



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

**OFFICIAL
MINUTES**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1998 AT 9:30 A.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Hales, Kafoury and Sten, 4.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cay Kershner, Clerk of the Council; Harry Auerbach, Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Chuck Bolliger, Sergeant at Arms.

Alex Johnson, representing volunteers in the Forest Park Ivy Removal Project, updated Council on their efforts to remove the ivy in Forest Park.

Agenda No. 1272 was pulled from Consent. On a Y-4 roll call, the balance of the Consent Agenda was adopted as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA - NO DISCUSSION

- 1244** Accept bid of Triad Mechanical, Inc. for PDX Post Office pump station for \$315,120 (Purchasing Report - Bid 99011)

Disposition: Accepted; prepare contract.

- 1245** Accept bid of USA Waste of Oregon for furnishing the Columbia Blvd. Wastewater Treatment Plant with transportation and disposal of grit and screenings for an estimated annual amount of \$480,000 (Purchasing Report - Bid 99014)

Disposition: Accepted; prepare contract.

- 1246** Accept bid of Bengel Construction for Sunderland Yard for \$1,085,499 (Purchasing Report - Bid 99018)

Disposition: Accepted; prepare contract.

- 1247** Accept bid of Perkin Elmer for furnishing the Water Pollution Control Lab with a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer for \$76,112 (Purchasing Report - Bid 99027)

Disposition: Accepted; prepare contract.

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Mayor Vera Katz

1248 Confirm reappointments of Nancy Merryman and Chris Kopca to the Portland Design Commission (Report)

Disposition: Confirmed.

1249 Confirm appointment of Coventry L. Cable to the Civil Service Board (Report)

Disposition: Confirmed.

1250 Confirm reappointment of Robert Ueland to the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (Report)

Disposition: Confirmed.

1251 Confirm appointment of William Warren to the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (Report)

Disposition: Confirmed.

***1252** Establish a new classification and salary for Sr. Building Plan Examiner in accordance with the Personnel Rules adopted by the City Council (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172615. (Y-4)

***1253** Give final approval for the issuance of Multifamily Housing Tax Credit Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$23,000,000 (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172616. (Y-4)

***1254** Issue Sewer System Revenue Bonds (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172617. (Y-4)

***1255** Pay claim of Jay L. Maxwell v City of Portland et al (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172618. (Y-4)

***1256** Pay claim of Erin Pasco (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172619. (Y-4)

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Commissioner Jim Francesconi

- *1257** Grant Specially Attended Transportation permit to Comfort Medical Transportation (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172620. (Y-4)

- *1258** Authorize agreement with the United States Golf Association to hold the 2000 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Heron Lakes Golf Course without payment of greens fees (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172621. (Y-4)

Commissioner Charlie Hales

- 1259** Set hearing date, 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 23, 1998, to vacate a portion of SW Hessler Drive (Report; C-9918)

Disposition: Adopted.

- 1260** Accept completion of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden pathway modification project and authorize final payment to Reimers & Jollivette, Inc. (Report; Contract No. 31346)

Disposition: Accepted.

- *1261** Authorize a contract with Synertech Systems Corporation and CSDC Systems, Inc. for \$632,940 to convert and customize a computerized permit tracking system and authorize payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172622. (Y-4)

- *1262** Authorize a contract and provide for payment for the development of Lincoln Park (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172623. (Y-4)

- *1263** Amend lease agreement between the City and Si-Lloyd Associates Limited Partnership to amend mortgage language (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 25532)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172624. (Y-4)

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- *1264** Amend lease agreement between the City and Si-Lloyd Associates Limited Partnership to reduce lease areas and to amend mortgagee language (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 25533)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172625. (Y-4)

- *1265** Revocable permit to Widmer Brothers Brewing to close N Russell between Mississippi and Interstate on September 12, 1998 (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172626. (Y-4)

- *1266** Revocable permit to Art in the Pearl to close NW Davis, Everett and Flanders Streets between Park and 8th Avenues and NW 8th between Glisan and Flanders and NW Park between Couch and Davis from September 4 through September 7, 1998 (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172627. (Y-4)

- *1267** Adopt the Report and Recommendations of the Planning Commission on the Citywide Environmental Overlay Zone Map Refinement Project II and adopt amendments to the Official Zoning Maps of the City of Portland (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172628. (Y-4)

Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury

- *1268** Contract with the Senior Job Center for \$137,500 for the Senior Home Repair and Maintenance program and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172629. (Y-4)

- *1269** Contract with National Development Council for \$60,000 to provide professional services to the Bureau of Housing and Community Development consisting of technical assistance and financial packaging services in the area of alternative financing linked to the Community Development Block Grant and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172630. (Y-4)

- *1270** Contract with the Housing Development Center for \$118,119 to provide technical assistance to non-profit developers of affordable housing and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172631. (Y-4)

- *1271** Contract with Portland Community Reinvestment Corporation for \$30,000 to implement a tenant child care assistance program and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172632. (Y-4)

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- *1273** Contract with Network Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. for \$55,000 to support affordable housing development and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172633. (Y-4)

- *1274** Agreement with SE Works for \$28,006 to assist young people in Outer SE Portland in acquiring unsubsidized employment and to provide for payment (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172634. (Y-4)

- 1275** Amend City Code Title 13 to reflect revised Multnomah County Animal Control provisions applying within the City subject to certain conditions; repeal Section 13.10.015, which regulates possession of certain large cats (Second Reading Agenda 1237; amend Section 13.05.005; repeal Section 13.10.015)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172635. (Y-4)

Commissioner Erik Sten

- *1276** Authorize intergovernmental agreement with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish a station to monitor snow cover and precipitation in Bull Run watershed without advertising for bids (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172636. (Y-4)

- 1277** Authorize a two-year intergovernmental agreement with Multnomah County to administer eligibility verification and coordinate plumbing repairs for the Water/Sewer Enhanced Fixture Repair program (Ordinance)

Disposition: Passed to Second Reading September 2, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

- 1278** Contract with TT/CMI, Inc. to supply qualified engineering, construction management, inspection and project support personnel upon request (Second Reading Agenda 1233)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172637. (Y-4)

- 1279** Contract with CMTS, Inc. to supply qualified engineering, construction management, inspection and project support personnel upon request (Second Reading Agenda 1234)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172638. (Y-4)

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City Auditor Barbara Clark

- *1280** Assess system development charge contracts and Private Plumbing Loan Program contracts (Ordinance; Z0691, T0011, T0012, P0036)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172939. (Y-4)

REGULAR AGENDA

- *1272** Contract with Housing Our Families, Inc. for \$70,000 to support affordable housing development and provide for payment (Ordinance)

Discussion: Cay Kershner, Clerk of the Council, said an amendment is needed to change the amount of the contract from \$115,000 to \$70,000.

Commissioner Kafoury moved that amendment. Commissioner Hales seconded and, hearing no objections, the Mayor so ordered.

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172640 as amended. (Y-4)

- 1242** **TIME CERTAIN: 9:30 AM** - Accept the Portland Police Bureau 1998 Community Assessment Survey and Appendix (Report introduced by Mayor Katz)

Discussion: Police Chief Charles Moose said they are sharing information about this community survey for the Police Bureau with regard to measuring victimization, safety perceptions and overall satisfaction with Police services. Similar surveys, done in 1994 and 1996, provide a basis for identifying areas for improvement.

John Campbell, Campbell DeLong, described the sampling methodology for the surveys, which were done with 1,250 randomly selected households. Of those, 370 had contacts with either the Police Bureau or 9-1-1 about a public safety matter in the 12 months preceding the survey. In general, overall victimization rates have remained unchanged but the severity of crimes has lessened and there were improvements in the perceived crime trends from 1994 to 1996, which have held steady since then. Ten to 20 percent rated their contacts with police as poor, with customer service issues driving those concerns. Residents are somewhat less involved with each other and very high neighborhood turnover rates, approximately 50 percent, underscore a need to repeat messages often.

Mayor Katz asked if updated demographics are available about the turnovers as a 50 percent rate is huge.

Mr. Campbell said that data is available by large geographic area and can be pulled out quickly.

Mayor Katz said this information will help Council identify where to go next in its community policing methods.

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Commissioner Kafoury asked if stability in the satisfaction ratings indicates a need for change.

Mr. Campbell said the intent of the survey was to measure things that, if done right, could be expected to show improvement over time.

