

Dear neighbors and friends,

This coming Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, City Council is being asked by outgoing Commissioner Cloe Eudaly to adopt a resolution that **would immediately defund Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI)**, our primarily city-funded coalition of 17 neighborhoods in southwest Portland, and transfer its duties to the SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition, which already supports 20 neighborhoods.

By this Tuesday, we need to generate hundreds of letters to City Council rejecting the Council Agenda Item 966 that would -- effective immediately -- no longer fund SWNI, which has served us for over 40 years, and shift that responsibility to the SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition that already supports 20 other neighborhood associations.

This is an urgent matter. Please send an email **by Tuesday noon** to cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov in reference to Council Agenda Item 996. Several points merit mention in what can be a very brief email (and, please, in your own words):

- You object to the defunding of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and the dissolution of its contract to serve 17 neighborhoods in SW Portland.
- SWNI has been a valuable asset and resource for us for over 40 years. We want SWNI to continue to serve us in its present form and staffing. [Give personal examples if you can, see below.]
- The audit allegations that SWNI mismanaged funds were not transparent and there was no loss of money to the City of Portland.
- This is an unwise, ill-conceived and abrupt action proposed by Commissioner Cloe Eudaly without opportunity for dialogue about its impact on the City of Portland.
- This proposal has not received full analysis of its consequences or with any form of real community input.
- This proposal should be rejected. This is not the way our City government should do business.

If you don't have the time to compose such a long email, simply emailing Council with a short message would be of great help: **"I support the city funded services provided by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition and oppose the move to defund SWNI and move the services to another coalition. This is a very important matter that deserves more community input and analysis. Please reject item #966 and fund SWNI now.**

Please send your urgent communication to City Council members and the City Auditor via cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov so that it gets into the Council Record. If you have already sent an email to the elected officials, please forward it to cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov to make sure it gets into the Council Record.

In case you want to include some of the ways SWNI's services help people in SW Portland carry out activities, here's some suggestions.

- Monthly publication of *SW News* to educate and inform people about issues that affect people in SW Portland and events and activities in our local neighborhoods;
- Periodic all-household mailings to reach those in the community who may be interested in the services available to them;
- Committee support to help people advocate on issues of concern, such as transportation, public safety, parks, equity and inclusion, schools, watersheds and land use, and periodic local workshops and trainings on timely topics;
- Building and maintaining trails through our neighborhoods;
- Fiscal sponsorships for neighborhood projects such as work parties and community building events, sign caps and park benches;
- Advocating for schools, such as the reopening of Smith School to address enrollment needs;
- Building up a Neighborhood Emergency Response network; and
- Being informed about and advocating for all of us on important issues.

On behalf of Southwest neighborhoods, we thank you very much for sending an email to cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov with a short letter of support for funding Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens