

Portland City Council Agenda
 Written Testimony - Item 949

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	949	Anonymous	Support		No	10/25/24 2:07 PM
2	949	Anonymous	Support	The Portland Diamond Project's plan would benefit the city in the absolute best way possible. It is exactly what this city needs to revitalize downtown.	No	10/26/24 7:17 AM
3	949	Lance Randall, Black Business Association of Oregon	Support		Yes	10/28/24 1:39 PM
4	949	Jim Etzel, Sport Oregon	Support		Yes	10/29/24 9:21 AM
5	949	Oregon Business & Industry	Support		Yes	10/30/24 2:57 PM



October 28, 2024

Re: Item 949: Support for Efforts to Bring Major League Baseball to Portland

Dear Portland City Council:

My name is Lance Randall and I am the Executive Director of the Black Business Association of Oregon and a board member of Sports Oregon. I am writing to express my support for the Resolution to Declare Support of the Portland Diamond Project efforts to Bring Major League Baseball to Portland and Construct a New Stadium in the South Waterfront Neighborhood at Zidell Yards.

When it comes to attracting sports teams to a city it is important for local elected officials to lead the charge. Portland is in a great position to recruit a major league baseball team as evidenced by the presence of the Trailblazers, Timbers, Thorns and soon to WNBA team. Approving the resolution will clearly send a message that the Mayor and City Council are ready to do what is necessary to bring a major league baseball team to Portland.

I strongly urge unanimous support for the resolution and look forward to Portland competing for a major league baseball team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance".

Lance J. Randall
Executive Director



Contact
info@sportoregon.org
503-234-4500

Address
1939 SW Morrison St.
Portland, OR 97205

October 30, 2024

Re: Item 949: Support **Declare support for Portland Diamond Project efforts to bring Major League Baseball to Portland and construct a new stadium in the South Waterfront neighborhood at Zidell Yards**

Good afternoon . My name is Jim Etzel, CEO of Sport Oregon.

Sport Oregon is a non-profit association with over 150 diverse members whose mission is to spur economic growth and enhance positive social impacts through sports. We do this with our focus on sport tourism and access to sports & recreation – especially for youth. We work to bring regional, national and international sporting events to our city and state that drive economic and quality of life impacts for Oregon.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Sport Oregon strongly supports the Resolution to Declare Support for the Portland Diamond Project Efforts to Bring Major League Baseball to Portland and Construct a New Stadium in the South Waterfront Neighborhood at Zidell Yards.

Sports are integral to the identity of our city, the region and the state. Along with Portland's Trail Blazers, Timbers, Thorns and Portland's new WNBA Team, the addition of a major league baseball team, with 81 home games will catapult Portland and the state as a major player in the world of sport!

It is without question that sports are a telling reflection of a society's values, and they are a significant contributor as well. This is at the core of Portland's DNA.

With major league baseball eyeing its expansion with two new franchises, we know that Nashville is well positioned with its own efforts and that Salt Lake City has emerged as a competitor for a west coast expansion team.

Portland must step up now and this resolution does just that!

It's encouraging to see this resolution being voted on today. This is what the MLB Commissioner needs to see- we must boldly and loudly proclaim that Portland wants to be selected for an expansion team and that it supports the Portland Diamond Project's efforts.

A particular part of the resolution in front of you resonates greatly with me and the organization I lead: "*WHEREAS the future strength of Portland's Central City depends in large part on robust sports, entertainment, travel, and tourism offerings to ensure it remains an attractive area for investment and development.*" We can't agree more.

We urge you to support the resolution and the next steps that it lays out by a unanimous vote. Portland needs to send a strong message that we want a major league baseball team.

Thank you for your efforts and on behalf of the future of Portland.



October 30, 2024

Re: Item 949 – Support (Declare support for Portland Diamond Project efforts to bring Major League Baseball to Portland and construct a new stadium in the South Waterfront neighborhood at Zidell Yards)

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is non-profit association with member companies of all sizes, from all industries and from all parts of the state. OBI's mission is to create a healthy, prosperous and competitive economy; and through research, education and advocacy, OBI is a leading voice for Oregon's private sector.

OBI is proud to support Item 949, the resolution declaring "support for Portland Diamond Project efforts to bring Major League Baseball to Portland and construct a new stadium in the South Waterfront neighborhood at Zidell Yards."

Economic growth is imperative for the future well-being of our state, local communities and the people who call them home. We are particularly motivated by this portion of the resolution:

"WHEREAS the future strength of Portland's Central City depends in large part on robust sports, entertainment, travel, and tourism offerings to ensure it remains an attractive area for investment and development."

A major league team would bring robust – and needed – economic activity to our region through myriad sectors positively affected by an expansion team. We have seen this unfold in other metro areas. It is time for Portland to seize its opportunity.

Further, businesses rely on an ecosystem that includes not only a positive, supportive business climate, but also includes elements that build a quality of life and sense of community that attracts and retains employees. Sports and recreation are an enormous contributor to this, particularly in Portland.

We urge you to support the resolution and send a strong message in support of bringing a major league baseball team to Portland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by Angela Wilhelms – President & CEO, Oregon Business & Industry.

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 30, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	949	Julia Brim-Edwards
2	949	Jim Etzel
3	949	Will Mespelt
4	949	Andrew Hoan