safety in a way that is actually community led and driving. Our relationship with the portland police has not always been a good one or a positive one. We have many times challenge in organization and we have challenged past chiefs. Chief de, when we get together, we ask him our questions. We ask for a countability on criminal investigations and police procedures because we want to know that to. But we also want to inform and guide chief de on how to do policing differently, better, with more humility and understanding and our community needs and perspective and experiences with the police. Last month, I called chief Day and I asked him to meet in person Sunday evening to discuss new federal administration charges on immigration policy. Chief Day came to a meeting and talked to a few of us two hours listening to our concerns but also committing to do his part in homework.

Good evening, mister mayor to the council. President to the vice president. Each of you, as members of our city council and our city administrator. I am the second longest serving pastor at the Vancouver Avenue first Baptist church here in portland. 20 years I just

celebrated, but I'm here tonight, by the way. And let me say, as soon as I finish, I've got to go. I was supposed to be at church in a business meeting with other churches at 7:00, but because of chief day, I did not want to leave. Next time, I'll go and do a zoom. I want to say to you tonight I'm grateful for you. I want you to know that. Thank you for serving our city. Thank you for being in the roles that you're in. I come to you not just as a city manager or rather as a pastor, but a city manager, a person who has been in the role of focusing on issues of public safety and making decisions about who will be the police chief, who will be the fire chief, who will help us run the city. And when I think about that, I think about the greatness of someone like chief Day. He is a great human being. He is well versed in police work. People in my community, as you know, haven't always had a good relationship with the police bureau. But I can say that he is a person who has worked diligently to make sure that he does his part, and those that work for him to make sure that they're doing their part to bridge the gap between police and community. And that literally over time, we all become community. I would also say that he's really one of the things I've been impressed with him about is that he really takes to heart the things he reads, the people that he focuses on. One of them is Brian. Brian Stevenson, who wrote the book just mercy, who focuses on if you are in leadership, then you need to be proximate. You need to be willing to feel uncomfortable. You need to keep going at it and never lose hope. And in all the work that we've seen him do, and I've worked closely with him in a number of capacities, that's what I've seen in him. I will also tell you that there are times that I have not agreed with him, and he and I have been able to have those conversations and to see him be willing not only to hear me, but also to make changes as well. And in our community, we've done the same thing. So I just want to say, I believe that the mayor could not have chosen a better leader at a time such as this than Robert Day. He has my full support and even though I have to leave, I want you to know my hope is that you will concur with the mayor's recommendation. Thank you very much.

I am a Tribal member of the confederated tribes of grand ronde. On this, our sacred land. I need to take a minute to honor t-rex and dog who paid the ultimate price for justice for black lives. And for real police accountability. On this third-year anniversary today, I wanted to sing a prayer. But what I will say, I would like for us to take a moment of silence. Aho! This brings me to ask. Ask for you. City council and chief de to start addressing the core city values. I know I don't believe you take an oath, but these feel like how can you have respect for the constitution and all these other items if you don't have these values in play? Address them in yourselves personally and systemically. These values, especially anti-racism, I mean, they're all special, but a major systemic issue and if not implemented into all your decisions, will continue to cause this city. And as you see this country to erode, we will never experience real accountability, and we will not have integrity and humanity. And the blue culture will continue to be a barrier to a better, safer. Just tomorrow. For all community members, not just some chief de likes. To quote our great black leaders. Thank you. I do too, but I mainly like to quote our community members. I come from lived experience and from the

communities you all are kind of talking about. I feel really outnumbered here with the people who have been testifying far. You're not hearing our stories. So one of our community members, one of my comrades. His concern is, what are you going to do to acknowledge that white supremacy cannot have a foothold in the portland police department, nor the city? Also, another one was concerned about the kind of last minute explanation of the Normandale shooting concerns. Today I attended T rex and dogs vigil. I also went to the black history museum and was asked to fill out this this card. It says young black men. And then you fill it in and it says young black men. I wrote my grandchildren. They deserve a future free of police violence. I would just love for you to all review those core values. Taken to heart. Hang them up in front of you. Don't make any decisions until you have read them and start actually applying them to you. Because what I saw in the very first city council meeting was really concerning.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Council members: As someone who lives in the blast zone on the North Portland Peninsula, and who has worked on the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup on the lower Willamette for many years, I'm heartbroken that Mayor Wilson and city administrators are giving Zenith the LUCS, despite their legacy of violations overlooked by the previous city gov, and at a time when the future of the country itself is being taken over by corporate interests at every level. The immanent and ongoing disaster of the Zenith Oil Terminal, which threatens the CEI Hub where most of Oregon's fuel is stored is a harbinger of whether or not Portland will be a safe place to live. I urge Mayor Wilson and staff to rescind this LUCS and make time for this new and hopeful City Council to consider Mitch Green's and Angelita Morillo's resolution giving council members time to investigate Zenith's violation of the city's franchise agreement. Respectfully, Portsmouth Neighborhood

