



UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL BUDGET VOTE

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL DEFUNDS/REMOVES MUNJOY HILL-BASED FIRE ENGINE & ITS CREW

**Restores Funds for Asylum Seekers
Program & Approves Additional \$20,000
for Community Gardens &
Additional City Staff**

~ The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization ~

**Engine 1 had been based at the Hill station for over a century,
according to officials with the local firefighters union.
The first motorized engine began services in 1917.**

Dst. One City Councilor Belinda Ray joined councilors Jill Duson,
Nick Mavadones, Justin Costa, Kim Cook and Spencer Thibodeau
in defunding Fire Engine One and removing its crew from
Munjoy Hill Station for reassignment



Friends & Neighbors -

We want to provide you with a final update on one of the issues the MHNO Board have been tracking and working on for many weeks, the City of Portland's budget process. More importantly, the proposed budget by Portland Fire Department leadership and City management to defund the City's Engine One fire truck and its crew which are based on Munjoy Hill but service the City as a whole.

The Hill has been home to Engine One for over 100 years. It is one of only five throughout the City of Portland. The first mechanized 'engine' was commissioned in 1917 and was horse-drawn prior to that. Then, as now, that resource served the entire City, not just Munjoy Hill.

In a 3-6 vote, the Council supported a budget proposal that decommissions Engine One and reassigns its crew. The Council also rejected an amendment offered by Mayor Ethan Strimling that would have added nine new firefighters while retaining the truck.

Those voting to remove the assigned fire crew and fire engine from service were:

- **District One Councilor Belinda Ray**
- **At-Large Councilor Jill Duson**
- **District Two Councilor Spencer Thibodeau**
- **District Four Councilor Justin Costa**
- **District Five Councilor Kim Cook**
- **At-Large Councilor Nick Mavodones**

Belinda Ray, a candidate for Mayor also represents the East End, including Munjoy Hill. Justin Costa, Ethan Strimling and Spencer Thibodeau are also Mayoral candidates.

Those voting against the removal of the engine and its crew were:

- Mayor Ethan Strimling
- District Three Councilor Brian Batson
- At-Large Councilor Pious Ali

During the meeting in which councilors voted to cut fire services, they unanimously restored proposed cuts to public welfare & social services, including providing \$50,000 to aid asylum seekers. An additional \$20,000 in funding to a local nonprofit for overseeing community gardens, and an additional \$51,000 for the hiring of a maintenance worker to support organic standardization of five athletic fields were all items approved by those councilors, including District One Councilor Belinda Ray. Also approved was a hike in parking fees estimated to generate \$500,000 in new revenue.

In the days leading to Monday's vote, Councilor Belinda Ray could not be reached in our efforts to discuss keeping both the engine and its crew in place.

According to Monday's Portland Press Herald, Councilor Jill Duson stated, "The bottom line is I trust this chief. I expect this chief to manage this department. I think he comes to us with a solid plan."

Councilor Duson did not provide her rationale for straying from the budget proposals cutting those services or her trust relating to restoring and adding new funds those new funds.

