

COUNCILOR ROD PARK

600 NORTHEAST GRAND AVENUE
TEL 503 797-1547

PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736
FAX 503 797-1793



METRO

January 3, 2000

Mike and Jaisa Davis
11429 SE 33rd
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

Dear Mr. and Ms. Davis:

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission in support of Metro's grant application. The ability to demonstrate community support will be critical to the success of our application.

The grant application was completed and submitted recently. We should learn next spring if we will receive the grant. Hopefully, with your help, we will be able to offer live broadcasts and a regular re-broadcast schedule of the Metro Council's meetings.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Park".

Rod Park
Metro Councilor
District 1

RP:sm

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FAX 503 797-1793



METRO

January 3, 2000

Christine Fontana
17707 SE Roethe Place
Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

Dear Ms. Soulana:

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission in support of Metro's grant application. The ability to demonstrate community support will be critical to the success of our application.

The grant application was completed and submitted recently. We should learn next spring if we will receive the grant. Hopefully, with your help, we will be able to offer live broadcasts and a regular re-broadcast schedule of the Metro Council's meetings.

Thank you again for your support.

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METRO

January 3, 2000

Sue Sandford
100 SE Harney #2
Portland, Oregon 97202

Dear Ms. Sandford:

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission in support of Metro's grant application. The ability to demonstrate community support will be critical to the success of our application.

The grant application was completed and submitted recently. We should learn next spring if we will receive the grant. Hopefully, with your help, we will be able to offer live broadcasts and a regular re-broadcast schedule of the Metro Council's meetings.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Councilor
District 1

RP:sm

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METRO

January 3, 2000

Robert A. and Shelley Sandford
17707 SE Roethe Place
Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sandford:

Thank you for taking the time to find people to sign the letters to the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission in support of Metro's grant application. The ability to demonstrate community support will be critical to the success of our application.

The grant application was completed and submitted recently. We should learn next spring if we will receive the grant. Hopefully, with your help, we will be able to offer live broadcasts and a regular re-broadcast schedule of the Metro Council's meetings.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Councilor
District 1

RP:sm

Subj: **Fwd: (no subject)**
Date: 12/6/99 8:53:41 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: BOBSANDFORD
To: SHELLYSANDFORD

File: cable letter19.ZIP (14420 bytes)
DL Time (57600 bps): < 1 minute

Forwarded Message:

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 12/5/99 9:53:26 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: ParkRD@aol.com
To: BOBSANDFORD

Bob and Shelly, I am sending you 5 draft letters that I would appreciate if you could get them signed by people who live in the Metro region and return them to me asap. I just need one letter per person. Please read below.

Rod

I am requesting your help on a project Metro is attempting to put together in a very short period of time.

Metro is recorded for cable TV which I think you have probably seen over the years. What you may not know however is how it is done. Each Thursday, cable crews from Portland or Tualatin Valley Cable Companies, haul in TV cameras and necessary equipment to tape the council meeting. Of course at the end of each meeting, the companies have to remove their equipment. This has turned into a cumbersome process especially in light of technological advances which could cut our costs and increase public participation.

Metro is applying for to Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission for a 150,000 dollar grant that would provide for the installation of permanent cameras for the broadcast of the council and other public meetings. This would allow us to help recoup the costs of the labor of moving the equipment and the taping of the meeting. An additional benefit would be the ability to provide a live broadcast of the council meetings along with tape delay. We also would receive increased coverage from Multnomah County TV as they would be able to receive the feed from the cameras live for live rebroadcasting and taping.

The major Portland area cable companies are in complete support of our application and have hinted that our costs may go higher due to labor costs of providing crews.

As we are on a very tight timeline, I have enclosed a letter for you to reword to your liking in a Microsoft Word document. I have also enclosed it in this email in text form in case you have trouble opening the Word document.

Please send your letter back to me as soon as possible at:

Metro
Metro Councilor Rod Park District 1
600 NE Grand
Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Thank you in advance for your help in acquiring this much needed grant for the public's benefit.