At the 350pdx mayoral forum I asked the question about whether there would be a national search for the City administrator and would it involve public engagement? I felt reassured by Candidate Wilson's response. He began by quoting a favorite of mine "nothing about us without us". He talked about a national search looking for a record of success we could verify in cities similar in size to Portland and then testing their fit with our values and having public engagement in that process. Experiencing a great sense of dismay about the Zenith decision-making process over this past month I would urge you to consider carefully before deciding on these two confirmations. Multiple times community groups reached out and have not been able to meet with Jordan nor did we get thoughtful responses to numerous important communications. Instead, we witnessed a presentation by City staff and invited guest Zenith filled with omissions, misleading information, and evasion of important questions raised by Council members. Councilors are the policy makers and this is an important precedent setting decision that Jordan oversaw and your involvement should not have been circumvented. State findings and City code backed up by staff's own admissions clearly place both the '22 and '24 decision beyond administrative into the discretionary quasi-judicial realm. Plus Zenith's operations are incompatible with multiple sections of the

Comprehensive Plan and other Portland Policies which LUBA determined the City had the right to pursue. City attorney Taylor, when pressed publicly conceded that there were options for Council involvement, but then did not help you pursue them, because staff had already decided what they wanted to do. Donnie conceded, when pressed, that the City did not need to meet the Feb. 4th deadline. I asked my question at the mayoral debate, not because of Zenith but because as someone who had followed the City's so-called climate emergency plan (as well as emergency planning as a NET volunteer, housing policies, and public safety) carefully over the past four years, I knew that the same players, some of whom have now been promoted under Jordan, worked behind the scenes with industry and business interests to help shelf or delay progressive policies and sometimes pushed forward other policies that were not in the best interest for reducing emissions, public health, or for the public or environmental good. We know what happened with the Portland Clean Air Protection program; we supported Bob Sallinger as he unsuccessfully tried to keep developers from doing away with even minor, but hard fought concessions like glass to prevent bird crashes, green roofs, bike racks; we've followed the work around the clean up of superfund sites ; the discussions around the Economic Opportunities Plan; the delay on even the mildest options for the Phase I Build Shift plan much less actual decarbonization; the city's freeway expansion contributions; and the list goes on. And this is just in the environmental realm, while similar concerns could be listed for other crucial City staff policy recommendations. In the midst of a true climate emergency, we don't have time for these antics. We cannot afford leaders without courage nor players who have let Portland slide backward from being a progressive beacon of what needs to be done in localities across the country. At this point, many cities have surpassed us in many realms and I believe we could learn from their skilled implementers. We've managed to transform City governance and have this promising City Council to build from, but you must fight for your power and show your strength together to ensure that YOU remain the policy makers. In these difficult times ahead, YOU need city staff implementers you can trust to deliver well on what you decide and what voters have called for. We need and want transparency, honesty, accountability, oversight and public engagement. We fear the old bureaucratic culture hasn't and may be incapable of allowing this new governance experiment to move forward in the best of ways and with the support it needs instead of being a barrier.

On Zenith, please support Councilor Green and Morillo's upcoming resolutions.

Thanks for your time and consideration

I am the Climate and Energy Attorney at Breach Collective. I am also a registered lobbyist. During the January 21, 2025 Zenith Work Session, I emphasized the need for cultural change within City governance to restore public trust. Unfortunately, Monday's Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) approval by Portland Permitting and Development – and the opaque process leading to it – demonstrates that such change will not occur without proactive Council intervention. This issue is deeply tied to appointments of City Administrators and Attorneys, whose leadership sets institutional priorities and determines whose interests the City serves. I want to begin by thanking you for your efforts in organizing the Work Session. As I mentioned on January 21, that session demonstrated more

transparency and oversight than we had seen in the preceding two years. The hearing also, however, revealed some worrying dynamics within City governance that are relevant to this agenda item. After the Zenith Work Session, advocates reviewed the video and produced a document that fact-checked the staff presentation.<sup>1</sup> Advocates found that the staff presentation omitted key information. Staff did not even explain why a Zenith LUCS decision was back before the City: because of DEQ's enforcement action and an extraordinary \$372,600 fine. This was the second time that DEQ has remanded a Zenith LUCS to the City of Portland, which as far as we can tell is unprecedented. Staff presented the circumstances around Zenith's LUCS as an unfortunate detour away from a simple administrative process, avoiding the factors which make Zenith a unique applicant, such as the company's history of non-compliance,<sup>2</sup> unique operational risks,<sup>3</sup> and procedural.

