

**Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission**

**Resolution 97-43**

**For the Purpose of Reaffirming the MERC First Opportunity Advisory Committee, and Appointing the Members of the Committee.**

**Whereas, the Commission has, through its personnel policies and actions, adopted a First Opportunity hiring program, designed to provide first opportunity in employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged residents of economically distressed neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of the Oregon Convention Center; and,**

**Whereas, employment statistics indicate that this program has been a success in providing employment to economically disadvantaged residents of the target area; and,**

**Whereas, the Commission established an Advisory Committee in 1989 to assist the Commission in implementing its First Opportunity program; and,**

**Whereas, in recent years, the Advisory Committee membership and activities have lapsed; and,**

**Whereas, the Commission wishes to reemphasize its commitment to the First Opportunity program by reaffirming the role of the Advisory Committee in assisting the Commission in these efforts; and,**

**Whereas, a number of distinguished community members have agreed to volunteer their time and expertise to assist the Commission in these efforts by serving on the First Opportunity Advisory Committee,**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1. The Commission reaffirms its commitment to the First Opportunity program, and hereby establishes the First Opportunity Advisory Committee.**
- 2. The Commission hereby approves the Mission Statement and organization of the Advisory Committee, as set out in the attached Exhibit A.**

3. The Commission hereby appoints the members of the Advisory Committee, as set out in the attached Exhibit B.

Passed by the Commission on August 13, 1977.

  
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Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary-Treasurer

Approved As To Form:  
Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

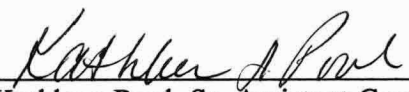
By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Pool, Sr. Assistant Counsel

Exhibit A to Resolution 97-43

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Mission*

The First Opportunity Advisory Committee's purpose is to assist the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission in the development and implementation of aggressive hiring and contracting outreach program(s) which will specifically benefit the economically disadvantaged residents of economically distressed neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of the Oregon Convention Center. The Committee will advise, counsel and confer with the Commission regarding the recruiting of new employees, the training, retraining and advancement of current employees and in the identification and selection of contractors, sub-contractors, and suppliers.

*Structure*

**Appointment and Terms**

The Advisory Committee shall consist of 8-10 members, representing an appropriate cross section of the community.

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the MERC Commission to serve three-year terms. Members of the Committee may be re-appointed.

**Officers**

Sam Brooks is appointed as the initial Chair of the Committee, for a one year term. The Advisory Committee shall thereafter establish officer positions and elect its officers, including the Chair, according to the terms it shall deem appropriate.

**Policies and Procedures**

The Committee shall establish its own rules, by-laws, and determine its own procedures for all matters for consideration or action by the committee. The committee shall hold regular meetings at the call of the Committee Chair.



**METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION-RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Exhibit B  
Resolution 97-43**

**MERC First Opportunity Advisory Committee**

**Samuel Brooks - Chair**  
S. Brooks & Associates, Inc.  
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Portland, Oregon 97211  
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(503) 284-7990 - Fax

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(503) 239-6776 - Fax

**Jennie Portis, Director**  
NE Workforce Center  
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(503) 288-5049 - Fax

**Jorge Guerra**  
Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs  
4134 N. Vancouver Avenue  
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(503) 226-7700 - Fax

**Ron Kawamoto**  
805 Broadway, Suite 700  
Vancouver, Washington 98660  
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**Charles Ford**  
NE Coalition of Neighborhoods  
4012 N. Commercial  
Portland, Oregon 97227  
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**Virgil Oval**  
Ashforth Pacific  
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**Jeanna Woolley**  
5006 N.E. Mallory  
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## **MERC Staff Report**

**Agenda Item/Issue:** Reaffirming the MERC First Opportunity Advisory Committee, and Appointing the Members of the Committee

**Resolution No.:** 97-43

**Date:** August 13, 1997

**Presented by:** Mark B. Williams  
MERC General Manager

**Background and Analysis:** In 1989, MERC and its predecessor, the ERC, jointly formed an Advisory Committee to provide advice and implementation suggestions for compliance with the First Opportunity hiring and contracting programs. That Committee met on a quarterly basis or more frequently as required, reviewed MERC's performance in this area, and provided the Commission with an outside evaluation of how well MERC had done in implementing the First Opportunity program. In recent years, the Committee has become inactive, and no meetings, reports, or other activities have occurred for some time. Staff has identified the need for MERC to re-affirm its commitment to and focus on the First Opportunity program by re-establishing the committee and appointing the initial slate of members. Sam Brooks of S. Brooks and Associates provided extensive assistance to the General Manager in helping to recruit an outstanding group of individuals to serve as the initial members of the Committee. Mr. Brooks has also agreed to serve as the Committee's initial Chair.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact from this decision.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 97-43, reaffirming the MERC First Opportunity Advisory Committee, and appointing the members of the committee.