

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: October 14, 2009

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report Number 09-118
Create a new position on the River District Urban Renewal Advisory Committee to represent Portland Public Schools and appoint C.J. Sylvester to fill this new position.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6742

ACTION SUMMARY

This action will authorize the following:

- Creation of a new position on the River District Urban Renewal Advisory Committee ("URAC") to represent Portland Public Schools.
- Appointment of C.J. Sylvester to the River District Urban Renewal Advisory Committee as Taxing Jurisdiction Partner representing Portland Public Schools for a term beginning on October 14, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2012 in accordance with the PDC Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Policy. Ms. Sylvester is currently the Director of the Office School Modernization with Portland Public Schools.

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

PDC staff has consulted with Portland Public Schools and stakeholders in the River District Urban Renewal Area about the need to add Portland Public Schools and its representative to the River District URAC. There is agreement that this appointment is appropriate and will increase the effectiveness of the River District URAC.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES

This action complies with the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Policy as revised by the Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614) that requires the Board to identify and appoint Taxing Jurisdiction Partners to Urban Renewal Advisory Committees (“URACs”) under specific circumstances, which apply to the River District URAC.

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

The major workload associated with the creation of new positions on a URAC and the appointment of new URAC members is communicating the decisions to the URAC and providing new members with an orientation session and related material specific to their URACs. These activities are coordinated by Public Participation staff, and included in existing work plans.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

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

CONCURRENCE

In accordance with the PDC URAC Policy, Portland Public Schools through its Superintendent’s Chief of Staff, Mr. Zeke Smith, nominated Ms. Sylvester as its representative on the River District URAC.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2005, the Portland Development Commission Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. 6293 which established a formal policy regarding the composition and operations of Urban Renewal Advisory Committees (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. This Policy was most recently revised by the Board on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614).

Pursuant to that Policy, the Board has established the following URACs:

1. Lents Town Center
2. Central Eastside
3. Interstate Corridor
4. Gateway Regional Center
5. Oregon Convention Center
6. North Macadam
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 Taxing Jurisdiction Partners and their representatives.

Acting upon the Cooperative Agreement signed with Portland Public Schools, staff is requesting consideration of the creation of a new Taxing Jurisdiction Partner position on the River District URAC for Portland Public Schools, and the appointment of C.J. Sylvester as the representative in accordance with the PDC Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Policy.