We should keep Michael on as City Administrator as he has been handling the transition and he brings some continuity to the process. In addition, he is level headed and bring insight and discipline to the position. Thank you.

We need a new city attorney that will pushback on city council and city agency leadership when it engages in unconstitutional race based focused on city policy and delivery of services. Why does the city youth violence division primarily ship taxpayer dollars to Black Churches to run religious programs? This is ridiculous funding of religious based programming.

Why did we vote to change our city governance only to keep the same structure in agencies and dysfunction? This administrator hasn't shaken up city government the way voters wanted: it's been business as usual. Agencies aren't serving the public, some don't even reply to public emails or answer phones.

In December 2024, the Government Transition Advisory Committee (GTAC) sent a letter to the mayor-elect and councilors-elect recommending a robust, well-designed, timely, community-informed, transparent city administrator appointment process. The GTAC resubmits that letter as support for a good city administrator recruitment process irregularity. These are not extraneous details. Rather, they are crucial, material facts that frame the context of the 2024 Zenith LUCS decision and demonstrate that Zenith is not a typical LUCS applicant and that Zenith's LUCS process should not be a simple administrative decision. Staffers' failure to disclose these material facts raises more concerns about their candor and credibility. For two years, Deputy City Administrator (DCA) Oliveira and others have asserted that Zenith's controversial 2022 LUCS decision was the result of a standard administrative process (despite records and legal precedent to the contrary). Oliveira and others continued to repeat this line to the public even after the City Auditor found that communications with Zenith in 2022 went "beyond what city officials considered the standard process." But during questioning, staff finally admitted that the past Zenith LUCS processes were subject to top-down influence, and highly irregular. This means, for over two years, DCA Oliveira and others regularly repeated self-serving falsehoods, even as the irregularities came to light. Such conduct suggests a worrying disregard for transparency and public trust. Additionally, DCA Oliveira said the conditions in the 2022 LUCS "were based on conversations we'd been having

with advocates at the time.” To the extent he means the environmental and community groups who blew the whistle on the backroom deal, this is a complete fabrication. Instead, the City created a separate, secretive process to pursue its own agenda at the expense of community and environmental advocates, including Columbia Riverkeeper, who at the time had partnered with the City to defend against Zenith’s lawsuit. DCA Oliveira further presented DEQ’s February 4, 2025 LUCS deadline to Zenith as a binding deadline for the City. Only upon questioning from City Council did Oliveira acknowledge that the deadline was not, in fact, a City deadline and there would be little issue in extending the deadline. In sum, staff’s presentation to the City Council continued a pattern of behavior that has created enormous distrust in the community. These omissions and misrepresentations have obstructed transparency and accountability. While such irregularities are now synonymous with City dealings with Zenith, we have heard from our partners in other issue areas that this behavior is increasingly commonplace at the City. This is the antithesis of cultural change within City governance. Yet, in an extraordinary step towards transparency and accountability, Councilors Green and Morillo signaled last week that they would advance a resolution to pause all Zenith proceedings pending investigations — entirely reasonable and legally defensible under the circumstances. Despite this, two days before the Council could even meet to consider this resolution, the Mayor apparently okayed a staff approval of a LUCS, all to meet this inconsequential deadline. In doing so, the Mayor neglected judicial precedent and City Code that decisions requiring discretion — like weighing Zenith’s activities and proposed conditions against the comprehensive plan — require public involvement. This decision also amounted to an outright refusal to conduct Tribal engagement with the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, ensured the City gave up crucial leverage, and deprived the Council of the chance to investigate past City behavior further. Given the background lack of trust in the city from past decisions and the mayor’s own campaign promises, this is a serious betrayal. Advocates have been requesting meetings with and sending our analyses to the Mayor and have been completely ignored. Based on information made available through public requests, it appears Senior Administrators, including Interim City Administrator Michael Jordan and DCA Oliveira, were chiefly responsible for structuring a process that once again ignored relevant judicial opinions and City Code in order to fast track a decision on Zenith’s LUCS decision without public process. Instead of a thoughtful, collaborative process to identify a path forward, Mayor Wilson and his Administrators have already engaged in the type of opaque, non-inclusive decision making favoring powerful interests that voters just rejected. The public understandably wants to be safe from the risks of bomb train explosions, oil spills, and wildfire. These are the serious and known risks that Zenith’s operations pose to the public and environment. Allowing these risks endangers Portland residents and contradicts the language of the Comprehensive Plan. Senior administrators — supported by City Attorneys — have done everything they can to keep us from addressing these issues directly and to instead protect Zenith’s interests above the public’s. Cultural change within the City will be much harder to achieve if those responsible for the City’s current culture remain entrenched in leadership positions, and suffer no consequences for their past behavior. Consequently, this Council should exercise abundant

