

Grant Park Neighborhood Association



November 12, 2014

Mayor Hales
1221 SW 4th Ave #110
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales,

Last evening the Grant Park Neighborhood Association held their scheduled General meeting. One of the agenda items up for discussion was the process by which the proposed "Street Fee" would be implemented.

By all accounts, published articles and Mr. Novick's radio interview on OPB, it appears the City Council is ready to move forward with implementation without the input of the citizens.

Our deep concerns rest on this process to bypass a larger open process of citizen input. Mr. Novick is of the opinion that those "stakeholders" present during the meetings represent the voice of the citizens, but, alas, we strongly disagree.

Portland has been a leader in its "Citizen Involvement" programs and processes, allowing for a greater civic engagement in City affairs. Over the past 40 years the City has invested a vast amount of resources to promote, engage and nurture an active role of its citizens in City government processes and matters, in fact, the mission of our Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Regardless of any anticipated open vote result, we are of the strong opinion that the process must be open, fair, transparent – and representative of the will of the citizens.

We therefore strongly urge you and your Council members fulfill your responsibility to the citizens – nurture our involvement and ownership of our City.

The motion passed by the Board is to urge City Council to bring the proposed Street Fee to a vote of the citizens.

Respectfully,

Ron Laster,
Vice President, Grant Park Neighborhood Association