

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Declare the Human Access Project's River Hugger Swim Team, based at Portland Fire and Rescue Station 21 Fire House Dock, as the City of Portland's open water swimming safety ambassadors, and the Official Open Water Swim Team of the City of Portland.

Contact name: Matt Grumm

Contact phone: 503-823-4151

Presenter name: Matt Grumm

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

- Recognize, Human Access Project (a non-profit corporation).
- Establish use of the Portland Fire and Rescue, Station 21 Fire House Dock as the River Hugger Swim Team's permanent home, in recognition of their usage and stewardship of the dock in close partnership with Portland Fire & Rescue since 2015.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

Discuss the impacts of the legislation relating to all of the following if relevant:

- In facilitating the River Hugger Swim Team, Human Access Project pays all material expenses to support its program such as insurance, safety boaters, and other administrative supervision. Additionally, Human Access Project paid for both a ladder and installation for the dock in 2015 and has provided volunteers to keep the dock free from trash.
- Budget impacts – None noted.
- Change in expenses – None noted.
- Current and future staffing levels – does the legislation create, eliminate or re-classify positions now or in the future? None noted.
- Financial agreements –It is anticipated an MOU will be drawn up between Portland Fire and Rescue and Human Access Project to memorialize the ordinance, which will result in no financial obligation.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The proposal formalizes a strong and collaborative relationship that Portland Fire & Rescue has had with Human Access Project since the Fall of 2014. Human Access Project's, River Hugger Swim Team has worked closely with Portland Fire & Safety to establish safety protocol for their open water swim group, installation of a safety ladder (paid for by the Human Access Project), and continues to do work on an on-going basis to reduce nuisance activity around the dock and to improve safety on the Willamette River for recreational swimmers.

- The River Hugger Swim Team is inclusive and open to all individuals with intermediate level swimming skills as defined by being able to swim a mile in a pool in under 45 minutes. The swim serves all income levels.
- The River Hugger Swim Team is inclusive and draws people from all neighborhoods in Portland and visitors to Portland.

- In 2017 over 200 individuals participated in the River Hugger Swims, on average 30-40 people swim each session. Human Access Project anticipates continued growth of participation.
- The Willamette River is Portland's largest public open space and natural area, owned by the citizens of Oregon. Collectively our citizens have paid \$1.44 billion to install The Big Pipe Project, the largest civil works project in City of Portland's history. The result is that The Willamette River is safe for swimming from a human health prospective in the summertime. Human Access Project has made significant progress of their mission work of "Transforming Portland's relationship with the Willamette River" enabling the community to recognize the river as a positive, inclusive, and healthy community resource.
- A potential issue relates to interpretation of the proposed 2017 electrical code, which has not yet been adopted by the State of Oregon NFPA 70 -2017 Article 555. While the code expresses a laudable intent to reduce Electric Shock Drowning (ESD), in doing so the code is overbroad and unduly restrictive. Specifically, the code makes no distinction among Marinas, Boatyards, Commercial and Non-Commercial Docking Facilities, which is significant because virtually all ESD risk occur at Marinas (the by far and away leading source of ESD), which have exterior outlets that boats plug into. The second leading cause of ESD (which is significantly less than marinas) relates to irrigation pumps and privately owned docks. These statistics are set forth in electricshockdrowning.org, which maintains a list of all reported ESD incidents; notably, since 1986, there have been a total of 99 cases (an average of 3 per year) - the vast majority of these cases have occurred at marinas. In fact, over the past thirty years, there has not been one documented case of ESD at a publicly owned dock. Further of the 99 documented cases on the electricshockdrowning.org website over 25% of these cases document non river related ESD cases such as swimming pools, natural disasters to public infrastructure such as powerlines and human misjudgment (such as standing in water with an electric charger). It is important to note, any risk, however remote, at any electrified dock can virtually be eliminated with the addition of GFCI breakers, such as are installed at the Station 21 Fire House Dock. For all these reasons, and more, the Station 21 Fire House Dock has been inspected and has been deemed as an acceptable risk by an independent electrician hired by the Portland Fire & Rescue.
- Human Access Project constituents are anticipated to testify. The main speaker from the community will be Willie Levenson of Human Access Project.

100% Renewable Goal:

An activated Willamette River will reduce car traffic out of town. The Willamette River is Portland's largest public open space and natural area. It is a vastly underused asset, presently people are driving cars outside the city for river based recreation (swimming) due the extreme deficit of river edge access. Further, the Willamette River is very well served by bike and walking paths and public transportation.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.☒ **NO:** Skip this section

| Fund | Fund Center | Commitment Item | Functional Area | Funded Program | Grant | Sponsored Program | Amount |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

July 11, 2018

SALTZMAN MOTION TO ITEM 729:

Motion to amend 4th WHEREAS to “4% of the Willamette River shoreline in the central city has a sandy, publicly-accessible entry point; add “WHEREAS, the Willamette River is Portland’s second largest public open space”; amend the 9th WHEREAS to delete “adopted to be” and add “for public information”: Moved by Saltzman and seconded by Fish. (Y-3)

37372

WHEREAS, according to Portland Parks and Recreation only ~~5% of the central city has access to Portland's largest public open space and natural area, the Willamette River~~ 4% of the Willamette River shoreline in the central city has a sandy, publicly-accessible entry point; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette River is Portland's second largest public open space; and

...

WHEREAS, Human Access Project developed a swimming safety policy that was vetted by Portland Fire, Multnomah County River Patrol, US Coast Guard and AMR-River Rescue that was later ~~adopted to be used~~ for public information by Portland Parks and Recreation; and