caution before further entrenching administrative leadership with a demonstrated record of being unwilling to allow for the most basic forms of public involvement, oversight, and accountability. Now is the time to ask questions about whose interests this type of behavior serves because it does serve in the public interest. Thank you for your consideration,

My written and oral comments are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect those of the groups I am an officer of (except St Johns Food Share) Councilors: Did you have a good sandwich or meal tonight? My backyard neighbors in the SRV (Safe Rest Village) did, thanks to the hospitality of the City. Did you have a breakfast today? Did you have a lunch? My backyard neighbors did not. How do you feel when you are hungry? Now imagine you are trying to recover (like 50% of my neighbors at the Peninsula Safe Rest Village). Being hungry doesn't help recovery. Why are they hungry? Because the City doesn't pay. St Johns Food Share provides supplemental food to 5,000 folks in North Portland each month. It is the main source of food for most of the SRV and County run shelters and villages. And will be for the 50 City and 100 County new guests at Bybee Lake Hope Center. When you are making budget decisions - don't forget to authorize and appropriate some funds - \$5-10,000 for each of the neighborhood food banks throughout the City that serve the SRVs and TASS "guests". Now I'm addicted, as are you, to City Council meetings. Last week you kept a safe rest site for folks in RVs open - at a cost of \$2.5 million for 3 months or you do the math - about \$80,000 per RV or more. And they still wake up hungry each morning. We need to do better at getting folks into recovery. That's why we in University Park are pleased that Urban Alchemy is helping 50% of guests avail themselves of services, while many City vendors are at 15%. On neighborhoods - the city spends about \$1.6 million to the district coalitions. About \$100,000 gets to the neighborhood associations. About \$150,000 is spent on insurance to keep the Risk Management managers that you met with yesterday sleep at night. Neighborhoods and the district coalitions were intended to be private-public partnerships - but now over 90% of their funds come from the City. The city needs to EQUIP these groups to become self-sufficient - and not just keep them on life support. I wore out a pair of shoes last summer - I bet you did too - listening to residents at their doors. There's a lot of folks rooting for you. Now let's get to work and make Portland be the best it can be.

I'm from Hillsdale. I have some written comments that have covered some of the territory that you've talked about so far, and more territory. And I just at this point, strongly urge you to read the comments. I have very specific concerns about the drafting, similar to what councilor Clark mentioned and councilor Dunphy mentioned. Then I've got some other bigger points that I think I need to make here. If you're building a strong committee system, you're going to have to defend that committee system. And if you're looking for efficiencies, you need to build the efficiencies into the committee system, not create workarounds, which is what this is what you're trying to do. It's bad practice and you will fall into it and never get out of it, so I'd urge a reconsideration of that. All of this needs to be in the context of protecting the public's right to notice, and right to be meaningfully engaged and meaningful comment. So oftentimes these things are a way to shunt political, public comment away from committees where we want more of it. Again, you need to protect your committees because

they're very important to this form of government. Finally, and just schematically, these sorts of decisions need to be made in public, not by agreement in the back room. By between councilors. Most legislatures have a have a process that you refer it to a committee or don't refer it to a committee. But then you can suspend the rules and have a vote of the council to decide to, to bring it up immediately. That is a better process. That's the more common process. And I'd urge you to consider that instead of deciding behind the scenes, if we have agreement to go to full council or not. And then I have a ton of drafting suggestions for you, and I would urge you to slow down, consider them. And in the last 30 seconds, let me just I don't think this has to be a resolution. You know, you can build this as guidance as you build your rule book. You can staple this guidance together. And then because all these rules have to work together, consider them together later. That's what you sort of decided at your first full meeting. And I hope that's still the plan.

### **Attachments**