

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: May 26, 2010

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report Number 10-51
Appoint Mr. Jeff MacDonald to the Gateway Regional Center Urban
Renewal Advisory Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6797

ACTION SUMMARY

This action will authorize the appointment of Jeff MacDonald to the Gateway Regional Center URAC as a regular member representing the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) for a term ending in June 2013. Mr. MacDonald, Associate Director of IRCO oversees culturally specific program and infrastructure development, both closely related to development within the Gateway district. In addition to development expertise, his long-term work experience in cultural and minority issues will help engage refugee and immigrant communities in economic development and job growth.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Meaningful public participation helps promote democracy and civic engagement, builds public trust in government and enhances the Commission's credibility within the community.

Effective public participation can improve the quality and effectiveness of Board plans and decisions.

This action will support the following PDC goals:

- Sustainability and Social Equity
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- A Vibrant Central City
- Strong Economic Growth and Competitive Region
- Effective Stewardship over our Resources and Operations, and Employee Investment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

The public is continually advised of the opportunity to serve on URACs, and encouraged to apply for appointment.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES

This action complies with the URAC Policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) on September 14, 2005 (Resolution No. 6293) and amended on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614) that requires the Board to appoint regular at-Large community and business members to URAC’s that the Board has created.

This action complies with and helps implement the Public Participation Policy adopted by the Board on June 22, 2005 (Resolution No. 6266) which established that “public participation is required and will be an integral component of project schedules, budgets, and board decision-making processes for developing and implementing urban renewal area plans and implementing urban renewal projects.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no significant financial impact as a result of this action.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no significant legal, financial or operational risks resulting from this action.

WORK LOAD IMPACT

Public Participation work plans include the following assignments associated with this action:

- Appointment of new URAC member;
- Communication of appointment decisions to URAC members;
- Prepare of orientation materials (roster, PDC background, roles and responsibilities, public meetings law, area/project maps, policies, etc.) specific to URAC participation;
- Coordination of orientation session(s) with staff and Co-Chairs related to URA formation, background, past/current projects, and budget/finance review;
- Provide introduction of new member to URAC members; and
- Prepare related materials specific to their URACs as requested.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Per Board established policy, there is no alternative process for creating this position, and making this appointment.

CONCURRENCE

In accordance with PDC's URAC Policy, IRCO through its Executive Director, Mr. Sokhom Tauch, has nominated Mr. MacDonald to serve as its representative to the Gateway Regional Center URAC.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2005, the Board adopted Resolution No. 6293 which established a formal policy regarding the composition and operations of URACs. This Policy was adopted in response to the Board's desire to ensure consistency in the procedures for creating and operating URACs and to emphasize the agency's commitment to public participation and involvement. The policy was most recently revised by the board on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614).

Pursuant to that policy, the following URACs have been formally established by the Board:

1. Lents Town Center;
2. Central Eastside;
3. Interstate Corridor;
4. Gateway Regional Center;
5. Oregon Convention Center;
6. North Macadam; and
7. River District.

The board retains sole authority to establish, recompose or disband a URAC. Among the elements under the discretion of the Board is the identification of URAC organization members and their representatives.

IRCO currently has one organization member seat on the Gateway Regional Center URAC. In a letter dated May 6, 2010, Mr. Sokhom Tauch, IRCO's Executive Director informed PDC staff the person previously holding its seat, Ms. Rowanne Haley, is no longer employed with the organization and thus will no longer its representative. In the same letter Mr. Tauch nominated Mr. Jeff MacDonald to be the organization's representative on the Gateway Regional Center URAC. Staff is requesting consideration of Mr. MacDonald's appointment based on the organization's nomination and the submission of his application for service on the URAC.