Sincerely,

Rod Park

December 5, 1999

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, #704
Portland, OR 97204

Letter three

The teenagers of today have many things on their minds. Near the bottom of the list is finding a way to get downtown to go to a governmental meeting in the middle of the day. My concern is that these teenagers are our future. They are the ones who will have to live with the decisions of today tomorrow, and, more importantly, they are the ones who will have to make the decisions of tomorrow. We need to find ways that involve these teens and get them interested in civic service.

Metro has a proposal before you that could do this. With the equipment it could buy and the services it could provide, we would be able to engage teenagers in ways that they appreciate: television and the internet. For example, a government class would be able to spend time watching portions of a meeting live, or it could use Metro's web site to do research on recent meetings. That same class could use the information they've learned to write letters to their elected leaders, debate the issues or get involved in related civic projects.

Traditional government operating in traditional ways doesn't appeal to the young people today. Just look at how difficult it is to get people to vote. That is why it is critical that we find ways to engage them and show them why they should care about the workings of our governments.

Please join me in supporting Metro's efforts to look to the future and help the younger generations take part in shaping their future.

Sincerely,

Christine Sullivan
Milwaukie OR 97222

December 5, 1999

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, #704
Portland, OR 97204

Letter two

Television can have substantial impacts on our society these days. We all know the detrimental effects it can have related to violence, literacy, and family life. But today, I want to share with you some of the positive effects television can have.

Metro has applied for a grant through the Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission. Those grant funds would allow this regional government to use the power of TV to encourage education of and involvement by the people who live here. The equipment would enable Metro to cablecast every Council meeting to homes in every area of this region. It would also provide the possibility for interactive citizen participation through the use of webcasting.

Right now, Metro is making an effort to get the taped coverage of the meetings to various parts of the region. However, logistics make it very difficult to get those meeting tapes to all parts of the region, and logistics make it impossible to coordinate the broadcasts so there is one, standard playback schedule. These problems present roadblocks to anyone who is really interested in working with Metro to preserve the nature of our region.

Grant funds provided by you will be a boon to Metro. However, the real winners will be the people who live and work in this region. They will have ready (and reliable) access to information about the many important decisions Metro is making. I encourage you keep this in mind as you review the application.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jalsa Davis
Milwaukie, OR.

December 5, 1999

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, #704
Portland, OR 97204

Letter four

Governments in our society have a couple of big problems: people think they spend too much money, and people don't understand what they do.

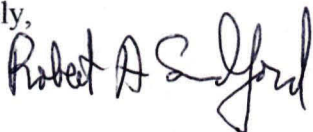
Long meetings and workshops and public hearings just don't work anymore. They are expensive, confusing and, if you've shown up at any of these recently, you were probably one of the few people who did. Government has to change to keep pace with the lifestyles and needs of the people it serves.

Computers and TV's are the best ways to communicate with people today. They are widely used, and new technology gives citizens the opportunity to use these tools interactively. Metro has a proposal before you to make the most of the tools and technology available.

The grant proposal would provide cameras and other equipment to Metro to kick off a realistic, viable public involvement campaign that can take it into the 21st Century. Please know that, without your help, this opportunity will simply pass us by. Ever-shrinking budgets and ever-increasing duties make such work impossible without the infusion of outside money.

Thank you for your interest, and please consider Metro's request with attention to the benefits it would bring to the citizens of this region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. S. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

December 5, 1999

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, #704
Portland, OR 97204

Letter one

Citizen involvement and participation is the cornerstone of democracy. But, with the goings on of our busy world, we are often overwhelmed with our basic responsibilities to family and work.

So, how can we have a meaningful role in the decisions being made by governmental bodies? I believe that new technology is the key. Studies show that ??? % of homes in our region have computers. Internet access is also widely available in our schools and public libraries. Technology that is available now would allow people to log into a website and watch a "web-cast" of recent meetings – or even live coverage of meetings.

