



**METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT**  
527 S.W. HALL ST., PORTLAND, OR. 97201, 503/221-1646

Rick Gustafson  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 6, 1981

**Metro Council**

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PRESIDING OFFICER  
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Mike Burton  
DISTRICT 12

The Honorable Frank Ivancie  
Mayor of the City of Portland  
City Hall  
1220 S. W. 5th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Frank:

I would like to endorse the actions of Commissioner Charles Jordan in terminating the employment of the two Portland police officers as a result of the now infamous opossum incident.

The Portland police are charged with the public's safety, as such, good judgment and maturity are basic and essential elements of a police officer's character. Levelheaded thinking under stress must be maintained if the public's welfare is to be kept. A judgmental error in a crisis situation, especially for an inexperienced officer, is understandable; but, for experienced officers to take a premeditated action that clearly demonstrates a total lack of mature judgment is inexcusable. The Commissioner and the Chief of Police had no alternative but to dismiss the officers. It was obviously a tough and difficult decision, but one which said clearly that the Portland police are professionals and cannot tolerate those who would tarnish the badge.

I feel comfortable in knowing that Commissioner Jordan is responsible for the police department. Your choice of him as Commissioner was excellent and I look forward to his continued tenure.

Sincerely,

Mike Burton ✓  
District 12

MB/gl  
2706B/D2

cc: Commissioner Charles Jordan  
bc: Chief of Police Bruce Baker