

Jan. 6, 2022

Dear Multnomah County Charter Review Committee -

My name is Brandon Goldner, and I'm a Portland resident and a member of the Multnomah County Auditor's Community Advisory Committee.

I appreciate all the time and energy you're giving as part of the Charter Review Committee. I can't imagine how much work it is, and all of it is really important.

I'm writing to ask for you to please support the charter amendments to the Auditor section of the Charter.

In my 10-ish years of public service, I've been lucky to work at many levels of government, both as staff and as an intern. At every level, the degree to which public programs are held accountable to actually DELIVER on what community members deserve and expect is far lower than most folks might know.

This is in no way to disparage the public servants who work extremely hard, sometimes doing the jobs of more than one person, because they want to do their jobs well in service to their community.

Quite the opposite; having a public sector auditing process that can take the time and attention to regularly examine public programs, make actionable recommendations, and follow up on those not only helps the public, it's in service to the folks working in those programs.

Auditing can be stressful for the public sector staff working in a program being audited. There's no doubt about it. But many times, those audits make a super effective case for why more resources, better structuring, or smarter tracking of work is needed... which can REALLY help the people working in those programs.

All of this is to say that a functional, healthy auditing structure helps everyone. In that spirit, I am asking for your support of the charter amendments to the Auditor section of the Charter.

Appreciate you all, and thank you again for your service!

Sincerely,

Brandon Goldner