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CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

December 31, 1954

TO THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen:

Complying with Charter provisions in Section 2-301, I am, as Mayor, reporting on the administration of city activities and progress made during the year ending December 31, 1954. I am pointing out some things which I believe of primary importance and deserving of early consideration and action.

Full credit is given to all city employees and to the members of the Council, particularly for the quality and kind of service performed during this year. The concerted, conscientious effort exercised by us, together, has made this a very satisfactory year of service, and we will do our level best to do better next year.

On behalf of the City Council and the people of Portland, I want to express sincere appreciation to the members of all Commissions, Committees, and Boards, who have made very valuable and generous contributions to the welfare of our city.

This has been a memorable year of accomplishments, for in two elections--May and November, the voters, with full knowledge of the increased cost to them in taxes, indicated marked confidence in their Council and a willingness to "invest" in the future of our city. It is most gratifying to realize that the people have, by ballot, approved five of six specific recommendations made in my last annual report. General obligation bonds were authorized as follows: for rehabilitation of Docks, 6 1/2 million dollars; to build an Exposition-Recreation Center, 8 million dollars; (Morrison Bridge--County, 12 million dollars); and special tax levies as follows: over a period of five years, for a new Zoo, approximate cost, 4 million dollars; over a period of ten years, for city lighting, in a total amount of 10 million dollars.

The voters also authorized five changes in our Charter:

enabling the City to expedite its purchasing and to gain advantage through five-year contracts; providing succession on the City Council in emergencies; clarifying officer-employee residence requirement; and increasing old fire-police pensions of persons who retired before 1947.

Our Commission of Public Docks has experienced marked progress this year. Revenue bonds in the amount of 2 million dollars were sold "at a most advantageous rate," making it possible for existing facilities to be rehabilitated and to provide 2 additional general cargo berths. To carry forward the Commission's plan to increase the capacity of grain elevators at Terminal No. 4 from 2 million to 7 million bushels and to complete other projected harbor improvements, general obligation bonds in the amount of 4 million dollars were sold at the net interest rate of 1.6247 per cent--the lowest interest rate ever for any municipal obligations of this city. Both bond sales reflect Portland's sound financial standing, recognized by substantial investors, and we propose to keep our credit in that coveted position. Moody's, the investors' bible, has increased our rating to AA.

Already this year, 200 more ships have used our docks than during last year. The total revenue cargo exceeded last year by 100,950 tons. Property leases have been entered into at Terminal No. 4 with The Pacific Molasses Company, which has erected a 1 million gallon molasses tank for storage of molasses imported by tanker; and with The Quaker State Oil Company, which is constructing a \$250,000 packaging plant for its lubricating oil brought here by inter-coastal vessels.

Endowed lavishly by nature, Portland, the "City of Roses," is in a land of plenty and situated on two great rivers where the "horn of plenty" empties every kind of product of the soil. These products bounteously supply our tables, leaving ample quantities for processing and shipping to all parts of the world. These assured fruits of the soil for our people dwarf the explosive lure of gold. Here are happy people doing "a heap of livin'," and we proudly remember that "the riches of a city are its people."

Business and labor leaders view Portland's economic trends with optimism. Bank check volume, a main yardstick of business, is up to 22 per cent over a year ago. As of December 4th, bank deposits in Portland were 60 million dollars more than the same period a year ago; savings deposits were up 42 million dollars; and checking accounts, 18 million dollars. For the first eleven months of this year, 27 per cent more dollars were spent for U.S.

Savings Bonds than for the same period in 1953. Outside money is being invested in Portland.

Private investments, practically assured, express faith in the future of Portland--they include: Lloyd Shopping Center, covering 40 acres on which will be constructed 1,200,000 square feet of retail space (provision will be made for parking 8,000 automobiles, total 20 1/2 million dollars; the Leo F. Corrigan Hotel, downtown, to have one thousand rooms, 12 1/2 million dollars; Fred Meyer, Inc. Additions, 2 million dollars; First Federal Savings and Loan Building, 1 million dollars; United States National Bank Building Addition, 1 million dollars; Y.W.C.A., 1 million dollars; Clyde Tube Forgings Company, 1 million dollars; Sailors' Union of the Pacific, 3 hundred thousand dollars. All of these contribute very largely to the continuation of the progress now being made and reflect greatly on our payrolls and on our property values, too.