Imagine the possibilities of citizens being able to, with a click of the mouse, provide immediate testimony via e-mail. Or, perhaps, they could participate in a survey of options before the elected officials on a particular subject. More importantly, the meetings would be available to watch at any time of any day.

Metro, our regional government, is applying to you for a grant that would give it the ability to take the first steps toward high-tech public involvement. I ask, as an interested and concerned citizen, that you give this application your full attention and support.

Thank you,

Sue Sandford
Portland

December 5, 1999

Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, #704
Portland, OR 97204

Letter five

The people who live in the Metro area do live here for very specific reasons. They love the rivers and the trees and the wildlife. They love the fact that they can go to the mountain in the morning and the ocean in the afternoon. They love the fact that their neighbors and friends care enough about the natural resources here that they are willing to work to preserve those resources.

An important player in that effort is our regional government, Metro. Metro serves 1.3 million people who live in the urban parts of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties. However, the impacts of Metro's work stretches much further – out into the farm and forest land that encircles our metropolitan area.

Metro's work is critical to the future of this region. Streams and airsheds and roads don't stop at city borders or county lines. What happens in Gresham will affect those who live in Beaverton. That is where Metro comes in. It brings together citizens and local partners and business interests so that everyone can help make decisions that will benefit the region as a whole as opposed to select, individual areas.

The reason that I am writing is that Metro needs help in this endeavor, particularly in its efforts to reach out and involve citizens. The proposal to create live cablecasts of Metro's meetings as well as regular re-broadcast schedule of those meetings is a good first step. These meetings would be available to all cable systems within our region as opposed to just a few as is now the case. A good second step would be to make the system Metro has proposed interactive. This would allow citizens and others to communicate instantaneously with the Metro officials who are making those decisions that are crucial to the livability of our communities.

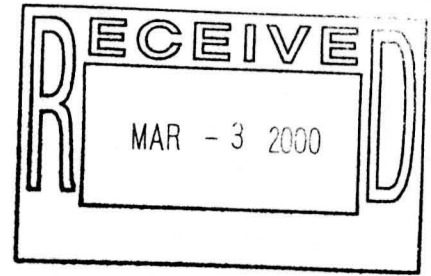
I urge you to give a lot of weight to Metro's request. There is no government within this area that can have such a large effect on such a large number of people. Please help us to make that effect a positive one for the people who live here and love our way of life.

Thank you,

Shelly Sanford
17707 SE Roethe Pl
Milwaukie OR 97267



METRO



March 3, 2000

The Honorable Rod Park
Metro Council
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Dear Councilor Park:

It was with some surprise that I read that once again, you have not been "satisfied" with my response to your question about an increase in general fund expenditures at Metro over the past few years.

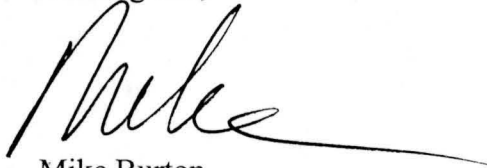
Your question, at least as I have understood it, was raised in reference to a straight-line projection analysis by your Council Analyst, John Houser. The attached memo detailed what I believed answered your question about what had occurred to increase agency expenditures. In addition, I understood that Bruce Warner and Tony Mounts offered to meet with you to make certain you had the information you needed. So, I wish you would have let any of us know that we didn't answer your question instead of reading about it in the Oregonian today.

Broadly put, the increases in costs are due to inflationary costs of supplies and services, salary adjustments (due to either contractual obligations or legislative action), new programs such as the assumption of the parks from Multnomah County, increases in excise taxes dedicated to parks, and more. The attachment was meant to outline those various changes and the year in which they occurred. Other than the normal inflationary rates of 5-7% annually, the increases came from the assumption of new duties or services, new facilities, or council-enacted tax increases.

Please remember under our charter, the Executive Officer proposes a budget while the Council adopts the budget. Any increase in expenditures has been the result of Council action on the budget. I have, in the five years I've submitted budgets, urged fiscal restraint, negotiated minimal contract cost increases, vetoed (in one case) Council-passed expenditures on non-Metro facilities or organizations.

