

**AMEND FEES: BUILDING, LAND USE SERVICES, NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTIONS,
NOISE CONTROL, PLUMBING, SIGNS & SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMITS**

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (**print**)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

✓ Lightning	_____	_____
Chris Johnson	4543 SE Harney Dr PDX	



May 8, 2013

TO: Paul Scarlett- Director/Bureau of Development Services

From: Small Business Advisory Council

Mr. Scarlett:

The Small Business Advisory Council reviewed the rate proposals for the Bureau of Development Services. We commend the bureau for taking a comprehensive look at the fee schedule and not just doing a across the board increase.

It is refreshing to see that a number of fees were not increased at all. In fact, Site Development fees were reduced by 10%. A number of permit fees were held at a 0% increase and some had a 5% increase.

We know that the Bureau's revenues are derived from planning and permit fees and managing the income with the service to the fee payers can be a tough task to balance. We are pleased to see that you took a look at all the services and are only adding back where the service level is warranted.

Respectfully,


Steve Ferree – Chair/SBAC

Cc: The Honorable Mayor – Charlie Hales
The Honorable Commissioner -- Nick Fish
The Honorable Commissioner – Amanda Fritz
The Honorable Commissioner – Steve Novick
The Honorable Commissioner – Dan Saltzman



City of

PORTLAND, OREGON

Development Review Advisory Committee

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May 16, 2013

Dear Mayor Hales and City Commissioners:

Today the Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC) voted to express its support for the Bureau of Development Services' (BDS') proposed fee changes for fiscal year (FY) 2013-14. The DRAC membership is comprised of representatives from organizations involved in construction, design, and development, as well as neighborhood associations. DRAC members have a keen interest in the outcome of policies, budgets, regulations, and procedures that affect development in the City of Portland.

DRAC members are very encouraged that BDS's proposal keeps fee changes relatively minimal while still allowing the bureau to add staff to respond to significant workload increases as the construction industry continues its growth. Fees for six of BDS's programs are not increasing, and fees for residential Site Development permits are being reduced by 10%. Of the five programs whose fees are increasing, all but one (Environmental Soils) are going up by 5% or less.

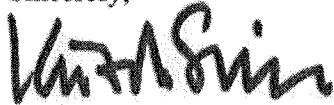
While the development community generally wants to limit the costs of development review services as much as possible, the industry is customarily willing to pay increased costs when there are demonstrable benefits. In this case, the proposed fee increases will help pay for some of the 14 staff positions BDS is proposing to add in its FY 2013-14 budget. Those positions will lead to direct, measurable improvements in land use review, plan review, permitting, inspection, and enforcement services.

While DRAC members support BDS's proposed fee changes as a way to ensure sufficient staffing, we also recognize that 68% of BDS's FY 2013-14 budget is for personnel expenses – salary and benefits for BDS staff. These costs have continued to increase year by year, even during the recent recession, due to the contracts negotiated by the City with its unionized employees. Due to these ever-rising costs, the only way for BDS to provide adequate staffing and approach cost recovery is to increase its fees. We want the City Council to clearly understand that increases in personnel costs lead directly to increases in fees for City services, not only from BDS, but from all the City bureaus involved in development review. As we have in the past, we strongly urge you as Council members to consider these impacts when negotiating union contracts and to do all you can to rein in personnel costs.

DRAC members therefore respectfully request that you approve BDS's proposed fee changes, allowing BDS to provide timely, predictable services, and supporting the development industry and neighborhood livability at a critical time.

Please feel free to contact me to ask questions or receive additional information. I can be reached by phone at (503) 224-9656 or keith@gbdarchitects.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Skille". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "K" and "S".

Keith A. Skille, AIA
Development Review Advisory Committee Chair