The re-organization of the Police Bureau has enabled the Chief of Police to place captains in charge of the Jail, the Police Academy, the combined Records-Communications Division, and the Precincts. The public relations responsibilities and the liquor license investigations have been transferred to the Intelligence Unit.

To strengthen the police personnel, we have greatly intensified the "in-service" training program to include all personnel through the rank of captain; a promotional training program provided for prospective lieutenants in the Bureau who have first availed themselves of a one-month training program in supervisory techniques and responsibilities; the regular "in-service" program for all members of the Bureau in the requirements of a sound enforcement program; and special police officers associated with the Portland Police Bureau are now required to take a month of training in procedures and techniques. In addition, traffic and enforcement bulletins are available to all officers.

A new Southwest Precinct was established this year, with a full complement of officers, and is now in operation for the benefit of the newly annexed southwest areas. The Police Garage on S. W. 16th and Madison will soon be occupied, consolidating the S. W. Fourth and Market and the S. W. Second and Montgomery facilities. The Harbor Patrol Division now has in service a new 35-foot Kris-craft patrol boat, capable of travelling 35 miles per hour.

The adoption of the uniform type of traffic ticket and the establishment of the Traffic Violation Bureau, together with the increase in traffic enforcement by which more than 70,000 moving

violation arrests were made this year, has reflected results even beyond expectation. Portland was awarded first place by the American Bar Association for its procedure in handling Traffic Court cases. There has been a drop in the number of traffic deaths from 55 last year to 36 this year--a reduction of over 34 1/2 per cent. The material reduction in accident experience should mean sharp reductions in insurance premiums, reflecting a benefit to all motorists. We believe that the further intensified use of line patrol methods and the use of radar put into use this year will make possible even a better record.

Captain S. H. Ambruster, U.S. Navy, Chairman of the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board, in Seattle, wrote October 12, 1954:

"The splendid work of the Portland Police Department in minimizing vice and other illegal traffic adversely affecting personnel of the armed services has been evident in the successive reports of the American Social Hygiene Association and in the observation of the armed services commands present in Portland. For this reason, your expressed interest in doing an even more effective job of protecting the servicemen who visit Portland is noted with particular satisfaction."

The Office of Alexander G. Brown, City Attorney, has processed 9,650 complaints issued in the Municipal Court, 153 cases appealed to the Circuit Court from the Municipal Court, with a carry over of 59 cases from the prior year; 154 cases disposed of and a large volume of judgment orders, docket sheets prepared; 4500 set-over orders issued, and the preparation of 547 complaints upon which warrants were issued in traffic cases. 1,003 contracts and miscellaneous documents have been approved as to form; 770 bonds, insurance policies and certificates approved; 91 opinions written; 625 ordinances and 29 resolutions prepared; and 217 contracts written.

The City Attorney's Office, under a directive of the Council January 20, 1954, collected delinquent franchise and license fees as follows: from Portland Gas and Coke Company, \$841.83; from Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, \$18,841.00; and from Pacific Power and Light Company, \$3,710.91---a total of \$23,393.74.

There are several cases pending in the Supreme Court and one appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

The Municipal Court, operating with three judges, has handled 27,502 traffic court cases and 21,548 cases through the "New Violations Bureau," from which the City collected in fines, \$328,157.50; the Traffic Tag Division collected total fines in the amount of \$217,713.50; and the Criminal Division of the Court heard 14,719 cases, from which fines were collected in the amount of \$66,507.80. Total fines collected through Municipal Court action amounted to \$612,378.80.

Health standards, established and maintained by our Bureau of Health, under the direction of Thos. L. Meador, M.D., Health Officer, account in a large measure for the very healthy condition of our people. We have been practically free from epidemics and a large percentage of our polio cases at the Isolation Hospital are out-of-city patients. (The respiratory car donated by the Kiwanis Club of Portland has been of great assistance in the transfer of patients in respirators from the hospital.) Vigilance on the part of our organized services--school and public health nurses, sanitary, meat and milk inspections, rodent and insect control, contagious disease isolation and treatment, and laboratory findings, all serve to prevent and eradicate disease.

Portland holds one of the top three places in the United States for low infant mortality. Our infant death rate for the first nine months of this year is 20 per cent below the average for the United States.

