Dan Saltzman, Commissioner

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Bureau Advisory Committee Process Exception

The Commissioner in Charge of the Fire and Police Disability, Retirement and Death Benefit Fund ("FPDR") has determined that because of the uniqueness of the Bureau's budget and administrative structure, the FPDR is exempted from the Budget Advisory Committee ("BAC") process as laid out in the Draft Recommendations "Best Practices for Bureau Public Engagement Budget Processes and Bureau Advisory Committees".

Specifically, the FPDR is a bureau created in Chapter 5 of the Charter that provides retirement, disability and death benefits to sworn employees of the Portland Police and Fire Bureaus and their beneficiaries. The budget of the FPDR is comprised largely of non-discretionary benefits provided pursuant to the terms of the Charter. A small portion of the FPDR budget includes administrative expenses. Additionally, Chapter 5, Section 5-201 establishes a Board of Trustees which administers the FPDR and has supervision and control of the funds. The Board of Trustees is comprised of a member from the Fire Bureau, a member from the Police Bureau, the Mayor or Mayor's designee, and two citizen members. The Board of Trustees has the power to administer the FPDR and has certain specific fiscal powers including; (1) transmitting to the City Council a statement of the amount of money required to pay and discharge all requirements of the FPDR; (2) pay the administrative expenses of the FPDR; and (3) pay vocational rehabilitation of Members or other financial incentives that may reduce disability costs.

As such, the FPDR is a unique bureau whose budget is tied to the benefits provided in Chapter 5 of the Charter of the City of Portland. The administrative structure of the FPDR is comprised of a Board of Trustees that already includes many of the best practices in the BAC process and has the fiscal power to set the FPDR budget. A separate budget advisory committee would not add value beyond what the Board already does.

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