

Dear Chair Tomei and Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee Et. Al.:

The Portland City Council supports the discredited and abhorrent public housing policy of Targeted, UNLIMITED Neighborhood Concentration of Public Housing.* The March 5th letter to your committee from the city of Portland endorsing HB 2639 is both disingenuous and insulting. It contains the following:

"a value we all share: that everyone, regardless of the source or level of their income, should have the opportunity to choose where they live."

The city of Portland and its subsidiary, the Public Housing Authority of Multnomah County, have placed properties that **they own or control** into a handful of neighborhoods with the *very purpose of restricting* where Public Housing Clients may choose to live. They have concealed Public Housing Statistical Data to prevent discovery. *The hypocrisy of their support for a bill which would force others to do what they won't is obvious.*

I urge the committee to include in HB 2639 a **requirement** that this legislation is *only enforceable* in public jurisdictions that have **formally approved a public policy of Equitable Distribution of Public Housing and have demonstrated a commitment to that policy by providing accurate, complete and timely Public Housing Statistical Data** to the public.**

Thank you. Good luck and good health.

Richard Ellmyer
9124 N. McKenna Ave.
Portland, OR 97203

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Testimony Before Portland City Council 3-6-2013

Governing is about choices. Charlie Hales has made his choice. He has chosen to follow his predecessor Sam Adams in supporting the discredited and abhorrent policy of Targeted, UNLIMITED Neighborhood Concentration of Public Housing and its commensurate need to withhold from the public accurate, complete and timely Public Housing Statistical Data. You have now made yours.

With the welcome effective change to a Strong Mayor form of city government, *city commissioners are not only free but obliged to challenge or accept policies affecting every bureau now controlled by mayor Hales. That is now your job.*

As a Portland taxpayer, voter and **constituent** I have asked each of you submit an agenda item calling for a vote in support of a change in public housing policy to that of Equitable Distribution of Public Housing. Not one of you has shown the *ordinary professional courtesy* of a response of any kind. How do each of you explain the

dismissal of a **legitimate request** by a **constituent** to take an action which is **now part of your job description**?

I have offered to meet with each of you in public or in private on the subject of Public Housing policy many, many times without response. *Hiding from public debate and discussion on a major public policy matter indicates fear of embarrassment due to an **inability to credibly defend a position**.* This is often referred to as political cowardice an unwelcome trait in elected public officials.

This issue has been in the public domain for more than a decade. It is well known to all of you. You do *not* need more time to consider which of the two available Public Housing Policies you support.

As always, **to do nothing IS a choice to support the status quo**.

By effectively changing Portland's form of government to Strong Mayor, Charlie Hales has given each of you a unique opportunity. You have chosen NOT to *challenge* the status quo public housing policy and *replace* it with a policy of Equitable Distribution of Public Housing. This is now your legacy because there is virtually no chance that after today, March 6, 2013, that you will change your position on this matter for the remainder of your time in office.

I close with this offer. If you know that I am wrong and want to challenge my description of you views on Public Housing policy then let me know and I will arrange to have a public conversation on the matter in front of the largest audience I can find.

Richard Ellmyer
North Portland

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FYI

Public Housing is an enterprise in Multnomah County that annually spends \$200,000,000 on 50,000 clients.

Data Requirements

The following are data field requirements necessary to establish and maintain a public policy of Equitable Distribution of Public Housing. Both the Portland Housing Bureau and the Public Housing Authority of Multnomah County have *refused* to keep this information that is **absolutely essential** for a *reasoned, defensible* public debate and decision making regarding the making of Public Housing Policy and the spending of taxpayer dollars on those programs.

The following fields must be included in every client record:

1. Client income (Must be annually reviewed and reentered if changed.)

2. Client size of household (Must be annually reviewed and reentered if changed.)
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Housing Type Definitions

Market Rate Housing can be either for sale or for rent. The sale or rental price is determined by whatever the highest figure the market will allow. No restrictions, nor discriminations, nor qualifications, other than the ability to pay, are involved in the purchase or rental of the property.

Affordable Housing can be described as either of the following:

- A. Mortgage/Rent + Taxes + Insurance + Utilities \leq 30% of local median household income.
- B. Mortgage/Rent + Taxes + Insurance + Utilities \leq 30% of household income.