I hope this satisfactorily answers your question. If not, please put the specific question in writing so that I may attempt once again to answer it.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Burton
Executive Officer

cc: Metro Council
Greg Nokes
Bob Caldwell
Larry Hilderbrand



METRO

TO: Councilor Rod Park
FROM: Bruce Warner, Chief Operating Officer
RE: Request for Information
DATE: February 15, 2000

Attached for your information and use are three documents that were put together to hopefully, address the questions that you have about the increased expenditures in the General Fund over the past few years.

The first attachment is a summary of the audited expenditures for each fiscal year from 1990/91 to the projection for the current fiscal year (99/00). The second attachment is a summary of the changes in programs, revenues or other factors that have affected our General Fund budgets for the same time period. The final document is a summary of the overall percentage increase in the General Fund by year, and shows the average increases over various time intervals. The averages are shown using the projected expenditures for the current fiscal year and using the adopted budget figures.

I thought that you were provided a copy of the second attachment shortly after the Council Work Session at the Oregon Convention Center last year, so I was surprised to learn at yesterday's Council meeting that you were still awaiting this information. I apologize that you did not receive it earlier. The other documents have been prepared to better answer your questions.

If you need further information and/or our information is not responsive, please let me know

cc: Mike Burton
Jennifer Sims
Jeff Stone
John Houser

General Fund

	Audited FY 1990-91	Audited FY 1991-92	Audited FY 1992-93	Audited FY 1993-94	Audited FY 1994-95	Audited FY 1995-96	Audited FY 1996-97	Audited FY 1997-98	Audited FY 1998-99	Budget FY 1999-00	Projected FY 1999-00	Budget FY 2000-01
Resources												
Beginning Fund Balance	\$532,548	\$766,334	\$676,575	\$753,061	\$870,649	\$1,341,407	\$1,888,910	\$2,228,459	\$1,634,668	\$556,977	\$435,037	\$387,000
Current Revenues												
Excise Tax	2,867,095	3,718,754	4,527,103	5,451,649	5,999,125	6,996,251	7,228,573	7,621,699	7,405,463	7,834,528	7,557,253	7,599,462
Interest Earnings	173,731	83,496	37,145	49,418	52,270	71,396	27,648	133,884	39,638	60,000	15,000	15,000
Other Misc. Revenue	1,738	9,197	4,048	3,604	8,463	6,116	263	534	20,989	500	500	0
Interfund Transfers:												
Fund Equity Transfers	0	302,585	0	0	124,258	0	0	0	429,218	1,642,792	1,427,663	1,649,378
Subtotal Current Revenues	3,042,564	4,114,032	4,568,296	5,504,671	6,184,116	7,073,763	7,256,484	7,756,117	7,895,308	9,537,820	9,000,416	9,263,840
Total Resources	\$3,575,112	\$4,880,366	\$5,244,871	\$6,257,732	\$7,054,765	\$8,415,170	\$9,145,394	\$9,984,576	\$9,529,976	\$10,094,797	\$9,435,453	\$9,650,840
Requirements												
Current Expenditures												
Auditor's Office	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,952	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Council	620,681	758,196	1,040,782	1,143,488	926,868	684,379	797,344	869,653	829,347	1,148,558	1,098,842	1,258,895
Office of Public Outreach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149,476	176,662	173,930	170,721
Executive Officer	439,182	363,145	419,528	402,932	351,146	333,298	347,058	357,484	400,701	537,649	532,790	543,908
Public Affairs/Gov. Relations	0	156,094	161,294	136,363	0	0	0	0	270,242	485,583	357,195	344,964
Creative Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	511,967	480,672	479,334
Regional Facilities	128,339	169,347	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Appropriations	0	0	0	217,266	237,684	252,887	125,000	468,687	146,768	175,000	175,000	350,000
Interfund Transfers:												
Internal Service Charges	479,231	911,608	555,791	695,208	826,835	710,945	756,187	846,737	913,048	985,789	920,315	996,484
Fund Equity Transfers:		3,628										
to Planning Fund	917,345	1,741,773	1,910,188	1,869,938	2,554,023	3,474,394	3,622,027	3,774,918	4,454,820	4,034,854	3,601,192	3,619,444
to Parks Fund	0	0	0	485,180	717,850	767,029	957,330	1,613,329	1,730,538	1,726,329	1,590,809	1,431,526
to Building Mgmt Fund	0	100,000	39,264	394,000	0	53,328	0	0	0	0	0	0
to Support Services Fund	224,000	0	164,964	42,707	0	0	0	200,000	200,000	117,000	117,000	0
to Spectator Facilities Fund	0	0	200,000	0	0	250,000	250,000	0	0	0	0	0
to Zoo Operating Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	61,990	219,100	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Current Expenditures	2,808,778	4,203,791	4,491,811	5,387,082	5,713,358	6,526,260	6,916,936	8,349,908	9,094,940	9,899,391	9,047,745	9,195,276
Contingency/Ending Fund Balance	766,334	676,575	753,060	870,650	1,341,407	1,888,910	2,228,458	1,634,668	435,037	195,406	387,708	455,564
Total Requirements	\$3,575,112	\$4,880,366	\$5,244,871	\$6,257,732	\$7,054,765	\$8,415,170	\$9,145,394	\$9,984,576	\$9,529,976	\$10,094,797	\$9,435,453	\$9,650,840