Chief Moose said holding steady is seen as a positive outcome, considering the increase in population. However, the ultimate goal is to show real improvements.

Mayor Katz said a 50 percent neighborhood turnover is a big deal and Council needs to look at the implications that has on other City services, community stability and the schools. However, more data is needed before Council can problem solve here.

Commissioner Hales said the high turnover rate also has implications for other agencies, such as the neighborhood associations, which will need to make more efforts to get people connected, especially as the survey shows that fewer people know their neighbors.

Mayor Katz said Tri-Met sends free bus tickets to people who move in to the area and perhaps the City can piggyback on that.

Commissioner Hales said this kind of turnover raises a lot of issues about how much marketing the bureaus should do.

Commissioner Sten asked how different this turnover rate is from past years.

Mr. Campbell said it is similar to what the surveys showed for 1994 and 1996, but there is no data for the 1980s.

Sharon McCormack, Crime Prevention, Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), stressed the importance of marketing effective programs. She said sometimes people do not report crimes because they do not want their insurance to go up or do not want to bother police, etc. She said ONI will work with the police to track neighborhood crime patterns, using a new computerized system, and as neighborhood watch blocks are formed, they will track the difference those organizing efforts make. As crime patterns shift to other areas, citizens often organize around a specific problem rather than through the neighborhood watch program. The Crime Prevention Specialists want to get them to take next step and form an organized, communicating system.

Mayor Katz said it will be interesting to see if the new technology finds any correlation between crime activity and turnover rates by neighborhood.

Disposition: Accepted. (Y-4)

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***1243** **TIME CERTAIN: 9:45 AM** - Amend City Code to establish the Johnson Creek fill mitigation bank (Ordinance introduced by Commissioner Sten; add Code Section 17.38.060)

Discussion: Commissioner Sten said one of the concepts in the Johnson Creek Plan was to create a mitigation bank on the fringes of the 100-year flood plain, where development is allowed, so if someone could not do a large enough cut on their own property, they could contribute money into a fund the City could use to create flood mitigation closer to the creek. This is a pretty straight forward program, not a discretionary one, which shows which parcels are eligible.

Dean Marriott, Director, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), presented a map depicting the area north of the Springwater Corridor, away from Johnson Creek and outside the most substantial flood area, even though it is still subject to flooding. That flood area has been divided into two zones -- the core area which is subject to more frequent flooding, and the fringe area, which has less flooding. He said the differentiation was made so that property owners can see the impact to their property and because BES wanted a two-tier fee schedule. People in the fringe area would pay \$12 a yard for fill which cannot be mitigated and those in the core area would pay \$70. The costs are equal to the public cost of developing wetlands and represent what society would have to pay to offset that kind of fill. He said they tried to make the process as easy as possible, with the Bureau of Buildings determining whether an applicant qualifies and calculating the fee. Applicants will be required to post public notice on their property to allow nearby residents to contact their neighborhood association or the City if they have any concerns. The money collected will go into a fund the City will use for mitigation. Mr. Marriott said the Bureau held a public meeting with all residents who had indicated an interest.

Commissioner Hales said this a good piece in the City's overall effort to manage an almost intractable problem.

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172641. (Y-4)

Commissioner Charlie Hales

1281 Institute local improvement proceedings to assist in funding the capital cost of the Central City Streetcar Phase I project, accept the Program Statement for the Central City Streetcar Phase I project to comply with the requirement to file construction plans and specifications and detailed engineering estimates and declare Council's purpose and intention to undertake improvements in accordance with the Project Program Statement (Resolution)

Discussion: Commissioner Hales said this is one more example of remarkable leadership shown by the City and the community. He said it is especially noteworthy that property owners have agreed to tax themselves \$8 million in order to build this streetcar. He proposed amendments to reflect a change in the numbers since the filing date. They have now received petitions from 62 percent of the affected property owners, representing 51.1 percent of the land area. Commissioner Kafoury seconded and, hearing no objections, the motion passed. (Y-4)

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Michael Powell, 7 NW 9th, 97209, said he is very excited about the results of their work on the Local Improvement District (LID). He said they expect to meet their schedule and complete the streetcar in 2000. He noted that homeowners and condo owners are exempt but not rental properties. The strength of this public/private partnership is demonstrated in the list of those who signed the petition in support of the LID, including the Portland Art Museum, churches, hospitals, retailers, etc. He said they are very pleased that they were able to bring in more than 50 percent of the land area and added that consultant Roger Shiels, deserves a lot of the credit for this.