Affordable Housing is a calculated subset of Market Rate Housing.
Affordable Housing includes for sale properties.

Workforce Housing is a subset of Affordable Housing built near a client's workplace.

PUBLIC Housing = Means Test + Government Subsidy + Rental Agreement
Regulated Affordable Housing (Metro's Euphuism) = Means Test + Government Subsidy + Rental Agreement

Public Housing and Regulated Affordable Housing are NOT subsets of Market Rate Housing.

Public Housing and Regulated Affordable Housing do NOT include for sale properties.

Public Housing and Regulated Affordable Housing may or may NOT meet the definition of Affordable Housing.

Public Housing and Regulated Affordable Housing may or may NOT meet the definition of Workforce Housing.

Dear Chair Tomei and Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee Et. Al.:

Below is further testimony for HB 2639. It is a direct response to Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish's comments (see below) regarding my previously proposed amendment. Nick Fish has testified before your committee. My email below goes to the credibility and authority of Nick Fish to speak on behalf of the Bureau of Housing and the City of Portland.

Thank you.

From: Richard Ellmyer <ellmyer@macsolve.com>
Subject: Nick Fish Speaks For City Council WITHOUT Authority On Equitable Housing Bill Amendment
Date: March 8, 2013 1:27:04 PM PST
To: Charlie Hales <charlie@portlandoregon.gov>

Hi Mayor Hales:

Under what authority does commissioner Fish speak for the Bureau of Housing and for that matter the city of Portland on this matter? Commissioner Fish is NOT in charge of the Bureau of Housing, you are. I recall *no public vote in the city council which opposes the amendment I have suggested to HB 2639* only an hour or so ago. I recall *no public vote in the city council which endorses Equitable Distribution of Public Housing as the city's new housing policy and the necessary publication of accurate, complete and timely Public Housing Statistical Data.*

The Public Housing Authority of Multnomah County is indeed a subsidiary of the city of Portland. The mayor of Portland has the *singular statutory authority* to nominate PHAMC board candidates. The Portland city council has the *singular statutory authority* to dismiss at his discretion PHAMC board members. *Portland's mayor and city council have complete control and therefore total responsibility* for public policies and spending of its subsidiary, the Public Housing Authority of Multnomah County.

I have repeatedly asked the legislature to reassign control over the Public Housing Authority of Multnomah County to either Multnomah County, or, preferably, to the Metro regional government.

Please note that commissioner Fish **does NOT dispute**, nor have you nor any member of the Portland City Council, that **the City of Portland supports a public housing policy of Targeted, UNLIMITED Neighborhood Concentration of Public Housing and the commensurate withholding from the public of accurate, complete and timely Public Housing Statistical Data.**

Commissioner Fish also misreads my testimony on HB 2639. My support for this bill is TOTALLY CONTINGENT on the inclusion of a **requirement** that this legislation is *only enforceable* in public jurisdictions that have **formally approved a public policy of Equitable Distribution of Public Housing and have demonstrated a commitment to that policy by providing accurate, complete and timely Public Housing Statistical Data to the public.**

I'm sure the House Human Services and Housing Committee, among many, many others, would be interested in the mayor of Portland's defense of *his chosen* housing policy of Targeted, UNLIMITED Neighborhood Concentration of Public Housing.

Thank you. Good luck and good health.

Richard Ellmyer
North Portland

On Mar 8, 2013, at 11:57 AM, Commissioner Fish wrote:
Richard--

Thanks for copying me on your email.

I am pleased that you support HB2639.

The City does not support your amendment.

Among other things, Home Forward is not our "subsidiary," and the legislation does not "force" any landlord to do anything other than to process applications from prospective Section 8 voucher-holders.

We believe the effect of the legislation will be to create more choice, a cornerstone of equity.

Thanks again for sharing your views with me.

Nick

From: Richard Ellmyer [mailto:ellmyer@macsolve.com]
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 11:02 AM
To: Carolyn Tomei; David Gornberg; Andy Olson; Joe Gallegos; Sara Gelsler; Vic Gilliam; Alissa Keny-Guyer; Gene Whisnant; Gail Whitsett
Cc: Interested Parties; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Fritz; Charlie Hales; Steve Novick; Commissioner Saltzman; Naomi Steenson
Subject: Portland Duplicitous In Its Support to HB 2639 Equitable Distribution Of Section 8 Policy

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