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From: Portland Fire & Civic Organization Officials <info@munjoyhill.org>

To: info@munjoyhill.org

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 09:51:01 PM EDT

Subject: URGENT: MEDIA ADVISORY Re: City of Portland ☺

MEDIA ADVISORY

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY **Friday, 2:00PM**

MUNJOY HILL ORGANIZATION, PORTLAND FIREFIGHTERS UNION TO OPPOSE CITY BUDGET PLAN REMOVING CRITICAL ENGINE TRUCK & CREW

WHAT: A public call to action and plea to the Portland City Council to reject a budget proposal to permanently remove the City's Engine One fire truck from service & reassign its crew to other positions as part of the City's austerity measures for the FY 2020 budget.

WHO: Leadership from The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 740, Rep. Mike Sylvester, voters from throughout the City of Portland.

WHEN: Friday, May 17 at 2:00PM in front of the Munjoy Hill Fire Station, 134 Congress St. Portland, Maine

Engine One has been a part of the Portland Fire department for decades. While based at the Munjoy Hill Station, it services the

entire City of Portland and its crew also support active burns on Peaks Island. It assisted in the deadly Noyes Street blaze of 2014 which resulted in the loss of six young lives, as well as in the tragic fire on Cumberland Avenue on January 2, 2017.

Engine One is one of only five Engine companies in Portland. That number will be reduced to four should this measure succeed.

Portland residents, already facing a property revaluation and increasing fees from water to trash bags, must be adequately protected from history repeating itself. To remove any piece of equipment from our first responders, including police, would be careless and, considering our past, unconscionable. It will also present a more significant threat to loss of life and property.

The City Finance Committee maintained the cut of this critical piece of Portland's firefighting arsenal at its Thursday night meeting without entertaining an amendment keeping it in place. Now, that budget goes before the entire City Council of Portland. This engine is also based in what is arguably Portland's oldest, most fire-vulnerable neighborhood, with hundreds of old wood-framed homes in a dense neighborhood which also houses hundreds of frail senior citizens.

We are not seeking anything new, only for the City to keep the status quo. We ask you cover this event for the public good and its need for transparent, accurate information not always available from government officials. Questions will be gladly answered following brief remarks.

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