

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING) RESOLUTION NO 97-2543
THE GOALS OF OREGON)
HOMEOWNERSHIP PARTNERS) Introduced by Councilor Morissette
PROJECT 2000 TO INCREASE HOME)
OWNERSHIP RATES IN OREGON AND)
THE NATION)

WHEREAS, Homeownership is a goal to which citizens aspire; and

WHEREAS, Metro Regional Goals and Objectives (RUGGOs), Objective 17: Housing, directs Metro to take action with regard to affordable housing, range of housing types, and jobs/housing balance; and

WHEREAS, Metro Councilors have taken several actions seeking solutions to affordable housing, including planning for a major affordable housing educational conference in September 1997; and

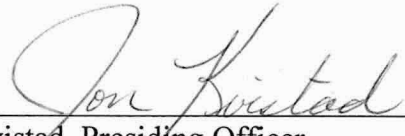
WHEREAS, National homeownership figures experienced a decline in the 1980s and early 1990s, and have not recovered to the peak year of 1980; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton and Governor Kitzhaber have called for reaching all-time high homeownership rates nationwide and in Oregon by the end of the century through national and state homeownership strategies and by erecting national and state partnerships of the private public and community sectors to carry out the strategies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:


That Metro agrees to join with other private and public sector organizations in the Oregon Homeownership Partners Project 2000 partnership, designed to help Oregonians reach an all-time level of homeownership by the end of the year 2000, as delineated in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 7th day of August 1997.



Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

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Oregon Homeownership Partners Project 2000

PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

WHEREAS: Homeownership in Oregon is part of the American dream and Oregonians have embraced this dream. Homeownership was reaffirmed as a fundamental objective of national policy in the National Housing Acts of 1934, 1949, 1968, and the GI Bill of Rights in 1944, as a means to realize the goal of a "decent home and a suitable living environment for every family."

WHEREAS: The United States was one of the first countries in the world to make homeownership a reality for a majority of its people. Thanks to effective cooperation in the U.S. and in states such as Oregon, between industry and government, the doors of homeownership were opened to millions of families in the last six decades.

WHEREAS: The national homeownership rate declined from a peak of 65.6 percent in 1980 to approximately 64 percent in 1991. After 46 years of growth, homeownership opportunities in America became out of reach for millions of hard-working families during the 1980s. While the homeownership rate has risen over the past two years, it is still well below the 1980 peak. Continuing the trend back toward greater homeownership is vital to our nation and Oregon families, communities, and economic prosperity.

WHEREAS: Homeownership strengthens families and stabilizes communities in Oregon and the nation. It encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and is the primary means of wealth accumulation for most Americans. Owning a home provides greater opportunity for personal control and family security. Expansion of homeownership spurs new production and sales of goods and services, thereby strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

WHEREAS: President Clinton and Governor Kitzhaber have called for reaching all-time high homeownership rates nationwide and in Oregon by the end of the century, through national and state homeownership strategies and by erecting national and state partnerships of the private, public, and community sectors to carry out the strategies.

WHEREAS: It is recognized that through the joint and cooperative efforts of the private and public sectors, including industry, government, nonprofit and community groups, at the national, state, and local levels, can homeownership be increased to a record high and, that government program can accomplish what a nationwide public-private partnership can achieve.

AND, WHEREAS: Working together through our commitment to the Oregon

Homeownership Partners Project 2000, and the National Homeownership Strategy transmitted on behalf of the Partnership to the President of the United States by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and by the Governor of Oregon to all housing sector elements in our state, we can make the dream of homeownership a reality and build better futures for all Americans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: _____

(Name of the Organization)

agrees to join with other private and public sector organizations in the Oregon Homeownership Partners Project 2000 partnership, designed to help Oregonians reach an all-time high level of homeownership by the end of the year 2000.

PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The goal of this partnership in Oregon is to play an integral role in achieving a national homeownership rate of 67.5 percent or more, adding eight million additional homeowners from 1995 through the year 2000. As part of the overall initiative, Oregon Homeownership Partners Project 2000 will make concerted efforts to assist all households, including moderate- and low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, urban and rural Oregonians, families with children, young adults, and other under-served populations. The Project 2000 partnership is focused on a strategy related to topics under these broad themes:

- Cutting the costs of homeownership, including reducing the costs of financing, production, and purchase transactions, to make buying and owning homes more affordable; making financing more available; and simplifying the home buying process.**
- Opening markets for homeownership, to increase choices and remove discriminatory and regulatory barriers--making homes, financing, and insurance more available and affordable for every Oregonian.**
- Expanding opportunities for homeownership in Oregon by raising awareness; and, making homeownership a reality through education and counseling, information, technology, communications, and community involvement.**

(Signature) (Organization)

(Signature) Chairman, Project 2000

**SIGN
HERE**

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 97-2543, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF OREGON HOMEOWNERSHIP PARTNERS PROJECT 2000 TO INCREASE HOME OWNERSHIP RATES IN OREGON AND THE NATION

Date: July 11, 1997

Prepared by: Michael Morrissey

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Homeownership Partners are promoting an increase in the rate of homeownership in Oregon and the nation. In furtherance of this goal, they have circulated a Memorandum of Understanding to many organizations in the state, including members of the Metro Council and the Metro Executive.

The memorandum contains no binding mandates, but declares that Metro supports the partnership in raising the rate for home ownership for a broad spectrum of the populace in Oregon by the year 2000. Several strategies and themes are listed which are voluntary in nature, and generally take the form of increasing choices and awareness, simplifying procedures, and eliminating barriers.

The goal was to have this MOU signed in mid-June, but the organization understands that Council action will be later than that date.

RECOMMENDATION

Councilor Morissette recommends approval of this resolution. The Executive Officer also supports it.