Commissioner Hales expressed his thanks to Mr. Shiels, Office of Transportation (PDOT) staff and the incredible volunteers who have been going door to door asking people to sign up for big assessments for something they have never seen.

Mayor Katz said this would not have happened without community support. The streetcar will change the face of the Central City and begin to revitalize 10th and 11th Avenues, pushing development further west. She said this is one of the City's efforts to support and maintain the urban growth boundary.

Disposition: Resolution No. 35721 as amended. (Y-4)

***1282**

Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation to provide planting of street trees by urban youth along NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Ordinance)

Discussion: Andre Baugh, Office of Transportation, said this was an opportunity to hire minority youth and expose them to work in the construction trades. He said PDOT worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Urban League to enable 10 youth to participate in this tree planting project along MLK.

Lawrence Black, Urban League, said the League has worked diligently to provide real and relevant employment opportunities to more minority youth. This project also allows the participants to be involved in revitalization of their own neighborhood.

Darlene Maddux, Oregon Department of Transportation, said they believe youth can play a great role in revitalization efforts and at same time prepare themselves for future employment in the construction industry and also qualify for ODOT scholarships at Rock Creek Community College. He said ODOT is committed to diversifying its workforce.

Commissioner Sten said one can already begin to see the differences on MLK.

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172642. (Y-4)

Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury

***1283**

Amend agreement with Portland Development Commission regarding housing and economic development projects to authorize the pledge of future CDBG program income for two projects or programs, extend the expiration date and provide for payment (Ordinance; amend Agreement No. 31495)

Discussion: Commissioner Kafoury said this responds to Council's desire to treat block grants and City resources differently, using the blocks as backup for bank loans. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) worked very hard with Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative (PCRI) and the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) on this program, which will allow community groups to continue to produce housing without quite so much direct cost to the City.

Matt Baines, PDC, said this extends and changes the scope of the block grant contract to allow PDC to pledge funds for two projects, rather than making direct payments. The first project involves the PCRI and the second involves a pledge to the HAP to fund a contingent loan for the St. Johnswoods project. He said PDC does not anticipate having to use these funds but this will certainly help these two projects.

Mayor Katz said there is some risk of losing potential Community Development Block Grant funds if loans are not repaid.

John Warner, PDC, said the St. Johnswood Project is a preservation project where there is a risk it will opt out of the Section 8 program. HAP has pledged to acquire it and renew the contracts. The only exposure for the City is the very small likelihood that HUD would eliminate the project-based Section 8 program and provide no replacement.

David Frank, PDC, said PCRI has made all its debt service payments on time for the past the six years and there is no reason to believe they will not do so in the future.

Commissioner Sten said he is trying to set up an ongoing mechanism through the preservation housing ordinance to cover short term gaps to provide some guarantees for projects like St. Johnswood as long as the HUD Section 8 program stays in place. He hopes what PDC is doing can be replicated as it is the lynch pin for solving the replacement housing problem over the next few years.

Maxine Fitzpatrick, Director, PCRI, said the formation of PCRI was a monumental undertaking, done with the support of the City and subsequently by the State. PCRI now manages and owns a portfolio of 354 housing units. She said they have been working for the last three years on this financing piece and much appreciate US Bank's participation in the last six months.

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172643. (Y-4)

- 1284** Accept a \$25,000 grant from the Urban Consortium Energy Task Force to deliver to other local governments essential decision and technical criteria necessary to build a fuel cell power plant (Ordinance)

Disposition: Passed to Second Reading September 2, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

- *1285** Contract with ONSI Corporation, Inc., with contingencies, to purchase a gas cleanup system for fuel cell power plant for Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 172644. (Y-4)

Communications

- 1286** Request of Patty Lee, Southwest Neighborhood, Inc., to address Council regarding the Southwest Community Plan (Communication)

Discussion: Patty Lee, President, Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. (SWNI), urged Council not to abandon the Southwest Community Plan even though the Planning Commission recently voted to suspend work on it. She noted that significant progress has been made as the result of immense citizen involvement in the Plan, notably the Tree Preservation/Replacement ordinance and stormwater management policies. She asked Council to keep the Plan alive and direct the Planning Commission to report on its current status. She said Council should ask a committee from the Planning Commission to work with a committee from the Southwest Community Task Force to see what is needed to complete the plan and develop a strategy to resolve the issues and organize the Plan into a form the Planning Commission can more easily work with.

