

To the Editor

Please attend an important public hearing about Eugene's Downtown Urban Renewal District (DTURD) on May 23, 2016, at 7:30 pm, Public Services Building, 125 East 8th Avenue.

The City will propose to extend Urban Renewal for another record-breaking 10 years. Over the past 48 years, taxpayers have poured more money into the DTURD than the District's total current taxable valuation. You will be told that the city plans to divert another \$50 million or so of our taxes to Urban Renewal.

Urban renewal is collected outside of Measure 50 taxing limitations. The complexity and longevity of Urban Renewal makes it a wonderful tool for bureaucrats who want to avoid accountability, hide failures, and fund bureaucracies.

Eugene's MUPTE program and Urban Renewal are kissing cousins. MUPTE is also a "tool" to avoid accountability and frustrate measure 50 limitations on property taxes. The millions of dollars of MUPTE tax breaks for developers are simply foregone revenue - citizens will have to choose between higher taxes or reduced services.

Worthwhile projects with public support can be funded in other ways, bond measures, for example. Then, at least, your elected officials must defend their plans and consult the voters.

Is growth our most important objective? Should Eugene become a place where your children can never afford to buy home? Should taxes be for subsidies instead of public services? You should have a say!

Please show up next Monday for this important public hearing, and demand accountability, transparency, and integrity from our elected officials.

Paul Nicholson

1855 E. 28~~8~~Av.

Eugene, OR 97403

[paulnathome@gmail.com](mailto:paulnathome@gmail.com)

541-683-2667