

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING)	RESOLUTION NO. 94-1907
A "METRO REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION)	
AWARDS PROGRAM" TO: (1) RECOGNIZE)	Introduced by Rena Cusma,
EXCELLENCE IN THE DESIGN AND)	Executive Officer
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS TO REDUCE)	
THE RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND)	
SAFETY FROM SEISMIC HAZARDS;)	
(2) RECOGNIZE SPECIAL EFFORT BY)	
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCIES TO REDUCE)	
RISKS TO THE PUBLIC OR TO THE WORK)	
FORCE THROUGH NON-STRUCTURAL)	
MITIGATION MEASURES; AND (3) HONOR)	
INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED)	
DEEP AND CONSISTENT COMMITMENT TO)	
IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY'S EMERGENCY)	
PREPAREDNESS CAPABILITY)	

WHEREAS, An important mission of Metro is to promote awareness of the seismic risk issues facing the Portland metropolitan area, in partnership with state and local governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes that hazard mitigation measures can significantly reduce the loss of life, severity of injury and cost of property damage following an earthquake or other major emergency; and

WHEREAS, Metro desires to establish an awards program to recognize and honor those individuals and businesses that have voluntarily initiated important hazard mitigation measures in the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Metro and the State of Oregon will co-sponsor the 1994 Emergency Preparedness Conference in Portland June 16-17, 1994; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That there is hereby established the "Metro Regional Hazard Mitigation Awards Program" to provide an annual opportunity to: (1) recognize excellence in the design and construction of buildings to reduce the threat to the public health and

safety from seismic hazards; (2) recognize special effort by private or public agencies to reduce risks to the public or the workforce through non-structural mitigation measures; and (3) honor individuals who have demonstrated deep and consistent commitment to improving the community's emergency preparedness capability.

2. That the first annual awards to be presented at the **1994 Emergency Preparedness Conference** scheduled for June 16-17, 1994.
3. That for the first year's award selection, the existing Emergency Preparedness Conference Planning Committee serve as the "Hazard Mitigation Award Search Committee" for the purpose of identifying and nominating individuals for receipt of the awards.
4. That final selection of award recipients be made by the Metro Council Governmental Affairs Committee.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 24th day of February, 1994.



Judy Wyers, Presiding Officer

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 94-1907 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A "METRO REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION AWARDS PROGRAM" TO: (1) RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS TO REDUCE THE RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY FROM SEISMIC HAZARDS; (2) RECOGNIZE SPECIAL EFFORT BY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCIES TO REDUCE RISKS TO THE PUBLIC OR TO THE WORK FORCE THROUGH NON-STRUCTURAL MITIGATION MEASURES; AND (3) HONOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED DEEP AND CONSISTENT COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CAPABILITY

Date: February 2, 1994

Presented by Andrew Cotugno

PROPOSED ACTION

The resolution provides that the Metro Council approve the establishment of a regional awards program to (1) recognize excellence in the design and construction of buildings to reduce the threat to the public health and safety from seismic hazards; (2) recognize special effort by private or public agencies to reduce risks to the public or to the work force through non-structural mitigation measures; and (3) honor individuals who have demonstrated deep and consistent commitment to improving the community's emergency preparedness capability.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In recent years, there has been growing awareness among residents that Oregon, in general, and the Portland metropolitan area, specifically, face greater risks from earthquake damage than had been generally appreciated.

Past earthquakes in other areas of the nation and the world have clearly demonstrated that the primary cause of death and injury from earthquakes is due to the failure of buildings and other structures that have high rates of human occupancy. Modern earthquakes in the United States, especially compared to the experience of lesser developed countries.

History has clearly demonstrated that creative and careful design, engineering and construction techniques can significantly reduce the amount of damage caused by earthquakes.

In addition to the positive effect of appropriate engineering and construction techniques, non-structural mitigation measures can also contribute substantially to improved survival rates and quicker recovery following a disaster. Non-structural mitigation measures may include securing water heater to the wall, securing computer and communications equipment to workstations, fastening shelving to wall studs and floor joists, and applying safety film to large glass windows in areas of high population.

Hard work is required to promote awareness of the need for hazard mitigation measures. Dedicated and energetic people committed to improving the community's ability to respond to and recover from disasters are essential to improving the regional emergency management system. It is relatively easy to espouse the importance of disaster preparedness after an emergency when the entire community recognizes the importance of being ready to respond. It is more difficult to maintain that commitment on a day-to-day basis, when other pressing societal needs compete for scarce resources with preparedness programs. There are individuals, however, of such vision, energy and dedication that their work has had a demonstrable positive impact on the preparedness capability of their communities. These individuals include not only governmental public safety personnel, but volunteers for private organizations, private executives and business owners.

As proposed, the "Metro Regional Hazards Mitigation Awards Program" will offer a mechanism to recognize exceptional merit in the three primary areas of disaster loss reduction -- (1) Excellence of design and construction techniques; (2) Implementation of non-structural hazard mitigation measures; and (3) Personal dedication and commitment to disaster preparedness programs.

The proposed program will begin during the **1994 Emergency Preparedness Conference** which is scheduled for June 16-17, 1994. Jointly sponsored by Metro and the State of Oregon, the conference provides an exciting opportunity to recognize excellence in the field of hazard mitigation.

As proposed, the existing Conference Planning Committee will act as the "Hazard Mitigation Awards Search Committee" to nominate persons to receive the awards. The selections will be made by the Metro Council Governmental Affairs Committee.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 94-1907.

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