Most of the 22,188 persons treated at the Emergency Hospital were treated for minor injuries.

We have had a decrease of 9 per cent in incidence of tuberculosis and a decrease of over 50 per cent in deaths from that cause. This is a direct result of mass X-ray, shorter isolation hospital periods due to anti-microbial drugs, elimination of waiting periods for treatment by reason of additional beds in state sanatoria, and cooperation of State Board of Health and the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Association. Communicable diseases have been reduced by 17 1/2 per cent this year.

Births to Portland residents for the year, 7965, exceeded deaths, 3322, by 4643--more than two to one.

Our Laboratory has now been approved by the State Board of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the American Public Health Association.

For the complete control of mosquitoes, 27,200 gallons of

insecticides were used to cover 54,400 acres of breeding ground.

The Air Pollution Commission has been meeting regularly to discuss plans for operation. Fine cooperation with the State Authority has been of inestimable value.

Seven intensive sanitary surveys were made in areas being proposed for annexation to the City. The un-sewered areas present a real health problem.

The Food Handlers' School course this year was completed by 5100 persons and the Safety, First Aid, Emergency and Procedures course, conducted for Portland Public School teachers, was completed by 82 persons. The latter course has been accepted by the Oregon System of Higher Education at Portland State College.

The Bureau of Fire under the supervision of Commissioner Stanley W. Earl reports fire losses for 1954 in the amount of \$1,901,769.71, a very large percentage of which is attributed to arson. Diligence on the part of fire investigators resulted in 11 arrests for arson and the apprehension of 132 persons responsible for false alarms or setting of fires while playing with fire. Systematic inspection of houses by firemen is a material aid in keeping fire losses in homes at a minimum.

Portland retained its favorable Class II rating for fire insurance during 1954.

Improvements for the year include completion of Headquarters and Central Station Building, Engine Company No. 19 quarters, Engine Company No. 32 quarters, partial completion of Engine Company No. 13 quarters, and a fire alarm telegraph division warehouse building including furnishings. There were 21 new pieces of fire apparatus placed in service.

Portland's high ranking parks have been improved by construction of 6 new comfort stations, 5 playground wading pools, 5 bridges in Eastmoreland and Westmoreland areas, a lighted softball stadium at Farragut Park, a picnic kitchen at Peninsula, a driving range at Eastmoreland, a gymnasium and swimming pool filter station at Mt. Scott, an addition to Rose City Golf clubhouse, and 16 acres of new lawn seeded; and the rehabilitation of Overlook Park ball park, Creston and Peninsula swimming pools, and Normandale seating terraces.

Plans for the new zoo, authorized by Charter amendment last May, are progressing satisfactorily. The architects and the zoo director have visited 16 zoos and 7 aquariums, including the nation's best, and have obtained a great amount of valuable information which will eventually give Portland a new modern outstanding zoo.

Scout camps have been operated in Leif Erickson Park and considerable timber has been salvaged in that area.

Our municipal golf courses, self-supporting, made a net profit for the year of 11.6%. The general fund loaned Eastmoreland Golf Course \$44,350.00 with which to build a driving course and this loan will be repaid in 8 years. 165.04 acres have been purchased for the new West Side Golf Course and this cost and the cost of improvements will be repaid out of greens fees.

Portland's citizenry has begun to accept and demand balanced programs in each community and is assuming the responsibility of participating and evaluating what is offered. It is incumbent upon us to secure the best qualified staff with which to meet the challenge of our growing communities. Good programming and good leadership are paramount. A recreation department must succeed or fail on the quality of its product, its program, its leadership, its public service, and the extent to which participants are able to satisfy basic human needs and grow in democratic human relationships which are the measure of its success. We in Portland can well be proud of our outstanding recreation and park facilities and program.

Portland's water supply, unexcelled anywhere, represents our greatest material asset. We owe it to posterity to take all measures necessary to preserve its purity by safeguarding its source. Under the supervision of Commissioner Nathan A. Boody, specific improvements have been made this year, --an 870,000 gallon tank was installed in the Vermont Hills District; three flood gates were installed on the spillway of Bear Creek Dam, increasing the storage capacity in Bull Run River to 11,000,000,000 gallons; distributing mains were increased 13.9 miles, making a total of 1,345.5 miles; there was a net increase of 1822 water services, making a total of 117,514. Attention is called to the fact that the total cost of water to the water user is covered by his regular water bill. By the completion of the fourth supply line, our carrying capacity is assured, and our problem now is to build a distribution system so that the sundry

districts may be amply supplied. The Water Bureau pays 5 per cent of the gross revenue to the General Fund; also \$60,000 for services; also furnishes water for firefighting.

