

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **What's the Difference Between a Politician and a Pothole? People Try To Avoid Hitting Potholes!**

PORTLAND, Oregon - At 10am on Saturday morning, March 8th, Portland City Council Candidate Charles Lewis will take to the streets to fill potholes on an unimproved road in Southeast Portland. Joining Lewis will be supporters, volunteers from the neighborhood and community activists such as Jefferson Smith of the Oregon Bus Project who are concerned by the lack of investment in basic infrastructure. The lack of investment in public infrastructure is particularly apparent in Southeast and Northeast Portland.

Lewis, who is vying for the seat vacated by Sam Adams, is running a campaign based on action over rhetoric and has made improving the City's basic infrastructure one of his campaign's core issues. "We have 127 miles of unimproved roads in Portland and the folks who live in these neighborhoods are suffering. We shouldn't be diverting tax dollars to pet projects that benefit a few elite individuals while roads in Southeast Portland are left in dangerous conditions," Lewis said.

This is the second time Lewis has filled potholes on unimproved roads since he was certified as a "Voter Owned" candidate. Lewis had planned to use public funds for the first "pothole protest". Lewis' check was not cut by the City soon enough, however, and questions were raised by the auditor as to whether or not it was legal to use campaign funds to fill potholes. Rather than delay the event, Lewis decided to use private donations to finance the project. This time, Lewis has received the green light from elections officials to use his Voter Owned Elections money to buy gravel. "On Saturday, we'll be sending a strong statement," said Lewis. "Public money should be spent on the public good."

Lewis' first "pothole protest" was covered by KATU Channel 2, KOIN Channel 6, KPTV Channel 12, KEX News Radio, and the Oregonian. Kim Loth, who lives on SE 159<sup>th</sup> Ave and Sherman, saw the coverage on television and contacted Lewis' campaign to ask for help. In an email, Loth expressed her frustration with the condition of the road. "I have an in home child care business and the potholes on our roads are making it difficult for my clients to commute," wrote Loth. After meeting with Lewis at her home, Loth referred him to All About Stone, a local business that specializes in stone landscaping. All About Stone, which is located at 15935 SE Division Street, agreed to donate tools and equipment (including a front loader) to help with this Saturday's project.

Lewis was the second candidate in the city to qualify for the Voter Owned Elections funding this cycle. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Ethos Music Center, a non-profit music education program that serves 2,200 children a year in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Lewis is also the co-owner of Portland Duck Tours along with his wife Sarah. Lewis has also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Congo, a Habitat for Humanity volunteer in NE Portland, and as the director of the fundraising for “The Dream”, Oregon’s monument to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His dedication to public service, visionary leadership and track record of getting results for the community have inspired supporters across Portland to get involved with his campaign.

This Saturday’s “Pothole Protest” will take place on the street located in front of 15908 SE Sherman St, Portland, OR 97233. The event will feature volunteers from the neighborhood, a front loader, and 30,000 pounds of gravel. Lewis will pay for the gravel with public campaign funds at the event site.

More information about Lewis’ candidacy can be found online at [www.CharlesLewis.com](http://www.CharlesLewis.com).

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