

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Verbal Testimony

Agenda Item	Name
713, 714	Alex D'Aurora
713, 714	Be Marston

Portland City Council Agenda  
 Written Testimony - Item 713

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 713	SEIU Local 49	Support	SEIU Local 49 supports this ordinance. As the City votes to authorize a new Arena Operating Lease with Rip City Management LLC, we wish to acknowledge the City's far-reaching investment in good jobs in our community through this partnership agreement and its related responsible contracting decisions. The subcontracted janitors who clean the Moda Center Arena are employed by ServiceMaster of Swan Island and have wages, benefits, and respect on the job protected by their union contract. Please see attached testimony for additional details.	Yes	08/05/24 2:05 PM



Testimony to the Portland City Council  
Provided by Yasmin Ibarra  
Political Director  
SEIU Local 49

Re: Agenda item# 713 - Maintaining good jobs at the Rose Quarter

August 7, 2024

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Yasmin Ibarra and I am the Political Director for the Service Employees International Union, Local 49. We are a union of nearly 14,000 essential healthcare and property service workers, including the City's subcontracted janitors, security officers, and laundry workers.

Local 49 also represents the subcontracted union janitors at the Moda Center Arena employed by ServiceMaster of Swan Island. As the City votes to authorize a new Arena Operating Lease with Rip City Management LLC, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the City's far-reaching investment in good jobs in our community through this partnership agreement and its related responsible contracting decisions.

The union janitors who clean and maintain the Moda Center and surrounding facilities care deeply about the work they do and they are an important part of what makes Portland's Rose Quarter district a world class entertainment destination. Union janitorial contractors offer high-quality services thanks to their experienced workforces that have access to vital worker protections. Union contractors provide fair wages, affordable healthcare, and paid time off, and these protections frequently result in much higher rates of worker retention than their non-union counterparts. In contrast, non-union contractors that offer lower wages and benefits could potentially expose commercial buildings and event spaces to inconsistent cleaning quality and diminished security due to higher rates of turnover. What's worse, the lower wages and insufficient benefits provided by non-union contractors can place further strain on the economy and government resources by fostering greater dependence on publicly funded social services.

The City's multi-faceted investment in union subcontractors for janitorial, security, and laundry services continues to be an important means of supporting working families, of safeguarding our City's residents and resources, and of restoring the public's confidence in our City's future.

On behalf of our members, we thank you for your continued commitment towards investing public dollars in good jobs.

Thank you.  
Yasmin Ibarra  
Political Director  
Service Employees International Union, Local 49

1-800-955-3352  
MAIN OFFICE

503-238-6692  
FAX

3536 SE 26<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
PORTLAND, OR 97202

@SEIU49  
TWITTER

SEIU LOCAL 49  
FACEBOOK

WWW.SEIU49.ORG