Our sewage treatment plant is treating an average of 45 million gallons daily, from which 23 tons of solids are removed. The clarified effluent is discharged into the Columbia River. Twelve sewage pumping stations are in operation and three more have been completed and will soon be placed in operation. Many large industries have inaugurated pollution control programs.

At the incinerator and land fill on Swift Boulevard, 1,040,000 cubic yards of refuse were received. Total revenue accruing therefrom was \$97,488.80, an increase of \$1,116.20 over last year. Heavy repairs were made to grate beams and dampers in the incinerator furnaces. The access road to the fill was surfaced and oiled.

The Bureau of Communications and Electronics made extensive changes in the FM radio systems for the Fire Bureau, Water Bureau and Stanton Yards; re-organized city telephones; installed first radar speed meter for Police Bureau and first electronic finder for the Harbor Patrol; designed, built, and installed new intercom system for the Police Bureau; completed Portland installation of full-time police teletype network, linking Portland with Oregon cities as far south as Medford and interconnecting with all of California.

There have been 340 lights added to our street lighting system, which now has a total of 12,708.

Ormond R. Bean, Commissioner of Finance, is the Director of the Budget and is specifically charged with the finances of the City. The Budget is "tight" but close scrutiny has pulled us through. The Public Auditorium is also under his direction-- it has been used 248 times and 313,373 persons have attended attractions there, in addition to those visiting the Oregon Historical Society and the Municipal Civil Service Board both of which are housed in the Auditorium without a rental fee. We do not yet know how the Auditorium may be affected by the operation of the new Exposition Recreation Center.

The program of the inventory control of all City-owned property is progressing, by the consolidation of all property records. Continued effort to cut down the frequency of motor vehicle accidents is getting results and will reflect a savings to the City, as will the operation of the central salvage depot.

The City Hall Building has been kept in very good condition by the Building Maintenance Supervisor.

The City has received \$23,880.00 through 22 public auctions, disposing of old houses, autos, bicycles and miscellaneous items.

Our License Bureau issued approximately 30,000 licenses with a revenue from business of \$1,733,000.00.

Under the supervision of Commissioner Wm. A. Bowes (Department of Public Works), to control the operation and use of city streets and sewers and the building of sidewalks, curbs and driveways, 6,582 permits were issued, and the Permit Division issued 587 permits; and 31 street improvement contracts, 76 street improvement permits, 9 sewer contracts and 16 sewer improvement permits were completed and accepted by the Council or approved by the City Engineer. The Sewer Repair Division, constructing new sewers, dragging and flushing many miles of sewers and opening stopped sewers, including house branches, performed a very vital service. Five sewage disposal units and pumping stations were completed and put in service. The Bridge Division has furnished plans, specifications, estimates, supervision, inspection and labor for six bridges, and engineering and supervision for all construction of structures in conjunction with the Banfield Express project. The Building Division issued 42,945 permits for a total investment of \$59,750,240.00 this includes 1590 homes, 57 duplexes, and 56 apartment buildings. The fees paid by the builders for these permits amounted to \$283,492.19 which offsets taxes. There are 63 persons employed in the Bureau.

The total permits are down from 1953 by approximately 2 million dollars, but 1955 bids well to be a banner year.

The Street Cleaning Division keeps our streets clean and catch basins open. Its clean-up of our streets after the Rose Festival parade was particularly commendable. Its cost is carried by gas tax receipts.

The Traffic Engineer is cooperating in studies re Morrison Street Bridge, Hawthorne Bridge approaches, Harbor Drive improvements, Lloyd Center development, and downtown parking facilities. A civil defense evacuation plan for the downtown area has been completed and 1200 defense emergency route signs have

been placed. Stop signs were placed at 51 new locations, 4-way stops at three new locations, and warning flashing beacons at 3 new locations. Permits were issued as follows: loading and delivery, 759; special parking, 610; over-dimensional loads, 400; and taxi stands, 131.

