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# Metropolitan Service District

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

## *Memorandum*

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*Date:* June 26, 1979  
*To:* Press Reps  
*From:* Judith Bieberle, Director of Public Information  
*Subject:* Budget Recommendation of Metro Council Chairman Mike Burton

Attached is a copy of remarks that will be made by Council Chairman Mike Burton regarding adoption of the first Metro Service District Budget. The budget is scheduled for adoption at the Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 28 at the Metro office, 527 SW Hall, Portland.

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# Metropolitan Service District

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**Date:** June 26, 1979  
**To:** Council of the Metropolitan Service District  
**From:** Mike Burton, Chairman  
**Subject:** Statement on Metropolitan Service District Budget

No one on the Council, has been more critical of our budget than I - or perhaps has been more vocal in his critiques of the budget than I.

I have felt, and continue to feel that one of the primary responsibilities of an elected official is to be thoroughly familiar with, and to guard the public's tax dollar as it is spent. Much - in fact all - of our policy direction is determined by the dollars we have available and the wisdom with which we spend those dollars is a measure of our public trust.

The Metropolitan Service District is unique. It is not simply new, it is different - it is an experiment. It certainly brings political decisions on regional matters closer to the people by having them made by elected officials. It has been my hope, from the beginning, that we would also be unique in assuring that the process and execution of those decisions was done with less cost and bureaucracy than has been the case with other units of government. In no way do I want to see any elected individual use this elected public position to build a political base for operating beyond our legislative mandate to deal with those issues properly assigned to us. I do not believe that that is the intent of any of us on this Council.

We must, therefore, be careful and frugal in the expenditure of our tax dollars - be they funds directly collected by us or those passed on by other units of government.

It is my opinion that we, as a Council, have fairly scrutinized this budget. As you well know, I am not ecstatic about the size of the budget for the Executive office. Still, I feel the Council has imposed significant and adequate controls

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over the budget to insure that, as we move into a more fiscally frugal mode, we will be able to make budget decisions fairly and in the best public interests.

I am not, at this time, going to move for any reduction in the Executive office budget for three reasons:

1. The Council has adopted controls over the budget
2. In my discussions with the Executive Officer we have agreed that the situation with the staffing and costs is not good and that he will work to resolve the issue - and this leads me to No. 3.
3. This is a new agency. It is impossible, at this point, to separate personalities from funding.

In the Chief Administrative Officer we have a valuable resource which I do not want to lose - and as the Executive Officer recommended to the Ways and Means Committee, it is that position which would be eliminated if a cut were made. I do not think we can afford to sacrifice needed abilities.

I would put the Council on notice: by approving this budget you are creating new positions - exempted positions - that were not there before. For the time being I am satisfied that we are acting in the best interest of the public and in accordance with what our legal mandate requires.

For the future, I am hopeful that the unanswered questions will be dealt with. Public policy on regional matters will be determined by this Council. The law is perfectly clear on that matter.

In July we will go on retreat. We will examine, among other matters, our organization and our relationship to one another. At that time we can, hopefully, explore this matter further.

You should all have received a note from me about our six month anniversary. It is my intention to review all that we have done in this six short months of our existence. We have done a great deal. Our legislative package is successful. Resource Recovery is further along than it has been in the

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previous six years. We have mended our relationship with Vancouver and Clark County. We have a Johnson Creek Task Force which has done more than has been done in the past thirty years. We are working equitably on transportation problems. Our relationships with local governments is good and it appears that, out of chaos and two different types of budgets, we have a budget.

I wholeheartedly recommend your approval and adoption.

MB:mec