Commissioner Hales said he too was surprised by the Planning Commission's decision and would like to see some product result from this process as no one wins if the project stalls. A respite does seem to be necessary, however, as Planning Commission members are volunteers and if they request a delay it deserves consideration. He said it is premature to decide today what steps should be taken next.

David Knowles, Director, Bureau of Planning, said everyone is disappointed about not being able to complete this work. The Planning Commission takes a lot of pride in reaching substantial consensus but after five work sessions on this its members said they could not continue to work only on the Southwest Community Plan as they had many other important matters to consider. He said their recommendation was to suspend the work, not stop it. The Commission wants a summary of its work to date and the Planning Bureau is preparing that now. The Commission has indicated it would like to meet with the Southwest community in October to discuss the next steps. However, given the Commission's pending work load, there is no way it can return to the plan until February or March. Two items resulting from the Commission's work to date, both of which will come to Council for approval, are a tree preservation ordinance and a report on watershed management with a request for specific regulations.

Mayor Katz said the Commission will contact the Southwest community about which pieces of the plan it wishes to forward as well as a report on its progress to date.

Commissioner Sten said he is not optimistic about the Commission's ability to deliver a product without some help from Council. This Plan has proved to be far too much work for the Commission and he does not see how that will change between now and October. Just taking a break may not be enough.

Commissioner Hales said between now and October they will have a better information base.

Mr. Knowles said the Commission needs some time to reflect as it is exhausted at this point. He said a subcommittee may be needed to work with the community but that will not be known until October.

Commissioner Sten said in his conversations with Commission members he heard them say they want feedback from Council.

Mayor Katz said she did not get that from her conversations with them. Rather, she sensed that Mr. Michaelson is committed to the plan but needs time to reflect and sort things out. She said the citizens are tired, too.

Commissioner Kafoury said she wants the Commission to move on and address housing so she is torn about what steps to take on this. She said she is still befuddled that so much staff energy has gone into this and yet there are still so many sticking points. She would like to hear from people who have worked on the Plan about exactly where the sticking points are.

Mr. Knowles said Planning Bureau staff will try to identify the principle issues and provide summary information.

Commissioner Sten said Council needs to know if the Commission is overwhelmed but plans to pick this up again later or if it believes it cannot finish unless certain changes are made. He said everyone has worked too hard to put this on the shelf.

Mr. Knowles said right now the Commission is exhausted and he does not know what is going to happen next but will forward something to Council.

Disposition: Placed on File.

1287 Request of Jack Peek, Foster Powell Neighborhood Association, to address Council regarding his proposed ordinance for siting social services (Communication)

Discussion: Alan Wolinsky, Citizens for Siting Solutions, said Jack Peet, author of a proposed siting ordinance, submitted a letter to the Mayor stating that interest in his ordinance has gained a great deal of momentum from various neighborhood associations. Their letters of endorsement are attached to a copy of the proposed ordinance. Today he is here to present those letters and ask for confirmation about a series of meetings to discuss the ordinance.

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Mayor Katz said the Siting Task Force issue has been discussed.

Commissioner Kafoury said the City has a separate track for siting and there will be a separate RFP with staff assigned to look at some of these issues. She noted that the City Attorney reviewed the ordinance proposed by Mr. Peek and believes it is not constitutional. The City is trying to approach this issue from a broader perspective, involving the county, state and other jurisdictions. It would be more helpful if advocates for changes regarding notification and saturation issues engage in that process and try to help find solutions that are constitutional. A siting committee will be set up in September, staffed with a facilitator to work with citizens and various jurisdictions to identify the issues and recommend solutions to Council. She said Council takes the neighborhood concerns about siting seriously and acknowledges the problems.

Mayor Katz said after the City Attorney reviewed the ordinance, the City requested that citizens look at something that would stand up constitutionally.