History of General Fund Discretionary Dollars

	Excise Tax	Change from Previous Year	Fund Balance	Change from Previous Year	Other Revenue	Change from Previous Year
Actual FY 1990-91	2,867,095		532,548		175,469	
Actual FY 1991-92	3,718,754	29.70%	766,334	43.90%	92,693	(47.17%)
Actual FY 1992-93	4,527,103	21.74%	676,575	(11.71%)	41,193	(55.56%)
Actual FY 1993-94	5,451,649	20.42%	753,061	11.30%	53,022	28.72%
Actual FY 1994-95	5,999,125	10.04%	870,649	15.61%	60,733	14.54%
Actual FY 1995-96	6,996,251	16.62%	1,341,407	54.07%	77,512	27.63%
Actual FY 1996-97	7,228,573	3.32%	1,888,910	40.82%	27,911	(63.99%)
Actual FY 1997-98	7,621,699	5.44%	2,228,459	17.98%	134,418	381.60%
Actual FY 1998-99	7,405,463	(2.84%)	1,634,668	(26.65%)	60,627	(54.90%)
Budgeted FY 1999-00	7,834,528	5.79%	556,977	(65.93%)	60,500	(0.21%)
Projected FY 1999-00	7,557,253	2.05%	435,037	(73.39%)	15,500	(74.43%)

FY 1990-91

- Excise Tax Rate 5%
- 12 Councilors

FY 1991-92

- Excise Tax Rate 5.25%

FY 1992-93

- Voters approve Home Rule Charter in November 1992 making regional planning Metro's primary function
- Excise Tax Rate 6%
- 13 Councilors; Councilors receive salaries beginning January 1, 1993
- \$200,000 transferred to Spectator's Facilities Fund for PCPA operations
- transfer out to Building Management Fund to cover cost of moving to new facility

FY 1993-94

- Excise Tax Rate 7%
- Metro moves to new facility
- 1st year Councilors receive full year of salary
- Regional Parks and Expo transferred to Metro effective January 1, 1994

FY 1994-95

- Excise Tax Rate 7% until Sept. 1, 1994 then 7.5%
- number of Councilors changed from 13 to 7 effective Jan. 1 1995 due to regulations in new charter
- Auditor's expenditures included beginning Jan. 1, 1995
- Election expenses for Greenspaces bond measure and contributions to Regional Arts Funding
- 1st year Expo Center revenues are subject to excise tax
- Charter requires adoption of Future Vision statement by July 1995
- Voters approve Open Spaces, parks & stream bond measure in May 1995 requiring operating expenses of lands purchased funded by excise tax

History of General Fund Discretionary Dollars (cont.)

