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Mike to

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mailed 2/21/79

Metropolitan Service District

527 SW Hall Portland, Oregon 97201 503/221-1646

Press Release

For Release: Immediately

For more information phone: Mike Burton
Chairman, MSD
Councilor, District 12

503/221-1646

January 1st marked the official beginning of the Metropolitan Service District (MSD), the first directly elected regional government in the nation. The people elected twelve Councilors and an Executive Officer to represent them on this regional body and oversee the responsibilities assumed from the old MSD and the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), such as solid waste management, land use planning, regional transportation, and operation of the Washington Park Zoo.

I was elected as a Councilor from District 12, which encompasses all of North Portland, Hayden Island, Linnton, the Northwest industrial area, a portion of the Northwest neighborhood area, and most of Forest Park, which has a population of about 70,000. Once the Council met, I was also given the honor of being selected Chairperson of the Council for a one-year term.

The issues MSD must decide have an impact on the region and on District 12, as well. While the immediate business of the Council has been to establish operating procedures and rules, we have already begun to deal with issues of critical concern. For District 12, perhaps the most important matters deal with the St. Johns Landfill, and the I-505 transfer projects.

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In solid waste, MSD has the task of finding a solution to the region's garbage disposal problems, and the St. Johns Landfill plays a key role in the process. The Landfill will close under the present permit sometime in 1981 and no alternative landfill site has been found. The City of Portland has requested a permit from the federal Environmental Protection Agency to extend the life of the landfill for five years and MSD has established a procedure for siting sanitary landfills that outlines a specific course of action for all future siting work. This procedure will allow local jurisdictions to work in conjunction with MSD in finding alternative landfill sites.

Other methods of solid waste disposal are also being sought, with MSD currently exploring the potential of building a resource recovery plant that will separate and reuse a healthy portion of the solid waste generated. This will not, however, preclude the need for finding a new landfill, as landfilling is a necessary part of the solid waste management plan.

The I-505 transfer projects are in the works, and most of the money will be spent for work in the industrial area of the Northwest to relieve traffic problems there. Some \$50 million in additional monies are being reserved by the City of Portland for projects within the city and MSD will reserve about \$20 million for regional projects to be determined at a later date.

These and other issues will be before the MSD in the coming year. It is my hope that each of you will take a personal interest in these matters and let me know your opinions. I will continue to keep you informed, and will try to attend neighborhood meetings as often as possible. I can be reached through the MSD offices; leave messages at 221-1646 or at my home number 283-5798.