



**DATE:** August 2, 2018

**TO:** Portland City Council  
Auditor Mary Hull Caballero

**FROM:** Nick Fish, Commissioner

**CC:** Council Clerk

**SUBJECT:** The City of Portland's Project SEARCH Pilot Program Report

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The City of Portland is committed to being a model employer. That includes recognizing that people with disabilities are an essential part of our community.

We value a workforce that is representative of the communities we serve. And we know that employing people with disabilities contributes to a more creative and innovative community. Unfortunately, across Portland and the nation, people with disabilities experience unemployment and underemployment at significantly higher rates than non-disabled people.

In response to that challenge, Project SEARCH, an internationally-recognized program, provides opportunities for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities to build job skills in the workplace. Project SEARCH interns work at more than 350 sites throughout the United States, as well as Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

In 2016, Commissioner Fish met with representatives of Project SEARCH with the intention of launching a partnership with the City. He then toured a similar program at the City of Seattle.

Commissioner Fish, in partnership with the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR), directed the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) to launch a pilot internship program with

Project SEARCH. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the City of Portland kicked off the first 9-month pilot program in the City's utility bureaus.

The pilot program had 5 interns participate in three 10-week internships, with daily classroom-based training. Interns at PWB worked with the Water Quality, Dispatch, Mapping, and Safety teams, and interns at BES worked with the Engineering, Billing, Pollution Control, and front desk teams.

The first class of interns graduated on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

As of July 2018, BHR is coordinating phase two of the Project SEARCH internship pilot program. This opportunity will connect interested City bureaus with interns with intellectual or developmental disabilities and provide an opportunity for BHR and the City to begin building a sustainable, impactful supported employment program. During this time, BHR will explore and evaluate similar programs in other organizations, such as the City of Seattle and Oregon Health & Science University, to learn about and incorporate best practices.

Throughout the duration of the Project SEARCH pilot, BHR will collect valuable feedback from internal and external City stakeholders. Based on the success of the first-year pilot, BHR plans to create a City-wide program with a focus on people with varying disabilities.

#### Acknowledgements:

The first year of this pilot internship program could have not happened without the support of the Portland Water Bureau, the Bureau of Environmental Services, the Bureau of Human Resources, Project SEARCH, Community Access Services, Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Multnomah County Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services, Portland Commission on Disability, and the Project SEARCH Steering Committee. Thank you.

#### Presenters:

Anais Keenon, Bureau of Human Resources  
Mer Stevens, Community Access Services  
Trey Schneider, Project SEARCH  
Carol Stahlke, Portland Water Bureau

Agenda No.

**REPORT**

Title

Report

The City of Portland's Project SEARCH Pilot Program Report (Presentation)

<b>INTRODUCED BY</b> Commissioner/Auditor: <b>Nick Fish</b>	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>JUL 24 2018</u>
<b>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</b> Mayor—Finance & Administration - Wheeler Position 1/Utilities - Fritz Position 2/Works - Fish <i>SMF for Nick Fish</i> Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman Position 4/Safety - Eudaly	Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland  By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Deputy
<b>BUREAU APPROVAL</b> Bureau: Comm Fish Bureau Head: Nick Fish	ACTION TAKEN: AUG 02 2018 <b>ACCEPTED</b>
Prepared by: Asena Lawrence Date Prepared: July 23, 2018	
<b>Impact Statement</b> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>City Auditor Office Approval:</b> required for Code Ordinances	
<b>City Attorney Approval:</b> required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan	
Council Meeting Date: Aug. 2, 2018	

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA			COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
<b>TIME CERTAIN</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: <u>2:00pm</u>  <b>Total amount of time needed: 45 minutes</b> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)						YEAS	NAYS
<b>CONSENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		1. Fritz	1. Fritz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
		2. Fish	2. Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
		3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
		4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>REGULAR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Total amount of time needed:</b> _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)		Wheeler	Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			