FY 1995-96

- Excise Tax Rate 7.5%
- Convention Center concession revenues are now subject to excise tax
- 1st year Parks and Greenspaces revenues are subject to excise tax
- \$250,000 transferred to Spectator's Facilities Fund for PCPA operations
- Contribution to Regional Arts Commission
- Auditor's expenditures moved to Support Services Fund and allocated through cost allocation plan
- Planning Fund no longer receives Local Government Service Fees to assist in planning functions
- 1st year of landbanking operating costs for Open Spaces

FY 1996-97

- Excise Tax Rate 7.5% until Sept. 1, 1995 then 7.25%
- \$250,000 transferred to Spectator's Facilities Fund for PCPA operations
- Additional lands purchase under Open Spaces
- Established Transit Oriented Development Program

FY 1997-98

- Excise Tax Rate 8.5% on Solid Waste activities with additional 1% going to Parks to offset loss of transferred revenue from Expo
- Excise Tax Rate 7.5% for all others
- \$100,000 contribution to OMSI
- contribution to Regional Arts and Culture Council
- \$200,000 transferred to Support Services Fund to subsidize MERC Contract
- \$219,100 transferred to the Zoo to offset impacts of Measures 47 and 50
- Charter requires adoption of Regional Framework Plan by December 31, 1997
- Approximately 3400 acres of land purchased under Open Spaces program through May 1998

FY 1998-99

- Excise Tax Rate 8.5% for Solid Waste activities and 7.5% for all others
- contribution to Regional Arts and Culture Council
- \$200,000 transferred to Support Services Fund to subsidize MERC Contract
- Increases in transfers to Planning Fund for Urban Reserve master planning and Affordable Housing Planning and technical assistance grants to local governments for implementation of Regional Framework Plan

FY 1999-2000

- Excise Tax Rate 8.5% for Solid Waste activities and 7.5% for all others
- Excise Tax Receipts down from forecast at budget adoption due to change in tonnage forecast and revision of excise tax provisions in Metro Code being challenged
- \$117,000 to be transferred to Support Services Fund to subsidize MERC Contract
- contribution to Regional Arts and Culture Council
- 3 Council Assistants and 2 Council Analysts added to Council Staff; these positions are allocated through cost allocation plan
- Addition of Chief Operating Officer allocated through cost allocation plan

GENERAL FUND
Percentage of Change

2/15/00

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Adopted 1999-00	Projected 1999-00	Proposed 2000-01	8 yr. Avg	5 yr. Avg	3 yr. Avg	
Expenditures	\$4,491,811	\$ 5,387,082	\$5,713,358	\$6,526,260	\$6,916,936	\$8,349,908	\$9,094,940	\$10,094,797	\$9,047,745	\$9,495,276				
\$ Change		\$ 895,271	\$ 326,276	\$ 812,902	\$ 390,676	\$1,432,972	\$ 745,032	\$ 999,857	\$ (47,195)	\$ 447,531				
% Change		19.93%	6.06%	14.23%	5.99%	20.72%	8.92%	10.99%	-0.52%	4.95%	10.03%	8.01%	4.45%	*
										4.43%	11.47%	10.31%	8.29%	**

* Used "Projected" 99/00 expenditures

**Used "Adopted" 1999/00 expenditures

COUNCILOR ROD PARK

600 NORTHEAST GRAND AVENUE
TEL 503 797-1547

PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736
FAX 503 797-1793



METRO

March 6, 2000

Mike Burton
Executive Officer
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Executive Officer ^{Mike}~~Burton~~:

I received your letter dated March 3, 2000, regarding your confusion over my concerns about increases in Metro's general fund expenditures for the last five years. As the Council's Chief of Staff, Jeff Stone, and Senior Council Analyst, John Houser, have been communicating with your staff, I am somewhat at a loss to account for your "surprise." The last spending report I received from Tony Mounts on programs generated more questions than it answered in terms of how the programs relate to general fund expenditure increases.