The Bureau of Transportation and Maintenance handled 4,276 jobs, from minor adjusting to complete overhauls and construction of special units.

The Paving Plant repaired 62,480 square feet of utility cuts, 1,421,926 square feet of city streets, and paved 214,021 square yards of streets.

The Aviation Commission has taken action in support of Hillsboro Airport - Navy Reserve; Portland Airport Post Office; Western Air Lines - Calgary, Alberta; Spokane - Portland proposal; and has interceded with C A B Chairman and Board re cancellation of Alaska Airlines and Pacific Northern Airlines; and has made many contacts in the public interest of aviation.

The Portland Housing Authority has 855 low rent active and 85 permanent dwelling units occupied. One hundred seventy four Columbia Villa buildings and 54 Dekum Court buildings were repainted.

During 1954 the Commission on Inter-Group Relations has continued its program to alleviate tensions arising out of misunderstandings due to discrimination. Heads of various agencies have attended meetings and have given reports on their activities. The Commission is planning to print early next year a report on its program. We believe this report will have wide distribution and definite educational value.

The Exposition-Recreation Commission has employed the Stanford Research Institute to work with the City Planning Commission to make a comprehensive analysis of size and site of the Center as well as the probable use and income of the Center now and in the future. The Stanford Research Institute is now working on the final phase of their analysis which means the Commission should be in position to make a selection of a site in the near future, and we hope that actual construction may be started next year.

Our Civil Defense methods and programs progressed very fast and very effectively during 1954. The Emergency School Hospital Plan was reviewed and revised. The "Protective Dispersal" plan for population in the downtown area and the installation of our attack warning system were completed. Full scale tests of our attack warning sirens have been made. The Portland Bureau of Disaster Relief and Civil Defense participated in the nation-wide Civil Defense exercise entitled "Operation Alert." Courses covering Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Agents were held. A mass feeding demonstration, under simulated disaster conditions, and sponsored by the Wellington Park Lions Club and Auxiliary, was held. We participated in a nation-wide Conelrad test. A Rescue Training and Demonstration program has been started to train rescue instructors. Allocation of Federal and State funds have made it possible to proceed with our medical stock piling program, and we are now proceeding with plans to build our Under-ground Communications Center.

The Traffic Safety Commission, in cooperation with state and national organizations, has carried on an intensive program of public education, making use of all available media, including the press, schools, P. T. A.'s, fraternal organizations, service clubs, radio and television. The continued efforts of this Commission are a large factor in the reduction of traffic accidents. For two full months this year, Portland was without a traffic fatality.

The foregoing report outlines or highlights activities of the City, its departments and bureaus and certainly bespeaks unqualified cooperation by all of the commissioners, making for a successful year. There are, however, some recommendations which should be made at this time because the voters in their wisdom made available money for investment even though it raised their taxes. We must proceed with those investments with all indicated speed, making sure that there is no waste. The voters further determined that, with the exception of these special investments, they wish their government to be operated within the allowable revenues under the present budget, expanded only by the 6% limitation, therefore further economies must be effected and uninterrupted scrutiny must be our watchword. This action was also taken on a measure to increase the budget of Multnomah County. Because of the indication by the voters it would seem to me that, for reasons more and more apparent, it is advisable to consolidate the City

of Portland and the County of Multnomah operations. The advantages to the taxpayer are multiple with little likelihood of any disadvantages to the people of Portland or the residents of Multnomah County outside of Portland. Certainly a City and County Building cooperatively built and occupied would be of great benefit to the operation of both governmental agencies.

It is recommended that the Council direct the Mayor to appoint a committee of 10 citizens and that the County Commissioners be invited to appoint a like committee and that the combined committees be requested to prepare and submit a measure to be placed before the voters of Multnomah County in the May 1956 Primaries, giving them the opportunity to approve and require a consolidation of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

I further recommend that the Commissioner in charge of each bureau or each department reappraise the operation of his department and the bureaus therein and that a program be outlined to be followed making for more orderly progress. Our water system must continue to expand especially in that part which is commonly called "distribution" in order that all of the fast-growing areas served directly will be assured adequate supply for domestic use and fire protection even though we may experience extended heat during the summer months. We must look forward to a metropolitan water district.

I will make further recommendations from time to time as required by the Charter.

Respectfully submitted,

Led L. Peterson
MAYOR