Disposition: Placed on File.

At 11:30 a.m., Council recessed.

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A RECESSED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON WAS HELD THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1998 AT 2:00 P.M.

THOSE PRESENT WERE: Mayor Katz, Presiding; Commissioners Hales, Kafoury and Sten, 4.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cay Kershner, Clerk of the Council; Kathryn Beaumont, Senior Deputy City Attorney; and Officer Chuck Bolliger, Sergeant at Arms.

Mayor Katz welcomed students from Germany who are spending the year studying at a number of different colleges in Oregon.

Commissioner Charlie Hales

- 1289** Tentatively deny appeal of Corbett/Terwilliger/Lair Hill Neighborhood Association and uphold, as amended, Design Commission's decision to approve with conditions the application of BRD Restaurants LLC and Guardian Management Corporation for design and greenway reviews for a new 7-story hotel and condominium building (Avalon Hotel) at 4640 SW Macadam Avenue (Findings; Previous Agenda 1241; 98-00177 DZ GW)

Disposition: Mayor Katz said she was not present at the hearing but has reviewed tapes of the meeting and is prepared to vote.

Commissioner Hales moved adoption of findings, affirming the denial of the appeal. Commissioner Kafoury seconded. She asked if the findings reflect Council's lengthy discussions on the matter.

Jeff Josslin, Bureau of Planning, said they do.

Mayor Katz said she was disappointed that the applicant and the neighborhood association could not reach agreement but, after studying the improvements made since the initial application, she believes the proposal does meet the design guidelines although she still does not think the building is as attractive as it could be.

Disposition: Findings Adopted. (Y-4)

- 1288** **TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM** - Endorse report on Downtown Portland Homeless Youth Services produced by Multnomah County's Department of Community and Family Services and resolve to consider additional funding of services (Resolution introduced by Mayor Katz and Commissioner Kafoury)

Discussion: Lisa Naito, Multnomah County Commissioner, said it is tragic to have homeless youth on the streets. Multnomah County appointed an ad hoc committee to devise a plan that

would make a difference and has put together the first funding pieces. She said each Council member she met with last week indicated a willingness to step up and do what is needed.

Diane Linn, Multnomah County Commissioner, said this report represents consensus on a very difficult problem. The County is working aggressively to put together an ongoing program and hopes to get it going by December. She asked for the City's help with the serious problems posed by this street youth culture.

Rachel Silverman, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, reminded Council that this planning process was spurred by a joint report it heard in February from the Citizens Crime Commission and the Association for Portland Progress.

Mary Lee, Manager, Multnomah County Housing and Families Division, said before the planning process began she doubted the committee would be able to reach consensus, given the diverse representation. She said the committee wanted to make sure its work was based on factual data, including demographics, information from the provider community and an examination of best practices. Homeless young people were also included in the process and produced a letter stating what they believe is needed. A balance must be sought between providing access to basic services and enforcing community norms and values. This report acknowledges the role of law enforcement in the life of the homeless. All services must be developmentally and culturally correct with high expectations that any services provided are the means to move young people off the street. Outcomes are reflected in two frameworks, one very linear and the other more circular. The outcomes, both for youth and the community, are meant to be both measurable and accountable. There are four major components of the service system: 1) basic core services, i.e. drop-in centers; 2) service coordination, including flexible client service funds to purchase glasses, supplies, etc.; 3) short-term shelter for kids who need to get stabilized before moving towards transitional housing; and 4) transitional and semi-independent housing. Transitional housing for small groups outside the downtown area will also be sought. The committee also made recommendations relating to alcohol and drug treatment, mental health, educational and outreach services, as well as formation of a response team.

Ms. Lee said if the proposed program is fully funded it will cost \$2.5 million, of which \$1 million is currently available. The Committee is trying to pull together all the funding needed as it believes the program has to be implemented as a whole, rather than in bits and pieces, if it is to work. The County is moving ahead with the RFP process and anticipates a transition to the new system by the first of the year.

Karen Belsey, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, said the City has committed \$133,000 annually to homeless youth employment services, which are contracted to the Workforce Development Board. She said the Board is combining the County's employment goals with the strategies it has developed for the entire youth employment system.

