

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF NAMING THE METRO	)	RESOLUTION NO. 12-4337
REGIONAL CENTER'S NORTH PLAZA AFTER	)	
FORMER METRO EMPLOYEE STEVE	)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
APOTHEKER	)	Bennett, with the concurrence of Council
	)	President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker, one of Oregon's and the country's top recycling experts, an environmental advocate and a visionary, died in June 2011; and

WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker dedicated his career to resource conservation efforts, from establishing recycling centers in Illinois to serving as a senior solid waste planner at Metro; and

WHEREAS, during his 13-year career at Metro, Steve Apotheker worked tirelessly to design and improve the region's and state's waste reduction programs; and

WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker's dedication to sustainability and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions led him to establish Metro's Green Team and ENACT team for the purpose of improving the efficiency and sustainability of Metro's internal operations; and

WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker's work with the Metro Green Team and ENACT team led directly to the development and Metro Council approval of Metro's first sustainability plan for its operations; and

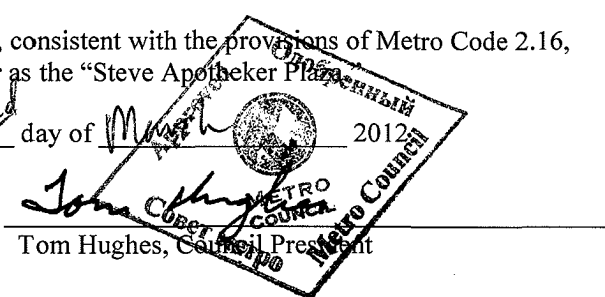
WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker was a state and national leader in the field of waste reduction and materials management, recognized with the Association of Oregon Recyclers' Individual Recycler of the Year Award and the National Recycling Coalition's Recycler of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards; and

WHEREAS, Steve Apotheker, during his time in public service, earned a reputation as a groundbreaker, educator, genius at data analysis and a person who inspired his coworkers and others around him to think more deeply about humanity's impact on the earth and the actions that could be taken to reduce that impact; and

WHEREAS, had he had the opportunity, Steve Apotheker would have been relentless in helping all of us find a path toward a more sustainable future and we are grateful to have had him at Metro for the time we did; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council, consistent with the provisions of Metro Code 2.16, names the north plaza of the Metro Regional Center as the "Steve Apotheker Plaza"

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 22nd day of March 2012



Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-4337, FOR THE PURPOSE OF NAMING THE METRO REGIONAL CENTER'S NORTH PLAZA AFTER FORMER METRO EMPLOYEE STEVE APOTHEKER**

---

Date: March 22, 2012

Prepared by: Jim Desmond, 503-797-1914  
Marta McGuire, 503-797-1806

#### **BACKGROUND**

Steve Apotheker, one of Oregon's and the country's top recycling experts, visionary and exceptional Metro employee, died in June 2011. He was 58 and is survived by his wife, Diane Meisenhelter and daughter, Jesse Meisenhelter.

Steve dedicated his career to resource conservation and waste prevention efforts. From establishing recycling centers in Illinois to serving as a senior policy analyst at Metro, he earned a reputation as a scholar of recycling and steward of the environment. He was an influential policy analyst and expert on an extensive array of issues, from collection programs to processing facilities to material markets.

During his 13-year career at Metro, he worked tirelessly to design and improve the region's and the state's recycling programs. He was instrumental in the region's efforts to increase business recycling, capture more construction debris and compost food waste. He also pushed Metro to be a leader within its own operations and pioneered the establishment of "green teams" and internal sustainability initiatives across Metro.

Steve's influence went beyond Metro and can be felt at the state and national levels. His service and contributions to the state Bottle Bill Task Force guided the legislature in historic modifications to the Bottle Bill in 2011. His analytical skills and range and depth of knowledge made him an invaluable resource.

Steve died after a valiant six-year battle with Multiple Systems Atrophy. Steve's disease affected his speech, his movement and ability to walk, but not his dedication to his work. His last day on the job at Metro was the day before he was admitted to intensive care. Given the opportunity, Steve would have been relentless in helping Metro find a path toward a more sustainable future.

Metro is better off today because of Steve's leadership, work and dedication. The naming of the North Plaza at the Metro Regional Center after him will honor his dedication to Metro's mission, lifelong commitment to the environment, exceptional service to the state and the impact he had locally, regionally and nationally.

#### **ANALYSIS/INFORMATION**

##### **1. Known Opposition**

None

##### **2. Legal Antecedents**

This resolution is consistent with the provisions of Metro Code 2.16 Naming Facilities, which states a Metro facility may be named for a deceased person in recognition of the person's significant contribution of effort in support of the agency's mission.

##### **3. Anticipated Effects**

The Metro Regional Center (MRC) north plaza will be named "Steve Apotheker Plaza."

#### **4. Budget Impacts**

To commemorate the naming of the plaza, the Chief Operating Officer recommends the installation of a modest piece of artwork made from reused or recycled materials. In coordination with the COO and the Metro Regional Center building operations staff, the Sustainability Center would oversee and pay for the contract to create the artwork, which is not expected to cost more than \$2,500.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Recommend adoption of Resolution No. 12-4337