As you may recall, my questions about general fund expenditures started last year during discussions about the potential uses of the savings from the renegotiated garbage contract. Some of the initial reports presented to the Council showed that, even if all of the garbage savings were dedicated to the general fund, we would still run short on resources in the future. This was in and of itself a concern, but I was also alarmed to learn of Metro's relative rate of spending in relation to the charter mandated cap. Mr. Houser's straight line projection of 12 % and the rate of increase of the spending cap, estimated Metro would exceed the cap by about FY 2005-06, if Metro's rate of spending growth continued unchecked.

Since the budget work session at the Oregon Convention Center last fall when I asked staff about the 12% rate of increase, and they did not have a ready answer, I have met with your staff several times and have received three reports regarding the growth of general fund expenditures. Each report has been appreciated, and has resulted in my asking more questions for clarification, with a subsequent wait for answers. The first report I received verified Mr. Houser's projections. The second report documented the audited expenditures from FY 1990-01 to FY 1998-99. I received the last report, History of General Fund Discretionary Dollars, on February 15, 2000. It documented new programs and expenditures that resulted in increased general fund expenditures.

It is my understanding that Mr. Houser verbally asked your staff for a dollar estimate of the initial impact on total expenditures of these new programs and expenditures. Since some of the programs are ongoing, he also asked for an estimate of their current impact on the general fund. In addition to Mr. Houser's requests, I would like to have staff comment as to whether any of these new programs or expenditures will be "sunsetting," and if so, when this will occur.

I hope that placing this request in writing will clarify my information needs. Once we have these items analyzed, the Metro Council, which as you pointed out is responsible for analyzing Metro's budget, can make sound fiscal policy decisions on what programs should be considered for appropriate funding mechanisms and sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rod".

Rod Park
Metro Councilor, District 1

RP:jh

cc: Metro Council
Greg Nokes
Bob Caldwell
Larry Hilderbrand

TRANSACTION REPORT

MAR-06-00 MON 03:16 PM

P. 01

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To: Greg Nokes

Fax number: 294-5023

Company/Agency: Oregonian

From: Suzanne Myers, Council Assistant to Rod Park

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P. 01

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Date: March 6, 2000

To: Bob Caldwell

Fax number: 294-4193

Company/Agency: Oregonian

From: Suzanne Myers, Council Assistant to Rod Park

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METRO

Council Office Facsimile

Date: March 6, 2000

To: Larry Hilderbrand

Fax number: 294-4193

Company/Agency: Oregonian

From: Suzanne Myers, Council Assistant to Rod Park

Phone number: 797-1543

Total # of pages: 3 (including cover page)

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COUNCILOR ROD PARK

600 NORTHEAST GRAND AVENUE
TEL 503 797-1547

PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736
FAX 503 797-1793



METRO

March 16, 2000

Bob Pung
P.O. Box 37
Gresham, OR 97030

Dear Mr. Pung:

Bob,

Thank you for your comments the other night. I understand your concerns about the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement, particularly the funding issue.

I think the issue is larger than just the funding issue. Instead, we should be looking at how we measure real citizen involvement at Metro. One approach could be to look at how many times we make contact with citizens. For example, how many calls are made to our transportation and recycling hotlines? How many people attend open houses, public meetings, and other events, such as Neighborhood Association meetings, where Metro officials and staff are invited to speak? How many people testify at the public meetings? How many people volunteer for our Parks Department and at the Oregon Zoo, the Performing Arts Center, and the Oregon Convention Center?

The next step could be to evaluate Metro's attempts at citizen involvement, and evaluate the effectiveness of our public outreach efforts. For example, we are currently in the process of seeking public comment on our proposed regulations for fish and wildlife habitat protection (Goal 5). How productive have our efforts been?

This may provide a good starting point for monitoring and increasing Metro's level of citizen involvement. Thank you for your attention to this issue, and for the time that you dedicate to MCCI. If you would like to discuss this further, please give me a call at 797-1547.

Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Councilor, District 1

RP:sm