



Portland Business Alliance
Board of Directors

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Alliance supports a robust system of parks throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, parks enhance the quality of life of the City's citizens and employees; and

WHEREAS, both residents and employees benefit from the City's park system; and

WHEREAS, the business community supports the acquisition and improvement of parks in a variety of ways including private donations and in association with some new developments; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation has proposed a new systems development charge to pay for park acquisition and construction; and

WHEREAS, the City has recently adopted or is considering a number of fees or regulations that increase business costs, such as elimination of the Transit Oriented Development discount, a new transportation safety and maintenance fee, recycling and refuse regulations, increased green building requirements, Local Improvement Districts for transportation improvements, and the like; and

WHEREAS, businesses are becoming more and more concerned with the cumulative impact of increases in fees and new regulations that add to the cost of doing business in the City; and

WHEREAS, certain indicators point to a lack of economic health in the City and particularly downtown, including but not limited to flat employment growth, lack of office tower construction during a boom cycle in the industry, and rental rates lower than those in the suburbs; and

WHEREAS, business participation in funding parks through and SDC is dependent on increases in employment and the new development and construction necessary to support that employment increase;

WHEREAS, the SDC proposal from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation would represent a significant increase in the cost of constructing new buildings in Portland where market dynamics are already discouraging new construction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Portland Business Alliance opposes the proposal to set a 75% recovery rate for commercial Parks SDCs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Alliance supports delaying implementation of a commercial Parks SDC, or implementing the fee at a substantially lower rate in the range of the current residential SDC, in order for the City and business community to commission a study regarding the impact of the totality of City fees and charges on business.