Karin Six, Workforce Development Board, said the Board's Youth Committee hopes to link the employment and training outcomes with those the County has developed. They range from developing career plans, to subsidizing work experiences and pre-employment training.

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Ms. Belsey said the Workforce Development Board will issue an RFP in September for services to begin in January, 1999.

Ms. Silverman said the City has committed about \$1 million to provide transitional housing for homeless youth. They expect to soon receive letters of interest from developers and providers.

Andy Olshin, staff person Homeless Youth Assessment Committee, composed of members of the Citizens Crime Commission and the Association for Portland Progress, applauded the work of the committee and City staff. He said both groups wholeheartedly support the plan developed by the RFP committee and appreciate the City's commitment to helping fund the newly-designed system.

Ray Mathis, Executive Director, Citizens Crime Commission, said Commission members have worked for years to try to get money at the front end of the system to help people before they get into trouble.

Commander Bob Kaufman, Central Precinct, said in July the precinct entered into an agreement with New Avenues for Youth and the N.E. Casey Foundation to deal with downtown homeless youth. A serious problem has existed with homeless youth hanging around downtown and the police's objective is the same as the Casey Foundation's -- to keep people under age 18 out of incarceration. To provide an alternative to incarceration, the precinct entered into a partnership with New Avenues for Youth to operate a 24-hour reception center in Central Precinct for non-violent juvenile offenders, including in-state runaways. He said to date about 40 percent of those they have taken in are actually already enrolled in other City or County programs but they have been able to place the remaining 60 percent either back in their own homes or provide another alternative. He said they are also working very hard with the juvenile courts to find alternatives to incarceration for as many people as possible. He said the Police Bureau plans to extend the program to the other four precincts and assess its effectiveness. To date, the Bureau's contribution to this effort has been office space and phone service. The program has worked very well and most of the kids have gotten quality help. This is a unique opportunity for private non-profits, the juvenile court and City bureaus to all pull together to get rid of some of the mistrust and find new ways to cooperate with the kids.

Commissioner Kafoury said it is rare that a police agency would exercise this kind of leadership and allow their facilities to be used in a non-detention way.

Kathy Oliver, Director, Outside-In, said the ad hoc committee did a great job in recognizing that homeless youth do need basic resources in the absence of families to provide them. She believes this plan will make a real difference in the lives of a very vulnerable population which has been inadequately served for years. She said Outside-In helps over 100 youth a year get off the street but almost always has a waiting list for those who want to get into case management and has kids sleeping on its porches. The best outcome for homeless youth

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would be a collection of new providers, building on the strengths of existing providers and offering a variety of approaches. However, these approaches need to be coordinated and she is committed to building this into the program.

Commissioner Kafoury said Council has waited a long time to find a critical mass of interest in homeless kids. She noted Commissioner Sten's comment that this is a system where the providers have been fighting over a nickel when they needed a dollar. In preparing this new approach she wanted to respect the work a number of providers have done for many years with only a fraction of the money they needed and to balance the system between new and old providers. She believes this will do that. The agreement between the City and County to divide services places the responsibility for homeless youth services with the County although the City continues to provide over \$200,000 in services. Given that, it is critically important to honor this work and provide an infusion of cash right now as this program links with the City's housing policies, its public safety mission and its commitment to keeping a livable downtown. Work has already begun to obtain foundation support to build on the permanent funding. She hopes the City will be able to come up with \$250,000 to fund the system for the next six months but it will take a lot of work to figure out how to pay for the system over the long term.

Commissioner Sten said he is very glad to get this moving by January 1 and, while the work is not yet done, this is a tremendous improvement.

Mayor Katz said this represents a major sea change because of the push by the business community, the Citizens Crime Commission and others who have long recognized their responsibility to take care of homeless young people. The City and County also realized that no one had done enough. An interesting partner in this has been the Police Bureau and the program begun by Central Precinct and New Avenues for Youth is now being expanded to the other precincts. Along with funds from the County, City and federal government, she hopes to also see an infusion of money from the business community to make it grow even more.

Disposition: Resolution No. 35722. (Y-4)

At 2:55 pm, Council adjourned.

BARBARA CLARK
Auditor of the City of Portland

Cay Kershner

By Cay Kershner
Clerk of the Council